

ALASKA MILL & FEED: GUIDE TO RAISING CHICKENS

Benefits of Raising Chickens

- Fresh Eggs
- Fresh Meat
- Pest and Weed Control
- Supply of Nitrogen-Rich Manure

Start with Quality Chicks

- White egg Production: White Leghorns and hybrid crosses
- Brown Egg Production: Rhode Island Reds, New Hampshires, Barred Plymouth Rocks
- Meat Production: Cornish Cross grow rapidly and efficiently.
- Others include Rhode Island Reds, New Hampshires and Barred Plymouth Rocks

Housing

- Protect from moisture, draft, extreme weather
- Protection from animals (cats, dogs, rodents, other birds) to prevent killing, spread of diseases, and consumption or contamination of feed
- Proper ventilation

Lighting

- Continuous light produces maximum growth of Fryers but is harmful to egg production
- Do not use dim all night lights on Pullets or Laying Hens
- During winter, use artificial light to maintain 15 – 17 hours of light per day on Layers

Nests

- Provide 1 nest each for four birds prior to start of egg production
- 7" x 8" opening for light type hens, 10" x 12" for heavy type hens
- Use 2-3 inches of clean, dry shavings or chopped straw as nesting material

Egg Eaters

Hens that eat broken eggs or break eggs to eat must be removed from the flock.

Mixing Birds of Different Ages

Since baby chicks are susceptible to disease it is best not to mix birds of different ages or bring outside birds into your flock.

If outside birds are purchased, isolate for a 30 day quarantine period to determine if any diseases are present.

Pasting Up

Pasting up is when fecal matter sticks near the vent. To prevent or correct pasting, feed ½ Chick Starter and ½ Chick Scratch for 2 or 3 days.

Before the Chicks Arrive

1. Thoroughly clean and disinfect the house. Let dry and put down 3-4 inches dry litter (shavings, sawdust, peat moss, chopped straw). Clean and disinfect all equipment.
2. Pre-heat brooding area with either a brooder or infrared heat lamp (Pyrex type) to 92-95 degrees F. If a lamp is used, provide one 250 W lamp for each 50 – 75 chicks.
3. Place an 18 inch high hover guard around brooder, 2 to 3 feet from edge of the hover. During cold weather, a solid guard should be used to prevent straying and to prevent drafts. In warm weather, a wire guard should be used.
4. Chicks need clean fresh air.
5. Provide fresh feed and water just prior to chick arrival.

Brooding Baby Chicks

1. Maintain 92-95 degrees F at chick back level the first week, then drop 5 degrees per week.
2. Allow a minimum of 7 square inches of brooding space under the hover.
3. Gradually increase space under hover guard area. Guard may be removed between the fifth tenth day depending on room temperature. Observe frequently to ensure correct temperature. Chicks should be loosely spaced under hover when bedded down. Chilling or overheating can cause severe respiratory, digestive and leg problems.
4. Keep litter dry. This helps prevent coccidiosis and other diseases.
5. Provide adequate ventilation.

ALASKA MILL & FEED POULTRY RATIONS AND FEEDING GUIDELINES

Alaska Mill & Feed's Poultry Rations are formulated with high quality ingredients to meet the specific needs of chicks, pullets, layers and broilers. All of our rations are balanced and formulated by a Ph.D in animal nutrition.

Layers

For baby chicks feed our Chick Starter ration from the first day:

- Keep the chicks on the starter for 4- 6 weeks
- Chick Starter ration is a 'mash' (finely ground)
- Contains 20% protein
- Provides nutrients for optimum skeletal growth and development for young bird
- Medicated w/ Terramycin
- Additionally, water soluble vitamins such as Headstart are recommended

After 4- 6 weeks switch to our Pullet Grower:

- Keep on Pullet Grower until ready to start laying, usually 4-5 months of age
- Crumble form (in between a mash and a pellet)
- Contains 15% Protein
- Non-Medicated
- Formulated to promote steady developmental growth until ready to lay

Once birds start laying eggs, gradually switch to our Layer:

- In two forms, crumble and a small pellet
- When switching from pellet to crumble, it is important to mix until the bird is accustomed to the pellet
- Two rations of 16% or 20% Protein with extra Calcium and Vitamins for laying production
- Non-Medicated

*None of our Chicken Feeds require the purchase of **Grit** for birds. All whole grains have already been ground. If supplementing rations with **Cracked Corn** or **Scratch**, grit should be purchased. **Oyster shell** adds extra calcium for eggshells but is not necessary when feeding birds our **Layer** ration.

Broilers

For meat birds, use our Broiler Ration from the first day through the day of butcher.

- Contains 20% Protein
- Non-Medicated
- Formulated to gain rapid weight efficiently
- Broiler Ration is a 'mash'

*Ideally, egg layers and meat birds should be segregated. If separation is not possible, start the birds on Chick Starter then to Pullet Grower to ensure proper development of the egg layers.

Layer Feeding Schedule (per bird):

Chick Starter: Approx. Total Feed Required (lbs)		
Age	Light Breed	Heavy Breed
1-6 wks	2.8	3.5

Pullet Grower: Approx. Total Feed Required (lbs)		
Age	Light Breed	Heavy
8-18 wks	13.23	16.45

Layer: Approx Daily Feed Required (lbs)		
Age	Light Breed	Heavy
19wks – end lay cycle	1.54/day	1.96/day

Broiler Feeding Schedule (per bird):

Broiler Grower Finisher: Cornish Cross		
Age	Total Feed	Target Weight (6-8 wks)
1-8 wks old	11.0lbs	4.4-5.0lbs

*provide clean, fresh water at all times and keep cages and feeders clean. Feed is perishable and should be kept in a clean, dry and cool location.

Alaska Mill & Feed Company

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