

# AUTUMN CONSIDERATIONS

It is a long time since I wrote an article in The RP. The editor told me that there was no need for just results from the Netherlands but more about systems and "how to do" things.

This time of year is THE time to consider changes to your system of taking care of your pigeons. Will I race my pigeons on double Widowhood, or only with cocks or hens. Do I go back to Natural. Do I install grids on the floors, will I change to another type of feeding etc etc.

The autumn and winter are the ideal seasons to change things to your system and lofts. Also is this the time to get inspiration from all kinds of sources. Internet, magazines, direct with other fanciers or from DVDs.



Jos Pepping.

I know they have DVDs in other languages as well. They can be very inspiring. You can pick small details from these sources. Like extra motivation spots, different way of feeding or other things. Or getting rid of things like extra products, vitamins or habits.

## Jos Pepping, Egmond aan de Hoef

I recently saw a DVD of [www.koerierduivenfilms.nl](http://www.koerierduivenfilms.nl) of Jos Pepping from Egmond aan de Hoef. He specialises in the same racing as myself, the extreme long distance races, and is very



successful, 1st International Agen this year on a distance of 998km with 250 extra kilometers of his competition, he had a brilliant result. He has had some super results for more than eight years with of course superb pigeons and a very effective and simple system. There are of course considerations that you must

make, but by this example I like to point out there are always things to learn. So I am going to describe the system of Jos and tell you what I think of it and if I can adopt that.

Jos's lofts are located in the grounds of his parents house, situated in the middle of farmland, covered with tulips and other flowers. Jos lives approx 1km away. He races his birds Natural.



The lofts are open 24/7 except on race days and one hour in the evening when all the birds are forced to train. Early in the morning he visits his lofts and makes sure that the feeders are filled. At 8pm in the evening he forces all pigeons out of the loft and the lofts are closed for an hour. He then fills the drinkers and the feeders again and he tries to keep the birds flying. After an hour he opens the lofts again and leaves. This ritual is done during the racing season, so early May until early August.

Every Saturday, beginning half May, the birds that are not in a race are basketed for a practice of about 100km. At his club is a service that takes his, and his colleague fanciers birds away for 100km. So every Saturday the birds have a race with the club or a 100km training toss. He does not medicate his birds much, only



the forced paramixo shot, a cure against canker on their first nest with Rodanizole 10%, and when the birds are basketed for an extreme long distance race, they get a pill against canker. No side products. He claims that side products are just for the fanciers feelings and not for the pigeons. The feed is a mixture of three types and an artificial corn called P40.

Due to the fact that his birds can go out and train all day, he also has an extra bird around the loft, the hawk. The hawk treats his loft like a McPigeon, but the pigeons get very alert on the activities of the hawk. The youngsters are not basketed in their first year. As a yearling they start racing every week. And results

well... Agen International 998km, released at 08.40 on 714km, first pigeon at 19.04. The first Dutch bird was in Maastricht at 20.45 at 835km. The yearling of Jos arrived at 22.12. His second pigeon arrived at 22.32, in the dark seven birds arrived!! Then he went with his clock to the club and when he came back there was number eight waiting at the loft. At 07.42 the following morning he had nine old birds and eight yearlings home! He basketed 22 old birds and 38 yearlings. All of these 17 are within the first 250 National arrivals.

#### What did I take out of this?

The simplicity of the system. I cannot keep my pigeons like this in view of the fact that I have neighbours. So I have to give stones and minerals to my birds, because the birds of Jos will find them on the fields around his loft. But not more!! Curing is not needed, unless the pigeons got something and you can give a canker pill on basketing day. Training and specially the last 100km is very good for the birds and especially under special circumstances like arriving just in the darkness or just before. And last the need to race the birds to sort out the right ones for your system and

methods. With every DVD I watch, I try to get something out of it. There are also DVDs where the starring fancier is busy with getting the right sponsors across then telling exactly what they do.

#### My changes for next season

I changed some minor details of my loft. I changed perches in my young bird loft. I added some wire netting in front of my windows so I can open the windows without all kinds of birds getting into the loft. I am going to install deflective netting in the ceiling of my loft. So there will be less draft when I have the windows open and also the sliding ceiling open. I am going to install an ETS shelf at the young bird loft, making the loft more useful. I do not use the ETS for my youngsters, but occasionally a couple of old birds do also use this loft. All small changes, but I hope it will do good to my loft and results. And during the season I will make more use of small distance tossing. When I go somewhere, for work or private, I will take some birds with me.

Yours in Sport,  
Arjan van Gent

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