

## ADDITIONAL BROILER INFORMATION GUIDE

### Preparation for brooding day-old chicks

#### Chick pre-arrival checklist

- + **Clean chicken house/pen and equipment:** Make sure housing units and equipment are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
- + **Spread litter:** Cover the brooding area with a deep layer of wood shavings or wheat straw.
- + **Set up brooders:** Keep chicks warm with heat source e.g. gas brooder/lantern.
- + **Pre-heat broiler houses:** Heat housing at least 24 hours before chick arrival.
- + **Check ventilation systems:** Check air inlet/outlet systems to ensure there is proper air exchange.
- + **Check feeders and waterers:** Evenly spread out chick feeders and waterers for easy access.
- + **Prepare feed and anti-stress vitamins:** Prepare drinking water and pre-starter feed for first feeding.
- + **Check and replace lighting:** Replace light sources and prepare backup lighting (solar/rechargeable lamps).

### Achieving broiler target weight

It is a common practice for poultry farmers to have a target **age** for slaughter, however, working towards a target **weight** at slaughter is necessary for profitability. Properly managed broilers should have 1.8-2.5kg body weight at 6 weeks.

To achieve this, the feed chart below can be adapted for feeding.

#### Recommended feed chart for broilers

0-14 days	500g/bird
15-28 days	1.5kg/birds
29-42 days	2.5kg/bird

With regards to the two classes of feed for broilers, the following can be adopted as well:

Broiler Starter.....0-28 days

Broiler Finisher.....22-42 days

#### NOTE

- + Do not forget to supplement the feed with multivitamins and feed additives e.g. Vitaminotrace, amino acids etc.
- + Ensure you weigh and sort the birds on day 3, day 7 and day 14 of brooding.
- + Birds that are not within targeted weight should be given additional feed and amino acid supplements as well.

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### **Space requirement for broilers**

Adequate space has a great impact on the growth, development, and well-being of poultry, thus broilers are no exceptions. Some diseases thrive well in an overcrowded flock just as overcrowding affects the feed conversion ratio of chickens.

The standard floor space requirements for broilers at 6-8 weeks is 1-1.1sq feet per bird. Caged broilers require lesser-but adequate- space.

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