### **Step-by-Step Guide on Rearing Poultry from Hatchery to Table Size**

#### **1. Planning & Setup**

* **Choose the Poultry Type:** Decide whether to rear broilers (for meat), layers (for eggs), or dual-purpose birds.
* **Farm Location & Housing:**
  + Ensure the poultry house is well-ventilated.
  + Use deep litter or battery cage systems, depending on your scale.
  + Install proper lighting, heating, and cooling systems.
* **Secure Permits & Compliance:** Check with local authorities for necessary licenses and biosecurity regulations.
* **Purchase Quality Chicks:** Buy day-old chicks from reputable hatcheries to ensure strong and healthy birds.

#### **2. Brooding Stage (0 – 4 Weeks) - Critical Period**

* **Set Up a Brooder House:**
  + Maintain a brooding temperature of **32-35°C** in the first week, gradually reducing it weekly.
  + Use infrared lamps, gas brooders, or charcoal burners for warmth.
* **Feeding & Watering:**
  + Give high-quality starter feed (22-24% protein).
  + Provide clean, warm water with vitamins and electrolytes.
* **Disease Prevention:**
  + Administer vaccinations against **Newcastle Disease, Gumboro, and Marek’s Disease**.
  + Use antibiotics or probiotics for immunity.
  + Keep a clean environment to avoid infections.
* **Lighting Schedule:**
  + Maintain 23 hours of light for the first week, then gradually reduce to 16 hours per day.
* **Culling:** Remove weak or sick birds to prevent disease spread.

#### **3. Growth & Development (4 – 8 Weeks)**

* **Feeding Program:**
  + Switch to grower feed (19-21% protein) for optimal growth.
  + Provide continuous access to water.
* **Ventilation & Space Management:**
  + Allocate **1 square foot per bird** for deep litter and **450cm² per bird** in cages.
* **Health Management:**
  + Deworm and follow a vaccination schedule.
  + Maintain strict biosecurity (disinfect equipment, limit visitor access).
* **Weight Monitoring:**
  + Weigh birds weekly to track growth.

#### **4. Finishing Stage (8 – 12 Weeks – Broilers Ready for Market)**

* **Switch to Finisher Feed:** (18-20% protein) to enhance meat development.
* **Reduce Activity & Stress:** Avoid unnecessary movements to maintain weight gain.
* **Final Vaccinations & Checkups:** Ensure birds are disease-free before selling.
* **Market Readiness:**
  + Sort birds based on weight and size.
  + Plan slaughtering or distribution.

### **Factors for a Favourable Outcome**

1. **Quality of Chicks** – Source from a reputable hatchery.
2. **Adequate Space & Ventilation** – Overcrowding leads to diseases and stress.
3. **Consistent & Balanced Feeding** – Nutritional deficiency affects growth and egg-laying.
4. **Strict Biosecurity Measures** – Prevents disease outbreaks.
5. **Regular Health Checks & Vaccinations** – Timely medication keeps birds healthy.
6. **Good Waste Management** – Proper disposal of droppings reduces odor and infection risk.
7. **Effective Lighting & Temperature Control** – Prevents stress and improves growth.
8. **Market Strategy** – Identify buyers before birds reach maturity to avoid losses.

### **Pitfalls to Avoid**

1. **Buying Weak or Infected Chicks** – Always inspect chick quality before purchase.
2. **Poor Housing Conditions** – Leads to stress, cannibalism, and low productivity.
3. **Overcrowding** – Causes competition, poor growth, and disease spread.
4. **Inadequate Feeding** – Results in slow growth and high mortality.
5. **Ignoring Vaccination & Medication** – Birds become prone to deadly diseases.
6. **Poor Waste Management** – Accumulated waste can cause infections.
7. **Late Marketing Planning** – Can lead to overgrown birds, increasing feed costs.

### **Poultry Farm Management Requirements**

* **Brooder Setup** – Heat source, feeders, drinkers, and clean bedding.
* **Housing System** – Deep litter or battery cages with proper spacing.
* **Feed & Watering Equipment** – Feeder trays, automatic drinkers.
* **Biosecurity Measures** – Footbaths, farm fencing, disinfection routines.
* **Veterinary Services** – Health monitoring, vaccination programs.
* **Record-Keeping** – Feed intake, weight gain, vaccination schedule, sales data.
* **Waste Disposal System** – Composting or using poultry manure for organic farming.
* **Market Linkages** – Identify wholesalers, processors, and direct consumers.

By following these steps, poultry farmers can maximize their productivity and profitability while reducing risks associated with poultry farming. Would you like a customized business plan for your poultry venture?