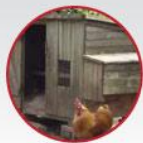


Nutrition Excellence!

July 2011

Creating a Comfortable Place for Your Flock



Spring is coming to a close, you've gotten your chicks and now they're growing. Soon, it will be time to move them into a larger space. Pullets and laying hens can be housed in many kinds of accommodations, but be sure to consider the following when you're thinking up your new flock's home.

The most important features are that the housing adequately provides both ventilation and insulation, it is dry, it provides protection from predators and it can be easily cleaned. Pullets should not be housed with layers, as older hens can transmit diseases to the younger birds.

SPACE REQUIREMENTS

Shown in the chart below are recommended space allotments for different birds at different ages. Space requirements increase with age and size and can be affected by temperature (for instance, the birds need more space when hot) and the availability of outdoor runs.

Type/Age	Square feet of coop floor space per bird
Hatch to 6 weeks	2.0 to 3.0
6 to 20 weeks	6.0 to 10
Roasters (12 to 20 weeks)	2.0 to 3.0
Mature birds (5 months and older*)	
Brown Egg Layers	3.0 to 3.5
White Egg Layers	2.5 to 3.0
Turkeys	4.0 to 5.0
Ducks (yarded)	4.0
Geese (yarded)	5.0

**It is assumed that older birds also have some access to an outdoor pen or yard. If not, allow for twice as much space inside the coop.*

ROOSTS

Floor housing rather than cage housing is the most common housing system for small flocks. Be sure to refer to the spacing chart above when planning your housing system. Roosts can be provided to help concentrate droppings for easier cleanup, but they are not appropriate for waterfowl or meat birds because of the tendency for these birds to develop breast blisters. Start with low perches when the birds are young to accustom them to using the roosts. Roosts make it much easier to catch birds, especially after they have gone to sleep for the night!

NESTS

Nests can be built or purchased. Hens will take turns using them, so you will need one nest for every four or five hens. A simple box one foot square is adequate. Hens will also use a long, dark nest that has a single entrance and can accommodate four to five hens at once. A perch in front and a 3-inch board across the bottom of the front make access easy for the birds and prevent the eggs from rolling out. Use a thick layer of straw or other litter to cushion the eggs and help keep them clean and unbroken (broken eggs are a major cause of egg-eating behavior in chickens). Keep the nests up off the floor in the darkest corner of the house. Be sure that all the nest areas have a uniform environment. If the hens deem that one nest is preferable to the others, they will all try to use that nest, thereby causing themselves stress which can lead to other issues such as egg breakage and egg-eating.

A PROUD SUPPLIER OF PURINA FEEDS

WFS • PO Box 68 • Truman, MN 56088

507.776.2831 • www.wfsag.com

Find us on Facebook: [Facebook.com/WFS.COOP](https://www.facebook.com/WFS.COOP)



Purina Mills