Apple Cider Vinegar (ACV): A Natural Health Tonic for Chickens

What is Apple Cider Vinegar?
Apple cider vinegar (ACV) is made from crushed, fermented whole apples, yeast, and sugar. During fermentation, a gelatinous layer called "the Mother" forms, containing beneficial bacteria (probiotics), enzymes, bioflavonoids, minerals, and vitamins.

Key Health Benefits for Chickens

1. Supports Overall Hen Health
ACV is widely recognized as an all-round natural tonic for chickens. Regular use is associated with improved vitality and general wellbeing, making it a popular choice for producers seeking natural, preventative care.

2. Aids Digestion & Feed Utilization
Helps break down fats and minerals, assists protein assimilation, improves feed conversion, and helps prevent sour crop.

3. Promotes Healthy Gut Balance
ACV lowers the pH of the digestive tract, creating an environment less welcoming to pathogens such as E. coli, Coccidiosis, and Trichomoniasis (toxic to the protozoa causing canker, but not a cure).

4. Supports Feather Regrowth
Studies have shown hens receiving ACV regrow feathers faster, making it ideal for molting birds, stressed flocks, and ex-caged hens.

5. Improves Eggshell Quality
ACV provides potassium, which helps regulate calcium use, allowing more calcium to support strong eggshell production and reduce soft-shelled eggs.

6. Respiratory & Plumage Benefits
Supports a clear respiratory tract, cleans and conditions feathers, and improves overall bird comfort.

7. Cleaner Drinking Water
ACV helps suppress algae growth in drinkers, keeping water fresher longer. Always use plastic drinkers, as ACV corrodes metal.

How to Use Apple Cider Vinegar
Dosage: 2% solution (20 ml ACV per 1 litre of water)
Frequency: 2-3 times per week
Use Organic, raw, unfiltered ACV with "the Mother"
Use plastic drinkers only

Bottom Line
Apple cider vinegar is a simple, low-cost, natural tool that supports digestion, gut health, feather quality, eggshell strength, and overall hen wellbeing. It fits well into a preventative, natural flock health program for both small and large poultry producers.

Learn more about AVC

www.kohutfarm.ca

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