

Selection of Male and Female for Breeder Flock

Breeder flock or parents are used for next generation. A poultry breeder who keeps poor male and female for breeding flock, it will definitely run at a loss, no matter whether balance ration, sound management and bio-security measures are adopted. Careful selection of birds pays poultry man to get a good foundation stock.

It is important to look for different features in chicks, growers, hens, and cocks. Select or buy new birds early in the day, as stress from lack of water, feed, and rest, will make most birds look rather sick and drowsy. Stress caused by lack of water and feed, can lower the bird's resistance to diseases and it may even die.

Healthy, newly hatched chicks should have the following features:

- Well developed body length and depth
- Standard weight
- Shiny, dry, thick, and colored down feathers
- Soft belly
- Clean, dry navel
- Thick shanks with spaced and straight toes
- Big, clear eyes
- Lively behavior

A healthy and good grower should have the following features:

- ✓ Appear healthy and lively
- ✓ Feathering shiny and normal for the breed
- ✓ Large size for the age
- ✓ Eyes clear and shiny
- ✓ Clean and dry beak and nostrils
- ✓ Clean feathers around the vent
- ✓ Straight legs and toes

A healthy and good Layer should have the following features:

- Should appear healthy and lively
- Feathering normal for the breed
- A red comb (brighter colored when in lay)
- Eyes clear and shiny
- Clean and dry beak and nostrils
- Clean feathers around the vent
- Straight legs and toes, with no signs of scaly legs
- Legs less colored in lay
- breast bone should not be sharp
- A big broad bottom

A healthy and good Cock should have the following features:

- Alert and protective nature
- show mating desire
- Shiny and normal plumage for the breed
- Clear and shiny eyes
- Clean and dry beak and nostrils
- Clean feathers around the vent
- Straight legs and toes with no signs of scaly legs
- Large size relative to the hens

Some basic common points of a profitable breeding flock are noted below:

1. Less culling of adult birds
2. Average egg production is high in the flock
3. Profit is high
4. Appearance of flock is improved from the standardization point of view
5. Late maturity of individual can be excluded
6. Good fertility and hatchability of egg
7. Less morbidity and mortality