

Re: Double Yolks

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The message <452f432a\$0\$8742\$ed2619ec@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> from "Jill" <news@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> contains these words:

Steve Newport wrote:

We keep four of a cross called Black Rock and the birds have been in lay for about three months or more now. Excellent eggs and quite often we will get huge ones with double yolks.

Never see these in commercial pack so I assume they get sorted out.

However, what causes the double yolks? Is it something over which you can exert an influence if you wanted double yolks?

Its not desirable in the commercial world as it strains the birds and halves the potential number of eggs you will get from the individual. Its not common in Black Rocks but you obviously have one bird with the tendency to pick up two ova as she starts her egg making

We used to keep a commercial hybrid Warren X Studler (unrestricted free range, optimum conditions, exercise and feed; no artificial light or heat in their night hut). Particularly sturdy hens would often produce a lot of double yolkers in their first lay, and even triples.

When they started their second lay season the doubles rapidly decreased and older hens just produced single yolkers. We still got a phenomenal number of eggs per bird, and they usually laid all through their first winter. Of course, a hen can't keep that up long and they had a short natural life span (3 yrs if they were lucky) compared to the 10 years I've known in old-fashioned breeds.

The first sign they were about to turn up their toes, was eggs with no yolk at all; and/or eggs enclosed in a membrane but no shell.

Re: Double Yolks

In around 20 years, I only once had a hen which prolapsed. So, although double yolkers may be a strain on hens living in commercial conditions, it doesn't seem to have a negative effect on the health of commercial hens which are living the life of Reilly in the old fashioned natural way.

Janet

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