

# Aggressive pecking behavior: a common and serious welfare and economic problem

Newer housing systems may increase feather pecking, incidences of skeletal injuries, and mortality<sup>1,2</sup>

- ▶ 55-80% of producers report signs of feather pecking
- Prevention is ideal
- Critical to intervene immediately to prevent further damage



Thus the main practical strategy to prevent feather pecking and cannibalism is to provide an adequate substrate throughout life, from the start of the rearing period onwards." 3

## Environmental enrichment can help:

- Satisfy birds' extremely strong desire to forage, scratch, and peck.
- Minimize undesirable, harmful behavior, including aggression, feather pecking, and cannibalism.
- ▶ Enhance animal welfare.

National and global poultry organizations are increasingly focused on animal welfare and enrichment.

#### References:

- 1. Lay DC Jr., Fulton RM, Hester PY, et al. Hen welfare in different housing systems. Poult Sci. 2011;90:278-294.
- 2. Weeks CA, Nicol CJ. Behavioural needs, priorities and preferences of laying hens. Worlds Poult Sci J. 2006;62:296-307.
- 3. Blokhuis HJ, Wiepkema PR. Studies of feather pecking in poultry. Vet Q. 1998 Jan; 20(1):6-9.

# Introducing the New PECKStone™, from Vilofoss®

# A unique enrichment tool designed specifically to prevent and reduce abnormal pecking behavior

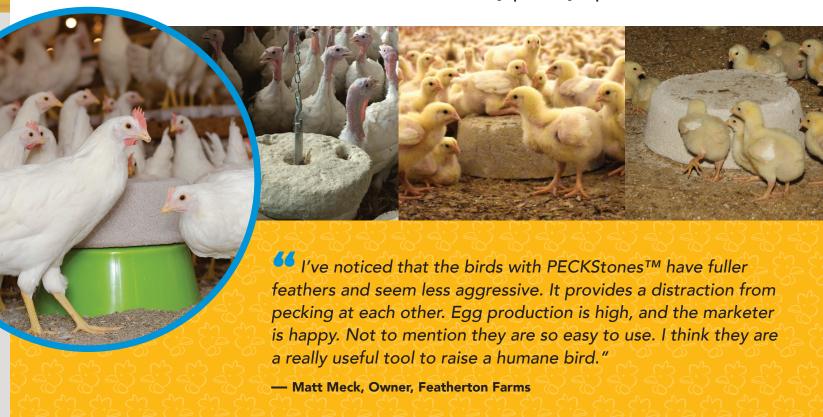
- Redirects aggressive pecking behavior
- Supports natural beak wear (with or without beak trimming)
- Durable yet destructible—an enticing pecking target
- All natural and organic
- Easy and practical for any cage-free operation
- Enhances animal welfare

**#1** in Europe



Now available in the US and Canada!

**PECKStones™** are available for any poultry operation



## **New PECKStone™**, from Vilofoss®

### Designed specifically for your birds and your operation

Available in 3 hardness levels: MEDIUM, HARD, EXTRA HARD

### How to use

	Type of PECKStone	Use and placement
Cage-Free Layers and Breeders	<b>EXTRA HARD</b> or <b>HARD</b> , for durability and optimal beak conditioning	<ul> <li>Use from initial bird placement, or add anytime</li> <li>Remove the PECKStone™ from the plastic tub</li> <li>Turn the tub upside down and place on litter or scratch area</li> <li>Place the PECKStone™ on top of the tub</li> </ul>
Broilers and Pullets	HARD or MEDIUM, for comfort and beak conditioning  For birds with trimmed beaks try MEDIUM	<ul> <li>Use from initial bird placement</li> <li>Remove the PECKStone™ from the plastic tub</li> <li>Place the PECKStone™ on litter or scratch area</li> <li>"Split" PECKStone™ is also available for birds in the house 6 weeks or less</li> </ul>
Turkeys	<b>EXTRA HARD</b> , for tough conditions and maximum durability	<ul> <li>Place PECKStones<sup>™</sup> in the finishing barn prior to moving from the brooder chamber</li> <li>Remove the PECKStone<sup>™</sup> from the plastic tub</li> <li>Turn the tub upside down and place on litter or scratch area</li> <li>Place the PECKStone<sup>™</sup> on top of the tub</li> <li>PECKStone<sup>™</sup> may be modified to hang</li> </ul>

Experiment with PECKStone™ in your operation and find the option that works best for you!

**Ingredients:** calcium carbonate, monocalcium phosphate, salt, magnesium oxide, sodium sulfate, magnesium sulfate, wheat bran.

#### **Guaranteed Analysis:**

	Min /	Max
Calcium (Ca)	21.0%	24.0%
Phosphorus (P)	4.0%	
Salt	7.5%	9.0%
Sodium (Na)	3.5%	4.5%
Magnesium (Mg)	2.5%	

#### Where to Buy:

Visit <u>www.peckstone.com</u> for dealer information.

**Rate:** Place 1 PECKStone™ for every 500 birds

