

PERAK

State looks at closed-house system for poultry farming



Dr Ahmad Shafri (left) showing Abdul Yunus some of the equipment on display during Customers' Day at the Perak Veterinary Services Department.

PLANS are afoot to introduce better guidelines for poultry farms in Perak to adopt the closed house system.

Perak Veterinary Services Department director Dr Ahmad Shafri Hassan said they were still doing a study on tweaking the state laws to ensure there would be no issues for poultry farms to change to the closed house system.

A closed-house system is where animals are reared in an enclosed building with controlled ventilation that could reduce contamination through air and address foul smell.

"We want to work on the requirements first. We understand that not many would want to invest more money into their farms without a clear guideline," Dr Ahmad said after the opening of the department's Customers Day by state Agriculture Committee chairman Datuk Abdul Yunus Jamahuri.

"Once the enactment is amended, we will be able to set a time frame for farmers to make the necessary changes and also enforce the law,"

he said.

A group of villagers had reportedly complained about fly infestation in Segari last month, claiming that the problem was caused by poultry farms in the area.

Dr Ahmad also said they would not rush into getting poultry farms to implement the closed-house system.

"We understand it would take time and money to change to the new system.

"We do not want the industry to be affected and farms to shut down because of this new ruling.

"We want to ensure that the shift to the new system is smooth so that the supply and prices of chicken are not affected," he added.

Dr Ahmad said those wishing to venture into poultry farming would be required to use the closed-house system.

"We will require them to use the system. There is no exception.

"We will not issue licences to them if they don't use the new system," he said. — By IVAN LOH