





BROILER



GET IN TOUCH

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GETTING READY

Before the day old chicks arrive make sure everything is ready in the broiler house and that you have preplanned your vaccination programme.

KEY FEEDING TIPS

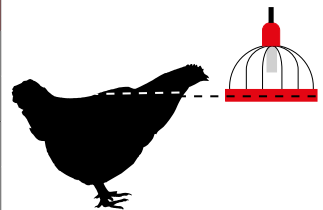
- Starter feed must be in crumble form to ensure the correct feed intakes whereas subsequent phases should be in pellet form.
- Birds should never be without feed, recommended intakes in the brochure are just a guideline.
- At first birds will eat feed from the chick paper on the floor, but make sure there is feed in the feeding troughs from day two so that the chicks learn to eat from them.
- Don't place feed or water directly under the heat source as this may cause the chicks to eat or drink less than they should.
- Select the most appropriate Epol broiler feed to suit your requirements from page 4, or speak to an Epol Technical Advisor.

HOUSING CONDITIONS: The house should be clean and thoroughly sanitised using appropriate disinfectants. Place bedding materials as follows:

LITTER TYPE	Wood Shavings	Dry Saw-dust	Chopped Straw	Sunflower Hulls
MIN. DEPTH OR VOLUME	2.5 cm	2.5 cm	1 kg/m ²	5 cm

CHECK FEEDING EQUIPMENT: Make sure there are enough feeders & drinkers for the number of chicks using the guidelines below.

	TYPE	QUANTITY
DRINKER	Bell	1 per 100 birds
	Nipple	12 birds per nipple
FEEDER	Pan	45 birds per pan
	Tube	70 birds per 40 cm tube feeder



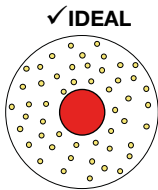
CHECK HEATING EQUIPMENT

- Ensure the heaters or brooders are in good working condition and at the correct height.
- Temperature management is essential for successful chicken rearing. Keep a record of daily minimum and maximum temperatures in the house.
- Start heating the house two days before the chicks arrive.

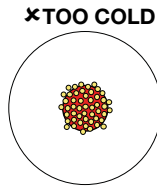
- Put feed and water out a day before the chicks are placed so that these are at room temperature when the chicks arrive.
- The floor temperature must be 32 °C at placement.
- Carefully regulate the temperature of the house especially for the first 14 days.

CHECK ON YOUR CHICKS

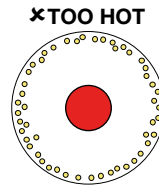
- The first chick check should be done 4 to 6 hours after placement.
 - Young chicks should be eating, drinking and running around. If not, investigate conditions that might result in a decline of these activities, such as floor temperature.
 - Chick behaviour is the best indicator of correct temperature so observe how the chicks spread out in the brooding area.



Chicks evenly spread. Noise level indicates contentment.



Chicks crowd towards brooder for warmth. Noisy, sound distressed.

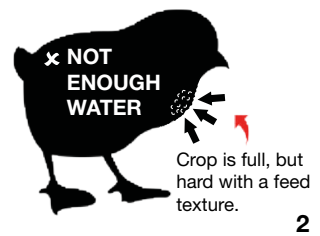
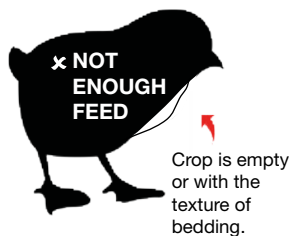
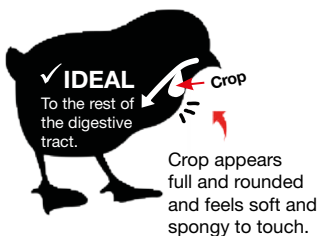


Chicks make no noise. They are panting with their heads and wings drooping. Chicks avoid the brooder.



Check for a draught, uneven light distribution or external noise.

- The second chick check should be performed the day after placement.
 - Early feed and water intake is critical for appetite development and hence future broiler performance, so assess the chicks crops to establish if they have found feed and water.
 - At least 95% of the chicks crops should appear round and feel full and soft indicating they have consumed feed and water.
 - Empty crops indicate the chicks have not consumed feed and water. Check the availability and quality (smell, taste) of the feed immediately.
 - Full but hard crops (with a feed texture) suggest that chicks have not consumed enough water, and water availability should be checked immediately.



- 7 day chick check
 - Chicks should weigh more than four times their starting weight.
 - If chicks have not grown to this extent investigate the cause. Review the process to date, including temperature, feed and water intake and other environmental conditions.
 - If you need help contact your **Epol** technical advisor.
- Everyday chick checks
 - Enter the house as quietly as possible so as not to disturb the birds whilst using all of your senses to evaluate if something is not ideal. Look, smell, feel and listen (see back page for more information).
 - Make sure the temperature in the house is correct using the table below as a guide.
 - Check if there are cold spots and/or draughts in the house.
 - Check if the ventilation is correct.
 - Check if the drinkers and feeders are at the correct height and if there are enough of them for the number of birds.
 - Check the bedding, it shouldn't be too wet or too dry.
 - Remove all the dead birds and record on the house card.

AGE (Days)	0/1	7	14	21	28	35	42
RELATIVE HUMIDITY (%)	30 – 50	40 – 60	50 – 60	50 – 60	50 – 65	50 – 70	50 – 70
TEMPERATURE (°C)	32 – 35	29 – 30	27 – 28	24 – 26	21 – 23	19 – 21	18

LIGHT PROGRAMME: Lighting is critical to get good performance from the broilers.

AGE (in days)	1	2 – 21*	22	23	24	Days before slaughter				
						5	4	3	2	1
HOURS DARKNESS	1	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
HOURS LIGHT	23	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23

*If birds are not at target weights, increase light hours.



KEY MEASUREMENTS TO RECORD THROUGHOUT THE CYCLE

- Chick weights at placement, at day 7, 14, 21, 28 and 35.
- Daily bird mortality and culls.
- Feed consumed daily.
- Water consumed daily.
- Daily minimum and maximum temperatures.
- Any treatment or medication given to the chickens.

EPOL BROILER FEED RANGES

Epol offers a wide selection of broiler feeds to suit the specific needs of different broiler farmers. The below table provides feeding guidelines across our feed ranges, which are also available in bags, but remember birds should never be without feed or water. Should your requirements differ, please contact your nearest mill and discuss your needs with the **Epol** technical advisor.

SUREGRO		Ideal for the emerging chicken farmer. Feed to maximise profit from live bird sales.				
FEEDING OPTIONS	PHASE V#	PRE STARTER	STARTER (V30821)	GROWER (V30820)	FINISHER (V30819)	MAINTENANCE (V30818)
2 PHASE	FEED PER BIRD	-	800 g	2.7 kg	-	Once birds are at required weight, feed until slaughter.
	DAYS OF AGE	-	0 – 18	19 – 42	-	
3 PHASE (Option 1)	FEED PER BIRD	-	800 g	1.8 kg	1 kg	
	DAYS OF AGE	-	0 – 18	19 – 35	36 – end of cycle	
3 PHASE (Option 2)	FEED PER BIRD	-	600 g	-	2.3 kg	
	DAYS OF AGE	-	0 – 15	-	16 – 32	
4 PHASE	FEED PER BIRD	-	600 g	1 kg	1.3 kg	
	DAYS OF AGE	-	0 – 15	16 – 24	25 – 32	
ECONOGRO		Ideal for the smaller commercial farmer who wants to optimise broiler production.				
FEEDING OPTIONS	PHASE V#	PRE STARTER	STARTER (V30822)	GROWER (V30826)	FINISHER (V30828)	POST FINISHER (V30831)
2 PHASE	FEED PER BIRD	-	800 g	2.7 kg	-	Once birds are at required weight, feed until slaughter.
	DAYS OF AGE	-	0 – 18	19 – 42	-	
3 PHASE (Option 1)	FEED PER BIRD	-	800 g	1.8 kg	1 kg	
	DAYS OF AGE	-	0 – 18	19 – 35	36 – slaughter	
3 PHASE (Option 2)	FEED PER BIRD	-	600 g	-	2.3 kg	
	DAYS OF AGE	-	0 – 15	-	16 – 32	
4 PHASE	FEED PER BIRD	-	600 g	1 kg	1.3 kg	
	DAYS OF AGE	-	0 – 15	16 – 24	25 – 32	

OPTIGRO		Designed for the broiler producer aiming for optimum performance.				
FEEDING OPTIONS	PHASE V#	PRE STARTER (V30832)	STARTER (V30823)	GROWER (V30825)	FINISHER (V30827)	POST FINISHER (V30830)
3 PHASE	FEED PER BIRD	-	600 g	-	2.3 kg	Min. of 600 g
	DAYS OF AGE	-	0 – 15	-	16 – 32	33 – slaughter
4 PHASE	FEED PER BIRD	-	600 g	1 kg	1.3 kg	Min. of 600 g
	DAYS OF AGE	-	0 – 15	16 – 24	25 – 32	33 – slaughter
5 PHASE	FEED PER BIRD	200 g	400 g	1 kg	1.3 kg	Min. of 600 g
	DAYS OF AGE	0 – 9	0 – 15	16 – 24	25 – 32	33 – slaughter

All products are registered under Act No. 36 of 1947.

WHAT TO CHECK WHEN STEPPING INTO A BROILER HOUSE?



Observe bird behaviour including distribution around the house, number of birds feeding, drinking and resting. Do the birds look healthy? What is their demeanour? Take note of their posture, alertness, eyes and gait. Also survey and take note of the environment including things like dust in the air and litter quality.



Handle the birds and check their crops to assess crop fill. Also examine their general condition. Check if the ventilation is correct. Is there a draft? What does the temperature of the house feel like?



Observe and test the water and feed quality.



Listen to the birds' vocalisation, breathing, and respiratory sounds. Listen to the mechanical sounds of fan bearings and feed augers.



Take note of smells in the environment such as ammonia levels. Is the air stale or stuffy?



CONTACT INFORMATION

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 Rustenburg (087) 365 0581
 Vaalwater (087) 820 4580
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FEED SHOPS:

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Customer Care Line: 086 177 7177
 WhatsApp: 087 359 0476



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