

# Brooding and Production Management



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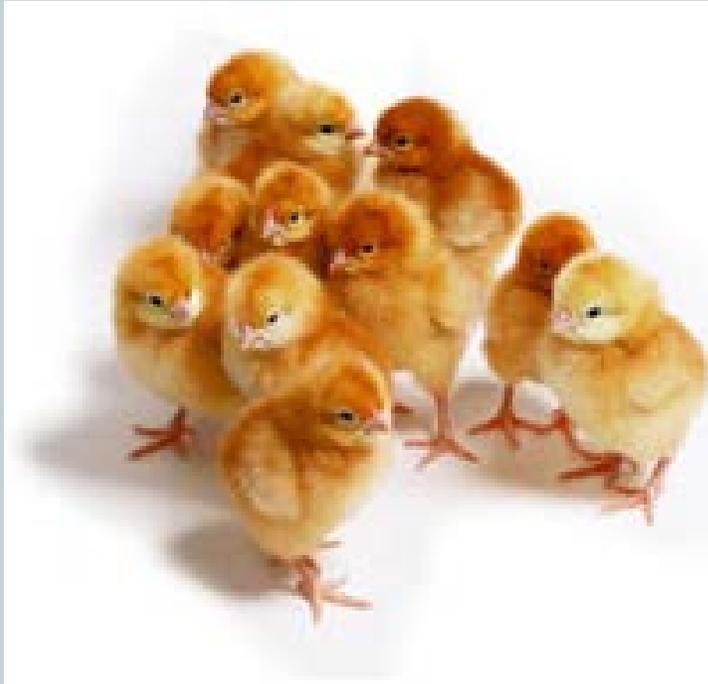
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# Assistant Specialist in Cooperative Extension, Poultry Small to Large Scale

- Poultry Husbandry, Behavior, and Welfare
- Broiler Lighting Programs
- Housing Systems for Laying Hens (Coalition for Sustainable Egg Supply)
- On-farm Assessment Tools
- Backyard Flocks
- Pastured Poultry: ??????
- Predation Monitoring
- Physical Condition Assessments

# Brooding

- **Brooding or Pullet Rearing**
  - Hatching to Full Feathering



- **Pullet Rearing**
  - Fully Feathered to Egg Laying



# Temperature and Humidity

- **Temperature**
  - Measure under heat and on edge
  - Start 90-95F, reduce by 5F each week
- **Humidity**
  - ~ 50% Throughout
- **Watch Behavior**



# Lighting and Ventilation



- **Colored Bulb vs Dark Bulb**
- **Generally 23-24 hours first 3-7 days**
- **Follow breed management guidelines**
- **Prevent Ammonia Build-up**
- **Source of fresh air, but no drafts during brooding (curtains)**
- **Adjust Humidity**

# Feed and Water

- Starter diet (higher protein ~ 20%)

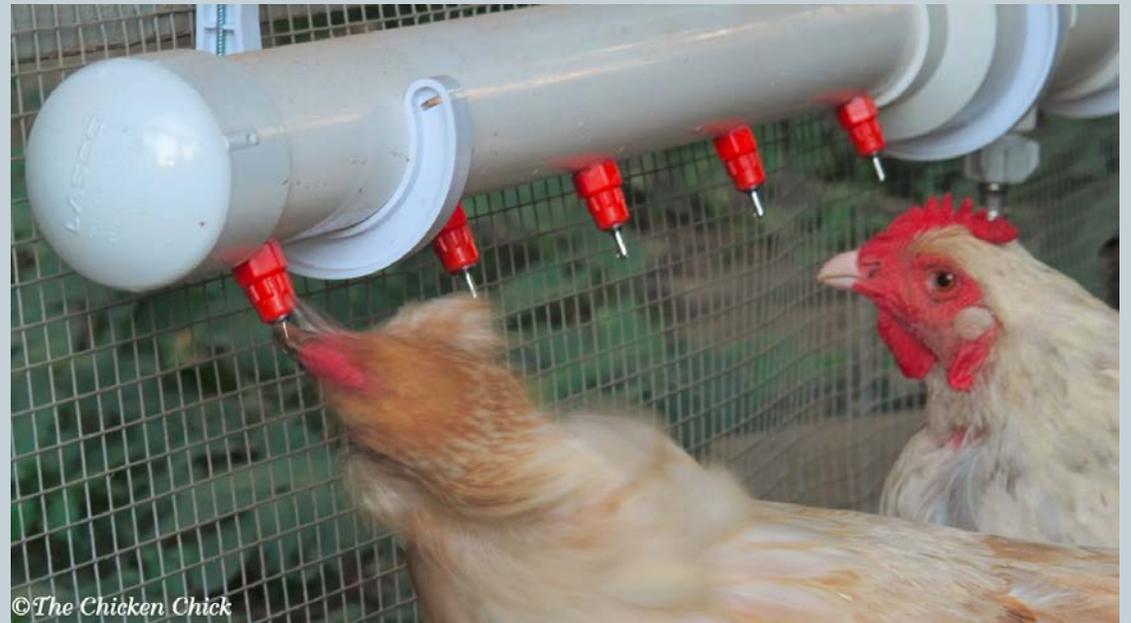
- Mash vs Crumbles

- Feeders

- Bell or Trough
- Metal vs Plastic



- Clean fresh water at all times
- Marbles in waterers
- Be Consistent with Type



# Bedding

- **Soft and Absorbent**
  - Pine Shavings (not too fine)
  - Rice Hulls
  - Not straw, paper
- **Keep Clean and Dry**
  - 3-5 Inches
  - Foot Problems, Burns
- **Mortality**
  - ~ 1-2% expected



# Pullet Rearing

- **No Supplemental Heat**
- **Should have same environment as hens will have**
  - Similar feeder and waterer
  - Perches
  - NO nestboxes
- **Watch for picking/ injuries**



- **Lighting (in general)**
  - Decrease from 23 to 10-11 hours each week by a couple hours/week
  - Maintain at 10-11 hours until 18 weeks
  - Increase by 30 min each week until 16 hours/day

# Laying Hen Management



# Housing



- **Housing Structure**

- Fixed/barn
- Mobile Coop (Egg Mobile)

- **Pasture**

- Rotation Plans
- Cover
- Fencing



# Housing



- **Flooring**

- Solid w/ litter or Slatted
- Space (at least 1.0 sqft/hen)

- **Nest boxes**

- Give access ~ 18 weeks
- 1 for every 5 hens
- Substrate in boxes

- **Perches**

- Not closer than 12 inches
- Not too high
- 6 inches/hen



# Diet for Layers

- **Feed Options**

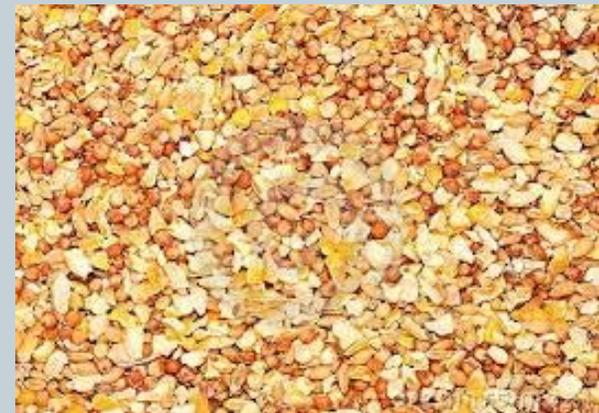
- Commercially Formulated Diet
- Organic, Vegetarian, GMO-free
- Crumbles or Pellets
- No Scratch!

- **Forage Stuff**

- Yolk color
- Flavor of Egg

- **Oyster Shell**

- Hens will eat if needed
- Osteoporosis in laying hens



# Pasture Challenges

- **Predation**
  - Cover
  - Electric Fencing
  - Males?
  - Regulations
- **Pasture Use**
  - Cover
  - Forage Type
  - Genetics
- **Pest Control**
  - Regulations
  - Organic Options?
- **Non-chickens?**



# Questions

