

BEFORE CHICKS ARRIVE

CLEAN AND DISINFECT

- ✓ Your Anstey chicks have come from a very clean and sterile environment. We recommend cleaning and disinfecting procedures be used to ensure healthy, happy chicks.
- ✓ It is impossible to disinfect dirt. Dirty conditions harbour micro-organisms that may lead to issues with your chicks. Cleaning is the entire removal of dirt and build up followed by thorough disinfecting.
- ✓ A poultry house recommended disinfectant can be used or equal parts of bleach and water 50/50.
- ✓ Clean and thoroughly disinfect all poultry equipment, feeders, waterers, etc.
- ✓ Make sure the building is dry before adding the litter to the floor.

LITTER

- ✓ A good litter provides stability and insulation for the birds.
- ✓ We recommend at least 3 – 4 inches of course cut wheat straw or Poultry Peat Moss, or course aspen shavings. **DO NOT** use horticultural Peat Moss, pine shavings, sand or paper as these can all be harmful to your birds.
- ✓ Chilling can be caused by not enough floor insulation. This can lead to mortalities, stunting, acidities, or crooked toes.
- ✓ Do not replace all the bedding at once.
- ✓ Remove any wet or caked litter as soon as it develops, and add clean, fresh litter.

FLOOR SPACE

- ✓ Provide **one square foot** per bird
- ✓ Use 18" high chick guard (corrugated cardboard) in a diameter to eliminate crowding as chicks tend to crowd in corners and can stray from the heat source. The chick guard will also reduce any drafts. A 35' roll of chick guard in a diameter is comfortable for 200 chicks.
- ✓ Keep the guard in place for at least 7 – 10 days.
- ✓ Once the chicks are grown they will need **two square feet** per bird.
- ✓ **DO NOT USE RUBBERMAID TUBS AS A BROODING SPACE.** This does not provide sufficient ventilation. Chicks need space for movement to and from heat. Constant direct heat can lead to suffocation and health issues. **This is also a fire hazard.**

HEAT

- ✓ **Preheat the area at least 24 hours before your chicks arrive.**
- ✓ The temperature should be 89 – 91 °F (31 – 33 °C) at a point 2" above the litter or at head level of the chicks. **Temperature is extremely important particularly for the first week.**
- ✓ A 175 – 250 watt **infrared** heat lamp hung at 18" above the floor is advised. Allow 3 infrared heat bulbs for every 100 chicks.
- ✓ **Never** use a white heat lamp as the light intensity is too bright which promotes stress and picking problems.

VENTILATION

- ✓ Ventilation provides fresh air, removes stale air, controls temperature, controls humidity, removes dust, regulates ammonia and carbon dioxide levels. It also keeps floor drier and the chicks healthier.
- ✓ Rubbermaid tubs as brooding areas **DO NOT** provide enough ventilation to keep chicks healthy. **NEVER USE THESE FOR BROODING.**

WATER

- ✓ Provide two – 1 gal (4.5 liter) waterers for each 100 chicks.
- ✓ Have water set out prior to chicks arriving to bring up to room temperature.
- ✓ Clean fresh water is of utmost importance. Have waterers filled at room temperature when chicks arrive.
- ✓ Water is a vital nutrient and makes up 60-70% of the chicken and is present in all cells.
- ✓ We recommend water available approximate 2 – 3 hours before first feeding as it is vital that the chicks take to the water and are familiar with finding it before feeding.
- ✓ **Poul-Vite with Biotin** in the water for the first 5 days will help give your chicks a healthy start.

FEED

- ✓ Allow 1 inch of feeder space per chick. One 2 -foot feeder can handle 50 chicks.
- ✓ Chicks should be fed a 20% fine crumble Chick Starter.
- ✓ **Never dilute a starter with grains.** The birds need all the vitamins and minerals provided in the starter.

These are steps to consider before the chicks arrive. We trust that you follow the above points to achieve the desired results from your flock of Anstey chicks.

BROODING AND FEEDING INSTRUCTIONS FOR LAYERS

AFTER CHICKS ARRIVE

- ✓ Keep temperature at 89 – 91 °F (31 – 33 °C) at head level of the birds for the first week. **Temperatures above or below this range will adversely affect the growth and well being of the birds.**
- ✓ Reduce the temperature 5 °F (3 °C) each week until 70 °F (21 °C) is reached.
- ✓ 175–250 watt infrared heat lamps are recommended. Pre-plan for 3 heat lamps per 100 chicks.
- ✓ Lamps should be set 18" (46 cm) above the floor for the first week and raised approx. 3" (7.7 cm) each week until 70 °F (21 °C) is obtained.
- ✓ Chicks need to be kept warm and away from drafts. If chicks become chilled for any period of time, it could lead to problems such as stunted growth, respiratory problems, ascites or death.

DANGER SIGNS TO RECOGNIZE

- ✓ Loud chirping means discomfort, hunger, thirst, cold, or fear.
- ✓ Cold chicks will huddle. Chicks that are too warm will pant and be listless.

BROODING AND FEEDING INSTRUCTIONS FOR LAYERS

WATER

- ✓ Provide 1" of water space per bird.
- ✓ Provide 2 – 1 gal waterers for each 100 chicks.
- ✓ Clean fresh water is of utmost importance.
- ✓ Have water containers filled at room temperature when chicks arrive.
- ✓ Water is a vital nutrient and makes up 60 – 70% of the chicken and is present in all cells.
- ✓ Water regulates the birds body temperature.
- ✓ We recommend only water available to the chicks 2 – 3 hours before feeding.
- ✓ Add **Poul-Vite with Biotin** at 1 tsp/gal for the first 5 days to give them a healthy start.
- ✓ If your water is hard we also recommend **Medi-zone** in the water.

FEED

- ✓ Provide 1" feeder space for chicks, 2" for adult birds.

Prepared Feed Ration:

- ✓ Start chicks on a 20% chick starter for the **first 6 weeks**.
- ✓ **Never dilute a starter with grains.** The birds need all the vitamins and minerals provided in the starter.
- ✓ **After 6 weeks** switch to a 16% Grower Ration until 17-18 weeks, **then go to a 18% Layer Ration.**

Farm Grain Feed Ration:

- ✓ Start chicks on a 20% chick starter for the **first 6 weeks**.
- ✓ **After 6 weeks** use a **35 - 38% poultry supplement** mixed **1 part supplement to 4 parts** chopped or cracked grain.
- ✓ A balanced nutrition grain mix is 60% wheat, 25% oats and 15% barley.
- ✓ Oyster shell should be used free choice as a calcium supplement and to help strengthen shell quality **at 18 weeks**.
- ✓ It is important to keep in mind that a bird has specific requirements for energy, protein, minerals, and vitamins in order to build and maintain a productive life.
- ✓ When the weather is hot feed consumption decreases, and nutrition should be adjusted.
- ✓ If the temperature is too cold feed consumption rises which adds to increasing costs. This may lead to overweight birds and lower egg production and also increases the risk for blowouts.

Cutting corners in any poultry growing program does not save money. More often than not it will cost you \$\$\$\$\$

FEED PROGRAM FOR LAYERS: APROXIMATE FEED CONSUMPTION

Type of feed	Weeks of Age	Lbs. of feed/100 birds	Kgs. of feed/100 birds
Starter	1	1.7	0.77
Starter	2	2.7 – 3.1	1.22 – 1.4
Starter	3	4.4 – 5.6	1.99 – 2.54
Starter	4	6.7 – 7.1	3.03 – 3.22
Starter	5	8.4 – 9.1	3.81 – 4.13
Starter	6	9.1 – 9.7	4.13 – 4.39
Grower	7	9.7 – 10.4	4.4 – 4.72
Grower	8	10.1 – 10.7	4.58 – 4.85
Grower	9	10.3 – 11	4.67 – 4.99
Grower	10	10.6 – 11.4	4.81 – 5.17
Grower	11	11.3 – 12	5.13 – 5.44
Grower	12	11.9 – 12.7	5.4 – 5.76
Grower	13	12.3 – 13.1	5.6 – 5.94
Grower	14	12.9 – 13.7	5.85 – 6.21
Grower	15	13.3 – 14.1	6.03 – 6.4
Grower	16	13.6 – 14.4	6.17 – 6.53
Grower	17	13.9 – 14.9	6.30 – 6.76
Layer	18	14.3 – 15.3	6.49 – 6.94
Layer	19	14.7 – 15.9	6.68 – 7.21
Layer	20	15.3 – 16.3	6.94 – 7.39



LIGHTING

- ✓ **Grow chicks in dim lighting to avoid picking** (just able to read a newspaper 8" away)

The following lighting program is designed to have the flock lay the first eggs at 19 weeks of age, reach 10% production at 21 weeks of age, and peak in production at 25 to 27 weeks of age providing the average body weight is 2 ½ - 3Lbs (1.13 – 1.36Kg) at the time of increasing the light.

- ✓ Start chicks on 22 hours of light for the 1st week.
- ✓ Decrease to 18 hours of light for the 2nd week.
- ✓ During the 3rd week provide 16 hours of light.
- ✓ From the beginning of the 4th week until 17 weeks provide 12 hours of light/day
- ✓ At 18 weeks of age (or until body weight is 2 ½ - 3Lbs (1.13 – 1.36Kg) start increasing day length by 30 minutes
- ✓ Increase light by 30 minutes/week until 16 hours of day length has been reached
- ✓ Make all day length increases to both morning and evening portions of day using a time clock
- ✓ **Lighting is a very important aspect to good production**

If you see problems, determine the cause and correct it early. This will help maintain a productive flock

BROODING AND FEEDING INSTRUCTIONS FOR DUCKS & GEESE

WATERERS

- ✓ Ducklings and Goslings should have drinking water available at all times.
- ✓ Use waterers the birds cannot get into. This is especially important in the brooding stage since they are easily chilled when they become wet while still in the "down" stage.
- ✓ Pans or troughs with wire guards are satisfactory.
- ✓ Place waterers over low wire covered frames to help reduce wet litter problems.
- ✓ Waterers should be wide enough and deep enough for a bird to dip its bill and head into it.
- ✓ Change waterers or adjust size as birds grow.

FEED

- ✓ Feed ducklings and goslings **Duck & Goose Starter** or **Chick Starter** for the first 2 weeks after they hatch.
- ✓ **Never dilute a starter with grains** as the birds need all the vitamins and minerals provided in the starter.
- ✓ Encourage early consumption by placing the feed in chick sized hoppers and locate them close to the water supply.
- ✓ When birds reach 2 weeks of age switch them to a **16% Grower**. **Never dilute a grower as this is a complete ration.**
- ✓ If mixing your own grains use a **35 – 38% grower supplement** mixed **1 part supplement to 4 parts cracked or chopped grain.**
- ✓ A balanced nutrition grain mix is 60% wheat, 25% oats and 15% barley.
- ✓ **Always add a poultry supplement when mixing. Note: Grains alone lack several essential nutrients needed for steady growth and to maintain healthy birds.**

LITTER

- ✓ The floor should be covered with 4" (10cm) of absorbent litter material of course cut wheat straw, poultry peat moss, or course aspen shavings. **DO NOT** use horticultural Peat Moss, pine shavings, sand or paper as these can all be harmful to your birds.
- ✓ Litter dampness is more of a problem with water fowl than with chicks.
- ✓ Good litter management will require removal of wet spots and frequent addition of clean dry litter.
- ✓ Be sure litter is free of mold.

FLOOR SPACE

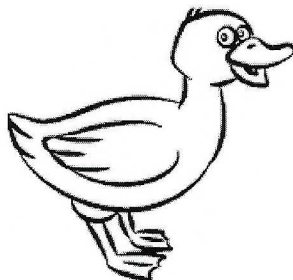
- ✓ Allow ½ of a square foot of floor space per duckling during the first 2 weeks.
- ✓ Increase this to at least 1 square foot by 4 weeks and 2 ½ square feet by 7 weeks.
- ✓ Goslings will need ½ to ¾ of a square foot in the 1st week and 1 to 1 ½ square feet in the second week.
- ✓ **DO NOT USE RUBBERMAID TUBS AS A BROODING SPACE.** This does not provide sufficient ventilation. Chicks need space for movement to and from heat. Constant direct heat can lead to suffocation and health issues. **This is also a fire hazard.**

HEAT

- ✓ The temperature should be 85 – 90 °F (27 – 32 °C) for the first week and reduce it 5 °F (3 °C) per week until heat is no longer required.
- ✓ Confine the birds to the heated area with an 18" (45cm) corrugated chick guard circle for the first 3 to 4 days.
- ✓ Watch the action of the birds as clue to their comfort. If they are too hot they will move away from the heat. If too cold they may pile up and be noisy.
- ✓ High temperatures may result in slower feathering and growth.
- ✓ Use one 175-250 watt infrared heat lamp for 30 ducklings or 25 goslings.
- ✓ If using a hover type brooder brood only ½ the amount of ducklings as the rated chick capacity.
- ✓ Ducklings and goslings are larger than chicks so it may be necessary to raise the hover 3 – 4" (7.5-10cm) higher.

- ✓ Heat may be needed 5 to 6 weeks in cold weather. By 4 weeks of age the ducks and geese should be feathered enough to be outdoors except in extremely cold wet weather.
- ✓ In some areas attention to predator control may be necessary when the birds are first turned out.
- Ducklings and goslings can be brooded in about the same way as chicks.
- Due to their rapid growth, they will need heat a shorter period of time and floor space requirements will increase more rapidly.
- Ducks and Geese are easy to raise because they are hardy and not susceptible to many of the common poultry diseases.
- Small flocks of ducks and geese raised in the late spring with access to green feed outdoors generally have few nutritional problems.
- While ducks are not as good of foragers as geese, they do eat some green feed and farm flocks are often allowed to run at large.
- Cut green feed can be supplied to the birds when they must be kept inside in bad weather.
- Under commercial conditions, Pekin ducks are ready for market when 7 to 9 weeks old.
- These birds weigh 6 – 7lbs (2.5 – 3.25kgs) and have consumed 20 – 25lbs (9 – 11.5kgs) of feed.
- The holiday retail fowl market is greatest from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day.
- Ducks and geese grown for home use or limited local sales can be slaughtered any time.
- If ducks are kept longer than 11 to 12 weeks new pinfeathers begin to come out making it difficult to pick them clean for another several weeks.
- If duck feeds are not available start ducklings and goslings on crumbled or pelleted chick starter for the first two weeks.
- Place feed for the first few days on egg flats or other rough paper.
- **Do not** use smooth surfaced paper as it will become slippery when wet which could cause permanent leg injuries.
- Keep feed before the birds at all times and provide insoluble grit.
- Ducking will manage nicely on range at 4 weeks of age unless the weather is cold.
- Goslings can be placed outdoors at 2 weeks of age weather permitting.
- They need shade and cannot tolerate chilling rains until they are well feathered on the back.
- When birds reach 5 to 8 weeks of age they need shelter only during extreme weather conditions.

Water for swimming isn't necessary for ducks. However, if you do wish for them to swim in a dugout or pond you must wait until they are at least 1 month old and only then under supervision until 5 to 6 weeks. It will take that long for the oils on their feathers to develop. Without that oil to help keep them afloat the birds will drown.



BEFORE CHICKS ARRIVE

CLEAN AND DISINFECT

- ✓ Your Anstey chicks have come from a very clean and sterile environment. We recommend cleaning and disinfecting procedures be used to ensure healthy happy chicks.
- ✓ It is impossible to disinfect dirt. Dirty conditions harbour micro-organisms that may lead to issues with your chicks. Cleaning is the entire removal of dirt and build up followed by thorough disinfecting.
- ✓ A poultry house recommended disinfectant can be used or equal parts of bleach and water 50/50.
- ✓ Clean and thoroughly disinfect all poultry equipment, feeders, waters, etc.
- ✓ Make sure the building is dry before adding the litter to the floor,

LITTER

- ✓ A good litter provides stability and insulation for the birds.
- ✓ We recommend at least 3 – 4 inches of course cut wheat straw or Poultry Peat Moss, or course aspen shavings. **DO NOT** use horticultural Peat Moss, pine shavings, sand or paper as these can all be harmful to your birds.

FLOOR SPACE

- ✓ Use 18" high chick guard (corrugated cardboard) in a diameter to eliminate crowding as chicks tend to crowd in corners and can stray from the heat source. The chick guard will also reduce any drafts. A 35' roll of chick guard in a diameter is comfortable for 200 chicks.
- ✓ Keep the guard in place for at least 7 – 10 days.

HEAT

- ✓ Preheat the area at least 24 hours before your chicks arrive.
- ✓ The temperature should be 89 – 91 F (31 – 33 C) at a point 2" above the litter or at head level of the chicks. **Temperature is extremely important particularly for the first week.**
- ✓ A 250 watt **infrared** heat lamp hung at 18" above the floor is advised.
- ✓ **Never** use a white heat lamp as the light intensity is too bright which promotes stress and picking problems.

VENTILATION

- ✓ Ventilation provides fresh air, removes stale air, controls temperature, controls humidity, removes dust, regulates ammonia and carbon dioxide levels and keeps the floor drier and the chicks healthier.

WATER

- ✓ Provide two – 1 gal (4.5 ltr.) waters for each 100 chicks.
- ✓ Have water set out prior to chicks arriving to bring up to room temperature.
- ✓ Clean fresh water is of utmost importance. Have waters filled at room temperature when chicks arrive.
- ✓ Water is a vital nutrient and makes up 60-70% of the chicken and is present in all cells.
- ✓ We recommend water available approximate 2 – 3 hours before first feeding as it is vital that the chicks take to the water and are familiar with finding it before feeding.
- ✓ **Super Booster** in the water for the first 5 days will help give your chicks a healthy start.

FEED

- ✓ Allow 1 inch of feeder space per chick. One 3 foot feeder can handle 75 chicks.
- ✓ Chicks should be fed a 20% fine crumble Chick Starter.
- ✓ Never dilute a starter with grains because the birds need all the vitamins and minerals provided in the starter.

These are steps to consider before the chicks arrive. We trust that you follow the above points to achieve the desired results from your flock of Anstey chicks.

BROODING AND FEEDING INSTRUCTIONS FOR CORNISH CROSS

AFTER CHICKS ARRIVE

- ✓ Keep temperature at 89 – 91 F (31 – 33 C) at head level of the birds for the first week. **Temperatures above or below this range will adversely affect the growth and well being of the birds.**
- ✓ Reduce the temperature 5 degrees F (3 degrees C) each week until 70 F (21 C) is reached.
- ✓ 250 watt infra-red heat lamps are recommended. Pre plan for 3 heat lamps per 100 chicks.
- ✓ Lamps should be set 18" (46 cm) above the floor for the first week and raised approx. 3" (7.7 cm) each week until 70 F (21 C) is obtained.
- ✓ Chicks need to be kept warm and away from drafts. If chicks become chilled for any period of time, it could lead to problems such as stunted growth, respiratory problems, ascites or death.

DANGER SIGNS TO RECOGNIZE

- ✓ Loud chirping means discomfort, hunger thirst, cold, or fear.
- ✓ Cold chicks will huddle. Chicks that are too warm will pant and be listless.

BROODING AND FEEDING FOR CORNISH CROSS

WATER

- ✓ Clean fresh water is of utmost importance.
- ✓ Have water containers filled at a room temperature at room temperature when chicks arrive.
- ✓ Water is a vital nutrient and makes up 60 – 70% of the chicken and is present in all cells.
- ✓ Water regulates the birds body temperature.
- ✓ We recommend only water available to the chicks 2 – 3 hours before feeding.
- ✓ Add **Super Booster** at 1 tsp p/gal for the first 5 days to give them a healthy start.
- ✓ If your water is hard we also recommend **Medi-zone** in the water.

FEED

- ✓ Cornish Cross chicks should be fed 20% Chick Starter for the **first 3 weeks**.
- ✓ Never dilute a starter with grains because the birds need all the vitamins and minerals provided in the starter.
- ✓ Allow 1 inch of feeder space per bird. One 3" feeder can handle 75 chicks.

Tip: Start chicks for the first 3 days by using cardboard feeder trays or use egg flats to put the feed on. This will be easier for the chicks to find and take to the feed.

- ✓ After 3 weeks of age feed a 16% chick grower straight ration or a 35% chick supplement if you are mixing with grains. Mixing guidelines are as follows for a 35% supplement ration:
 - Mix 1 part supplement to 4 parts cracked or chopped grains.
 - A balanced nutrition grain mix is 60% wheat, 25% oats and 15% barley.
 - **Always add a poultry supplement when mixing. Note: Grains alone lack several essential nutrients needed for steady growth and to maintain healthy birds.**
- ✓ You may feed a straight grain chop 1 week prior to butchering.
- ✓ If not using grains use a 16% chick grower. This can be fed straight through until butchering or use a poultry finisher for the last week. Do not dilute a 16% chick grower with grains as this is a complete ration.
- ✓ Provide grit from 3 – 4 weeks through the growing period. Sprinkle the grit on top of the feed and have a separate container with grit alone available for the birds.
- ✓ A form of calcium such as limestone is recommended to strengthen bones and joints and reduce leg problems. Sprinkle on top of feed and have a separate container available for the birds.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR FEEDING CORNISH CROSS

It is most important to restrict the feed when raising Cornish Cross. They will be more active and healthier

- ✓ Let the chicks have full feed for the first 4 days and then start restricting their feed.
- ✓ After 4 days allow approx 4 – 6 hours of feeding time in a 24 hour period with feed in front of them.
- ✓ Allow access to water at all times. **DO NOT** restrict water.
- ✓ When the chicks are 1 week of age move the feeders and waters further apart at least 5' – 6' apart. This will help keep the birds more active and healthier.
- ✓ The Cornish Cross chicken will continually eat as long as there is food available to them. By restricting the feeding time your chicken will be more active and less prone to heart attacks, respiratory issues and leg problems.

LIGHTING

- ✓ Cornish Cross chickens do not require a high light intensity. Keep the lights dim. If the lighting is too bright it can promote stress and lead to picking.
- ✓ Have 24 hours of dim light for the first 4 days.
- ✓ Cut back the time of the dim light to 12 hours in a 24hour period.

DAYS OLD	LIGHT	TEMPERATURE	FEED
0 – 4	24 hours	90 F (32 C)	20% Chick Starter
5 – 21	12 hours dim Hint: you should barely be able to read a newspaper.	Reduce 5 F (3 C) each week. Achieve this by raising heat lamp approx 3" at a time. Always use a Thermometer and read temp. at head level of the bird.	20% Chick Starter up to 4-6 hours in a 24 hour period. e.g. 2 – 3 hours a.m. and 2 – 3 hours p.m.
21 plus	12 hours dim light	70 F (21 C) is a comfortable temp to maintain after 4 weeks of age. With good ventilation.	16% grower (complete ration) or mix 1 part of 35 % supplement to 4 parts grains. (60% wheat oats, 15% barley)

TEMPERATURE SCHEDULE

DAYS	(deg F)	Temp (deg C)
1 - 7	88 – 91	31 – 33
8 – 14	80 – 83	27 - 29
15 - 21	75 – 78	24 -27
22 – 28	72 – 75	22 – 24
29 – 38	68 – 71	20 – 22
39 up	65 – 68	19 - 20

Proper Temperature Is Very Important

- Use a thermometer at head level of the chick.
- Watch your flock of chicks.
- If they are crowding under the heat lamp. The temperature is too cool.
- If they are to the outside edge and away from the heat source. then the temperature is too warm.

Cutting corners in any poultry program does not save money. More often than not it will cost you \$\$\$\$\$.

BROODING AND FEEDING INSTRUCTIONS FOR TURKEYS

HEAT

- ✓ Temperature is extremely important for the first week for turkey poults.
- ✓ Keep the temperature at 90 to 95 °F (32 – 35 °C) 2" (5cm) off the floor for the first week and then decrease by 5 °F (3 °C) each week until you reach 70 °F (21 °C).
- ✓ Turkeys are extremely sensitive to chilling so it is important to keep heat constant.
- ✓ Allow 3 infrared heat lamps per 100 poults or enough lamps to maintain proper temperature.
- ✓ Lamps should be set 18" (46 cm) above the floor for the first week and raised approx. 3" (7.5 cm) each week.

LITTER

- ✓ A good litter provides stability and insulation for the poults.
- ✓ We recommend at least 3 – 4 inches of course cut wheat straw, poultry peat moss, or course aspen shavings. **DO NOT** use horticultural Peat Moss, pine shavings, sand or paper as these can all be harmful to your birds.
- ✓ Chilling can be caused by not enough floor insulation. This can lead to mortalities, stunting, acidities, or crooked toes.
- ✓ Do not replace all the bedding at once.
- ✓ Remove any wet or caked litter as soon as it develops, and add clean, fresh litter.

FLOOR SPACE

- ✓ Turkey Poults are twice the size of chicks, Allow 1 to 2 square feet/bird.
- ✓ Use 18" chick guard in a circle to prevent poults from straying from heat.
- ✓ Chick guard circle diameter should be sufficient to permit poults to eat and drink at the edge of the heated area and return to the warm brooding area for heat.
- ✓ Before allowing the Poults the run of the whole brooder house make sure the corners of the house are rounded with chick guard so the birds do not pile into corners and smother.
- ✓ Watch the flock carefully for signs of litter eating.
- ✓ **DO NOT USE RUBBERMAID TUBS AS A BROODING SPACE.** This does not provide sufficient ventilation. Chicks need space for movement to and from heat. Constant direct heat can lead to suffocation and health issues. **This is also a fire hazard.**

FEEDERS

- ✓ Allow 2" - 4" (5 – 10cm) of feeder space per bird.
- ✓ One 36" (1m) feeder will feed approximately 50 – 75 young birds. About 25 adult birds.

WATER

- ✓ Allow 3 or 4 – 1 gal (4.5L) waterers for every 100 poults.
- ✓ Use **Poul-Vite** for the first 5 days 1tsp per gal (4.5L).
- ✓ Use vitamins in the water from one week old throughout the growing period to help reduce leg problems.

VENTILATION

- ✓ Ventilation is important from the first day. It provides fresh air, removes stale air, controls temperature and humidity, removes dust, regulates ammonia and carbon dioxide levels. As well as keeping the floor drier and the poults healthier.
- ✓ Rubbermaid tubs as brooding areas **DO NOT** provide enough ventilation to keep chicks healthy. **NEVER USE THESE FOR BROODING.**

LIGHTING

- ✓ Have full light available for the first 5 days to ensure turkey poults find the feed and water.
- ✓ **Tip:** have some chicks mixed in with turkey poults for the first few days to help the turkeys find the food. Chicks will automatically go to the food and turkeys will follow.
- ✓ After the Poults have been on water and feed for 5 days reduce the light intensity to limit the possibility of picking.
- ✓ Light from an infrared heat lamp is enough light depending on the house, or supplement with a low wattage light bulb. If the light is too bright it could promote picking.

FEED

- ✓ Turkeys should be fed a **25% To 28% Turkey Starter for the first six weeks.**
- ✓ **Never dilute a starter with grains** as the birds need all the vitamins and minerals provided in the starter.
- ✓ **After 6 weeks of age a 16 – 18% Grower Ration** may be used. **Do not dilute this with grains as this is a complete ration.**
- ✓ If mixing your own grains use a **35 – 38% supplement** mixed **3 parts cracked or chopped grain to 1 part supplement.**
- ✓ A balanced nutrition grain mix is 60% wheat, 25% oats and 15% barley.
- ✓ **Always add a poultry supplement when mixing. Note: Grains alone lack several essential nutrients needed for steady growth and to maintain healthy poults.**
- ✓ You may use straight grain chop 1 week prior to butchering.
- ✓ Provide grit from 3 – 4 weeks on, as free choice.
- ✓ A form of calcium such as limestone is recommended to strengthen bones and joints, reducing leg problems.

HEAVY TURKEY PROGRAM

- ✓ 0 to 6 weeks – 25 – 28% Turkey Starter
- ✓ 7 to 16 weeks – 21% Turkey Grower
- ✓ 17 weeks to slaughter – 16% Turkey Finisher

-Turkeys grow rather quickly. They grow from about 60 grams to over 9 kilograms (about 18lbs) in 20 weeks which means they increase their weight by 150 times in that period.

Cutting corners in any poultry growing program does not save money. More often than not it will cost you \$\$\$\$\$

Temperature is extremely important. Use a thermometer at head level of the turkey poults. Any Crippling can be the cause of improper temperature. Have litter 3 – 4" thick for proper insulation and be sure it is dry as this can also affect the turkey's bones and joints.

TEMPERATURE SCHEDULE FOR TURKEYS			
Days	°F	Temp	°C
1 – 7	90 – 95		33 – 35
8 – 14	85 – 90		30 – 33
15 – 21	80 – 85		27 – 30
22 – 28	75 – 80		24 – 27
29 – 38	70 – 75		21 – 24
39+	65 – 70		19 – 21

Interesting Information

- ✓ Many people think turkeys are stupid and uncooperative birds.
- ✓ For the first few days of their lives poults are almost blind.
- ✓ Turkeys are not well feathered, have poor developed eye sight, have rather long awkward legs, and are curious about new or different things around them.
- ✓ Compensate for their awkward legs by arranging feeders and waterers like spokes in a wheel so the poults can get back to the brooder quickly and easily before becoming chilled.
- ✓ Do not make quick changes in equipment as turkeys are easily confused and may be unable to find the water or feed.
- ✓ A balanced ration should be used throughout the growing period. Grasshoppers and green grass may help keep a bird alive but they don't contribute much unless the grasshoppers are plentiful enough to be classified as an infestation.

