Management of Game Fowl at Bob Oke Game Farm

Western Washington Program Goals

- Release 38,000 to 40,000 pheasants in designated areas
- Provide pheasant hunting opportunities for adult and youth hunters
- 25 release sites

Bob Oke Game Farm

Biosecurity Measures

General Biosecurity
- Minimizing risk to flock
  - Foot baths (Virkon®)
  - Clean and sanitize hatching equipment, feeders and waters, brood houses (Tek Troll & bleach)
  - Farm closed; check in at office
  - Rodent control
  - Feathertip management
  - Routine disease monitoring
  - WSU Poultry Lab (Rocio Crespo, DVM, MS, DVSc, Dip ACVP)

- Employees
  - No backyard flocks
  - Limit attendance at fairs & exhibits
  - Provided appropriate boots & clothing
  - Continual education & training

Minimizing Avian Influenza Risk

- Swab breeders weekly
- Waterfowl awareness
- Work closely with USDA & WSU Poultry Lab for updates on AI
- Feed control (rodents and starlings)
Which Came First?

- Breeders
  - 2,300 hens, 230 roosters

- Egg collection
  - Hand collected twice a day, disinfecting boots before & after entering pens
  - Collect 68,000 – 70,000 eggs
  - Wash at 110 degrees for 3 min. with mild egg soap

The Hatchery

- Incubation
  - NatureForm incubator
  - Multi-stage incubation
  - Full capacity 21,528 eggs
  - Incubate 50,000 eggs
  - Heat at 99.5 degrees
  - Humidity at 55% RH
  - Turned every 60 minutes
  - Candle at Day 13
  - Transfer 1st set at Day 21

- Hatch Day
  - Day 24
    - Counting chicks
    - Visual evaluation of chicks
    - Fluff sample taken

Feed

- Contract for feed
- Five 14-ton hoppers
- Feed mixtures
  - Breeder
  - Starter
  - Grower
  - Wheat
- No preventative antibiotics

Brood Houses

- Chicks
  - Temp of 99.5 degrees
  - In ring for 5 days

- Specifications
  - 22 brood houses
  - 3 150-foot barns
  - Cleaned and sanitized
Most Common Diseases

- Coccidiosis
  - Oocyste
  - 10- to 14-day-old chicks
- Salmonella
  - Bacterial infection
  - Group B - Typhymurium
  - Group D - Enteritidis
  - High mortality within 14 days
- Gape Worm

Transition to Flight Pens

- 3 weeks
- 4 weeks
- 5 weeks
- 6 weeks

Flight Pens

- 45 acres under net
- 100- x 300-foot flight pens
- Feed once a week
- Flight pen check 3 times a week for bird health

Moving to Catch House

- 16-foot alley ways
- Green tarps
- Herding birds

Catch House

- Crates
- Catch box
- Loading area

Distribution

- Distribute about 4,000 birds per week
- Driving north/south
- Staff and volunteer plantings
Questions

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