



METHODS OF FEEDING OSTRICHES

Babaeva Shakhlo Alievna
Assistant, Samarkand Veterinary Medicine Institute

Abstract

This article describes the history of ostriches, feeding methods and specifics in the ostrich's care.

Keywords: ostrich history, intensive care, extensive care, semi-intensive care

The history of ostriches. Ostriches are the largest birds of the terrestrial fauna. Since man became interested in agriculture, ostriches have also attracted their attention.

Ostriches appeared on earth during the dinosaur era, so they are mentioned in various folk legends and epics. Ancient Egyptian parchment and African legends, epics, short stories, and texts all mention giant flying birds.

People have always paid special attention to ostrich feathers. In Egypt, ostrich feathers were considered a sign of justice (truthfulness, righteousness) due to their symmetrical structure. Not only Egyptian traders, but also Babylonians and Assyrians traded intensively with ostrich feathers. In time, ostrich feathers became very popular all over the world due to their elegant ornaments. They are widely used in the manufacture of clothes, hats, hairstyle (combed, shaped hair), handkerchiefs and other small parts, details, ornaments. Women's scarves made of ostrich feathers are still an important element of fashion.

Other ostrich products have not gone unnoticed. In ancient times, it was popular to hunt ostriches for their delicious taste. In addition, the skins obtained from them were used in the manufacture of clothing. Ostrich eggs were also used as containers to store liquids. Humans began to organize captive feeding of ostriches after realizing how much they would benefit humanity by keeping ostriches under their control. Feeding these birds in captivity began in ancient Egypt before our era. Ostriches were also used by Egyptian nobles as a riding animal in ceremonies and demonstrations.

Ostriches arrived in Europe in the XIII century, when modern, self-respecting knights of that time believed that their helmets should be decorated with fluttering ostrich feathers. But in the middle of the XVIII century, wearing ostrich feathers on hats became a tradition everywhere.

In the XIX century, from the 1930s onwards, the African ostrich industry began to develop rapidly. The feathers of these exotic birds, along with diamonds, gold, and wool, began to be exported, rapidly enriching farm owners and ensuring a prosperous life. African farmers did not pluck the feathers, but cut them. This method allowed cutting the feathers twice a year. At the same time, other ostrich products - meat, hides and eggs - were not in demand in the world at that time, they were used only for domestic consumption. Over time, ostrich farms spread from South Africa to the North as a lucrative business. It first spread to North Africa - Kenya, Algeria and Egypt, then to Europe - Italy, America - Argentina and the USA and New Zealand. The trade in ostrich feathers flourished around the world in the early XX century, before the hostilities outbreak involving many nations. During this time many farms disappeared due to lack of demand for ostrich products. Ostrich meat and eggs began to be eaten



as delicacies, and the demand for them increased again as they realized that their skin quality was not inferior to that of crocodile and snake skins.

Breeding ostriches is still a popular activity in agriculture. Some large farms, which used to be domesticated by locals, are now turning to ostriches. Due to the products diversity in this industry, it is known that it is purchased by companies for various purposes and is a very lucrative industry. In addition to the food industry, there are also companies interested in the production of ostrich skins, leather, models and various souvenirs.

There are now more than 500 well-developed ostrich farms in Europe alone. Ostrich feeding has become popular, especially among farmers in Belgium and France. The ostrich business is also well developed in Latin American countries. But the largest ostrich farm (250,000) is located in Israel.

Ostriches feeding methods. There are intensive, semi-intensive and extensive methods of ostrich development. Let's look at the features, advantages and disadvantages of these methods.

Intensive care is the complete control of ostriches by the farmer. In cattle breeding, this method is called feeding (stall) in each separate room (cage) in the barn or barn.

Extensive care is, on the contrary, to create conditions for ostriches as close to natural conditions as possible.

The semi-intensive care method combines the above two methods.

It is difficult to say for sure that this will be the best result in ostrich breeding, but it is necessary to clarify the pre-care method. Some farmers only take care of ostriches in an extensive style and they are satisfied with the results. This will require large pastures to feed the birds in small groups. Free feeding of ostriches is most effective when ten males are fed at the rate of 25 females. It is important to pay attention to the men compatibility. When cared for extensively, male ostriches defend a specific area they control from an opponent with no less aggression than in nature. But their aggression is directed at other male ostriches, behaving impartially and correctly towards humans. The females move freely throughout the pasture. They will be able to mate with more than one male ostrich, which will increase the number of fertilized eggs.

However, most farmers around the world prefer intensive or semi-intensive ostrich farming. The intensive style is explained by the fact that one male ostrich has two females. But in the middle of the season, the male ostrich will have to be replaced. If you have no experience in ostrich breeding and are just starting to practice, semi-intensive care is recommended. Ostriches have to be bought in pairs, at the expense of one female for one male. This ratio provides the best results. In a small area, if one male ostrich has two or more female ostriches, productivity will be significantly reduced.

Features of the ostriches care. As much as possible, strangers should not be caught in the bird sight being kept in captivity. This is especially true for service personnel, who must be on a regular basis. It is also necessary to introduce permanent work clothes, so that even if there is a slight change in the service worker appearance, the ostriches may not recognize the flock and accept it as a stranger. Such situations put them in a stress state and encourage aggression. Stress has a negative effect on the



condition of ostriches, especially in the pre-breeding season. Ostriches stop moving about a month ago to avoid discomfort. It is absolutely impossible to make any changes to the feeding conditions during direct mating and laying. Otherwise, the female may stop laying eggs.

The poultry service worker should do his job calmly, quietly and peacefully, without any haste. You need to move slowly so as not to scare the birds. It is important to remember that the male ostrich, which guards the egg during the breeding season, is always vigilant and vigilant, otherwise the farmer may misunderstand any action and attack. Not only during the breeding season, but at any time during the breeding season, care should be taken not to stress the ostriches. This is a bird that lives as a flock, and if one of the birds in the flock gets scared and starts to run away, the rest of the flock will start to run. If ostriches get confused in a room or on a small playground, the birds can be seriously injured as a result. If the confusion is not public, the bewildered bird can be soothed by wearing a hood.

To avoid collisions within the flock, each bird must be able to find drinking water source in its area. Cleanliness should always be observed in walking areas. In particular, foreign objects, such as birds' nails, should be removed in a timely manner to prevent them from being swallowed by food. Ostriches should not be exposed to foreign objects in the pastures to prevent them from being injured by swallowing wires, ropes and other similar hazards.

Feeding ostriches in intensive care. If an ostrich farm is to be grazed without pasture, they will need to be provided with the required amount of crushed green fodder and hay and concentrated feed concentrate. Special mixed feed concentrate is mixed with green fodder at the 1.5 kg rate per head of poultry. Green food is better if it contains the herbs variety. It contains a variety of grasses, including rapeseed, alfalfa, spinach, and other succulents. The amount of green fodder is determined by the amount consumed by the birds.

During the period of reduced egg production, it is possible to reduce the amount of mixed feed concentrate in the feed or use a cheap feed mixture. But before the ovulation period begins, the nutrient content is increased and must be maintained throughout the ovulation period. It is very important to continue to provide highly nutritious food during the ovulation period and until the end of this period, even a short-term reduction in nutrition can stop ovulation. It takes about a month to raise an egg to that level.

In the intensive care method, ostriches should not forget to give coarse sand and stones for the digestive organs to work well. Some of the ingredients added to the diet: vegetable oil, fish meal, barium, vitamin-mineral complex, dicalcium phosphate, zinc, bicitrate, methionine.

The final feeding ration for ostriches has not been developed. Depending on their age, ostriches should be given a balanced supply of vitamins, minerals and the right amount of raw fiber.

Feeding ostriches in a semi-intensive care method. Feeding ostriches in a semi-intensive care method does not pose major problems. Birds get all the nutrients they need easily by grazing freely and consuming nutritious mixed feed concentrates. But for ostriches, the pasture must be of good quality



to feed in this style. It is beneficial to eat natural foods in an environment that is as close to natural conditions as possible.

It is important to remember that breeding birds need strong, nutritious food during the breeding season. Special supplementary rations should be provided for breeding ostriches. In the first 2 months of the winter season, it is recommended to give each ostrich 1 kg of granulated concentrate. In the following weeks of the growing season, the amount of food concentrate is increased to 3 kg. At the same time it is necessary to add grated green food to the concentrate. If at the beginning of the breeding season there are no signs that the ostrich is ready to mate, the food quality will improve and the quantity will increase.

Feeding ostriches in the extensive care method. If ostriches are being raised extensively on a farm, the key is to provide a large amount of quality pasture. This requires a large area of uncultivated land.

If there are other animals on the farm, they can be raised with ostriches. Even in the wild, ostriches, along with zebras, giraffes, and other herbivores, are known to graze in vast pastures. Therefore, in captivity, along with other herbivores, grazing conditions are closer to the natural environment.

If the extensive system is used on a farm, the feed cost will be small, as most food will be found and consumed by the birds themselves in the pasture. But the way ostriches are cared for depends more on the local natural and climatic conditions.

If the climate worsens and rain or drought begins, it is unlikely that the birds will be fully self-sufficient in pasture. In such unfavorable climatic conditions, the birds on the farm need additional feeding.

Influence of climatic conditions on ostrich feeding. On ostrich breeding farms in different regions, the drought is very dangerous for the birds. Ostriches are usually resistant to extreme cold, but only in areas with low humidity. But in the southern latitudes, shelter from the rain is needed when grazing in the open, because in the tropics, the rains are heavy and long. Considering the conditions in which ostriches live in nature, it is not surprising that they are not adapted to rainfall. The sudden change of heat and cold in one day does not affect the ostrich.

For example: Ostriches do not need warm rooms, but they do need shelter from the rain. When the temperature drops sharply, the room needs to be heated so that the ostriches do not stop laying eggs.

References:

1. Republic of Uzbekistan PD-4576 "On additional measures of state support of the livestock sector" January 29, 2020.
2. Агыков А.А. «Strausovodstvo- novaya otrasl selskogo khozyaystva» Ptitsevodstvo 2003 № 3 p. 77-85.
3. Kulikov L.V. Razvedenie strausov pribylnoe delo // Ptitsevodstvo 1998 №4 p. 40-41
4. Bruznitskiy, A.A. Проблемы і возможности первого etapa razvitiya strauso- vodstva v Ukraine / A.A. Bruznitskiy // Промышленное strausovodstvo: mater. 2-y Mejdunar. konf. (Dnepropetrovsk, 6–8 iyulya 2006 g.). – Dnepropetrovsk: «Korporatsiya Agro–Soyuz», 2006. – p. 8–11