

**EXTERIOR EVALUATION OF LAYING HENS  
AND SELECT CHICKENS ACCORDING TO ITS RESULTS**

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**Introduction.** To provide the population with a sufficient amount of poultry products through the further development and comprehensive support of poultry farming in the republic, the introduction of advanced technologies and innovative developments in the sector, the deepening of processing of poultry products, the expansion of their types and the scope of export, the production of competitive poultry products is to provide stable and affordable prices.

According to the decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated November 13, 2018, No. PQ-4015 "On additional measures for the further development of poultry farming", the volume of production of finished products intended for export and development of the poultry industry in our country consistent measures are being taken to increase and expand the variety, as well as to provide the population with locally produced high-quality and cheap poultry products.

Studying the exteriors of poultry can be used to determine the useful features necessary for the farm, taking into account the nature of its structure and its changes as a result of external factors.

The structure type and several characteristics of poultry exteriors are constant, while others (especially in egg-laying breeds) vary with productivity. It is not possible to tell exactly how many eggs a hen will lay or not, their weight, and how many eggs will hatch based on external signs alone, but by evaluating the exterior of the hens, it is possible to select the best ones from the poultry flock (Table 1).

**Table 1**

**Evaluation of exteriors of laying hens and selection of hens based on its results**

The part	Classification	Shortcomings and shortcomings

Chief	Light, deep, wide, short, long	Long, short, scarred, "sparrow-like", heavy, "rooster-like"
Crown	Large, medium, small, leafy, reddish, long-short, raspberry, flat, shiny, red or reddish, thin-skinned	Excessively large or small, uncharacteristic form; lumpy, wrinkled, colorless, pale, upright in chickens, lying in roosters
Snout	Short, robust, fat, lightly curled, yellow, light-brown color	Extra long, straight, thin, big, squishy
Eyes	Out, shiny, dynamic. Eyelids are orange, orange-yellow, red, brown	It got into the cup, it was cloudy
His ears	Big, small, wide, flat. Red or white, the ear holes are covered with small feathers	Excessively large or small, dry, lumpy
Earrings	Wide, elongated, round, red or pink	Very small, dry, scaly
Neck	Long, short, thin, fat, nicely elongated, well feathered	Very long and thin, unusual for the breed
Gavda	Long, short, wide, round, deep, big	Not suitable for the breed, too long and short
Chest	Wide, deep, protruding, round	Short, fallen, scarred
Shoulder	Long, wide, flat, straight, scarred	Very short, narrow, curvy, bent, front or forward
The wing	It is of medium length, wide, close to the body	Short, does not lighten the body
The tail	Wide, straight, long, big.	Hanging, small, small, upright, "Germanic shape", "sesarka-shaped"
Calves	Tall, short, fat, skinny. The skin is yellow and other color	Very long and thin, curved, close. The color is dull, not the same
Nails	Correctly placed, long, short	It's crooked

The method of selecting chickens based on their exterior is used to form a flock of chickens in commodity farms. However, this method requires good knowledge and practical experience.

When choosing egg-laying hens and removing them from the flock, pay attention to their crowns, ears, ear holes, abdomen, cloaca, and feathers; it is focused on the distance from the pelvis and from it (from the bottom) to the last part of the sternum.

Chickens have a crown made of skin and earrings on their heads. The crowns of chickens differ in size and shape and are a sign of a genetically related breed. Usually, the crown has the following forms: leaf-like (simple), atypical flower-like, pea-like, nut-like, and horn-like.

The crown, earrings, and beaks of birds are called secondary sexual characteristics, and their physiological state depends on the state of the ovaries in the bird's body. When young chickens enter the egg, their crowns and earrings grow in size depending on the reading and maturation of the egg yolk. A hen's crown is a sign of her fertility, and this condition is well known in white and partridge Leghorn, Minorca, and other breeds.

Egg-laying hens have a large, red, smooth, shiny crown. As soon as she finishes laying eggs, she turns white, hardens, becomes rough, covered with white scales.

During the spawning period, the ovaries and fallopian tubes increase in weight and size. For example, during the beginning of laying eggs, ovaries, and egg-producing corridors are 5-6 times heavier than at the end of laying eggs. Egg-laying hens consume a lot of feed, which in turn leads to the expansion of the gastrointestinal tract and the acceleration of metabolism in all tissues. Therefore, during egg-laying, the abdomen of chickens is large and soft, and its skin is elastic and mobile, and when egg-laying is finished, it becomes hard and small.

A sign of active laying is also the state of the hen's cloaca. In egg-laying hens, it is large, oval-shaped, and moist, and in non-egg-laying chickens, it is compressed, almost round, and dry.

At the end of the pelvic bones of hens, especially in good egg-laying chickens, they are elastic and expandable, without fat. The distance between the lower bones of the pelvis of laying hens is 3-4 finger widths. Some breeds of chickens (White Russian, Leghorn, Rhode Island, Plymouth) have yellow beaks and feet, and this condition is explained by the presence of xanthophyll pigment. By changing their color, you can evaluate the state of laying eggs. Usually, when this pigment enters the body in the feed, the pigment reserves are collected in the beak and the lower parts of the legs and are used to organize the egg yolk. When the pigment is low, the colors of the beaks and upper parts of the legs of chickens, and some parts of the skin become pale.

Among the signs that classify the indicator of egg laying of chickens is their natural feathering. The feathering of chickens is determined by the first order of feathers in each row.

The molting process of chickens is very easy to evaluate in the first order of flying feathers. There are 10 of them in one chicken wing. Counting usually begins with the dividing submuscular feathers, which are located at the border of the first order of flight feathers.

**Conclusion.** During the first molt, the role of the pilot and the small feathers covering the body alternate. Flight feathers are not shed during autumn molting. Ducks also molt twice a year (in spring and autumn) and in the first molt, all their feathers are replaced.

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