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IFAS EXTENSION

Poultry Management Specifications [1]

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These specifications are suggested based on normal, expected situations and the best available data. Although applicable to both commercial and home flocks, the variation in housing types, equipment, objectives and other factors may result in requirements that are different than those suggested herein. See Table 1 (chicken, turkey, ducks, geese) and Table 2 (pheasant, bobwhite, guinea, ostrich, emu).

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Table 1. Poultry management specifications for chicken, turkey, ducks, and geese.

Requirement	Chicken (egg)	Chicken (meat)	Turkey (large)	Ducks	Geese
Floor Space					
Hover space	4-8 in^2/bird	6-10 in^2/bird	12 in^2/bird	12 in^2/bird	14 in^2/bird
0-4 wk	0.7 ft^2/bird	1.0 ft^2/bird	1.5 ft^2/bird	0.8 ft^2/bird	1.5 ft^2/bird
4-8 wk	0.8 ft^2/bird	1.25 ft^2/bird	2.0 ft^2/bird	1.5 ft^2/bird	2.0 ft^2/bird
8-12 wk	1.0 ft^2/bird	1.5 ft^2/bird	3.0 ft^2/bird	2.0 ft^2/bird	3.0 ft^2/bird
>12 wk	1.5 ft^2/bird	2.5 ft^2/bird	5.0 ft^2/bird	3.0 ft^2/bird	5.0 ft^2/bird
Adult	1.5-3.0 ft^2/bird	2.5-4.0 ft^2/bird	8.0 ft^2/bird	5.0-6.0 ft^2/bird	8.0 ft^2/bird
Cage	60-100 in^2/bird	200 in^2/bird	400 in^2/bird	- - - -	- - - -
Feeder Space					
0-1 wk	1 feed lid/100	1 feed lid/100	2 feed lids/100	2.0 in/bird	2.0 in/bird
1-2 wk	1.0 in/bird	2.0 in/bird	2.5 in/bird	2.0 in/bird	2.5 in/bird
2-4 wk	1.0 in/bird	2.0 in/bird	3.0 in/bird	2.5 in/bird	3.0 in/bird
4-8 wk	1.5 in/bird	3.0 - 6.0* in/bird	4.0 in/bird	2.5 in/bird	4.0 in/bird
>8 wk	2.5 in/bird	3.5 - 6.0* in/bird	5.0 in/bird	3.0 in/bird	5.0 in/bird
Adult	4.0 in/bird	4.5 - 6.0* in/bird *Restricted feed	6.0 in/bird	4.5 in/bird	6.0 in/bird
Waterer Space					
0-1 wk	15 1-gal/ 1000 or 0.6 in/bird	15 1-gal/1000 or 0.7 in/bird	20 1-gal/1000 or 1.0 in/bird	15 1-gal/1000 or 0.7 in/bird	20 1-gal/1000 or 0.7 in/bird
1-4 wk	0.6 in/bird	0.7 in/bird	1.0 in/bird	0.7 in/bird	1.0 in/bird
4-8 wk	0.6 in/bird	0.8 in/bird	1.0 in/bird	0.7 in/bird	1.0 in/bird
>8 wk	0.8 in/bird	1.0 in/bird	1.2 in/bird	0.8 in/bird	1.2 in/bird
Adult	1.0 in/bird	1.5 in/bird	1.4 in/bird	1.0 in/bird	1.4 in/bird
Brooding Temp.					
Brooder, 0-1 wk	90-95°F	85-95°F	90-95°F	85-90°F	80-90°F
Decrease/wk	5°F	5°F	5°F	5°F	5°F
Brooder room	60-80°F	60-80°F	60-75°F	60-75°F	60-75°F
Lights					
0-2d	24h, 25w/100ft^2	24h, 25w/100ft^2	24h, 25w/100ft^2	24h, 10w	24h, 10w
2d-2wk	23h, 25w/100ft^2	23h, 25w/100ft^2	23h, 25w/100ft^2	23h, 10w	23h, 10w
2-10wk	Natural or <12h	Natural or <12h	Natural or <12h	Natural	Natural
10-20wk	Decreasing or 8h	Decreasing or 8h	Decreasing or 8h	Natural	Natural
Layer or breeder	15h, 1fc, or add 15min/wk	16h, 3fc, or add 15min/wk	16h, 5fc, or add 15min/wk	15h, 1fc, or add 15min/wk	15h, 1fc, or add 15min/wk
Females/male	12-15	10-12	7-10	5-6	2-5
Females/nest	4	4	5	3	5
Sexual maturity	5-6mo	5-7mo	7-8mo	7-8mo	6-9mo
Vaccinations					
Marek's	Day 1	Day 1			
Newcastle and inf. bronchitis[1]	1wk, 4wk, 16wk, then every 3mo	1wk, 4wk, 16wk, then every 3mo	4wk, housing		
Fowl pox	6-9wk	6-9wk (breeders)	5-10wk, 7mo		
Enceph. (AE)[2]	10-16wk (breeders)	10-16wk (breeders)			
Inf. Bursal disease[3]	8-12wk (breeders)	8-12wk (breeders)			
Incubation					
Length	21d	21d	28d	28d or 35d	30-35d
Setting temp.	99.5°F	99.5°F	99.5°F	99.1°F	99.0°F
Set humidity	86-87°F wet bulb	86-87°F wet bulb	87-88°F wet bulb	94.0°F wet bulb	89-90°F wet bulb
Hatching temp.	98.5°F	98.5°F	98.0°F	98.4°F	99.0°F
Hatch humidity	90-92°F wet bulb	90-92°F wet bulb	90-93°F wet bulb	96.0°F wet bulb	89-90°F wet bulb
Still air inc.	102-103°F	102-103°F	102-103°F	102-103°F	101-102°F
Fertile Egg Storage					
Time	8d or less	7d or less	8d or less	7d or less	7d or less
Temperature	55-65°F	55-65°F	55-65°F	55-65°F	55-65°F
Humidity	70-85% RH	70-85% RH	70-85% RH	75-85% RH	75-85% RH

[1]Infectious bronchitis, [2]Avian encephalitis, [3]Infectious bursal disease

w = watt, **fc** = foot candle, **RH** = relative humidity

Table 2. Poultry management specifications for pheasant, bobwhite, guinea, ostrich, and emu.

Requirement	Pheasant	Bobwhite	Guinea	Ostrich	Emu
Floor Space					
Hover space	4-8 in^2/bird	4-6 in^2/bird	4-8 in^2/bird	2.0 ft^2/bird	1.5 ft^2/bird
0-4 wk	1.0 ft^2/bird	0.25 ft^2/bird	0.5 ft^2/bird	10 ft^2/bird	8 ft^2/bird
4-8 wk	2.0 ft^2/bird	0.3 ft^2/bird	0.8 ft^2/bird	20 ft^2/bird	15 ft^2/bird
8-12 wk	3.0 ft^2/bird	0.5 ft^2/bird	1.0 ft^2/bird	40 ft^2/bird	30 ft^2/bird
>12 wk	3.0 ft^2/bird	0.5 ft^2/bird	1.5 ft^2/bird	80 ft^2/bird	60 ft^2/bird
Adult	3.0 ft^2/bird	1.0-1.5 ft^2/bird	1.5-3.0 ft^2/bird	.25-3 acres/2-4 birds	.1-.3 acres/2-4 birds
Cage	60-100 in^2/bird	50-100 in^2/bird	60-100 in^2/bird	----	----
Feeder Space					
0-1 wk	2 feed lids/100	2 feed lids/100	1 feed lid/100	1 feed lid/5 birds	1 feed lid/6 birds
1-2 wk	1.0 in/bird	0.6 in/bird	1.0 in/bird	0.5 ft/bird	0.5 ft/bird
2-4 wk	1.5 in/bird	0.6 in/bird	1.0 in/bird	1.0 ft/bird	0.75 ft/bird
4-8 wk	2.0 in/bird	1.0 in/bird	1.5 in/bird	1.0 ft/bird	1.0 ft/bird
>8 wk	3.0 in/bird	1.0 in/bird	2.5 in/bird	1.5 ft/bird	1.5 ft/bird
Adult	3.0 in/bird	1.6 in/bird	4.0 in/bird	1.5 ft/bird	1.5 ft/bird
Waterer Space					
0-1 wk	15 1-gal /1000 or 0.3 in/bird	2 1-qt/100 or 0.2 in/bird	2 1-gal /100 or 0.5 in/bird	1 5-gal pan/10	1 5-gal pan/20
1-4 wk	0.5 in/bird	0.25 in/bird	0.5 in/bird	"	"
4-8 wk	0.6 in/bird	0.3 in/bird	0.5 in/bird	"	"
>8 wk	1.0 in/bird	0.3 in/bird	0.8 in/bird	"	"
Adult	1.0 in/bird	0.3 in/bird	1.0 in/bird	"	"
Brooding Temp.					
Brooder, 0-1 wk	95°F	95-100°F	95-100°F	85-90°F	90-95°F
Decrease/wk	5°F	5°F	5°F	5-8°F	3-5°F
Brooder room	60-85°F	60-85°F	60-80°F	60-75°F	60-75°F
Lights					
0-2d	24h, 10w/100ft^2	24h, 10w/100ft^2	24h, 25w/100ft^2	24h, 10w/100ft^2	24h, 10w/100ft^2
2d-2wk	Natural or <12h	Natural or <12h	Natural or <12h	Natural	Natural
2-10wk	Natural or decreasing	Natural or decreasing	Natural or decreasing	Natural	Natural
10-20wk	Natural or decreasing	Natural or decreasing	Natural or decreasing	Natural	Natural
Layer or breeder	17h, 5fc, or add 30min/wk	17h, 5fc, or add 30min/wk	16h, 5fc, or add 15min/wk	Natural or 16h, 5fc	Natural
Females/male	6-8	1-4	4-8	1-4	1-2
Females/nest	5-6	3-5	3-5	1-4	1-2
Sexual maturity	4-5mo	5-6mo	5-6mo	20-36mo	20-36mo
Vaccinations					
Marek's					
Newcastle and inf. bronchitis[1]					
Fowl pox					
Enceph. (AE)[2]	5-10wk	6-10wk			
Inf. Bursal disease[3]					
Incubation					
Length	24d	24d	28d	42d	52-56d
Setting temp.	99.5°F	100.0°F	99.5°F	97.4°F	97.5-98.0°F
Set humidity	89-90°F wet bulb	85-86°F wet bulb	85-86°F wet bulb	68°F wet bulb, 20%	75°F wet bulb, 34%
Hatching temp.	99.0°F	99.0°F	98°F	96.5°F	97.0°F
Hatch humidity	82-85°F wet bulb	88-92°F wet bulb	85-86°F wet bulb	77°F wet bulb, 40%	81°F wet bulb, 50%
Still air inc.	102-103°F	102-103°F	102-103°F	99.5°F	99.5°F
Fertile Egg Storage					
Time	8d or less	14d or less	8d or less	7d or less	7d or less
Temperature	55-65°F	55-65°F	55-65°F	55-65°F	55-65°F
Humidity	70-85% RH	70-85% RH	70-85% RH	60-75% RH	60-75% RH

[1] Infectious bronchitis, [2] Avian encephalitis, [3] Infectious bursal disease

w = watt, **fc** = foot candle, **RH** = relative humidity