

— SINCE 1945 —



THE PROVEN BRAND

# POULTRY CARE ESSENTIALS

## CHICKS

- Days required to hatch chicks = 21 days
- Will eat an average of 1 lb feed per week



- Require a higher protein diet for growth, so feed a starter or starter/grower diet through 16-18 weeks of age



- Begin to offer grit at 2 weeks of age



- Don't offer supplemental grain until after 6 weeks of age

## LAYERS

- Begin to lay eggs at approximately 18-20 weeks of age



- Will lay an average of 250-300 eggs per year, depending on breed



- 4 lbs of feed is required to produce 12 eggs

- Will consume 1.5-1.75 lbs of layer feed per week, 2.5 lbs of oyster shell or limestone per year, and 1 lb of grit per year



## BROILERS

- Breeds raised for meat production; will grow and mature faster than layer breeds



- Will consume an average of 1 lbs feed per week



- Should be offered a starter/grower feed free-choice through 8 weeks of age

## WATER



- Mature birds will drink an average of 2 cups of water per day



- Temperature greatly affects water intake – a bird could easily drink 3x as much water on a hot day compared to a cool day

## SUPPLEMENTS

- Limestone = calcium supplement for egg production
- Oyster shell = calcium supplement for egg production
- Grit = helps grind and break down feed in gizzard of birds older than 2 weeks of age
- Scratch grains = supplemental energy; encourages natural feeding behaviors
- Poultry block = supplemental energy, protein, vitamins, minerals; encourages pecking behavior



## YOUR POULTRY-ESSENTIALS CHECKLIST TO GET YOU STARTED:

### FOR CHICKS:

- ☐ BROODER (SET UP IN A DRAFT-FREE AREA)
- ☐ HEAT LAMP OR BROODER PLATE
- ☐ BEDDING
- ☐ FEEDER
- ☐ WATERER
- ☐ THERMOMETER
- ☐ CLEANING SOLUTION AND BRUSHES
- ☐ QUALITY STARTER FEED

### FOR OLDER CHICKENS:

- ☐ COOP, INCLUDING ROOSTING PERCH AND NESTING BOXES
- ☐ FEEDER
- ☐ WATERER
- ☐ QUALITY FEED



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