

Re: Mucky eggs

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.agriculture.poultry/2009-06/msg00000.html>

- *From:* " Jill" <news@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 1 Jun 2009 17:31:44 +0100
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Sally Thompson wrote:

One of my hens (the Orpington) nearly always lays mucky eggs. I know the theory that this shouldn't happen, so I assume she is doing it just before or just after laying. The hen house is cleaned every day, and any droppings removed from the nest box.

Orps can often have mucky bottoms, because they are so fluffy feathered, some people pull or trim the feathers around the vent for breeding as they can get in the way of that too, or for simple hygiene.

Firstly, I assume there is nothing I can do about this. However, how is it best to clean the droppings off the eggs? At the moment I remove as much as I can with dry wood shavings, then gently rub the offending part with a little damp kitchen paper. Is there a better way?

Its best not to use anything damp unless you are using the egg immediately after, as damp wiping affects the protective film the hen leaves over the surface of the egg at the last minute before laying. A dry scourer works well – but the clean wood shavings is the first tool.

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regards
Jill Bowis

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