

CHICK MANAGEMENT

Successful rearing of broilers starts well before the arrival of the baby chicks. They must be provided with the correct environment: temperature, humidity, ventilation and house layout.



Any delay in placement of chicks from their arrival boxes will result in dehydration, potentially impair growth and even death. Spread litter evenly. Uneven litter can restrict access to feed and water and lead to a loss of flock uniformity. Arrange equipment to enable the chicks to easily reach feed and water. Empty the boxes gently near feed and water over the entire brooding area.

Leave the chicks to settle 1 to 2 hours. Later check to assure birds have found access to feed and water. Dehydration on the day of arrival is the main cause of death. Many chicks can be saved by taking them one by one, dipping their beaks into water and leaving near waterer.

Brooding: Chicks require warmth. In tropical climates, the use of brooders is especially important at night. A thermometer should be located at the chick level.

Temperatures

First week (brooder).....90 to 92 deg. F.

First week (house).....84 to 88 deg. F.

Second week (house)....80 to 84 deg. F.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Due to advances in poultry genetics, knowledge of nutrition, bird management and disease control, broilers grow very fast. Their growth rate is dependent on the amount of energy (calories) in their feed. A 3-feed program is most efficient and cost effective program. A bird eats a greater amount of feed during the last two weeks. The finisher/withdrawal in the 3-feed program is the most economical feed thus the favorable economics of the program. In open-sided house expect the following:



	<u>Starter</u>	<u>Grower</u>	<u>Finish/With.</u>
Period	2wks	3wks	2wks
Amount	1.5lb	3.0lb	4.5lb
	17%	33%	50%
Bird Wt.	0.6lb	3.4lb	5.0lb

3-FEED PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS

Age	49days
Ending weight	5.0lb
Feed consumed	9.0lb
Feed conversion ratio	1.8



SIMPLE BROILER FACILITIES

Broilers may be confined in modest building conditions. A cement floor is preferred, but it may be compacted dirt or clay. The litter must be dry and least three inches deep. The litter may be wood shavings, chopped dried grasses, rice hulls, cut newspaper, or sand. Wet areas especially beneath waterers should be removed and fresh litter put down.



Ventilation is important and ammonia odors should be avoided. Tall grass and shrubs around the house should be cut to allow air flow. The house should be aligned East and West to avoid extended sunshine from entering the side of the house. Sometimes, fans will be necessary to reduce heat stress and remove ammonia odors. Wire surrounding all sides of the house should be small enough to keep wild birds from entering. Wild birds carry disease and eat considerable feed reducing efficiency.

Succeeding flocks may be put down on the same litter provided that all wet areas are removed, that the house is thoroughly disinfected and fallen feathers eliminated.