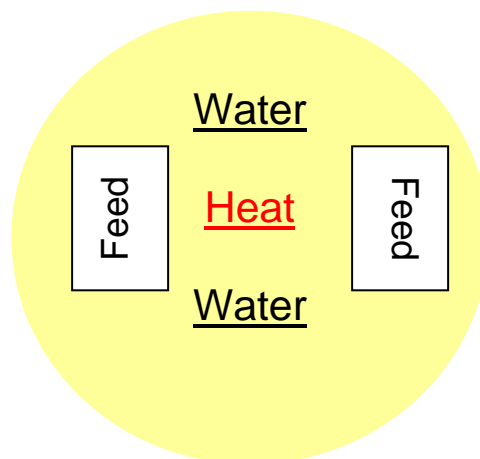


Chick Raising Facts & Reminders

- Research the type and breed characteristics for your situation.
- Purchase chicks from well-known, National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) approved hatcheries
- Prepare brooder area ahead of time
 - Clean, disinfect the area, waterers and feeders if used before
 - Keep dry, protected from cold, drafts, entry by other animals, bed with absorbent litter - shavings
 - Heat brooder 24 hours ahead of time to warm area
- Provide heat source in center of brooding area
 - Temperatures at chicks level – approximately 6 inches from the floor
 - First week - 95°F
 - Lower temperatures 5° each week until you reach a temperature of 70°F
- Observe chicks to ensure they are comfortable, spread uniformly under heat source

Brooder Ring Layout



- Provide fresh, clean water at all times
 - Clean waterers daily
 - Provide a waterer that will restrict bathing (no open containers)
 - Water should be room temperature
 - Add Stress Pak (electrolytes and vitamins) for first week or two
- Feed the right grain

Start with a chick starter -

- Formulated to give chicks a healthy start and builds a strong frame
- 2-3lbs per week per bird for 6 weeks (12-18lbs per chick)

Broilers – Chick starter for first 2 weeks or broiler ration

- Figure 12lbs of feed and 6-7 weeks to raise a broiler to market weight

Layers – At 6-8 weeks switch to grower ration (12-13lbs per bird during the 12 week period)

- When they begin to lay (5-6months of age) switch to a layer feed
- Layers need 14-16 hours of light per day to produce eggs
- 10 birds should produce 8 to 10 eggs per day
- 100 to 195 pounds of feed to produce about 20 dozen eggs per bird in 13 months (.25-.50lbs of feed per day per bird)

Turkeys – Start with a 5°F higher temperature in brooder

- Begin with Turkey/Gamebird starter-at six to eight weeks of age switch to a grower ration
- Depending on breed, your bird will mature in five months and weigh from 18 to 40 lbs (about 80lbs of feed to raise to maturity)

Game Birds – Use turkey starter for first 8 weeks

- Feed turkey game bird grower up to market size about 14-16 weeks
- Mature breeders can be feed a grower feed

Ducks and Geese – **Do not feed medicated feeds or medicate water**

- Use Chick Starter - gives chicks a healthy start and a strong frame
- At 4-5 weeks switch to grower ration for pets
- Feed a broiler ration until market size (8 weeks) for meat birds
- Feed a layer ration when birds begin to lay

Backyard Biosecurity

- 1.) Clean it up! disinfect feeders, waters, brooders, pens, coops before new birds
- 2.) Thoroughly wash hands after cleaning/working in chicks' environment
- 3.) No unnecessary visitors
- 4.) No introductions necessary – do not bring disease home – quarantine new birds for 30days
- 5.) Supervise children when handling poultry, do not nuzzle or kiss chicks, wash up when through with handling.
- 6.) Report sick birds to your State Veterinarian!

Straight Run – natural outcome of hatchery (usually 50% male/50% female)

Sexed – newly hatched chicks are sorted by sex

Dual-purpose breeds – breeds selected for both egg laying and meat traits

Hybrid birds – cross breeding two pure lines, generally results in more efficient birds

Heavy poultry breeds – more vigorous, larger in body size, higher feed consumption, lay brown eggs

Leghorn varieties – produce white eggs

Brown egg hybrids - produce brown eggs, good carcass at end of laying year