

Commentary

A general view on poultry layer farming

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DESCRIPTION

Poultry egg and meat contains high quality of proteins, minerals and vitamins to balance the human diet. High egg production and high feed conversion are available in commercial layer. In the last three decades, India has made considerable progress in egg production. Proper quality chicks, equipments, vaccines and medicines are available in poultry layer farming. At the moment, per capita egg availability is 41 eggs. To balance the common vegetarian diet, according to ICMR, 182 eggs per person per year are required.

For poultry housing, well raised land for poultry sheds should be selected. Select a land with hard rock or murrum is more suitable. Water logging and flooding near the sheds should be avoided. Prepare separate sheds for both growers and layers for poultry housing. Provide adequate water, electricity, an approach road, chicks, feed, veterinary assistance, and proximity to a market for the selling of cull birds and eggs. Before starting a farm should know some knowledge regarding layer farming. 1. Provide sufficient floor space per bird. 2. Construct sheds in such a way that the end walls face East-West direction and the side walls face North-South direction, so that rain water will not enter the sheds. 3. Provide both strong roof flooring and hard flooring. 4. Raise base of the shed at least one ft above the outside ground level, To avoid entry of rainwater inside the shed provide 3 to 4 feet overhang of the

roof to avoid entry of rainwater inside the shed. 5. Provide at least 50 feet distance between shed to shed in the same sector and about 150 ft. between growing and laying sector. 6. Provide sufficient light and ventilation and comfortable housing conditions during all seasons i.e. cool in summer and hot in winter vice versa. Sheds should be constructed in such a way that predators will not enter inside the shed. Avoid entry of rats by constructing rat proof civil structures. Build sheds in such a way that predators won't be able to get inside. By designing rat-proof civil constructions, you can keep rats out. Keep the shed clean and clear of flies, mosquitoes and other insects. The dirty litter material and manure should be removed after each batch of growers/culled birds is disposed of, and the walls and floors should be cleaned, white washed with lime, and disinfected with 0.5% malathion or DDT pesticide spray. Always use dry and clean litter material if using a deep litter system (sawdust, paddy husk, etc.). Spread a 4-inch layer of litter on the floor, maintain brooding, feeding, and watering apparatus clean and disinfected, and then introduce chicks to the house. The litter should be maintained loose and dry at all times. Twice a week, give the litter a good stir. Remove any damp litter/droppings, etc., and replace with fresh/clean dry litter. If a cage system is used, make sure to put lime powder or a 10% Malathion spray on the droppings twice a month to keep flies at bay. After 6 months, the droppings beneath the cage can be removed.

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