

BABY CHICK CARE

24 hours before the chicks arrive be sure to:

- Have your brooder area bedded: We recommend pine shavings for chickens and turkeys, straw is the best choice for ducks and geese.
Never use hardwood shavings - these can be fatal for the chicks
- Have your heat regulated to **95 degrees at chick height**. Use a thermometer to be sure you have them at the correct temperature. You will lose chicks if they are too hot or too cold.
(Start heat lamps 18 inches above floor & adjust as needed)
- Have the brooder area free from drafts (Keep the chicks in a smaller area to keep them close to heat, food & water!)

When the chicks arrive:

- Fill water with fresh water (not ice cold). For the first 24 hours, add 1 tablespoon of Dark Molasses per gallon of water. After the first 24 hours add vitamins & electrolytes to the water.
- After all chicks have had a good drink of water provide them with fresh starter feed in feeders - one foot minimum feeder space per 25 chicks. (Be sure to get the right starter for the type of bird you are brooding)
- Check the chicks often to check for their comfort. Notice how they sound - Noisy chicks are cold. Notice how they look - huddled chicks are cold, evenly spread out chicks are comfortable. Notice how they smell - ammonia is bad for the chicks eyes and lungs, the brooding area should smell fresh.

As they grow:

- After week one, drop the temperature 5 degrees per week.
- Open the pen up and give them more room as they need it, never over crowd the chicks!
Floor space requirements per chick; (0-4 weeks ½ square foot) (4-8 weeks 1 square foot) (8-12 weeks 2 square foot) and (12 or older 3 square foot). A 10' X 10' brooder house is adequate for 100 chicks until 8 weeks of age.
- Increase water area and feed area starting week 2

Layer Chicks:

0-18 weeks: Kalmbach 18% Start Right - Formulated for starting and growing laying chicks.
18 weeks-life: Layer Pellet or Crumble

Organic Layer Chick:

0-5 weeks: 19% Organic Chick Starter
5-18 weeks: 16% Organic Chick Grower
18 weeks: Organic Layer

Broiler Chicks:

0 weeks - Finish: Kalmbach Broiler Start-To-Finish 22% Medicated or Non-Medicated

Organic Broiler Chick:

0-5 weeks: 21% Organic Chick Starter
5 weeks-finish: 19% Organic Chick Starter

Turkeys: (ask about non medicated options)

0-6 weeks: Kalmbach 28% Start Right Medicated
6 weeks to Finish: Kalmbach 20% Finish Right Medicated

Ducks or Geese: Both options meet niacin requirements of ducks and geese.

0-until laying age or market weight: 20% All Natural Flock Maker Crumble - Complete nutrition for mixed flocks.
0 - life: 18% Duck & Goose Pellet - Provide free-choice oyster shell to ducks and geese of laying age.

Guineas:

0-6 weeks: 28% Turkey Starter Medicated or 28% Non-GMO Start Right Turkey & Gamebird
6 weeks-until laying age or market weight: 20% All Natural Flock Maker Crumble

Guarantee:

Alive when picked up.

Please call 219-477-4174 for assistance or advice with any stressed chicks.