

Poultry Farm Buildings in Trinidad: Present and Future Prospects

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Abstract

Eleven broiler (meat-producing chicken) farms located in five major poultry-producing counties in Trinidad were visited and their housing structures and equipment evaluated. Different aspects of their designs were compared with those found in the relevant literature. Most of the buildings were found to be well-designed and functional. All of them were naturally ventilated, open-sided houses. However, some aspects such as the choice of materials, needed improvement, while other aspects were almost non-existent such as bio-security and environment control. Furthermore, the recent trend is the use of tunnel-ventilated poultry buildings and two such buildings were constructed in Trinidad two years ago. Many such modern buildings exist in the United States, and Jamaica in the Caribbean region. In order to investigate the prospects of promoting the introduction of more tunnel-ventilated buildings in Trinidad to eventually replace the open-sided ones in future, a preliminary investigation was conducted to examine the operation and profitability of six such existing buildings in Jamaica and two in Trinidad. The operation of tunnel-ventilated houses was compared with a typical open house in Trinidad. Results of temperature variations, broiler body weights, feed conversion rates; mortality and financial returns on investment suggest that the introduction of more tunnel-ventilated buildings into Trinidad would be a viable venture. Detailed features of the tunnel-ventilated houses are described.