



Housing, Brooding, and Management of Show Poultry

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Types of Shows

- Market Broilers
 - Pullets
 - Cockerels
 - Straight Run
- Roasters
- Turkeys
 - Toms
 - Hens

Keys to Raising Competitive Show Poultry

- Excellent Management Practices
 - Housing
 - Clean Environment
 - Fresh Water
- Balanced Nutritional Diet
 - Feeding Programs
- Efficient Culling and Selecting Practices

Rules and Regulations

- Understand and follow show regulations
- Birds legal for the show
- Identification method
- How many entries allowed per lot
- Disqualifications
- Time and place deadlines
- Sifting and culling rules

Bird Environment

- Is dependent on a number of important factors
 - Housing
 - Temperature
 - Ventilation
 - Litter
 - Feed and water
 - Cleanliness

Optimum Housing

- Housing design varies considerably
- Protects birds from adverse environmental conditions
- Ventilation is critical for control of humidity, air quality, and feed consumption
- Housing protects birds from predatory animals
- The following structures have proven adequate for producing market poultry

Be Ready

- Brooder heat source operating several days before arrival of birds
 - Depends on time of year
- Pen set up with fresh feed & water in place
 - 12-24 hrs in advance
- Room and litter warm when chicks arrive

Feeders and Waterers

- Type and number
 - Tube and pan feeders are highly recommended
- Adjustment
 - Keep waterers and feeders adjusted to shoulder height
- Sanitation
 - Rinse waterers daily, scrub at least weekly to prevent health problems

Water

- Quantity
 - Fresh clean water must be continuously available at all times
- Quality
 - Waterers must be clean
 - Rinse waterers daily, scrub at least weekly to prevent health problems

Ventilation and Temperature

- First evidence of appropriate temperature is the behavior of the birds
 - Young chicks and poults should be checked frequently during periods of significant temperature change
 - Cold birds will crowd or pile
 - Hot birds will migrate away from the heat source to the walls of the brooder
 - Comfortable birds will scatter from the edge of the brooder and around the feed and water

Litter

- Use at least 4-6 inches of good quality litter
 - Stir litter daily after two weeks of age to prevent wet litter, breast blisters, scaly skin, and dirty feathers
1. Pine wood shavings
 2. Rice Hulls
 3. Crushed cane
 4. Coarse dry sawdust
 5. Washed builder's sand

Floor Space

- Broilers
 - 2 ft² per bird, after 4 weeks of age provide 3 to 4 ft² per bird
- Roasters
 - After 6 weeks of age provide 4 to 6 ft² per bird
- Turkeys
 - 2 ft² per bird to 4 weeks of age
 - 4 to 8 weeks of age provide 6 ft²
 - by 12 weeks age hens should have 7 ft² and Toms at least 10 to 12 ft²

Lighting Programs

- Broilers
 - Continuous lighting, intensity reduced after 3 days of age
- Roasters
 - Continuous lighting, low intensity
- Turkey
 - Toms - Normal day length or continuous lighting, low intensity
 - Hens - limit day length after 10-12 weeks of age to maintain quality and prevent squatting

Adequate air movement is necessary to:

- Supply fresh air
- Remove moisture
- Control ammonia and bacterial growth

Movement, NOT Exercise

- Birds are not exercised to build muscle
- Proper care of birds (stirring litter, cleaning waterers, attending to feed) will provide adequate exercise for optimal growth and development
- Birds are encouraged to move
 - To prevent abnormal growth (movement is necessary to prevent slab sidedness)
 - To promote feed consumption and growth

10 Basic Essentials of Management

1. Adequate floor space
2. Feed a good high quality show feed with adequate feeder space
3. Keep comfortable temperature for age
4. Provide plenty of ventilation
5. Good quality litter, stir daily

10 Basic Essentials of Management

6. Walk among birds as often as possible
7. Keep feeders and waterers properly adjusted, and clean waterers daily
8. Provide appropriate lighting
9. Cull deliberately
10. Be observant and alert to your birds' behaviors, pay attention, and read directions