

GOALS FOR TEMPERATURE

It is extremely important to have a minimum and maximum thermometer to monitor temperature in your chicken house. Thermometers should be at chick level. Avoid air drafts directly onto the chicks.

The following are the ideal temperatures:

- Air (environmental) temperature: 32-33°C.
- Average floor temperature: 32°C.
- Directly underneath brooders: 40.5°C.

TEMPERATURE CHART

AGE - DAYS	RELATIVE HUMIDITY %	TEMPERATURE °C(F) FOR CHICKS FROM 30 WEEK OLD PARENT FLOCKS OR YOUNGER	TEMPERATURE °C(F) FOR CHICKS FROM 30 WEEK OLD PARENT FLOCKS OR OLDER
0	30 - 50	34 (93)	33(91)
7	40 - 60	31 (88)	30 (86)
14	40 - 60	27 (81)	27(81)
21	40 - 60	24 (75)	24 (75)
28	50 - 70	21 (70)	21 (70)
35	50 - 70	19 (66)	19 (66)
42	50 - 70	18 (64)	18 (64)

VENTILATION

- Chicks need good air quality for optimal performance.
- Ensure that there is a supply of fresh air at all times but be careful not to have a cold draft blowing into the house and reducing temperatures.
- Good maintenance of house curtains is critical as it will ensure better control of air movement.

EQUIPMENT NECESSARY:

1 x feed tray per 50 birds for the 10th first days.
1 x tubular feeder per 50 birds.
1 x 4 litre font per 50 birds for the first 7 days.
1 x 12 litre font per 60 birds.

Use good quality brooders to ensure recommended temperatures are obtained and maintained.

TARGET WEIGHTS

AGE	COBB WEIGHTS
7 days	175
14 days	487
21 days	932
28 days	1467
35 days	2049
42 days	2634
49 days	3177

BIOSECURITY

Biosecurity is a set of preventative measures designed to minimize the risk of introducing disease onto your farm. It is the cheapest, most effective means of disease control available.

Some key pointers:

- Access to your poultry houses should be controlled at all times to prevent diseases reaching your chickens. Keep visitors to the chicken houses at a minimum.
- Keep the chicken houses and areas surrounding them neat, clear and tidy to discourage rats from harbouring near them. For example: do not allow bushes to grow up around houses.
- Immediate and effective disposal of dead birds is essential. These should be disposed of as far from chicken houses as possible. For example: Mortality can be burnt or buried in a deep pit.
- Fresh good quality litter should be sourced for every flock. Care should be taken to not use mouldy, dusty or wet litter.
- At least 10 days before placing a new flock, the chicken house should be clean. It should be swept, washed with soap, rinsed and disinfected.
- When placing chicks make sure they cannot come into contact with droppings, feathers, dust and debris left over from previous flocks. Some disease-causing organisms may survive for long periods.

VACCINATION

VACCINE	AGE	LOCATION
Newcastle	1 day old	Done at Irvine's hatchery
IB	1 day old	Done at Irvine's hatchery
IBD (Vaxxitek)	1 day old	Done at Irvine's hatchery
Newcastle	18 days old	On farm

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(For further information on vaccination please contact Zimvet, contact number: 2921121/ 0772143001-3).



BROILER MANAGEMENT



Trust earned.



COBB

500 BROILERS

The Cobb 500 broilers are the most efficient broilers on the market; however, to maximize their potential it is important to have a good management programme in place. The following are some basic tips on getting the best performance from your Cobb 500 broilers.

COLLECTION OF BIRDS

- Birds should be collected from the supplier in the early hours of the day.
- Check the quality and quantity of the birds. Birds must be alert and active and without deformities.
- Take the birds directly to the poultry house. Don't stop (don't leave the birds inside the car) - they need water and feed as soon as possible.
- Care should be taken when transporting chicks to ensure minimum movement and heat stress. It is important to ensure good air movement over the birds during transportation and not to exceed temperatures of 25°.

PLACEMENT OF CHICKS

The chicken house should be cleaned and disinfected at least 10 days before the placement of birds.

- It is essential to monitor and maintain a good temperature (around 32°C) during the first week.
- Pre-heating the floor should be done a day before placing the chicks.
- Ensure all chicks have easy access to food and clean water at all times. No chick should need to move more than 1 metre to reach food or water.

OBJECTIVE OF BROODING

During the first 14 days a chick cannot properly control its own body temperature, hence it is essential to manage this for them. With good brooding you will accelerate the rate of growth of the chicks and improve the following:

- Development of the skeletal structure.
- Development of the cardiovascular system.
- Development of appetite and water consumption.
- Development of the health and immune system.
- Minimize stress.

Early consumption of feed is essential for a good start and the temperature of the floor is important to encourage chick activity and improve feed/water intake.

NB: Birds that are stressed do not start well and therefore DO NOT have time to recuperate and compensate later during the growing phase. The damage that is done during the first 2 weeks of life can manifest themselves in older birds or later in the flock.

BROODING

- Provide a good quality litter with a depth of 5 - 7cm.
- Keep a thermometer in the house to ensure you can monitor the temperature closely.
- After 6 hours, check the temperature of the chicks' legs by putting the chickens' feet against your cheek.
- After 24 hours, check that at least 95% of all chicks have a good crop fill. The crop should be full and soft, showing that the bird is getting adequate feed and water.
- Water should be changed a minimum of 4 times per day or as many times as is necessary.