

BABY POULTRY STARTER TIPS



Established 1960
PRIVETT HATCHERY INC.
www.privethatchery.com

Thanks for choosing our baby poultry

It is important to care for your newly adopted poultry, but you must also protect yourself. Salmonella, a common cause of food borne illness, can be spread by direct contact with animals that carry the bacteria.

We'd recommend: Avoid contact with poultry manure (adults should clear cages frequently); thoroughly wash hands with soap & warm water after handling; keep poultry out of areas where food is prepared; and supervise children when handling poultry and ensure they wash their hands after contact (small children have limited immune systems). See the CDC/USDA flyer.

Privett Hatchery regularly tests for Avian Influenza (since 2000) and tests have always been negative. The sexed pullets are guaranteed to be 90% pullets (hens) by Privett Hatchery.

Set-up tips

Clean & disinfect all facilities and equipment. Check your chicks often. Clean & dry is a **must** for chicks!

Floor space requirements:

Age 1-8 weeks - 1 sq ft per bird
Age 8-18 wks - 2 -2½ ft per bird
Age 18+ wks - 3 -3½ ft per bird

Waterer space requirements:

Age 1-8 weeks - 1 linear inch per bird
Age 8-18+ wks - 2 linear inch per bird

Feeder space requirements:

2-3 linear inches per bird (20-25 birds per feeder pan)

Temperature:

1st week - Layers & broilers @ 90°-95° F; (game birds @ 85° -98° F); then reduce temperature by about 5° per week until you reach 70° F.

Place heat lamp 18-20 inches above the floor level. Use one 250-watt heat lamp per 50 chicks. If chicks "pile up" then check the floor temperature (measure temperature 2 inches above the floor) as probably too cool.

Housing:

2-3 inches of wood shavings for litter. Change to fresh shavings often.

Provide warm, dry housing. It needs good ventilation, but without drafts. Make enclosure predator proof.

Feeding tips

Keep your baby poultry under heat lamps, and provide fresh water and free choice of the correct feed.

WW Feed & Supply recommends using our Starter/Grower crumbles to feed your laying breed chicks from hatch/store pickup through 20 weeks of age. Also use it for feeding young geese and ducklings. This 18% protein feed contains amprolium to help prevent coccidiosis. If you are starting your broiler/meat birds for butchering, consider using Meat Maker.

If you are starting your turkey poults, we'd recommend using Turkey Starter to feed your turkeys. This is a 26% protein, medicated feed, which helps get your young turkeys off to a better start.

Once your chicks start producing eggs, WW Feed & Supply recommends you switch to a 16% protein (available in either crumble or a pellet); OR use combination of a higher-protein crumble (ie: 20% Eggmaker Balancer) and chicken scratch (a milo, cracked corn & wheat mix) that you should offered together to maintain the diet at a 16% level.

Medication tips

We use ½ Tbl. of sugar per qt water for the first day. Privett Hatchery no longer recommends Aueromycin or Terramycin to start chicks, but use it only if treatment is needed. Probiotics powder may be used instead, as a preventative.

Do NOT ever use any Aureomycin or Terramycin on water fowl; however, it might be helpful to start turkey poults on it (use 1/2 tsp per qt water of our 10 gr Terramycin powder).

Questions?

We're glad to help. Feel free to contact us:

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