

## TEMPERATURE

**Chicks:** Keep the temperature at 90-95°F the first few days. Gradually reduce the temperature about 5° each week until 70°F is reached. Brooder temperatures should be taken at the edge of the hover, at chick height. Minimum room temperature during the first 2 weeks should be 65-70°F. Regardless of the temperature, chick behavior should be used as a guide in selecting the right brooding temperature. If chicks are bunched up under the hover, they are too cold. If all the chicks are at the edge of the brooder guard, they are too hot. Comfortable chicks will be spread out, with an open spot directly under the heater.

**Layers:** Can tolerate a rather wide range of temperature without affecting egg production. Laying house temperatures below 55-60°F increase the amount of feed required to produce a dozen eggs. A rule of thumb is: for each 10°F decrease in temperature, feed consumption increases 5%. (A well-insulated laying house will save feed during the colder months.)

**Game Birds:** Temperature should be around 95°F during the first week, lower temperature 5° each week until the outside temperature is reached.

## STARTING CHICKS

- Facilities should be clean, dry, and free from drafts, with at least 2 inches of suitable litter on the floor.
- Be sure the heat source (brooder, heat lamps, etc.) is working. Heat lamps should be at about 20 inches above chicks, and raised weekly as the birds grow.
- Be sure chicks are drinking water BEFORE feed is provided.  
**NEVER allow chicks to run out of water!**
- Keep water clean!
- Chicks should have feed at all times. The first 2 or 3 days some feed may be placed in paper plates or in box lids in addition to feeders.
- If "pasting up" is a problem, top-dress a small amount of oatmeal.

Whether you're raising poultry for fresh eggs or nutritious meat, for profit, for competition, or just for fun, the foundation for success is your reliable, responsible care and first-quality nutrition. For that, you can put your trust in Kent Nutrition Group and the Blue Seal® brand. For generations, it has been our mission to provide superior nutrition at an honest value. Like you, we know that a nutrient-rich diet is the cornerstone of a healthy and productive flock. Home Fresh® poultry feeds are formulated using superior ingredients and research-proven science in a "locked" formula to provide sound rations for your birds. Enrich your pursuit of wholesome food for your family with Home Fresh® poultry products and take comfort in knowing your birds will grow healthy and strong with the support of our high-quality, nutritionally balanced feeds.

# HOME FRESH®

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### Starter - with Amprolium

A complete, balanced, 20% protein, high-energy grain diet designed specifically for starting and developing pullets and broilers.

Protein - 20% | Fat - 3% | Fiber - 4%



**Extra Egg** - A high-energy, calcium-fortified grain diet formulated specifically to support egg production in layers.

Protein - 16% | Fat - 3% | Fiber - 4%



**Grow & Show** - Complete balanced 15% protein diet designed for growing replacement chickens (pullets); and for growing, showing or maintaining ducks, geese, and game birds.

Protein - 15% | Fat - 3% | Fiber - 5%



**Finish** - An 18% protein, high-energy, grain-based diet designed for finishing broilers, capons, roasters, turkeys, ducks, and geese; and to provide extra finish and shine to show birds.

Protein - 18% | Fat - 4.5% | Fiber - 5%



**Multi-Flock** - Designed to meet the specific life-stage nutritional needs for your entire flock.

\***Game Starter:** Protein - 28% | Fat - 4.25% | Fiber - 4%

\***Starter/Grower:** Protein - 22% | Fat - 3.5% | Fiber - 4%

**Breeder:** Protein - 18% | Fat - 3% | Fiber - 4%

(\*Great option for non-medicated starter feed.)



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FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOUR FAMILY

Enrich your wholesome tradition with Home Fresh® poultry products and take comfort in knowing your birds will grow healthy and strong with our high-quality and nutritionally balanced poultry feeds.

## FLOOR SPACE

**Chicks:** Allow one square foot of brooder space per chick through 8 weeks of age and 1½ square feet from 8 through 18 weeks of age. Crowding increases death loss.

**Layers:** Allow 3 to 4 square feet per bird.

**Game Birds:** Floor pens should be covered with 3 inches of clean, dry litter. Cover litter with paper or other suitable material for the first week of the chick's life.

## FEEDER SPACE

**Chicks:** Provide one inch of feeder space per chick through week 2; two inches per chick from 3 to 7 weeks; three inches from 8 to 18 weeks of age. A 20-pound hanging feeder should be adequate for 50 chicks. Adjust height of feeders so all birds can eat easily without wasting feed. The lip of the trough should be even with the bird's back.

**Layers:** Provide 4 inches of feeder space per bird. For larger hanging feeders (40 to 45 pounds), allow 6 feeders per 100 birds. Adjust feeder height as needed.

## WATER

**Chicks (per 50 chicks):** Provide 10 inches of trough space or one 1-gallon fountain day 1 through 2 weeks of age. Provide 18 inches of trough space or two 1-gallon fountains for weeks 3 through 12. Always provide plenty of clean, fresh water, especially when starting baby chicks.

**Pullets and Layers:** Provide one 4-gallon gravity flow waterer or 4 linear feet of trough-type waterer for 50 pullets or layers from 12 weeks to production. No bird should be more than 15 feet from a waterer.

**Game Birds:** Provide two 1-gallon water fountains per 100 chicks. As chicks grow the number of feeders and water fountains should be increased.

## BROODER SPACE

**Chicks:** Allow a minimum of 7 square inches of space under the hover for each chick. For electric brooders, up to 10 square inches is recommended. One 250-watt heat lamp is adequate for 50 chicks, but two is recommended. Chilling, overheating, overcrowding, and disease are the greatest risks in the brooder. Use brooder guards (about 18 inches high) to keep chicks from piling up in dark, cold corners. These can be made from corrugated cardboard, heavy roofing paper, hardware

cloth or 1-inch mesh chick netting. The guard should encircle the brooder 24 to 30 inches from the edge of the hover. Gradually expand the guard and remove it at 1 to 2 weeks.

**Game Birds:** Provide 7 square inches of hover space per pheasant and 5 square inches per quail. A brooder guard should be used. Typically an 18-inch roll of cardboard or hardware cloth is used.

## LITTER

**Chicks and Pullets:** Floors should be covered with at least 2 inches of suitable litter. Ground corn cobs, shavings, peat moss, chopped straw, and commercial litters are common. Litter should be clean, dry, free of dust, absorbent, and free of injurious material. Stir litter frequently and remove damp and/or caked litter. Add fresh litter as needed.

**Layers:** Provide at least 4 inches of suitable litter at housing.

**Game Birds:** Provide 2 inches of clean absorbent litter to keep ammonia release to a minimum. Pine shavings and chopped straw are the two most common forms.

## NESTS

Provide one nest for each 4 to 5 hens. In the case of community nests, provide 1 square foot for each 4 to 5 hens.

## LIGHT

**Broilers or Fryers:** Provide at least 23 hours of continuous light (10-watt incandescent bulb per 200 square feet of floor space) with 1 hour of darkness\*. The dark hour helps condition the birds to darkness in order to prevent piling up and suffocation in the event of a power failure.

**Pullets (kept for layers):** Start pullets on 2 days of continuous light (10-watt incandescent bulb per 100 square feet). From 3 to 21 days, gradually reduce day length to 15–16 hours. From 3 to 18 weeks, maintain a constant day length of 10–12 hours or that dictated by natural day length.

**Layers:** Artificial light will help maintain egg production during the fall and winter. The use of artificial lights may begin when the pullets are placed in the laying house. Increase the amount of light 30 minutes per week to 15–16 hours per day.

**Game Birds:** Provide at least 14 hours of light beginning 30 days before breeding season. Use a 25-watt incandescent bulb per 100 square foot of floor space.

*\*Your chick supplier may recommend a specific light program for your strain of bird.*