



GENERAL CHICK CARE

How you start and grow your baby chicks and other poultry is very important. We only purchase from hatcheries with excellent history in chick, you will receive the finest chicks and other poultry that modern breeding can produce. If you feed and manage them along the lines we outline here, they should perform extremely well for you. If you "cut corners" at any point, the chances are good that it will cost you in the long run.

Before the chicks arrive, make sure the starting area has been cleaned, disinfected and free of poultry for 7-10 days if possible.

Litter/Bedding should cover the entire starting area to a depth of 2-3 inches. We sell wood shaving that work good for this purpose. Never cover litter/bedding with paper of any kind. The chicks will slip on paper, and leg spraddling can become a problem. This problem is irreversible so please do not use paper.

Heat...we offer a wide selection of heat lamps or brooders should have been on for 24 hours and the temperature should be in the 90-95 degree range with the bulb of the thermometer 2-3 inches off the floor before your birds arrive. Drop the temperature 5 degrees per week to 70 degrees after which the birds should need little or no heat. Figure 2-125 watt heat bulbs per 100 chicks.

Water...room temperature water should be in the waterers when the chicks arrive. We offer a large selection of waterers to assure you have the right one for your needs. To this first water, add one-fourth cup of sugar per gallon. Let the chicks drink this water for one hour before providing them with feed. Upon arrival at Arcadia Farm & Home we will, in most cases, provide this to your chicks. Use fresh water for the next 2 days. After this time you can provide them with 3 days of Vitamins/Electrolytes, and then give the fresh water again. Use Vitamins/Electrolytes as recommended by the manufacturer.

*Terramycin...this should be given when needed. Over use of antibiotics can decrease its effectiveness when actually needed. We would suggest using this only when chicks are sick. Give dosage as suggested on package.

Draft Shield...should surround the area where the chicks will be started. Corrugated cardboard, 12-18 inches high or baled straw or hay work well for this.

Predators...can be devastating to all types of poultry. Cats, dogs, skunks, and mink are some of the worst offenders. Make sure your building area is tight against animals of all kinds.

Have fun and enjoy your chicks!

Baby Chick Care

1. Start all baby chicks on a 20% Chick Starter (Medicated). Carry them through 8 weeks of age on this for all chicks other than Cornish-Rock broilers. (See details for starting broilers under Cornish Rock Chick Care). At 8-9 weeks switch your egg-type, bantams, rare and unusual breed chicks to an 18% starter/grower ration (non-medicated). At 16 weeks of age, commence feeding them a 16% Complete Layer ration. We suggest that no grain be fed on the side during any period of the chick's life.



2. Water: start your newly arrived chicks as we outline in our general recommendations. That is...1/4 cup sugar per gallon in the initial water they receive...and let them drink just that water for one hour before setting the feeders into the pen. This is an excellent way to help cover the stress of shipping, etc. After this, give them fresh water to drink.

3. Provide 2.5 inches of feeder space and 1 inch of watering space per chick for the first 10-12 weeks. You will need to expand that a little more as the bird gets older. Provide 1/2 square foot of floor space for the first 2 weeks. Expand that to one square foot until housing time (layers). At time of housing, figure 1.75 to 2 square feet per bird for regular sized chickens and 1 to 1.5 square feet per bird for the smaller bantams.

Duck & Gosling Care

Both Ducklings and Goslings should be watered immediately on arrival. It is not necessary to add any medication or sugar to the water. Start them on a 20% Duck and Goose (or chick) Starter. Keep them on that ration for the first 2-3 weeks. You may then switch them to a 16-18% Grower ration. Keep ducklings on that ration until slaughter. When gosling reach 3-4 weeks of age, you can commence feeding them cracked grain. For both ducklings and goslings, providing them with smaller pellet size feed is best although not mandatory. One thing is very important when growing waterfowl and that is that you must never let waterfowl run out of water. Should they run out of water and still have access to feed, a "choking" problem may result. Waterfowl need water to "wash down" the feed they eat.



Feed and watering space is very important with all poultry, but particularly so with ducklings and goslings. Figure 2 inches of feeder space per bird for the first 2 weeks, 3 inches per bird to 6 weeks, and 4 inches per bird after that. On watering space, figure 2-3 inches per bird from the beginning. If you get into "hot weather" periods, you must be sure to provide additional watering space.

Medicated feed...until just recently, we told customers that medicated feeds would not hurt waterfowl. However, we have had reports that some of the new feed medications do, in fact, negatively affect waterfowl. We suggest you try and use a non-medicated feed for your ducklings and goslings. Never use a feed containing arsenic for waterfowl.

Turkey Care

Turkeys may be started in much the same way that we recommend you start baby chicks. Start them on a medicated 28% Turkey/Wildgame Starter for the first 8 weeks. From 9 to 14 weeks provide them with a 20-21% Turkey Grower. Finish your turkeys on a 16% Turkey Finisher ration. If you are unable to find "turkey feeds", start and grow your turkeys on a 20-22% Chick Starter (medicated) for the first 12 weeks. From that time on to the time of slaughter, provide them with an 18% Chick Grower ration. All rations should be medicated.



Figure 3 inches of feeder space and 2 inches of watering space per poult to begin with. Expand that as needed as they grow older. Occasionally, customers have problems getting their turkey poults to eat and drink. In the event you might have chicks the approximate age as your turkey poults, consider putting 4-6 of them in with the newly arrived turkeys. The chicks will lead the turkeys to feed and water. Remove the chicks from the turkeys after 3-4 days. Never cover the litter with paper of any kind. If you do cover with paper, this can lead to "leg spraddling" problems. Finally, it is best to keep turkeys and chickens separated during the growing period. If this is not done, turkeys can pick up "black head" from the older chicken droppings. If your turkeys pick up black head, mortality will result.

Guinea-Pheasant Care

These types of poultry can be started much as we outline for baby chicks. Each of these birds should be started on a 28-30% Turkey/wildgame Starter or Game bird feed. If neither of these feeds can be found, they can be started on 20-22% Chick Starter. At 8 weeks of age, switch them from Game bird/Turkey Starter to an 18-20% Grower. As you might expect, going with the higher protein feeds will speed the growth of these types of fowl. However, if they are not available, the Chick Starter and Grower feeds will do the job for you.



With all types of poultry, it is important that Guineas be kept out of the waterers. If you experience the birds getting into the waterers and getting soaked, place some small rocks or marbles in the drinking trough. This will normally solve the problem.

Cornish Rock Care

Start your Cornish Rock broiler chicks just as you start any baby chick. Start them on a 20-22% Chick and/or Broiler Starter. Keep them on that ration for the first 4.5 to 5 weeks. At that age, switch them to an 18% Chick Grower. Please make sure you restrict the feed as we outline below! Provide 3 inches of feeder space and 1 inch per chick of watering space.

You will "full feed" your broiler chicks around the clock for the first 5 days of age. At 7:00 p.m. of the 5th day, make sure your broiler chicks are completely out of feed. That means there is positively no feed from 7:00 p.m. of the 5th day of age until 7:00 a.m. the following morning. You want them out of feed for 12 consecutive hours. Water, yes, but no feed for 12 hours. Continue this "minor feed restriction" program, removing the feed every night, until time of slaughter. Failure to follow this feeding program may result in heart attacks. Sudden Death Syndrome or "flip" as it is sometimes called can result because of the very rapid growth of your Welp Broiler Chicks. Following the above restriction outline, religiously, every night commencing the 5th night of their 5th day of age, will reduce the "flip" thing substantially.

Reference: Welps Inc. IA copyright 2016

CALL TODAY TO ORDER YOUR BIRDS

608-323-7744

ORDER BY APRIL 30!

ARCADIA
FARM & HOME