



The First 24 Hours

Before Chick Arrival



- > Provide chicks with biosecure, clean housing.
- > Arrange equipment to enable the chicks to access water and feed easily upon arrival.
- > Feed should be a sieved crumb with no dust.
- > Chicks should not have to move more than 1 m (3 ft) to find water or feed in the first 24 hours.
- > Position supplementary feeders and drinkers near the main feeding and drinking systems.
- > Pre-heat the house and stabilize temperature and humidity prior to chick arrival - achieve a floor temperature of 28-30°C (83-86°F).

Chick Arrival



- > Unload and place chicks quickly.
- > Ensure feed and water is available immediately.
- > Light intensity should be >20 lux to stimulate chick activity.
- > Allow chicks to settle for 1-2 hours then check behavior.

Environmental Targets



- > Chick placement targets:
 - Air temperature of 30°C (86°F) at chick height
 - Litter temperature of 28-30°C (83-86°F)
 - Relative humidity of 60%-70%
- > Use chick behavior to determine if temperature is correct.
- > Ventilation (without drafts) is required to provide fresh air and remove waste gas, excess moisture and heat.
- > Chicks are susceptible to wind chill effects, therefore the air speed should be less than 0.15 m/sec (30 ft/min).

Measures of Success



Crop fill

- > When chicks start to feed, they tend to eat a good meal. If chicks are feeding and drinking properly the crop fills with a mixture of feed and water. Gentle handling within the first 24 hours can indicate the chick's progress.
- > Check a sample of birds 2 hours after arrival to ensure all chicks have found feed and water.
- > Gently sample the crops of 30-40 chicks from 3 or 4 different places in the house.
- > Chick crop fill assessment:

Time of crop fill check after placement	Target crop fill (% of chicks with full crops)
2 hours	75%
12 hours	>85%
24 hours	>95%