

Safe Handling Instructions

It is important to care for and love your new poultry, but you must also protect yourself. Salmonella, a common cause of food borne illness can be spread by direct contact with animals that carry the bacteria.

Some safe handling tips are:

*Avoid contact with poultry manure. Adults should clean cages frequently.

*Carefully and thoroughly wash hands with soap and warm water after handling anything in the chicks environment.

*Do NOT nuzzle or kiss your chicks, ducklings, turkeys, etc.

*Keep poultry outside, and especially out of areas where food is prepared.

*Supervise children when handling poultry, and ensure they wash their hands after contact. Children under 5 years of age and people with weakened immune systems should not handle poultry.

We have regularly tested for Avian Influenza (A I) since 2000 and the results have always been negative.

FEED

Start them off on a good commercially prepared chick starter. **DO NOT FEED BABY CHICKS LAYING FEED, THE EXTRA CALCIUM IN LAYING FEED WILL DESTROY THEIR KIDNEYS!! CHANGE TO LAYING FEED AFTER THE HEN LAYS HER FIRST EGG!!** Most starter feeds are medicated with Amprolium as a coccidiostat. This medication will NOT harm baby ducks or geese, so you can use the same feed for ducks, geese & chicks. BROILER CHICKS & TURKEYS SHOULD HAVE A HIGHER PROTEIN STARTER specially formulated for their needs. USE GAMEBIRD STARTER FOR GUINEAS.

WATER

Provide TWO one gallon waterers for EACH 100 CHICKS! **We know that we have always recommended giving chicks terramycin at day old. However, after much research, we ask that you do not give antibiotics to the chicks unless they are actually sick. We do recommend using a dispersible powder PRO-BIOTIC, such as PRO BIOS or comparable brand, in the water from day one instead of terramycin. This will promote good intestinal health in the chicks and will also help prevent pasty bottoms. Dosage: 1 teaspoon per gallon of water for a minimum of 5 days. Mix only one day's supply at a time.** DO NOT USE REN-O-ZAL TABLETS in water for any poultry. This is arsenic (poison) and will kill waterfowl and cause losses and/or leg problems (Especially with broiler chicks and turkey poults).

HEAT

Keep temperature at 90-95 degrees Fahrenheit under the brooder. The entire room does not need to be this warm. If using a heat lamp, it should be hung 12" to 14" (1 foot) above floor level. You will need about three (3) heat bulbs per 100 chicks. Do not use a regular light bulb as this will not be enough heat for the chicks. You can purchase a heat bulb at any hardware, feed or pet supply store. YOU MUST HAVE A THERMOMETER that is hung about 2" above the floor to accurately gauge the temperature of the chicks. Use shields around the heat source to prevent drafts and incorrect temperature readings.

FLOOR SPACE

Provide one (1) square foot per chick.

LITTER

Use dry, mold free bedding to keep the birds dry and comfortable. Slick surfaces, such as newspaper and tile flooring, can cause leg problems. This is especially true for turkeys, broilers and waterfowl.

BROILERS

If you have had a problem raising your broilers, they could be suffering from Ascites syndrome (heart failure).

There are two things you can do to prevent these problems:

*The next time you order, ask for Slow Broilers. This breed takes a little longer to mature and may not get as big as the Fast Broilers, for this reason, they do not have the heart and leg problems associated with the Fast Broilers.

*Use the same quality high protein feed, but limit the amount the birds consume. Beginning at about 10 days of age, remove all feed from their pen at around 4:00 p.m. and do not feed them again until 8:00 a.m. the following morning. This will slow their growth just enough to deter heart failure and leg trouble from the rapid weight gain.

TURKEYS

Baby turkey poults need a little help to get them started. Place a few baby chicks in with them to help them learn how to eat and drink.

SULFUR DRUGS

This class of drugs is generally used for coccidiosis and other specific problems. If you are using medicated starter, you will NOT need to use these drugs as they can be toxic if given too often or too strong. DO NOT EXCEED LABEL RECOMMENDATIONS! Even if your birds do contract coccidiosis, it generally does not show until 3 to 6 weeks of age.

OUR GUARANTEE – We guarantee our pullets to be 90% pullets. In the event that there are over 10% males, we will replace or refund the purchase price on that number over the 10%. Under no circumstances will we be liable for more than the original purchase price. WE DO NOT GUARANTEE ANY OF OUR BIRDS TO BE SHOW QUALITY. Our chicks are produced under supervision of the NPIP and accepted practices are used, however, we have no control over circumstances after they leave our hatchery. Therefore we assume no liability for their continuing health OR for the health of any other poultry or people with which they come in contact with. WE GUARANTEE LIVE DELIVERY ONLY! We will, at our determination, replace or refund the purchase price of all birds that arrive dead IN EXCESS OF THE FREE EXTRAS. PLEASE COUNT THE LIVE BIRDS, NOT THE DEAD ONES! All account credits must be used within one year from date of issue or the credit will be forfeited. ALL C.O.D. ORDERS ARE INSURED. Please file a claim with the post office for any losses. We accept all major Credit Cards, PayPal, Money Orders & Personal Checks. Orders will ship after payment is received, depending on availability of chicks. If events arise that orders must be moved, we will attempt to contact you by phone. A \$7.00 small order charge will apply to any order less than a full box (100-120). A quarter box charge of \$1.00 will apply to any order that contains less than one quarter box of any breed or sex. Charges will be reflected on your invoice depending on your account structure.

Minimum Totals needed to ship safely – Chickens 25, Bantams 30, Turkeys 20, Ducks 15, Geese 8, Guineas 25.