

Broiler/Roaster Production

Chickens raised for meat purposes are considered either broilers or roasters depending upon the weight at which they are marketed. Broilers are marketed at 7 weeks weighing approximately 4 lb. Roasters are marketed at about 11 weeks at a weight of 6.5 lb.

Feeding Program

1. Starter - This is a high protein feed (generally about 23%) formulated to promote early growth of the chick. Typically this feed is medicated with a coccidiostat such as Amprol®. Feed a starter for at least 3 weeks.
2. Grower - A more economical, slightly lower protein (about 20%) feed to provide the needed nutrients for the entire growing cycle after the starter feed.

Suggested Diets

	Starter 23% CP	Grower* 20% CP
Corn	1207	1364
Soybean Meal	635	485
Meat & Bone Meal	100	100
FM Poultry	30	25
Salt	8	6
VIP Amprol® 2.5	20	20
TOTAL	2000	2000

*Some producers will substitute animal fat for a portion of the corn to increase the energy density of the diet.

Approximate Feed Requirements (Amount/Bird)

	Wk. of Age	Live Weight (lb)	Feed Consumption (lb) Per Week	Cumulative
	1	.3	.2	.2
	2	.7	.5	.7
	3	1.2	.9	1.6
	4	1.8	1.2	2.8
	5	2.6	1.5	4.3
	6	3.3	1.7	6.0
	7	4.1	2.0	8.0
BROILER	7	4.1		8.0
	8	4.9	2.0	10.0
	9	5.6	2.0	12.0
	10	6.3	2.0	14.0
	11	6.9	2.0	16.0
ROASTER	11	6.9		16.0



Management Suggestions

Brooding Space & Temperature

- Where chicks are brooded under a hot water or hot air system, allow each chick a minimum of 7 square inches of brooder space under the hover. When chicks are brooded under individual brooder stoves or units, allow a maximum of 800 chicks per hover in summer and 600 in winter. Minimum room temperature should be 75° for the first 2 weeks.
- Brooder temperature should be 90° for the first 2 days, then drop by 1° each day down to 75° by 3 weeks of age.
- Allow .6-.7 square foot floor space per broiler. Provide adequate ventilation.

Feed and Water

- Allow 180 linear inches of hopper feeder space per 1000 chicks (15 large, hanging feeders or small, 20-pound, hanging feeders per 1000 chicks)
- Provide the following drinking space for 1000 chicks:
 1. Day-old thru 2 weeks of age - 10 one gallon fountains.
 2. From 2 weeks thru 12 weeks - 360 linear inches of trough.
- Birds should not have to travel more than 15 feet to water.

Lights

- For the first week use continuous high intensity lights; 1-40 watt bulb per 200 sq. feet. Beginning with week-two, reduce light intensity to 15 watts per 200 sq. feet.

General Management

- In cold weather, use a solid chick guard around hover to keep chicks from straying and to prevent floor drafts. In warm weather, a wire guard may be used. Place 2 to 3 feet from hover edge.
- Provide at least 2 inches of suitable litter at the start. Cane pulp, dry shavings, dry sawdust, chopped straw, peanut hulls, peat moss, and other types of litter may be used when free from injurious materials, mold, and dust. Use clean litter to each brood.
- Have hatchery beak trim all birds to reduce cannibalism.
- Vaccinate for prevalent local diseases.

