



BELT HATCHERY

Home Of The "Classy Chick"

Raising Strong & Healthy Baby Chicks

Congratulations on purchasing your first flock! Here are some basic steps below that will help get you started on your first flock and give you the best opportunity for great success. First and foremost, make sure your pens are clean and dry! Moisture and unclean bedding are your worst enemy when raising day-old poultry. When you bring your chicks/poults home, be sure you give them water asap. Dip their beaks in clean, room temperature water to get them acclimated and hydrated before giving them any chick starter feed.

Temperature Guidelines

Pre-heat brooder 24-48 hours prior to arrival

Brooder Temperature 98° decreasing by 5° every week

One Red 250W heat bulb (helps prevent cannibalism) per 50 chicks

Chick Guard draft shield (14 inch high) keeps birds from piling

Clean Water

Plastic gallon founts work best 2-3 per 50 chicks

Available 24 hours – use marbles in deeper dishes to prevent drowning

Refresh 2-3 times a day

Feeding

Start with egg flats or newspaper

2 linear feet of space for 50 chicks

Up to 6 weeks use 21-23% Chick Starter

6-14 weeks use 20-28% Grower Feed

15-18 weeks & Older 16% Layer Feed. Provide chick grit as supplement

Lighting

250 W Red Bulb approximately 12-18" off the floor

Day 1: Provide 24 hours of light

Day 2-Mature: Decrease 1 hour of light per day until daily light exposure equals 18 hours

Recommended Space Requirements

Up to 10 weeks: .5-1.0 square feet/bird

10 weeks - Mature: 3-4 square feet/bird (with free range or run space)

Litter: Medium to Large wood shavings is the preferred material