

Should I lay, or should I grow? Management of layer and broiler breeder pullets for optimum reproduction

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OPTIMIZING PRODUCTION

- Managing growth trajectories via feed restriction programs is key to the success of broiler breeder management
- Feed restriction has not been a focus for layer pullets which are typically fed ad libitum.
- Broiler breeders carry the genetics for fast growth which can result in obesity and reproductive dysfunction, while layers have been selected for egg production.

Recent results from the Bedecarrats and Zuidhof research groups suggest that in fact, sexual maturation is intimately linked to and controlled [at least in part] by body weight, body condition, and feeding level in both broiler breeders and layers.

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