

INTRODUCTION

Egypt though known as agricultural country yet the cultivated area is very limited and it is hardly sufficient for growing the essential crops, vegetables and fruits. For this reason cattle raising is very limited. As an alternative poultry industry has been raised greatly in the last decade. At both the governmental and private chicken farms more than 150 million chicks have been raised in the year 1984.

If we take in consideration that the weight of feather is 5 % of the weight of chicks then about 7500 tons of feather are produced yearly at chicken farms.

Some uses of chicken feather :

In some foreign countries especially European countries, the fine feather of the chest part is used in making pillows, however this is not practiced in Egypt as cotton is preferred for such purpose.

Another use of chicken feather is as an additive in animal feed production. Feather is cooked, ground and is added to animal feed in different proportions (Jackson, 1972). In Egypt this is practiced for the