

Optimal brooding management

Brooding management

First, clean and disinfect everything which will be in touch with chicks and remove the litter material of previous flock and repair the house well. Create brooding area with only round areas to prevent suffocating and heat up house to 34 degrees centigrade and place enough drinkers and add vitamins to water to stop arrival stress.

Similarly, Do not over fill drinkers and put feeding plates throughout brooding area and a chick should not be more than one metre from water and feed. Fill feeder plates with pre starter and after arrival, remove crates and ensure birds have sufficient water and feed.

Count the number of chick that move into house carefully for proper feeding and don't exceed stocking density of 9-13 chicks per square metre and check if all essential vaccinations were provided at hatchery. Chicks should have closed healed navel and clean vent with dry legs which are not too pale.

Additionally, check vitality by dropping a chick from height of 50cm as it should be back on feet in a second and increase brooding temperature and move feed and water close to chicks. In case of deformities, inform your hatchery and remove them from pen and check for comfortability of chicks basing on the behaviours.

Furthermore, provide fresh feed, clean water and optimal temperature for specific humidity and check colour of legs to check if they are fully hydrated and these should be dry and slightly red. Check crop filling for proper feed intake and check weight of chicks by weighing 1% of flock and register weight.

Chicks should have enough space, feed and water during brooding period and finally brooding period take 14 days and depend on breed of chicken.