



# 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.

