

Management of chicken Flock

Different environmental, nutritional and bio-security concerned factors are considered under management of chicken. There are some common factors and some are exceptions.

Management Broiler

Meat type broiler needs sound management, because within very short period (8 wks) it gains market weight. Different environmental, nutritional and bio-security concerned management factors of broiler are followings-

1. Preparation of broiler room- cleaning and disinfection of poultry shed and equipment. Replacement of old litter by new fresh litter.
2. Purchase of broiler chicks- chicks must be purchased from healthy disease free hatchery. Packaging and transportation of chicks should be done carefully.
3. Brooding of chicks- starting temperature is 95° F and reducing 5° F in each week until 70° F is reached at the 6th week.
4. Control of high temperature- high summer temperature is a problem than winter. Temperature above 80° F results less feed intake, high water intake and slow body weight gain. Well cross ventilation, ice- air flow, spray of ice water, low stocking etc can relief birds from these adverse situations.
5. Light- light influences growth and body weight gains of broiler. So a proper light schedule should be used. Broiler needs light in maximum hours daily and dim light in dark hours. At an early stage a 15 watt bulb is enough for 200 sq ft floor area and from 3rd week a 60 watt red-bulb is enough for that space.
6. Ventilation of poultry house- It is an essential housing requirement for broilers. Every broiler room should have proper cross ventilation provision to remove toxic gas l (carbon-di-oxide, ammonia etc.) and supply of fresh oxygenated fresh air.
7. Litter- one type of bedding materials which is used to absorb moisture of poultry droppings. Saw dust, rice husk, wood shavings, chopping straws, dry tree leaves etc. are used to make litter. For broiler 2 inch depth fresh shallow litter is commonly used.
8. Humidity-high humidity is a problem for broiler management. It effects broiler growth. Optimum humidity for broiler is 60-70 %.
9. Stocking density- it means floor space per bird. Recommended floor space is 1.0 sq ft per bird,
10. Feeder and waterer space- recommended space requirement for broiler is shown below. Generally feeder space is twice than waterer.

<u>Age (wks)</u>	<u>Feeder space/bird</u>	<u>Waterer space/bird</u>
0-4	1.2 cm	0.6 cm
4-6	2.5cm	1.2 cm
11. Debeaking- since broilers are given very little floor space, often the habit of picking each other develops. So it may be done at 10 days of age.

12. Sexing- males broilers are heavier and intake more feed than female at any age. Broiler chicks may be sexed by vent color and rate of feathering. So it will be convenience if two sexes can be reared on separate rooms. It will be helpful for the farmer for feeding and early market of broiler males.

13. Stress factors- too hot and cold, parasites, diseases, noise, cannibalism, catching of bird's etc effect broiler production.

14. Feeding- balanced ration should be used. Growing broiler intakes 130g feed per day. Different broiler rations are as follows.

Nutrient requirement for Broiler:

	ME Kcal/kg	CP %	Ca%	P%	Nacl%
Broiler starter (0-2 wks) ration	3000	22	1.0	0.5	0.6
Broiler Grower (3-4 wks) ration	3100	21	1.0	0.5	0.6
Broiler Finisher (4-6 wks) ration	3200	19	1.0	0.5	0.6

15. Watering -broilers need huge drinking water. They intake water twice than feed. Standard number of waterers should be used in the broiler shed.

16. Vaccination- a proper vaccination schedule should be used to keep a healthy flock.

Broiler Vaccination Schedule

Age	Disease	Vaccine (Available different commercial name)	Route of vaccine
Day-old	Newcastle (ND)	ND Vaccine	Eye drop/Spray
6 day	Infectious Bronchitis (IB)	IB Vaccine	Eye drop/Spray
10-14 day	Gumboro or Infectious Bursal Disease (IBD)	Gumboro Vaccine	Drinking water
18-20 day	Gumbora (IBD)	Gumbora Vaccine	Drinking water
20-28 day	Newcastle (ND)	ND Vaccine	Drinking water

N.B.

- **Vaccine should be used accordingly to the instruction of the manufacturers.**
- **To ensure the potency of vaccine cool chain should be maintained strictly.**

17. Bio-security -A tool for keeping disease away from the poultry farm .Bio-security procedures should be combined with general prevention, disinfection, sanitation and strategic treatments of birds.

18. Marketing- generally broilers are marketed within 8 weeks of age. But there is a great demand of 1.0-1.5 kg broiler to the Bangladeshi customers. Most of the birds gain this weight at 4-5 weeks of age. During catching birds for marketing 2 hrs before all feeders and waterers should be removed. Catching, handling and shipment of broilers should be done cautiously.