



# Chick Brooding Basics

Success of a flock is dependent on a great start for the poults. These 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 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 Access

- 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
- 2 linear feet of space for 50 chicks
- Up to 6 weeks use 21-23% Chick Crumble
- 6-14 weeks use 20-28% Grower Feed
- 15-18 weeks & Older 16% Layer Feed
- Provide chick grit



## 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 are best