

# Litter

Bedding materials of poultry is called litter.

**Litter materials:** Wood shavings, saw dust, rice husk, straw chopping, sugarcane baggane, Ash, sand etc.

## **Characteristics of litter materials:**

1. High absorbing capacity.
2. Low cost, but available.
3. Light in weight, soft and comfortable.
4. Small in size.
5. Less heat conductor.

## **Classification of litter:**

Litter is classified on the basis of following points:

### 1. Type of material is used-

- a) Organic litter- Wood shavings, saw dust, rice husk, straw chopping etc.
- b) Inorganic litter- Ash, sand etc.

### 2. Depth of litter-

- a) Shallow or normal litter- Commonly use for chicks or broilers. Usually 5-7 cm (2").
- b) Deep litter-Commonly use for layer. Usually 15-23 cm (6-8").

### 3. Duration of litter-

- a) Fresh litter: For two month.
- b) Built up litter: Six months or so old.

## Use of litter

It is a complete fertilizer. It contains 10 times higher nitrogen than cow dung. Cow dung Nitrogen is 0.25-0.30 % and litter is 2.5-3.0 %. Besides, it is a balance ration for fish. No supplementary feeds need for fish if use litter. Its response is good in shrimp cultivation. Litter helps to grow phyto-plankton and zoo-plankton in water. It can be used in crop field as organic manure and bio-gas can be produced from litter.

## Light

Light influences the physiological function of poultry. It plays an important role in growth and egg production of birds. Light through eye stimulates the pituitary gland of the brain and helps to release gonadotropic hormone which increases the activity of testis and ovary. Optimum light schedule increases 5-10 % egg production. It also increases feed intake and body growth of broilers. So we should follow proper light schedule in the poultry farms.

### Light schedule for layer:

Age of Chicken (Week)	Light in Hour (Daily)
0-4	24
5	22
6	20
7	18
8	16
9	14
9-18	12
19	13
20	14
21	15
21-72	16

### **Light Schedule for Broiler:**

Broiler needs light in maximum hours daily and dim light in dark hours. A 15 watt bulb is enough for 2000 broiler chicks.

Age of Broiler Chicks (Week)	Light in Hours (Daily)
0-3 days	24
4-7 days	23
2	22
3	21
4	20
5	19
6	18