

POULTRY FARMING



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Inkoduction

Chicken, turkey, duck and goose are all types of birds called poultry.

They are reared for meot.



Introduction to chicken farming

Chickens farmed for meat are called broiler chickens.

A group of chickens is called a flock.



Breeder form

Eggs are laid by broiler hens (parent flock).

Male chickens are called cockerels and female chickens are called pullets or hens.

Male turkeys are called stags and female turkeys are called hens.



The eggs are collected and sent to the hatchery.



Hotchery

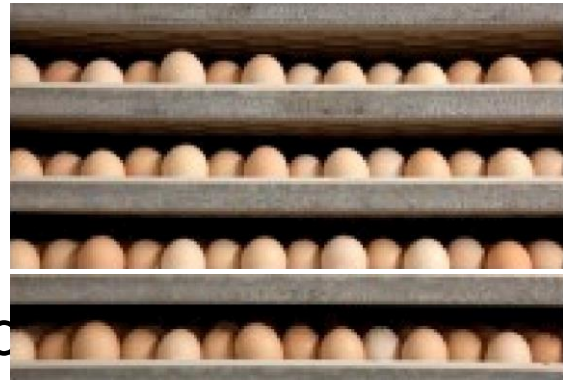
The eggs are incubated at the hatchery. They are kept warm, until the chicks start to hatch out of their shells.

Chickens hatch at around 20 days and turkeys hatch at around 27 days.

Baby chickens are called chicks.

Baby turkeys are called poults.

The hatched birds are then sorted and transported to Rearing farms.



Do you know what a group of chicks is called?

A group of chicks (baby chickens) is called a clUtCh or peep.



Did you know?

When a chick hatches it can live healthily for up to two days without being given any food or water. This is because it still has nutrients in its stomach from when it was inside the egg.

This is why chicks do not need food or water when they are being moved to the rearing farm.



Rearing forms

The baby birds are reared in special large houses, which provide them with water and a special diet.

These houses are cleaned before each new arrival of baby birds.

Trained staff look after the birds in the houses every day.

If the birds are ill, special medicines are given in their food or water,

The birds are reared until they reach their required weight.



Cotchinp

Once the birds reach their required weight they are transported to the processing plant.

Trained staff called 'catchers' catch the birds and @U) them in special containers called modules.

Catching is carried out quietly and with care to avoid unnecessary stress and to prevent injury to the birds.

The modules are then loaded into lorries and taken to the processing plant.



Processing Plant

Here the birds are processed and packaged.

After the birds have been processed they are weighed, and then either left whole or portioned.

The meat is then packaged and labelled ready to be delivered to restaurants, shops and supermarkets.



Poultry Farm Contribution to the Economy

Income & Employment:

Poultry farming business provides steady source of income for poultry farmers and other people who are involved in poultry production such as farm hands, veterinarians, animal health specialists, feed millers and builders of poultry housing.

Investment Opportunities:

This business opens up other investment doors for manufacturers of poultry farming equipment, importers and producers of poultry feed, poultry feed mills, battery cage producers and suppliers, producers and distributors of poultry drugs and vaccines etc.

Food and Diet:

Poultry meat is rich in protein for humans. Besides this, poultry products and by-products such as eggs, feathers, dung, offals are sources of income for people who consume or use them as raw materials in industries.

Income Sources in Poultry Farming Business.

Broiler Bird Production:

Broiler is produced for meat. It matures fast and can attain average weight of 2-2.5kg within 7-8 weeks.

Cockerel Bird Production:

Cockerels are also produced for meat, but its growth is slower and may take up to 20 weeks+ to attain marketable weight.

Layer Bird Production:

Poultry egg production in Nigeria involves the raising of pullets which produces eggs for sale. Most layers start laying at around 18-22 weeks and can lay for up to a year and half when they're sold off as old (spent) layers.

Breeder Bird Production:

Eggs from breeder birds are incubated in hatcheries and eggs hatched to produce day old chicks that can grow into either pullets (layers) or broiler birds.

Consideration to Start a Poultry Farm

We always recommend that Poultry farmers start small. This is because along the line you can learn from your mistakes.

A. Land:

- This is one of the most important assets in poultry farming business.
- This's where you build your pen.
- It's advised you look for piece of land far from residential quarters for human health reasons.
- The environmentalist will not let you be if you're closer to residential area.
- Ensure land topography is flat and the soil is not too muddy or rocky.

B. Poultry Housing:

There are different designs available depending on the type of poultry production you are interested in.

Poultry pen should be constructed along the **East-West horizon**.

This will ensure that pen house does not suffer long duration of high temperature during the day.

Correct stocking density in battery cage and deep litter system is important as this prevent overcrowding which can lead to tramping, increased competition for food and water, suffocation, pecking and rapid spread of disease.

C. Quality Birds:

On this, please ensure you get day-old chicks from reputable hatcheries like Zartech, CHI, Obasanjo and Amo farms.

Consideration to Start a Poultry Farm Contd,

D. Brooding:

Brooding is the business. Even though it is safe to start with some weeks old broiler birds and point of lay as a newbie, it is better to learn how to brood yourself.

E. Feeds:

Cost of poultry feeding carries major share of your total cost of production. Before you dive into this investment, it is good that you calculate and project the funds needed to feed your birds till when they are ready for the market. For instance at adult stage, 250-300 birds will finish one 25kg bag of feed daily. This gives you approximately what one bird consumes per day.

Formulation of poultry feed can be helpful. If you produce own feed, product cost of production will be lower.

F. Tools:

It is important that you get adequate number of drinkers and feeders for birds. The height of these containers must not pose stress to them. Poultry tool include; Housing, cages, Incubator, Feeder, Water Pot, Heater, Laying Nests, Egg Handling Nest, etc. Ensure you budget for all.

Poultry Health Techniques

Consider the influence of the following in the entire business and take adequate measure to control them.

- In battery cage system, make sure you examine nipples routinely. That's to ensure none is blocked, clean feeder trays and drinker pipers regularly.
- Observe your birds frequently for any disease signs. Check them for lack of appetite, clustering, weight loss, discharges from eyes, beaks and nose, faeces-pasted vent, change in consistency and colour of faeces, gaping, difficulty in breathing, reduction in egg production, swollen or discoloured comb and wattles etc.
- Maintaining strict biosecurity and hygiene on your poultry farm will go a long way in protecting your birds against infection.
- Provide foot dip and limit visitors to your farm. Make sure farm hands and equipment are not rotated carelessly among your pen. Spray tires of vehicles coming into your farm.
- Ensure prompt removal of poultry dung as this can serve as source of bacterial growth and ammonia gas generation on your poultry farm.

Vaccination is very vital. It should be given as at when due to protect your flock against endemic diseases. Measures include Newcastle Disease Vaccine, Gomboro Disease Vaccine, Marek Disease Vaccine, EDS Vaccine.

Ensure the birds are visited by a **Veterinary Doctor** who will administer drugs and injections to them in order to keep them healthy. Failure to do this will expose your birds to all manner of diseases and flus. Millions of birds died due to the bird flu outbreak of 2006.

Marketing

You need to put in place effective marketing strategy.

Success in poultry farming business may depend on marketing strategy adopted for farm.

Many poultry farmers in Nigeria lose millions during egg glut when they can't get market for eggs.

Extensive market survey will influence how large you want to produce.

This will enable you sell off poultry birds and products.

Ensure you grow a huge list of middlemen who will help distribute your produce in case one disappoints.

Source for outlets for your broiler birds such as eateries before you commence production at all.



Cage-Free Housing



Cage-Housing

How to Choose Good Feed for Your Poultry

- Feeding makes up the major cost of production, and good nutrition is reflected in the bird's performance and its products.
- Chicken feeding recommendations vary depending on age and whether you are raising chickens for meat or eggs.
- Chicken needs protein, carbohydrates, and fats, along with the appropriate vitamins and minerals. Most starter and grower rations have 18% to 20% protein.
- This is formulated for growth and development of bones and internal organs. The amount of protein in their diet is very important; it helps them to produce feathers and eggs as well as to grow.
- Feed comes in three forms: Crumbles, Pellets, and Mash.
- You have to feed them 2 to 3 times a day. You have to make sure you give them quality water to drink.

Feed Ingredients

- A. Corn and soybean meal – Usually the most plentiful and lowest-cost sources of energy and well-balanced protein, thus it is extensively used.
- B. Balancers and Concentrates – For preparing the poultry feed, concentrates and balancers are special supplements which are prepared by the commercial poultry feed companies.
- C. Salt – 0.2 to 0.5% is added to most poultry diets.
- D. Supplemental lipids e.g. Millet (up to 5% of the diet) – May increase energy utilization.
- E. Yellow pigmentation – Use as much yellow corn as possible plus good sources of xanthophyll, such as alfalfa meal or corn gluten meal, for the yellow coloration of the shanks, feet, skin, and egg yolks.
- F. Non-nutritive additives are used for a variety of reasons – e.g., antibiotics (to stimulate growth & control diseases), arsenicals and nitrofurans (to improve performance), anti-parasitic compounds, anti-oxidative, and antifungal compounds.
- G. Fish Oil – Fish oil is a dependable source of Vitamin A and D. Mainly it is used in chicken feed and laying hen's feed. Fish oil is very effective when green pasture and sunlight is not adequate.

Sn	Item	Qty	Unit price(N)	Amount(N)
FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR 500 POINT OF LAYER BIRDS				
1	Land (Fixed Asset)	1	350,000	350,000
2	Point-of-lay layers	500	1,350	675,000
3	Cages (96 birds-per-cage) (Fixed Asset)	5	50,000	250,000
4	Cage house or pen construction (Fixed Asset)	5	80,000	400,000
5	18-months' worth of feeding (using packaged feeds)	18	251,250	4,522,500
6	Farm Labour (1 worker employed for 18 months)	18	30,000	540,000
PROFIT:			SubTotal	6,737,500
a) 8,670 crates of eggs for you over an 18 month period i.e. 17 crates a day from the 2nd month to the 18th month.				
b) You can conveniently sell one crate of egg for N800. So, for 18 months, eggs alone will generate N6, 936,000 (8, 670 X N800) for you.				
c) Assuming you have a death rate or mortality rate of 5% (this				

means 5% of your 500 birds, 25 birds, die during their production cycle) you should have about 475 birds left in your farm after 18 months.

d) You can sell each old layer for a minimum of N1, 500 per chicken. So your 475 birds can generate N712, 500 (475 X N1, 500) for you

e) Selling their excretion as manure N180,000(N10,000 x 18)

TOTAL SELLS =7,828,500

PROFIT = TOTAL SELLS-
EXPENSES

N7,828,500-N6,737,500=
N1,091,000

Gross Profit Margin =
Profit/Expenses x100

1,091,000 x100

6,737,500

=16.2%

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