

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class Period: _____

Agricultural Literacy
"Chicken Prices Soar..." by Reuters

Directions: Retrieve the article from <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2686596/Chicken-prices-soar-Americas-largest-breeder-reveals-genetic-tweak-caused-nationwide-rooster-fertility-woes.html>. After reading the article, determine the BEST answer for each of the following questions. Write the letter of the best answer in the blank provided.

1. _____ What is wrong with the Ross breed of rooster?
 - A. It tends to produce chickens with malformations such as tiny wings.
 - B. It tends to be sensitive to temperature fluctuations and has heat strokes.
 - C. It tends to be overly sensitive to corn and has digestive problems.
 - D. It tends to be sensitive to being overfed and won't breed.

2. _____ How widespread is the problem with Ross roosters?
 - A. One out of ten laying hens in the U.S. is from the Ross breed.
 - B. Ross roosters sire about 25 percent of U.S. chickens raised for slaughter.
 - C. Ross roosters are grown in every state in the U.S. except Arizona.
 - D. Ninety-eight percent of Ross roosters are affected.

3. _____ We can infer that the hatch rate of eggs is influenced by all of the following EXCEPT
 - A. Temperature
 - B. Feed quality
 - C. Age of hen
 - D. Space in the hatchery

4. _____ What is Aviagen?
 - A. A company that produces specialized chicken feeds.
 - B. A company that specializes in poultry processing for consumers.
 - C. A company that provides breeding stock to chicken producers.
 - D. A research firm that studies poultry reproduction and health.

5. _____ How did Aviagen first become aware that there was a problem with Ross roosters?
 - A. Sanderson Farms discovered that 17 percent of its Aviagen eggs failed to hatch.
 - B. Tyson discovered that 15 percent of its Aviagen eggs failed to hatch.
 - C. Individual growers reported chickens with deformities.
 - D. JP Morgan reported a decline in the number of eggs per laying hen.

6. _____ The article says, "Chicken producers also are keeping their hens laying eggs longer than usual to **compensate** for the lack of new birds...." Compensate means
 - A. to make up for or offset
 - B. to work aggressively or train
 - C. to plan ahead or foresee

7. MATH CONNECTION. According to the article, normally about 15 percent of breeder eggs fail to hatch. If a poultry grower in Arkansas has 12,000 breeder hens, how many eggs could be expected to hatch?

- A. 800 B. 1,800 C. 10,200 D. 11,400

8. _____ Why was the poultry industry already dealing with a shortage of breeder hens?

- A. Grain prices spiked in 2011, causing growers to reduce the size of their flocks.
B. A poultry disease killed thousands of hens in 2013, and growers did not reestablish their flocks.
C. The United States sold a record number of chickens to European countries in 2013.
D. Growers lost thousands of birds in the hot summer of 2013, and they did not reestablish their flocks.

9. _____ Which of the following statements is CORRECT?

- A. Aviagen regularly tries to improve the genetics of their chickens.
B. Aviagen is sharing the details of this genetic problem in order to help other poultry growers.
C. Sanderson Farms thinks it will be spring of 2015 before it has replaced the birds with problems.
D. As details about the genetic failure have spread, Tyson stock prices have dropped.

10. _____ Why has the demand for chicken increased this year?

- A. Consumers believe chicken is healthier than beef.
B. Beef and pork prices have suddenly increased.
C. Michelle Obama's new cafeteria rules require schools to purchase more chicken.
D. Consumers want a source of high quality protein that is versatile and easy to prepare.

11. _____ Which of the following statements is correct?

- A. Chicken prices in Georgia are at a record low.
B. U.S. exports of poultry for meat are expected to increase in 2014.
C. U.S. exports of poultry for meat will stop until the chicken supply in the U.S. is restored.
D. High chicken prices normally cause chicken companies to decrease production.

12. What is probably the purpose of the last paragraph of the article?

- A. The writer wants to help Shawna McLean find a job in the poultry industry.
B. The writer wants to show that the problem with Ross roosters affects ordinary households.
C. The writer wants to encourage readers to further research the issue and help find a solution.
D. The writer wants to encourage Americans to eat more chicken.

13. _____ Which of the following statements BEST summarizes the main idea of this article?

- A. A genetic issue has caused chicken prices to rise in the United States.
B. Americans can expect to eat more chicken since the supply is high and prices are low.
C. Genetically modified organisms (GMO's) will continue to cause disasters for America's farmers.
D. The National Chicken Council works hard to promote chicken as a healthy, inexpensive food.

