DUCK EGG PRODUCTION AND IT’S BENEFITS FROM WELDING

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Duck raising has been part of daily lives in many rural areas in the Philippines with eggs as the main product. The pre-dominant stock being used for the production of eggs is the Pateros Duck also known as the Philippine Mallard. Majority of these ducks are raised at backyard level and makes a substantial contribution to household food security. It also helps diversify incomes and provides quality food and renewable assets in many rural household.

Duck egg production is a multi-billion peso industry in the Philippines. As of January 1, 2016, the country’s total duck population was 10.52 million birds. It indicated an increase in 2015’s inventory. From the total duck population, 69% were raised in backyard farms while the 31% in commercial farms. Eggs are obtained mostly from local egg type also known as Pateros Duck and processed into balut, salted eggs and century eggs. According to Dr. Angel L. Lambio, a professor in the College of Agriculture, University of the Philippines Los Banos (UPLB) College, Laguna, duck raising is popular at backyard level because ducks easily adapt to various adverse environments and are well resistant to a variety of poultry diseases. They can grow well with locally available feeds and less manpower is needed to raise them under meagerly-equipped facility so that even women and old people such as government retirees will be able to easily manage the production.

Just like any other businesses, duck egg production business deals with risks, problems and challenges such as the outbreak of Avian Flu (Birds Flu), inflation rates that affects the animal feeds, the problem for farmers to herd their ducks into the rice fields.
after harvest because the practice in rice cultivation is getting more and more intensive in terms of the time schedule and the use of insecticide and pesticide. Therefore, herding ducks from one rice field to another is somewhat limited.

There are two ways of growing and rearing ducks, the herding system where the ducks are placed in a vast rice fields areas or bodies of water such as rivers, streams or lakes. The second one is the confinement system where ducks are placed in housing or facilities and have access to power and water with good drainage and proper ventilation. According to Dra. Marivic M. Gonzales, Veterinarian and the Operation Manager of MBCOM Feeds Outlet, (Sole Distributor of San Miguel Feeds and Veterinary Health Products, BMEG and Pureblend Feeds in Bataan), it is more advisable to use the confinement system to lessen the impact of Avian Flu and to eliminate the hazards in rice fields which came from insecticide and pesticide.

In confinement system, the farmer must consider the housing, equipment and facilities. Duck houses can be constructed at reasonable cost without sacrificing it’s functionality. Where operation is commercial and flock size is relatively large, duck house should be constructed using more durable and lasting construction materials. Materials that could be used for the construction of floors and walls includes concrete, wood, metals and poultry wires. Galvanized Iron (GI) and aluminium sheets could be used as roofing materials. Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) are very useful in this type of construction and fabrication. There are more than 30 welding processes but SMAW is the least expensive arc welding process and most widely used in the world. It can be used to weld most common metals and alloys and great for maintenance and repair works since it can be operated in any kinds of welding positions such as flat, horizontal, vertical up and down and overhead position. Welding consumables such as welding rods are very cheap and widely distributed by hardwares nationwide.
Based on the experience of Mrs. Rosario C. Salenga of Mambog, Hermosa, Bataan, the most successful in duck egg production business in Bataan, she stated that the Philippines is a tropical country and hit by typhoon and southwest monsoon (habagat) every year, from then she advises that duck houses should be made by durable and lasting materials like steels and galvanized irons. The return of investment for this type of building could be 8-12 months and can be used for a very long period of time. Usually, a duck needs about 4-5 square feet of flooring space, so it requires about 2000 to 2500 square feet for the 500 ducks. There is no exact measurement of the house, but there should be 2000 to 2500 square feet flooring space available for 500 birds. As of today, Mrs. Rosario raises 20,000 heads of ducks confined in 4 duck houses.

References:
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