BREEDER MANAGEMENT Hubbard

Successful rearing = more than 80% females within the flock receptive ("mature") at the time of the light stimulation

N.B.: Flock management to be adapted according to the local rearing conditions (house type, climate...).



- Ad libitum feeding during the first 2 weeks and until 3 weeks of age if the 2 weeks bodyweight target is not achieved.
- Combine the reduction of day length and light intensity in the first 2 weeks: 24 h light/60 lux → 8 h light/5-10 lux.
- Provide 3-5 cm/bird of perch space or 1-2 m² of platform/500 birds from 28 days to train the birds to jump up to the nests.
- Isolate the smallest chicks from 7 days. Grade the whole flock at or before 4 weeks and create weight group with at least 85% uniformity (CV = 7.5).

All the life of the flock:

- Assure good distribution of both feed and water.
- ➡ Maintain good litter quality.
- ➡ Meet the environmental and air quality requirements for a healthy flock.
- \blacktriangleright Weigh 3-5% of the flock and at least 100 birds per pen per week.

EQUIPEMENT AND STOCKING DENSITY DURING REARING	Stocking density *	6.0 birds/m²
	Brooders	1 for 500 chicks
	Watering - round	1 for 80 birds
	Watering - nipple	1 for 8-10 birds
	Feeding - chain	15 cm/bird (7.5m/100 birds)
	Feeding pans - round	1 for 12 birds
	Feeding pans - oval	1 for 13-14 birds
	Spin feeder	1 for 1500-1800 birds
	Feed distribution time	< 4 minutes

Within 4 weeks of grading or by 8 weeks at the latest, the pen with the small birds has to reach the 8 weeks bodyweight target to secure skeletal development which is almost completed at this age.

- Maintain 45-60 minutes eating time; adjust the feeding programme to achieve this (subject to local regulations).
- 6 Avoid disruption to growth and uniformity between 18-22 weeks, especially when changing feed type and doing vaccination. Assess body conformation and fatness on a regular basis.
- Give the first light stimulation only from 154 days. If the sexual maturity is poor (less than 80% females with a pelvic bone opening of more than 2 fingers (3 cm), poor fleshing score, small fat line) delay the stimulation according to the Efficiency Plus Management Guide.

* Stocking density may be subject to local regulations which must be observed at all times.



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