SHORT COMMUNICATION

A SIMPLE INEXPENSIVE DEVICE FOR DEBEAKING POULTRY

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In Poultry industry, various surgical procedures are adopted for debeaking, dewinging, dubbing, nail cutting etc. to prevent the birds from various kinds of vices such as cannibalism, head picking, toe-picking, wing and tail-picking, vent pulling, vent picking prolapse, egg eating, flightiness etc., resulting in various degrees of stress conditions causing direct and indirect losses. Several debeaking mechanical devices have been invented and introduced into the market by the poultry equipment dealers. To suit the purse of the poultry farmers, a simple and inexpensive device was invented by the staff of the Livestock Research and Development Centre, Erode.

The simple inexpensive device used for debeaking the birds consists of an ordinary electric soldering iron commonly used by the radio mechanic for soldering the electric gadgets. A disc or a coin made of brass or copper is welded to the tip of the soldering iron and the projecting edge of the circumference of the disc is sharpened like that of a blade. When the soldering iron is connected to the wall plug, the temperature of the sharpened disc at the tip attains the maximum temperature (lead melting point 327°C) within a few minutes and this temperature is quite sufficient for cauterizing the beak. The soldering iron is held in the hand by the wooden handle and the sharpened disc edge is applied in a semi circular movement with pressure on the beak. Care must be taken in debeaking chicks to prevent adverse effects. The beak should be cut squarely across. About one third of the upper beak and just the tip of the lower beak are removed and the iron should be held till the blood vessels are totally cauterized. Too little cauterization results in excessive bleeding and too much causes necrosis of the tissues. Birds of various age groups are easily debeaked with this instrument.

Moreover it can also be used successfully for dubbing (trimming the comb and wattle) of birds; dehorning calves, docking, and nail cutting of pups; cropping the ears of dogs etc.
Debeaking device consisting of an electric soldering iron and a brass or copper disc.