

# PPA and Skov host August training sessions

The degree to which the RSA poultry industry has automated and embraced fully environmentally controlled broiler housing, has given rise to a need for specialist training. To meet this need, Peninsula Poultry Appliances together with Skov, the Danish ventilation company, held a series of broiler production lectures in Gauteng, Natal, Port Elizabeth and in the Western Cape during August.



This is the fourth year that Peninsula Poultry Appliances has held this form of technical seminar in South Africa. The one-day lectures were very well attended, with up to 50 farmers attending in both Johannesburg and Cape Town.

Prior to the broiler lecture, Peninsula Poultry Appliances invited 18 of their SKOV-trained technical electricians to a 3-day course in Randburg. The electricians came from all over South Africa to be trained in all aspects of ventilation and technical installations.

To date, Peninsula Poultry Appliances has installed close to 700 SKOV computers in broiler and broiler breeder houses, as well as commercial layer farms, ostrich and pig houses.

"To enable Peninsula Poultry Appliances to give the best technical service and back-up to all these houses, it has obviously become necessary to have thorough technical back-up and service," said Duncan Unsworth of PPA.

Peninsula Poultry Appliances also receive solid back-up from SKOV, with regular visits from different SKOV personnel including training in broiler management and technical training on farms.

The speakers at the seminar for the broiler farmers were:

- Tommy Krogh spoke on methods of improving broiler production
- Soren Mikkelsen, computer technician
- Lindsay Winchester, a New Zealand farmer, spoke about how to reach a PEF of 425
- Arne Overgaard, sales manager of Australia, Japan, New Zealand and South Africa
- Duncan Unsworth, managing director of Peninsula Poultry Appliances

### SKOV user training seminars

SKOV export manager, Arné Overgaard, gave the attendees a brief history of the SKOV operation that is located in Denmark and started back in the 1970s to supply the local intensive livestock with shed control technology.

"Today SKOV products are sold in more than 65% of the Danish market and more than 75% of total production is exported," he said.

Next SKOV's poultry specialist, Asia, Tommy



Peninsula Poultry Appliances/ Skov broiler production meeting in Gauteng



Skov's guest speakers with Duncan Unsworth (far right)

Krogh spoke on the topic of 'first week broiler management seen from the ventilation point of view'.

"A good start lays the groundwork for a good finish," Tommy said and he pointed out that a day old chick has no way of regulating its own temperature.

"The environment for growing is a combination of air/floor temperature, relative humidity,

air quality (CO<sub>2</sub> levels), litter material and finally the design of the shed and equipment placement. "We want the chickens to get a good start and be uniform," he said.

"It is essential to get the floor temperature up, so don't try and save on heat as that can result in a bad FCR: low temperatures lead to less activity and lower feed intake."

"Check temperatures with a mechanical

**Commercial News**

wet/dry thermometer – a dry temperature of 31.5°C equals a wet temperature of only 25 degrees,” he pointed out.

Other tips were to avoid deep litter, as condensation could occur - particularly on concrete - resulting in bad litter condition, and to get heat into the ground itself.

“It is important to check bird quality on delivery, paying particular attention to small birds which lead to lack of uniformity in the flock.”

“Water to feed ratios are also important to monitor and anything over 1.8 litres of water to 1kg of feed indicates problems in the drinker set like up nipple and drinker height or water pressure set too high.”

“Waste water could lead to litter damage,” Tommy said.

“Loose van belts could lead to a loss of efficiency of up to 15% of possible performance and cooling pads should be cleaned carefully between each batch,” he concluded.

In dealing with the topic of specific climate computer functions, it was stated that the shed temperature needs to be adapted to the bird’s requirements, depending on their breed, age and weight.

On the topic of division of the shed into front and rear zones, Soren Mikkelsen pointed out that the temperature can be set separately in each individual zone – however, the two zones use the same temperature curve.

In a shed divided into male/female birds, the males should over time have a lower temperature than females because of the greater body mass.

Comfort temperature was then discussed: “When the outside temperature is low, completely open wall inlets may cause draught. The comfort temperature function lets the inside temperature increase by the set comfort temperature before 100% ventilation is carried out,” he said.

“In areas where the outside temperature drops quickly and significantly, SKOV recommends using the comfort setting for the part of the year where the outside temperatures vary a lot. The birds should have complete feathering before 100% ventilation is carried out at an outside temperature below 30°C,” Soren explained.

“Air speed is of great importance to the birds and the higher the air velocity, the more it cools. When the weather is hot, high air speed feels like a pleasant breeze, but when the weather is cold, even low air speeds feels like an unpleasant draught,” he said.

On the subject of temperature alarm, the importance of outdoor sensors being correctly located was emphasised.

Sensor errors can result in the system defaulting to a 50% ventilation setting, Soren pointed out and suggested locating sensors in a location where the sun doesn’t hit directly, like on a feed silo. ■



Rossgro contract growers with Vasu Moodley of Peninsula Poultry Appliances



Technical training with Skov electricians



Pieter Du Plessis and friend Country Bird Top Grower