



BROILER MANAGEMENT TIPS

GET THE BASICS RIGHT!

Help your birds make your business profitable.

- Take good care of your chicks from day one. Only a healthy chick will produce a good chicken
- Chickens need a good environment to stay healthy and grow strong - a dry, well ventilated house, clean water, good sanitation and strict bio-security control
- Give your chickens the best possible protection against diseases through correct use of drugs and vaccines
- Ensure fast steady growth by giving the right feed at the right time
- A healthy well fed chicken = a good return on your investment

CHICKS

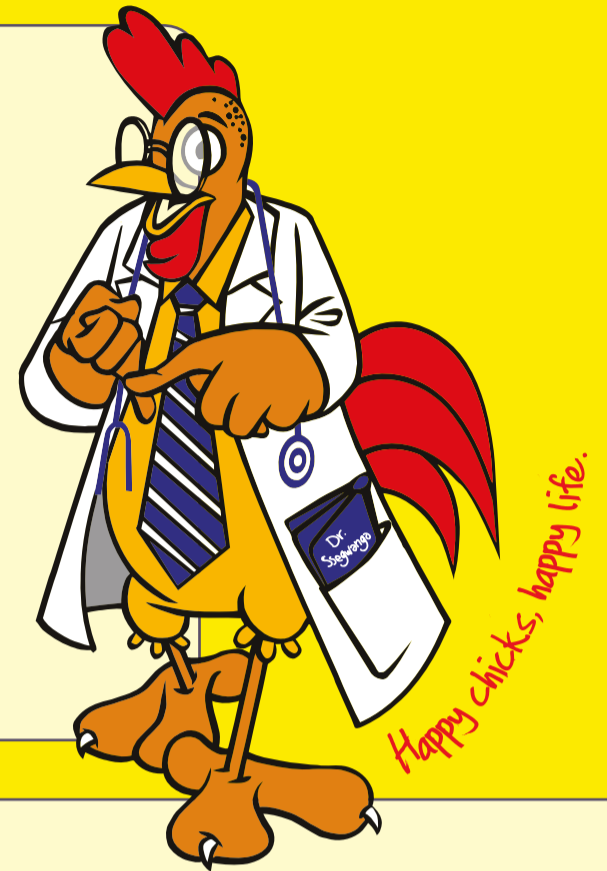
The first step to a profitable business is to have strong healthy chicks.

Preparation for chick arrival

- Clean and properly disinfect the house, equipment and surroundings
- Position curtains/surroundings so as to maintain the correct temperature, good ventilation but at the same time avoid draughts
- Aim for 40 chicks/sq metre for brooding
- Spread litter material evenly - may be softwood shavings, coffee or rice husks minimum 6cm deep
- Evenly space water founts and feeders in the brooding area
- When it is cold pre-heat the brooding area to reach the correct temperature before receiving chicks

When you transport chicks from shop to farm make sure of the following

- Chicks have enough air to breathe, they are not exposed to too much cold or heat and they do not get wet



ENVIRONMENT

Air

- Good ventilation and fresh air at the correct temperature for the age of the bird is essential
- Avoid draughts by ensuring good management of the curtains

Litter

- May be softwood shavings, coffee or rice husks
- Spread evenly up to 6cm deep

Litter should not become caked or too dusty

- Use litter for only one cycle

Space

- Gradually increase from brooding (40 birds/sq meter) to 8 - 12 birds/sq meter at 3 weeks

Light

- For best growth, 24 hours during the 1st day and 23 hours/day thereafter

Sanitation

- Clean houses thoroughly using detergents as well as disinfectants
- Clean and disinfect all equipment

Bio-Security

- Restrict access to the farm as much as possible
- Avoid vehicles driving near the houses
- Avoid keeping other types of birds on the farm

BROODING

The first few days are the most important in a bird's life so extra care and attention is required.

Observe the chicks carefully and often - they will let you know how they feel by their behaviour and if any changes need to be made.

Look at the way the birds behave. They should be evenly scattered throughout the brooding area. If they are huddled around the heater the room is too cold, if they are keeping far from the heater the heat is too much.

TEMPERATURE CHART

Day 1: 30°C	Day 6: 27°C	Day 12: 25°C	Day 18: 23°C	Day 24: 21°C
Day 3: 28°C	Day 9: 26°C	Day 15: 24°C	Day 21: 22°C	Day 27: 20°C

FEEDING GUIDELINES

Feed Type	Period (Days)	Feed (Kgs/bird)
Starter crumble	1 - 14 days	0.8
Grower pellets	15 - 28 days	1.2
Finisher pellets	29 - 35 days	1
Total		3

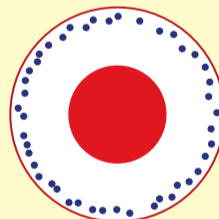
Feed & Water

- Clean water must be available to the birds at all times
- Keep drinkers and feeders at the height of the bird's back
- Feed ad lib (keep enough feed in feeders at all times)

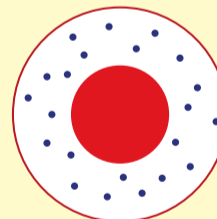


BIRDS DISTRIBUTION UNDER BROODERS

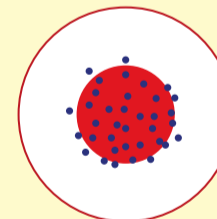
Temperature too high



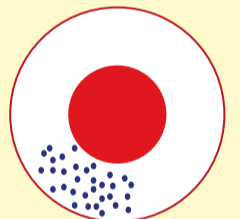
Temperature correct



Temperature too low



Draught



Listen to the sound they are making.

Low chirping = happy, loud noise = too hot and uncomfortable, no noise = cold or weak.

Smell the air at floor level. You should be able to breathe comfortably.

VACCINATION PROGRAM

Period	Vaccine type	Method of application
7 days	Newcastle/Infectious Bronchitis (IB)	Eye drop/Drinking water
14 days	Gumboro	Eye drop/Drinking water
21 days	Gumboro	Eye drop/Drinking water
28 days	Newcastle/Infectious Bronchitis (IB)	Eye drop/Drinking water



LAYER

MANAGEMENT TIPS

GENERAL PREPARATION FOR CHICKS

- Thoroughly clean equipment and facilities using a high pressure washer by removing all debris and dust left by the previous flock
- Manure should not be stored closer than 300m from the brooder houses and should not be located upwind
- Eliminate rodents, wild birds and other vermin. Make all necessary repairs and clean and disinfect water lines and tanks. Feed bins and feeders must be emptied, cleaned and disinfected
- Don't place chicks until the house and all equipment in it have been allowed to dry for 10 to 12 days

LIGHTING

- Start pullets with 20 - 22 hours of continuous bright light during the first week of age
- Gradually reduce to 9 - 11 hours of light at 10 to 18 weeks of age
- Increase day length by 1 hour in the 18th week after the chicks attain the right body weight target
- Add 15 - 30 minutes per week (or every 2 weeks) until 16 hours of total light
- Maintain the 16 hours of light throughout the laying period of the birds. For example, turn on lights at 4:30 am, when it's bright outside let the natural day light in. In the evening, turn on the lights from about 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm



ENVIRONMENT

Brooding space should be 15 birds/sq meter and 7 birds/sq meter in the growing phase. The design of the house should allow sufficient air to pass through while preventing direct sunlight to the birds. Isolation and restricted access to the brood and growth area are of prime importance for control and prevention of poultry disease.

FEEDING

The quality of feed is very important for early growth and prevention of disease. Diet changes are governed by target body weights and not by bird age. Close monitoring of the chicks body weight is therefore a key prerequisite for diet changes.

Age (Weeks)	Type of feed	Feed Consumption (Grammes/bird/day)	Average Live Weight (Grammes)
1	Chick starter	12	40 - 60
2		18	95 - 120
3		25	150 - 200
4		31	220 - 300
5	Grower mash	36	380 - 400
6		41	470 - 500
7		45	560 - 600
8		49	650 - 690
9		52	740 - 780
10		60	830 - 870
11		70	920 - 960
12		75	1010 - 1050
13	Developer	80	1100 - 1140
14		85	1185 - 1230
15		92	1270 - 1320
16		100	1355 - 1410
17		110	1440 - 1500
18		115	1580 - 1680
19		115	1645 - 1750
20 up to off-laying	Layer	120	1645 - 1750

Debeak at 3 months with a very hot knife. Care should be taken to avoid cutting the tongue or poor trimming of the beak. Do not debeak 3 days before or after vaccination. Similarly do not debeak sick birds.

VACCINATION

Age	Disease Vaccinated Against	Route Administration
Day 1 (Done at hatchery)	Mareks	Subcutaneous hatchery
	Newcastle(NCD)+ Infectious Bronchitis (IB)	Eye drop/Spray
Day 7	Newcastle (NCD)	Eye drop
Day 14	Gumboro	Eye drop
Day 21	Newcastle/Infectious Bronchitis (IB)	Eye drop/Drinking water
Day 28	Gumboro	Eye drop/Drinking water
Week 7	Fowl pox	Wing stab
Week 10	Fowl typhoid	Subcutaneous/ Breast muscle
Week 12	Newcastle/Infectious Bronchitis (IB)	Drinking water
Week 17	Newcastle/Infectious Bronchitis (IB)	Drinking water
Then every 6 weeks	Newcastle/Infectious Bronchitis (IB)	Drinking water

OTHER MEDICATIONS

Week 4: Give coccidiostats in feed or drinking water as directed by the veterinarian.

Week 12: Deworm using drugs recommended by the veterinarian and also deworm in cases of high worm burden.

