



INNOVATIVE    DEPENDABLE    EFFECTIVE



**PECKStone™**  
*Change the pecking order*

Promote natural pecking behavior and improve animal welfare.



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# PECKStone™

Change the pecking order



## PECKStone™ is changing the pecking order.

York Ag is an authorized distributor of **PECKStone™**, a unique enrichment tool designed specifically to prevent and reduce abnormal pecking behavior and improve animal welfare — superior to other poultry pecking blocks.

Pecking (or picking) is a common problem among domesticated chickens, turkeys, and other poultry. Birds will peck to forage for food, and they will peck one another to establish order or hierarchy or to relieve stress or boredom.

Although it is natural for chicken pecking to occur, it can lead to some very unnatural outcomes. Injury, mortality, and cannibalism are all possibilities as bully birds work to the top of the pecking order.

### PECKING BEHAVIOR

Aggressive, abnormal pecking behavior is a common and serious welfare and economic threat to poultry farming.

**PECKStone™** poultry blocks can help decrease this harmful behavior, thus increasing poultry productivity. Newer housing systems in poultry farming may increase feather pecking, incidences of skeletal injuries, and mortality<sup>1,2</sup> – one of the key current issues in the poultry industry.

- 55-80% of producers report signs of feather pecking
- Preventing poultry behavioral disorders is ideal
- Once abnormal pecking starts, it is difficult to stop
- It is critical to diagnose and intervene immediately to prevent feather pecking and cannibalism in chickens



Environmental enrichment with poultry supplies and equipment can help:

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

#### 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.

# PECKSTONE BENEFITS

PECKSTONE IS A UNIQUE ENRICHMENT TOOL DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY TO PREVENT AND REDUCE ABNORMAL PECKING BEHAVIOR.

- Provides an effective chicken pecking block target — redirects aggressive pecking behavior to prevent poultry cannibalism
- Supports beak conditioning as it can be used in conjunction with beak trimming or as a tool to aid natural beak conditioning where trimming is not employed
- All natural and organic, enhances animal welfare, and easy to incorporate into any operation
- Durable yet destructible — the ideal pecking target
- Vital salts and minerals incorporated, but no impact to overall nutrition/diet
- Available for any poultry operation: backyard or commercial flock, layers, pullets, broilers, breeders, and turkeys.

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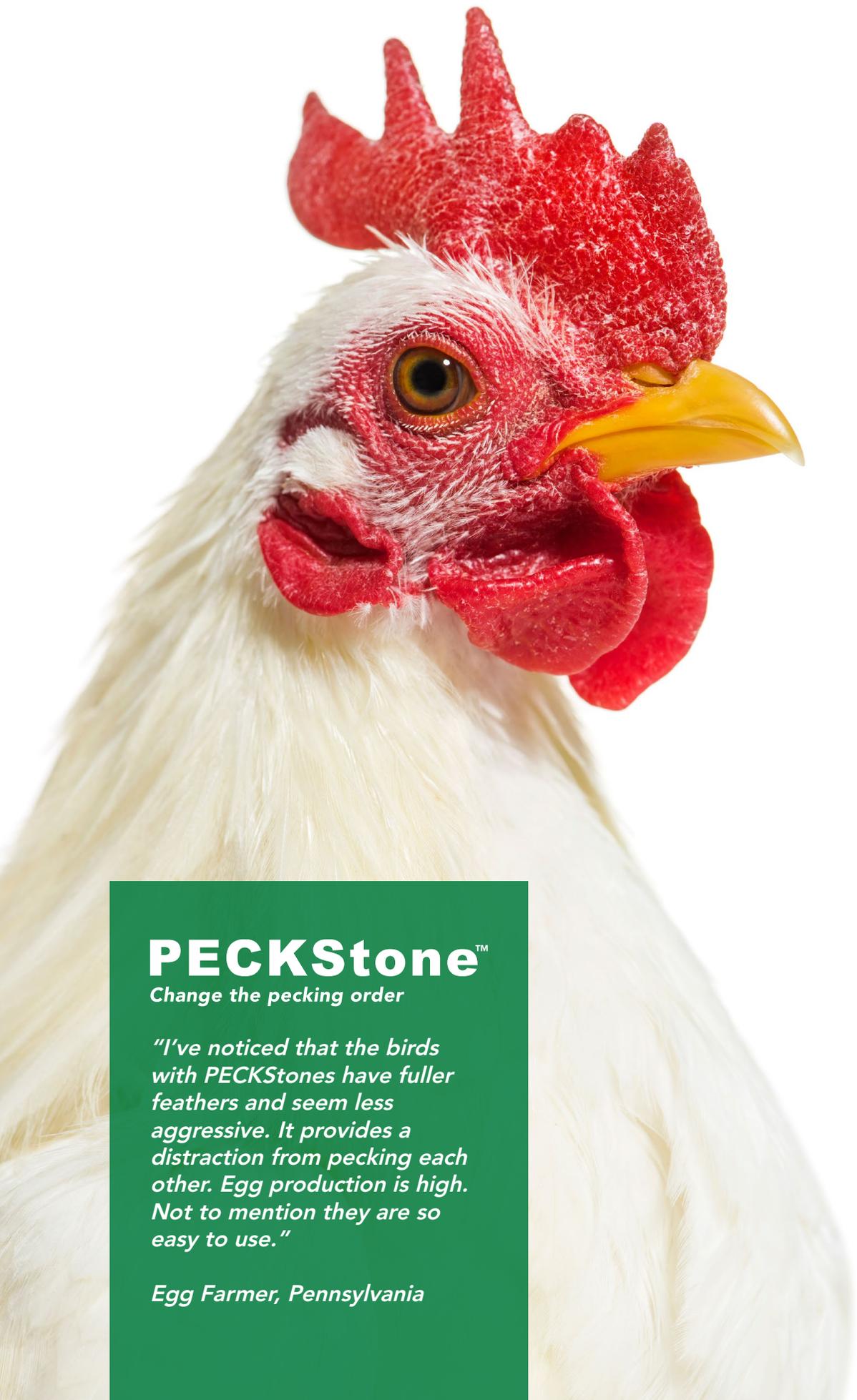
## PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

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

**DISPOSAL:** PECKStones can be left to naturally degrade and be destroyed by pecking. Residual stone remnants and empty bucket can be discarded with other waste from operation. The tub may be recycled.

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

**PECKStone** has been found to be in compliance with the National Organic Program (NOP) Standards.



## **PECKStone™**

*Change the pecking order*

*"I've noticed that the birds with PECKStones have fuller feathers and seem less aggressive. It provides a distraction from pecking each other. Egg production is high. Not to mention they are so easy to use."*

*Egg Farmer, Pennsylvania*

# PECKStone™

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The material composition (95 per cent minerals) allows for added intake of calcium, magnesium, sodium, and trace elements – supporting bone structure, better plumage, and general health.



# HOW TO USE PECKSTONE



## CAGE FREE LAYERS AND BREEDERS

### TYPE OF PECKSTONE

**EXTRA HARD** or **DUO**, for durability and optimal beak conditioning

### USE AND PLACEMENT

- Use from initial bird placement, or add anytime
- Remove the PECKStone from the plastic tub
- Turn the tub upside down and place on litter or scratch area
- Place the PECKStone on top of the tub



## PULLETS

### TYPE OF PECKSTONE

**EXTRA HARD** or **DUO**, for comfort and beak conditioning

### USE AND PLACEMENT

- Use from initial bird placement
- Remove the PECKStone from the plastic tub
- Place the PECKStone on litter or scratch area
- PECKStone is also available for birds in the house 6 weeks or less
- Place the PECKStone on top of the tub



## TURKEYS

### TYPE OF PECKSTONE

**EXTRA HARD** or **DUO**, for tough conditions and maximum durability

### USE AND PLACEMENT

- Place PECKStone in the finishing barn prior to moving from the brooder chamber
- Remove the PECKStone from the plastic tub
- Turn the tub upside down and place on litter or scratch area
- Place the PECKStone on top of the tub

# HOW TO PLACE PECKSTONE



**STEP 1**  
Unpack and select a location



**STEP 2**  
Remove stone from tub



**STEP 3**  
Place stone on top of tub



**STEP 4**  
Step back and watch



# YORK AG AND PROTEKTA

York Ag is an authorized U.S. distributor of **PECKStone™**, a unique enrichment tool designed specifically to prevent and reduce abnormal pecking behavior and improve animal welfare.

York Ag's supplier **PROTEKTA**, is an animal nutrition and solutions company with operations throughout Canada and the United States. PROTEKTA is the partner of Vilofoss®, a European-based, global leader in the premix and animal nutrition sector, with more than 90 years of experience and presence in 60 markets worldwide. With 17 manufacturing plants in Europe and 375,000 tons of premixes produced, Vilofoss is one of the world's most productive, competitive, resource-efficient and sustainable agricultural production companies.



## WHO WE ARE

York Ag is a dynamic supplier of holistic ingredient solutions focused on supporting animal well-being.

## WHY WE EXIST

York Ag lives to bring innovative, dependable, and effective feed ingredient solutions to feed manufacturers, livestock consultants, and animal producers.

## HOW WE OPERATE

York Ag uses determination, curiosity, and a collaborative approach to recommend and supply functional products that deliver both performance and profitability in an increasingly transparent marketplace.

## OUR HOPE

York Ag seeks to enrich the lives of animals, producers, and consumers.

Everyone Deserves  
a Nutritious Meal®



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[www.yorkag.com](http://www.yorkag.com)

York Ag creates holistic ingredient solutions that optimize animal well-being. **PECKStone™**, the logo, and the tagline "Change the Pecking Order" are registered trademarks of Protekta Inc.

York Ag Products, Inc.  
1060 ROOSEVELT AVENUE  
YORK, PA 17404-2833

Phone (717) 843-9937  
(800) 632-1895  
Fax (717) 845-7885  
Email [info@yorkag.com](mailto:info@yorkag.com)  
Web [www.yorkag.com](http://www.yorkag.com)

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