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PRODUCTION**

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COMMON TECHNICAL TERMS IN POULTRY PRODUCTION

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POULTRY

The term "Poultry" indicates all domesticated species of birds like chicken, duck, emu, geese, guinea fowl, ostrich, pea fowl, pheasant, pigeon, quail and turkey. Commercial poultry production in India is only 40 years old, although the poultry raising dates back to pre-historic times. Hybrid layer strains were introduced into India in 1955 and broiler strains in 1961.

Poultry is one of the fastest growing segments of livestock/ agriculture industry and contributes a major share in terms of protein supplementation from eggs & meat. At present, the poultry industry is vibrant and self-reliant. In spite of global melt down the Poultry Industry in India is growing and will continue to grow as the billion odd population has just begin relishing the taste and importance of nutritional value of chicken and eggs. With 10 kg of similar feed in each case, chicken (both meat & egg type) gives more protein than pig, cow (milk) and sheep. Automation: A process or system which operates by mechanical or electronic means which replaces the human efforts and decisions. Though the automation is very expensive but its need is very much essential in modern commercial poultry farming on a large scale.



Beak trimming using debeaker

Beak trimming (Debeaking):

Removal of a part of upper and lower mandible (beak) by a sharp knife and cauterizing by a soldering rod in order to minimize feed wastage and to reduce the risk of feather pecking/cannibalism. This debeaking is very common in practical poultry farming.



Bill: The beak of duck or geese. It is being used for picking up of feed particles and also for self defence.



BILL

Breed: A group of birds within a species having similar characteristics and are able to produce off springs with similar characteristics.

Broiler (Fryer): Immature young chicken of either sex with tender meat, soft, pliable, smooth textured skin and flexible breast bone cartilage of about 6 weeks of age.

Brood: A group of (baby) chicks from one hatch

Group of day-old chicks



Brooder

Brooder: A metallic or wooden equipment used for artificial brooding of young chicks by supplying the necessary heat.

Brooder chick: A young chick of 0 to 8 weeks of age.

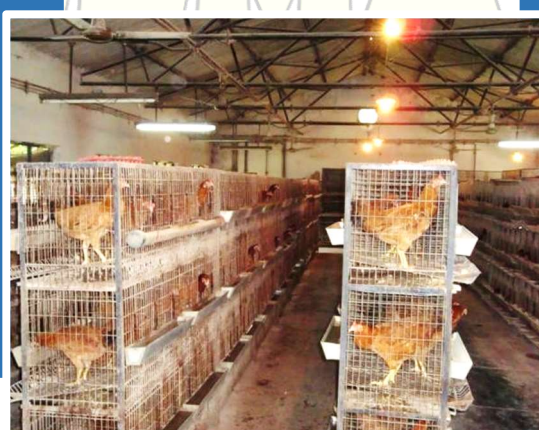
Broodiness: is a condition in which hen stops laying and show tendency to sit on eggs to hatch them.

Broody hen: A hen which tends to sit on the egg to hatch them.

Cages: A system of housing poultry made up of steel and welded wire netting in horizontal.



California Cages



Battery Cages

Candling: is the process of visual examination of an intact egg against a light emerging through an aperture (opening) to determine the interior quality, shell soundness or stage of embryonic development.

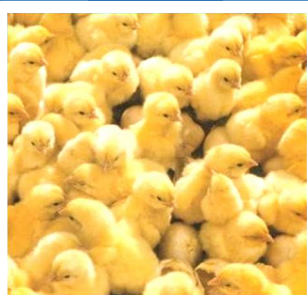


Mass candling of eggs

Cannibalism: is the vice (Bad habit) that may occur in chickens of all ages.

Capon: An young male bird whose testicles have been removed and usually below 8 to 10 months of age

Chicks



Comb



Deep litter system of rearing

Chick: A young one of poultry from day old to seven or eight weeks of age.

Chicken: The most widely domesticated fowl.

CLFMA: means Compounded Livestock Feed Manufacturers Association of India, which enrolls many feed manufacturing companies

Clutch: Eggs laid by a hen on consecutive days without a break.

Coccidiosis: A disease caused by coccidia (micro-organism) with symptoms of anaemia, blood-mixed dysentery and death.

Cock (Rooster): A matured male chicken of above 20 weeks of age usually kept for breeding.

Cockerel: An immature young male fowl from 5 to 8 months of age and reared for meat purpose.

Comb: A fleshy protuberance (swelling) on the top of the fowl's head varying in size and shape.

Culling: Removal of unproductive or undesirable birds from the flock which when judged from their physical characteristics are found to lack the qualities for which they were reared.

Deep litter: Intensive type of rearing birds on floor covered with bedding material for the birds like wood shavings, groundnut hulls, paddy husk etc.

Delouse: To eradicate lice (ectoparasite irritating to growing birds and affecting feed consumption and egg production) from bird.

Desi fowl: Fowl indigenous to India; Not a pure breed. Exhibits great variation in size, shape, colour and conformation. Best mother and ideal sitter (Broody in nature). Desi fowls are preferable for opting of a backyard poultry farm on a small scale by land less, marginal farmers.



Deworming: Act of removing or killing intestinal parasites (tapeworms) through drug. **Disinfection:** is the method of reducing the amount of infection in flocks after an outbreak. This is accomplished by mechanical, physical or chemical means.

Downtime: Period between removal of one batch and introduction of new batch of birds in the shed (or) is the period of time between two batches when the house is depopulated, disinfected, kept closed and empty.

Drake: Adult male duck

Dressed bird: A slaughtered bird with feathers, feet and head removed. In other words, a ready-to-cook chicken.

Dressing percentage: Dressed weight divided by live weight of the bird multiplied by one hundred.

$$\text{Dressing \%} = \frac{\text{Dressed weight in kg} \times 100}{\text{Live weight in kg}}$$

Dubbing: Process of removal of comb and wattles of large combed males to prevent frost-bite and to enhance fertility. It is done on day one of bird's life with the help of scissors.

Duckling: Young one of the duck

Eaves: The point at which the roof project out from the side of the building.

Egg tooth: Small horny protrusion on the tip of chick's beak used to pip the egg shell during hatching. It drops off soon after chick hatches out of egg.

Feed Conversion Ratio (FCR): A ratio expressed in terms of kg feed consumed by the bird divided by kg body weight gain in

case of broiler and kg egg weight or dozen eggs laid in case of layers.

Fertility: refers to capacity to reproduce. It is the factor which determines the successful offspring that may be obtained from a given number of eggs

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Fertility per cent: Expressed as % of fertile eggs divided by total number of eggs set and multiplied by one hundred.

Filler flats: A card board or plastic made tray used for collection, storage and transport of eggs. Thirty eggs can be kept in one filler flat.

Flock: A group of birds or animals of one kind, esp. birds or sheep

Franchise: An agreement between a breeding organization, breeder and hatchery.

Fumigation: A method of disinfection using disinfecting gases especially Formaldehyde gas produced by mixing formalin and potassium permanganate. Normally used in hatcheries and in poultry farms where there is a severe disease problem.

Gosling: Young one of the Goose

Gander: Adult male goose

Green Duck: is a duckling, which is grown rapidly and marketed from 9 to 16 weeks of age for meat.

Grower: Pullets between 9 to 20 weeks of age or at the point of lay.



Hatchability: may be defined as % of fertile eggs hatched (or) % of chicks hatched from all eggs placed in the incubator.

Hatcher: A machine or that portion of incubator that is used for the last 2 or 3 days of incubation and hatching of eggs. No turning of the egg is required.

Hatchery: A building equipped with incubators used for hatching of day old chicks from fertile eggs through artificial incubation.

Hen: A matured female chicken of usually over 20 weeks old, and raised for egg production purposes.

Hen-day-production: This is arrived by dividing total eggs laid in the season by the average number of birds in the house.

Hen-housed-average: This is arrived at by dividing the total number of eggs laid in the season by the number of birds originally placed in the house. No deductions are made for any losses from the flocks.

Hover: An equipment with incandescent bulbs for heating element to keep chicks warm.

Incubate: To maintain favourable condition for developing and hatching fertile eggs. **Incubation:** is the act of bringing an egg to hatching i.e. providing suitable warmth, humidity and turning movement to facilitate growth and development of embryo inside the egg.

Incubation period: is the period between setting and hatching out of eggs which vary from species to species.

Incubator: A machine developed to provide the proper environment for the

development of the fertile egg and embryo into a chick or poult.

Keet: Young one of the Guinea fowl

Layer: A mature female fowl which has been kept for egg-laying purpose (21-72 weeks of age) especially those are in current production (or) an adult commercial chicken of 21 – 72 weeks of age and produces most of the eggs for consumption.

Leeward: A side sheltered from the wind.

Litter: An absorbent bedding material used to cover the floor in poultry houses.

Live weight: A term associated with the meat bird to indicate its weight before slaughter.

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Overhang: Outward projection of the roof at eaves.

Oviparous: Producing offspring from egg that hatch outside the body.

Pause: Any cessation (stoppage) of egg laying for a period of 7 days or more is called pause.

Pen: An enclosed area where birds are housed.

Photo-period: A period of illumination by both natural and artificial means.

Pipping: The act of pecking the shell and shell membranes by the chick in order to break and hatch out of the shell.

Poult: After hatching, a young turkey of either sex that is between one day and a couple weeks old.

Poultry: Although the term poultry is very often used as synonymous to chicken, it includes a number of avian species such as chicken, duck, geese, guinea fowl, quail, turkey, etc. that are domesticated for economic (egg or meat) purpose.

Poultry management: The science and art of organization and operation of poultry farms to obtain the maximum returns or constant income.

Poultry Science: is the study of principles and practices involved in the production and marketing of poultry and poultry products.

Pullet: An young female chicken of 9 to 20 weeks of age and that has not yet started to lay eggs.

Ration: A measured amount of feed allowed to a bird during a particular period of time. **Roaster:** A broiler grown up to the age of 9-11 weeks with a body weight of 2.5 to 3.0 kg. **Shank:** Legs

Snood: A fleshy protuberance (swelling) hanging from the base of the beak in turkeys or a fleshy wrinkled fold of skin that hangs down over a turkey's beak.