

Feeder System

Manual and Auto feeder systems are practiced throughout the world. Regardless of which type of feeder system is used, feeder space is absolutely critical. Mash or crumbs should be supplied for the first 10 days of the chicks' life. Place feed in flat trays or on paper so that it is readily accessible to the chicks. Cover at least 25% of the floor with paper in case of control house. In case of small round electric brooder whole the area should be covered. So, feeder system is related with feeding and brooding system.

Gradually make the change to the main feeding system over the first 2–3 days as chicks begin to show interest in the main system. The type of feeders that should be used depends on age, climate and type of house and design of feeders. Insufficient feeding space will reduce growth rates and cause poor uniformity. All feeder systems should be calibrated to allow for sufficient feed volume with minimal waste. Medium and small farmers use manual plastic and metal feeders.

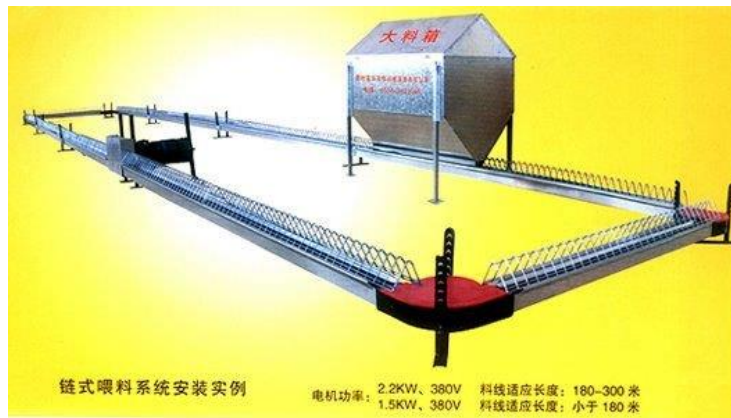
The main automated feeding systems available for broilers are:

- Pan feeders: 60-70 birds per 33 cm (12 in.) diameter pan are recommended
- Flat chain feeders: 40 birds per meter of track (12 birds per feet of track)
- Tube feeders: 70 birds per tube- 38 cm (15 in) diameter tube





Pan Feeders (60 – 70 b in 1ft dia pan)



Chain Feeders (40birds/meter)



Tube Feeders: 70 birds/tube (15 inch dia)

Adjust all types of feeders to ensure minimum loss of feed and optimum access for the birds. The base of the trough or pans should be level with the birds' backs. The height of pan and tube feeders may have to be adjusted individually. The height of chain feeder is adjustable by winch. Adjustment of feed depth is easier with chain feeder systems because only a single adjustment to the hopper is required. Feed is not immediately available when chain feeders are used.

Advantages of automated feeding systems:

- Save labor
- Birds can eat end feed from the feeders
- Daily feed supply is easy, feeders filled automatically and immediately available to birds
- Reduce feed wastage
- Improve efficiency of feed

Disadvantages of incorrect feeder adjustment:

- Wastage of feed
- Feed conversion estimates will become inaccurate
- The wastage feed is likely to carry a higher risk of bacterial contamination
- Uneven distribution of feeders can result lower performance and increased scratching damage
- Incidence of leg damage in chain feeder

Manual Plastic Feeders



Poultry Feeders

YGSL.2097-4



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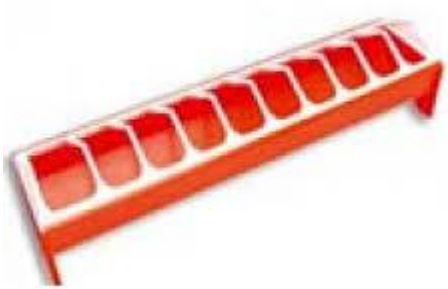
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Feeders and Drinkers



Feed Storage Bins

Feed storage bins should have a holding capacity equal to 5 days of feed consumption. To reduce the risk of mold and bacterial growth, it is essential that bins are watertight. It is recommended that two feed bins be used for each house. This allows for a rapid change in feed if it becomes necessary to medicate or meet feed withdrawal requirements. Bulk feed bins should be cleaned between flocks.

