

Re: Minimum coop temperature

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.agriculture.poultry/2004-10/1006.html>

From: Jill. (news_at_REMOVETHISKintaline.co.uk)

Date: 10/27/04

Date: Wed, 27 Oct 2004 13:22:00 +0100

Mary Fisher wrote:

- > *What's the minimum temperature required for hens' comfort and health*
- > *in winter, please?*
- >
- > *Mary*

not sure there is one defined – but I would be surprised if healthy hens would find any temperature we get in mainland UK a problem.

Its more an algorithm of health of the birds – well covered in flesh and well covered in good feathering

Good feathering means that the birds are grooming so they knit together well and there is a good mix of soft and hard feathers.

The birds should preferably be dry before the temperatures drop to extremes
The feed they are getting provides sufficient levels of metabolisable energy so they can make themselves warmer from inside.

The house does not have any drafts in that cause cold air to be constantly pulled across their bodies but has good ventilation to prevent stagnant air developing

The house should be of a size that the birds can keep themselves wrm in it – one that is too big can just have too much dead cold space in it – thats when a house and covered run is better – where the house is for night and the run gives more protected space in the day

Cold is also relative – dry cold most stock can withstand much lower temperatures than wet cold

In the US where the folks get much greater extremes then problems can occur as folks have said here – frostbitten combs etc.

--

regards

Jill Bowis

Pure bred utility chickens and ducks

Housing; Equipment, Books, Videos, Gifts

Herbaceous; Herb and Alpine nursery

Holidays in Scotland and Wales

<http://www.kintaline.co.uk>