

Duck Brooding Basics



Success of a flock is dependent on a great start for the ducklings. The basics below will help to focus on starting your flock out on the right foot so your flock can perform and achieve their full potential. Regardless of the breed, always make sure your pens are clean and dry! When your hatchlings arrive, they will need water first and foremost. Dip their beaks in clean, room temperature water to get them acclimated and hydrated before giving them food.



Temperature Guidelines

- Pre-heat brooder 24-48 hours prior to arrival
- Brooder Temperature 95°F decreasing by 5 per week until fully feathered or 70°F outside temp
- Adjust lamp by observing birds. If huddling under lamp, lower the lamp. If panting or outside the lamp area, raise lamp to reduce heat.



Clean Water Access

- Available 24 hours (at room temperature for the first week) Dip beaks in water upon arrival.
- Encourage drinking (especially for any sleepy birds) as they are dehydrated and need special attention.
- Allow 1 linear inch/bird (up to 2 inches as ducklings grow)
- Refresh daily or sooner as needed
- Raise waterer to neck height to keep pen drier



Feeding

- Allow 1 linear inch/bird (add feeders as goslings grow)
- Up to 4 weeks use 20-23% **NON-Medicated** Chick Starter
- 4-20 weeks to mature use 20% Grower
- 20+ weeks use 16% Layer Pellets
- Provide chick grit



Lighting

- 3-5 foot candles needed(Enough light to read a newspaper)
- Day 1: Provide 24 hours of light
- Day 2-7: Decrease 1 hour of light per day until daily light exposure equals 17 hours
- Layers produce best with at least 14-17 hours of light (can be additional artificial light)



Recommended Space Requirements

- Use paper towels on top of wood shavings - Do not use newspaper
- Up to 2 weeks: 1-1.5 square feet/bird
- 2-4 weeks: 4 square feet/bird (with free range space)
- 4-7 weeks: 8 square feet/bird (with free range space)
- 7-20+ weeks: 10 square feet/bird (with free range space)