



## ALWAYS “FIXED FORMULA” FOR CONSISTENT QUALITY, PERFORMANCE AND SAFETY



### ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR POULTRY

#### SPACE:

##### *Floor Space*

- Chicks - Allow 1 square foot of brooder space per chick through 8 weeks of age, and 1 to 2 square feet from 8 through 18 weeks of age. Crowding increases death loss.
- Layers (Leghorn, heavy-type) - Allow 3 to 4 square feet per bird.

##### *Feeder Space*

- Chicks - Provide 1 inch of hopper space per chick through week 2, 2 inches per chick from 3 to 7 weeks, 3 inches from 8 to 18 weeks of age.
  - A 20-pound hanging feeder should be adequate for 50 chicks. Adjust height of feeders so all birds can eat easily without wasting feed. The lip of the trough should be even with the bird's back.
- Layers - Provide 4 inches of feeder space per bird. For larger hanging feeders (40 to 45 pounds), allow 6 feeders per 100 birds. Adjust feeder height as needed.

##### *Watering Space*

- Chicks (per 100 chicks) - Provide 20 inches of trough space or two 1-gallon fountains day one through 2 weeks of age. Provide 36 inches of trough space or three 1-gallon fountains for weeks 3 through 12. Always provide plenty of clean, fresh water, especially when starting baby chicks.
- Pullets and Layers - Provide one 8-gallon gravity flow waterer or 8 linear feet of trough-type waterer for 100 pullets or layers from 12 weeks to production. No bird should be more than 15 feet from a waterer.

##### *Brooder Space*

- Allow a minimum of 7 square inches of space under the hover for each chick. For electric brooders, up to 10 square inches is recommended. One 250-watt heat lamp is adequate for 50 chicks, but two is recommended. Chilling, overheating, overcrowding, and disease are the greatest risks in the brooder.
- Use brooder guards (about 18 inches high) to keep chicks from piling up in dark, cold corners. These can be made from corrugated cardboard, heavy roofing paper,

hardware cloth or 1-inch mesh chick netting. The guard should encircle the brooder 24 to 30 inches from the edge of the hover. Gradually expand the guard and remove it at 1 to 2 weeks.

### **LIGHT:\***

- Broilers or Fryers - Provide at least 23 hours of continuous light (10 watts per 200 square feet of floor space) with one hour of darkness. The dark hour helps condition the birds to darkness in order to prevent piling up and suffocation in the event of a power failure.
- Pullets (kept for layers) - Start pullets on two days of continuous light (10 watts incandescent bulb per 100 square feet). From 3 to 21 days, gradually reduce day length to 15-16 hours. From 3 to 18 weeks, maintain a constant day length of 10-12 hours or that dictated by natural day length.
- Layers - Artificial light will help maintain egg production during the fall and winter. The use of artificial lights may begin when the pullets are placed in the laying house. Increase the amount of light 30 minutes per week to 15-16 hours per day.

\* Your chick supplier may recommend a specific light program for your strain of bird.

### **TEMPERATURE:**

- Chicks - Keep the temperature at 90-95°F the first few days. Gradually reduce the temperature about 5° each week until 70°F is reached. Brooder temperatures should be taken at the edge of the hover, at chick height. Minimum room temperature during the first 2 weeks should be 65-70°F.
  - Regardless of the temperature, chick behavior should be used as a guide in selecting the right brooding temperature. If chicks are bunched up under the hover, they are too cold. If all the chicks are at the edge of the brooder guard, they are too hot. Comfortable chicks will be spread out, with an open spot directly under the heater.
- Layers - Layers can tolerate a rather wide range of temperature without affecting egg production. Laying house temperatures below 55-60°F increase the amount of feed required to produce a dozen eggs. A rule of thumb is: for each 10°F decrease in temperature, feed consumption increases 5%. (A well-insulated laying house will save feed during the colder months.)

### **LITTER:**

- Chicks - Floors should be covered with at least 2 inches of suitable litter. Ground corn cobs, shavings, peat moss, chopped straw, and commercial litters are common. Litter should be clean, dry, free of dust, absorbent, and free of

injurious material. Stir litter frequently and remove damp and/or caked litter. Add fresh litter as needed.

- Pullets - Same as for chicks.
- Layers - Provide at least 4 inches of suitable litter at housing. Stir and add new litter as needed.

**NESTS:**

- Provide one nest for each 4 to 5 hens. In the case of community nests, provide 1 square foot for each 4 to 5 hens.