

PAST PRODUCTION HENS



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Evaluating laying hens

- **Pigmentation**
 - Skin has xanthophyll pigment, which it mobilizes when producing eggs
 - Pigment lost (bleached) in a particular order

Pigmentation

Order of pigment loss:

1. Vent

Pigmentation

*The vent of a good layer should be:
Bleached, Moist, Large, and Oblong in shape*



Poor layer



Good layer

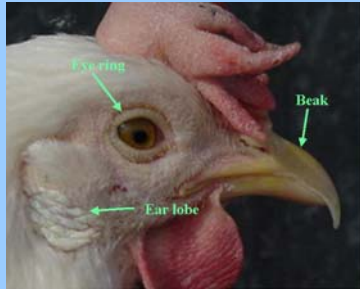
Pigmentation

Order of pigment loss:

- 1. Vent**
 - 2. Eye ring**
- Ear lobe**
- Beak (corner of the mouth towards the tip)**

Pigmentation

The good layer has no pigment in beak, eye ring and ear lobe.



Poor layer



Good layer

Pigmentation

Order of pigment loss:

1. Vent
2. Eye ring
Ear lobe
Beak (corner of the mouth towards the tip)
3. Bottom of feet
Entire shank (front, back and sides)
Hock and top of toes

Pigmentation



Number of eggs produced

Pigmentation

- Hens regain pigment when egg production ceases, as in a molt
- Pigment returns to the body parts in the same order that it faded
 - Vent, eye ring, ear lobe, beak, bottom of foot, shank, hock and top of toes
- Pigment returns nearly three times quicker than it took to fade.

Evaluating laying hens

- **Pigmentation**
- **Handling qualities**
 - refers to the condition of the pubic bones and abdomen



Handling qualities

Poor: Thick pubic bones, thick skin, hard abdomen (means fat in the abdomen)



Good: Thin and pliable pubic bones, lean skin and soft abdomen

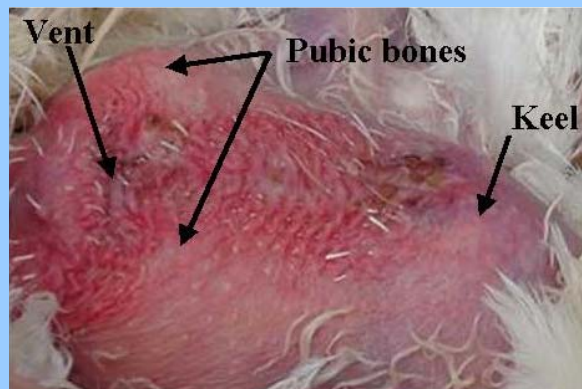


Evaluating laying hens

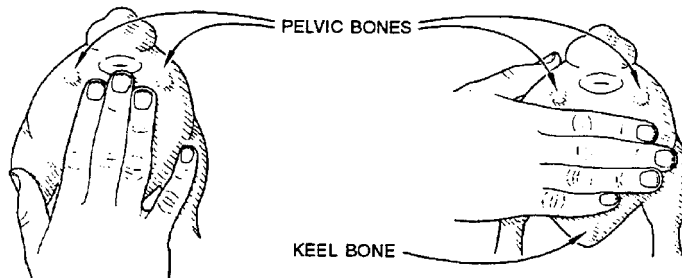
- **Pigmentation**
- **Handling qualities**
- **Abdominal capacity**
 - Distance between the pubic bones and between the pubic bones and the tip of the keel

Abdominal capacity

Distance between the pubic bones and between the pubic bones and the tip of the keel



MEASURING ABDOMINAL CAPACITY
(Feathers Removed for Illustration Purposes)



Abdominal Capacity



2 x 2 finger spread
POOR

Abdominal Capacity



2 x 3 finger spread
FAIR

Abdominal Capacity



3 x 3 finger spread
GOOD

Abdominal Capacity



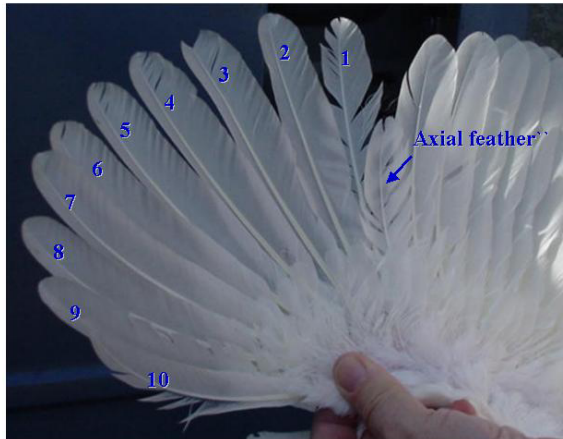
3 x 4 finger spread
EXCELLENT

Evaluating laying hens

- **Pigmentation**
- **Handling qualities**
- **Abdominal capacity**
- **Feather condition/molt**

Feather condition/Molt

PRIMARY FEATHERS

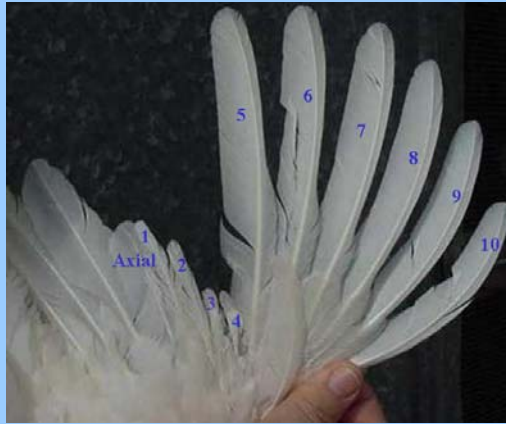


Molt



**Example of a one-feather molt.
Replacement feather not yet visible.**

Molt



**Example of a Four-feather molt,
With the four new feathers visible.**

Past Production Hens

Practice class

Hen #1



Hen #2



Hen #3



Hen #4



Placing?

This class was placed 3-1-2-4 on the basis of pigmentation

Cage 1	Cage 2	Cage 3	Cage 4
