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MONITORING OF THE POULTRY RED MITE (*Dermanyssus Gallinae*) ON COMMERCIAL FARMS

Effective control of the poultry red mite should first include regular monitoring on farm. Monitoring and rapid action against the red mite prevents the infestation from increasing and becoming out of control.

Qualitative traps allow for a practical monitoring on commercial farms. As an example, the so-called tube trap method (adapted from Van Emous and Ten Napel, 2007) can be easily used.

Instructions



DESCRIPTION OF THE TRAPS

A trap consists of a 10 cm PVC tube with an external diameter of 18-20 mm and a wooden stick of 12 cm long and 14-15 mm diameter. A small screw or a nail in the middle of the stick prevents the stick from falling.

Use between 15 and 20 traps per hens building

Distribute the traps randomly in the different passageways and all levels, especially the middle and bottom levels

Avoid placing the traps at the air inlet points

Place each trap underneath the perches

After placing the traps, the evaluation of each trap is done weekly, every 7 days. The scoring method is shown next.

Remove the wooden stick from the PVC tube and score the trap according to the following proposed scale

Clean the stick with a cloth, paper or a brush and put it back into the PVC tube.

Scoring of the traps

Treatment should be applied when the traps reach scores of 2. The more severe the infestation, the more difficult is its control and treatment.

Trap without any mite: 0



Trap with loose red mites, not yet forming clusters: 1



Trap with one or more small groups of red mites: 2



Trap with one or more large groups of red mites: 3



Trap with the stick full of mites: 4



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