



MEMO

To: All Customers with Automatic Breeder Nest
From: Mike Little
Date: July 15, 1994

Subject: Installation and Maintenance of 8 inch Egg Belt in Mechanical Nests

It has come to our attention that some customers are stretching the 8 inch belt much too tightly in the breeder nest systems. We would like to take this opportunity to caution against this practice and, also, to offer some suggestions. Running a belt too tightly causes poor performance, decreased belt life and excessive wear on the drive system. A belt stretched too tightly, cups up on the sides allowing eggs to get under it. This starts a chain reaction which many times results in the belt becoming permanently creased and unusable. There is no warranty for belts that exhibit premature wear and cupping on edges due to over tightening.

All egg belt is woven in a relaxed condition. It must be allowed to stretch slowly over several weeks. The increased egg load from a young flock of breeders coming into production is a perfect method of stretching the belt. The belt will need to be shortened 2-3 times during the first several weeks of use. Take out only the excess belt. Once the birds have reached peak production and egg size, the belt will not continue to stretch. **Do not install new belt in a house with birds in peak production unless it is an emergency.**

We know that some people will argue that by stretching the belt very tightly, there is no need to re-splice the belt after natural stretching occurs. While saving additional labor is a valid argument, like so many things, a little extra attention during the initial startup period will ensure smooth operation and longer belt life. **We recommend that the belt be run as loosely as possible without interfering with the drive system. The belt should be pulled up snugly and then stretched no more than 12-18 inches. The maximum stretch should not exceed 110 lbs. of force. The ends of the belt should be overlapped 8 inches and spliced. Hand sewing with a needle and heavy waxed thread, or with a combination of hot-melt glue and sewing, is recommended.**

Please avoid using detergents and disinfectants to clean the belt. The use of these products will destroy the protective coating in the fibers of the belt and greatly reduce the life of the belt. If a belt must be cleaned, use plain water in a high-pressure sprayer. **If a belt is snagged or has rodent damage, burn the affected area with a small propane torch to prevent loose fibers from hanging in the system.** Also, please be aware of the importance of frequent egg gathering. **Eggs should be gathered a minimum of 4 times a day, and as many as 6 times during peak production periods. Customers with houses over 500 feet in length should gather more often.**

A new egg belt is much like a new tire. If you take care of it and follow regular maintenance, it will last a long time. If you install it and forget it, you will be disappointed!

If you have any questions regarding egg belt installation or maintenance, please call our toll free number 1-800-EGG-BELT(344-2358).

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