

Poultry



Useful information

Some Guidance Notes on the Rearing and Laying Management of Breeding Stock

Egg Laying Strains

For commercial modern hybrid layer strains, suitable feeds should be offered in accordance with the breed suppliers manual recommendation. Feeding should normally be ad-libitum, in order to grow birds to a pre-defined profile from day old to point of lay. In this scenario, achievement of a minimum body weight at the commencement of laying is the target.

Meat Type Strains

For heavy poultry, bred for rapid growth rate and high meat yield, it is usually preferable to manage growth rate in the rearing period, and sometimes throughout lay, in order to optimize breeding performance. As a general rule, birds should be reared to a weight equating to approximately 80% of a full fed individual. Please seek guidance on suitable means of achieving this target whilst maintaining health and welfare of the stock.

Typical Feed Consumption Guidelines	
Typical 2kg mature Laying Hen	120g to 130g per bird per day
Typical 3kg mature Laying Meat Strain Duck	200g to 250g per bird per day
Typical 2kg mature Laying Egg Strain Duck	130g to 150g per bird per day
Typical 5kg mature Traditional Turkey Hen	150g to 200g per bird per day
Typical 10kg mature Large Strain Turkey Hen	280g to 320g per bird per day
Typical 1.8kg mature Guinea Fowl	100g to 120g per bird per day

Feed consumption figures are presented for guidance only and will be dependent upon environmental factors, management techniques and access to other food sources.



In this article, we are looking at the options available to provide the pullet with good immunity against coccidiosis on the laying site.

This is of great importance to the free range flock as, unlike their cage sisters, they are at more risk of exposure to the coccidial parasite on the laying farm.

Why do we worry about coccidia?

Coccidia are protozoal parasites which, when swallowed by the bird invade and multiply in the cells lining the gut wall.

There are eight strains of coccidial parasite which can affect laying chickens.

When birds are exposed to low levels of coccidia, there is little damage to the intestine and the bird responds to the presence of the coccidia in the intestine by developing resistance.

In an ideal world, birds would be naturally exposed to a low level of coccidia allowing the flock to acquire immunity by “trickle” infection without developing any disease problems – a “balance” between the bird and the parasite.

However, in reality, even in relatively small flocks, because of the concentration of birds in rearing and laying houses and the persistence of this parasite in the environment, in certain circumstances birds can be exposed to higher levels of parasite and show clinical signs of coccidiosis which may result in a variety of problems including poor weight gain and unevenness within the flock. If flocks are affected with coccidiosis in lay, this can cause mortality, loss of condition and depression of egg production with deterioration in egg quality.

There can also be significant mortality in severe coccidiosis outbreaks in the rearing stage as the younger the bird, the more vulnerable it is to this parasite. Poor control of coccidiosis in the rearing stage can also lead to very uneven flocks at point of lay.

Options for Coccidiosis Control

1. Feed Medication

The aim with feed medication during rear is to allow limited exposure to the parasite by providing an anti-coccidial drug in the feed. The risk of coccidia reaching levels at which they will damage the intestine is minimised.

Various drugs can be used in the feed during rear to prevent coccidiosis. Lasalocid (Avatec) is one of the more commonly used medications. Feed manufacturers normally use a step down programme, starting with a higher dose of drug in the starter ration, for example to around 6 weeks, then a reduced dose between 7 and 12 weeks. Some farmers may use a triple step down programme starting with a high level for a shorter period in the starter and then two further reductions during the rearing period. Usually the medication is withdrawn from the feed between 2 and 4 weeks before the birds are moved to the laying site.

Advantages of Feed Medication

- It is easy to administer and an inexpensive means of control.
- This method can provide good protection to the pullet on the rearing site but also, as it allows trickle exposure, the pullet can develop its own good immunity to protect the bird on the laying site.

What are the Disadvantages of Feed Medication?

- Birds may not necessarily be exposed to all the strains of coccidia they may meet on the laying site (more of a problem now as biosecurity on rearing sites is high).
- Method depends on birds eating well. Any other disease or feed quality problem which reduces feed intake will prevent the right intake of anti-coccidial.
- For organic pullets, use of a “drug” in the feed may be considered not acceptable.

2. Control by Strategic Medication via Water during the Rearing Period

This system relies on strategic treatment with anti-coccidial administered via drinking water. This might be given as a routine treatment at various stages when coccidial challenge is expected to be high or used as an intervention if birds show signs of coccidiosis and require treatment.

This approach is probably only suitable for very small groups of birds.

3. Vaccination

Birds can be vaccinated during the first week of life with a vaccine containing all the strains of coccidia they are likely to meet on the rearing or laying farm but in the form of non pathogenic strains which stimulate development of immunity in the birds without causing significant damage to the intestines.

Vaccine is usually administered via drinking water or, in some cases, by spraying onto feed at day old. It is thought in the future that it may be possible to administer this vaccine by spray at the hatchery.

In certain circumstances, birds have been vaccinated later in life, either prior to or shortly after arrival on the laying site. Although this may be of benefit if heavy challenge is anticipated on the laying flock, the product is not licenced for use in this way.

Advantages of Vaccination

- If properly administered, birds will have been exposed to all the strains of coccidia they are likely to meet and should be immune to challenge, both on the rearing and the laying site.

Disadvantages of Vaccination

- Likely to be more expensive than the previous two methods.
- Birds must get off to a good start to be capable of responding properly to vaccination.
- Administration of vaccine is very critical. If vaccine is not administered properly, birds will not fully respond.
- There is a risk if feed containing an anti-coccidial is fed inadvertently to vaccinated flocks, this may reduce the efficacy of the vaccine and birds may not be protected.
- Depending on where your pullets are being reared, vaccination may not be an option as if the majority of birds on site are receiving medicated feed to control coccidiosis, it may be impractical for the pullet rearer to use vaccine.

If you have experienced problems with outbreaks of coccidiosis, either on the rearing or laying site, the use of an anti-coccidial disinfectant as part of the terminal cleaning and disinfection programme is recommended to reduce the risk to subsequent flocks.

Poultry Breeder

Code: 20kg - P05357BF

Farmgate

A highly palatable, general purpose diet offering the flexibility of feeding both modern hybrids and rare breeds. The diet is fortified with calcium and other important minerals required for the production of robust egg shells. Liberally supplemented with all the necessary vitamins and trace minerals known to assist in the production of viable embryos and vigorous hatchlings.

Feeding Guide

Can be fed from point of lay and all the way throughout the breeding cycle.

Protein 16.0%

Additional Information

Store Farmgate feed in a cool dry place. Fresh, clean water should be available to the birds at all times.



Specialist Poultry Breeder

Code: 20kg - 76145

Allen & Page

A high protein, high energy pellet for breeding birds. Excellent for rare breeds – especially good for hybrids. Has high levels of vitamins/trace minerals/amino acids for improved fertility and egg quality.

Contains herbs known to assist breeding. Contains a blend of oils (soya, linseed and maize) to ensure a balance of omega 3 & 6 oils (good for plumage).

Oil 4.25% Protein 18.5% Fibre 3.5%

- ALL SMALL HOLDER POULTRY FEEDS ARE COCCIDIOSTAT FREE.
- All our poultry pellets are small enough (2.5mm diameter) for bantams.
- Fresh water and poultry grit should be available at all times.



Baby Chick Crumbs

Code: 5kg - 19097 20kg - 76014

Allen & Page

Available in 20kg and 5kg bags.

Feed to young chicks from as soon after hatching as possible. Should be fed through until the chicks are 6-8 weeks old, and can be fed on a free access basis. In the week before changing to Poultry Grower Pellets, it is preferable to mix the crumbs and the pellets to ensure a gradual changeover. May also be fed to ducks or geese in an emergency (i.e. when Goose/Duck Starter Crumbs are unavailable) though in general you should be very careful about feeding chick crumbs to ducks as some companies' products contain an anti-coccidiostat which can be harmful to them.

Oil 4.0% Protein 17.5% Fibre 4.0%

- ALL SMALL HOLDER POULTRY FEEDS ARE COCCIDIOSTAT FREE.
- All our poultry pellets are small enough (2.5mm diameter) for bantams.
- Fresh water and poultry grit should be available at all times.



Chick Crumbs ASC

Code: 20kg - P04239BF

Farmgate

A flexible, highly nutritious and palatable starter diet, designed to be fed to either laying hen replacements or meat birds calling for a slower steady start.

Feeding Guide

For laying hen replacements feed from day old up to 6 weeks of age. For meat type chicken feed for the first 4 weeks.

Follow on rearing feed: Following Farmgate Chick Crumbs ACS in the recommended feeding programme is Farmgate Rearer ACS, fed from 7 weeks of age through to point of lay. For meat type birds grown on for seasonal markets, Farmgate Chicken Finisher ACS can be fed from 5 weeks of age to 7 days prior to marketing. For the last 7 days use BOCM PAULS Poultry Finisher Plain Pellets.

Protein 18.0%

Additional Information

Store Farmgate feed in a cool dry place. Fresh, clean water should be available to the birds at all times.



Poultry Grower Pellets

Code: 5kg - 2806 20kg - 22819

Allen & Page

Should be fed from 6-8 weeks onwards, and may be fed to appetite.
Restrict the feed or mix with wheat to slow the growth rate.
DRUG-FREE, so may be fed to finish for table birds.
For birds that are to be kept as laying hens, introduce Natural Free Range Layers Pellets from 16 weeks.

Oil 3.5% Protein 16.0% Fibre 5.5%

- ALL SMALL HOLDER POULTRY FEEDS ARE COCCIDIOSTAT FREE.
- All our poultry pellets are small enough (2.5mm diameter) for bantams.
- Fresh water and poultry grit should be available at all times.

Poultry Rearer ACS

Code: 20kg - P04240BF

Farmgate

A flexible, palatable and highly nutritious diet, designed to be fed to laying hen replacement stock.

Feeding Guide

To be fed from 7 weeks of age through to point of lay.
Follow on rearing feed: For laying hen replacements Farmgate Rearer ACS is followed at point of lay by Farmgate Layers Mash or Farmgate Layers Pellets throughout the laying period.

Protein 15.0%

Additional Information

Store Farmgate feed in a cool dry place. Fresh, clean water should be available to the birds at all times.



Mixed Corn

Code: 5kg - 19098 20kg - 76155

Allen & Page

80% wheat 20% maize (non-GM).

*It is suggested that these are used as an additional treat for birds to peck at in the afternoons, rather than in place of a nutritionally balanced pellet.

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- All our poultry pellets are small enough (2.5mm diameter) for bantams.
- Fresh water and poultry grit should be available at all times.



Super Mixed Corn

Code: 20kg - 76028 5kg - 0506

Allen & Page

70% wheat with barley, maize (non-GM), peas, oyster shell and grit.

The superior mixed corn treat for your birds.

It is suggested that these are used as an additional treat for birds to peck at in the afternoons, rather than in place of a nutritionally balanced pellet.

- ALL SMALL HOLDER POULTRY FEEDS ARE COCCIDIOSTAT FREE.
- All our poultry pellets are small enough (2.5mm diameter) for bantams.
- Fresh water and poultry grit should be available at all times.



Chicken Finisher ACS

Code: 20kg - P04519BF

Farmgate

A highly palatable, specialised diet. Providing all the key nutrients required by the chicken for a slower, steady growth curve.

Feeding Guide

To be fed ad-lib to birds from 5 weeks of age through to 7 days prior to marketing when BOCM PAULS Poultry Finisher Plain Pellets is then fed.

Rearing Feeds: Start the birds on Farmgate Chick Crumbs ACS from day old up to 4 weeks of age.

Protein 17.0%

Additional Information

Store Farmgate feed in a cool dry place. Fresh, clean water should be available to the birds at all times.



Poultry Plain Finisher

Code: 20kg - P05822BF

Farmgate

A withdrawal ration specifically designed to provide an optimal carcass finish and uniformity in terms of growth rates.

Feeding Guide

This diet should be fed for the last 7 days prior to marketing. Feed approximately 8 bags per 100 birds.

Protein 14.5%

Layers Mash

Code: 20kg - P04937BF

Farmgate

A highly palatable feed specially formulated to meet the need for a general, all-purpose diet which can be fed to flocks of mixed ages under any management system.

Feeding Guide

Offer on an ad-lib basis from point of lay. Farmgate Layers feeds do not require any additional limestone or oyster shell grit. The diet is fully balanced for optimum egg production, consistent shell quality, good yolk colour and excellent egg size.

No of Hens	Feed Per Week
1	1 kg
5	5 kg
10	Half Bag
20	1 Bag
50	2.5 Bags
100	5 Bags

Protein 16.0%

Additional Information

Store Farmgate feed in a cool dry place. Fresh, clean water should be available to the birds at all times.



Layers Pellets

Code: 20kg - P04938BF

Farmgate

A highly palatable feed specially formulated to meet the need for a general, all-purpose diet which can be fed to flocks of mixed ages under any management system.

Feeding Guide

Offer on an ad-lib basis from point of lay. Farmgate Layers feeds do not require any additional limestone or oyster shell grit. The diet is fully balanced for optimum egg production, consistent shell quality, good yolk colour and excellent egg size.

No of Hens	Feed Per Week
1	1 kg
5	5 kg
10	Half Bag
20	1 Bag
50	2.5 Bags
100	5 Bags

Protein 16.0%

Additional Information

Store Farmgate feed in a cool dry place. Fresh, clean water should be available to the birds at all times.



Natural Free Range Layers

Code:	Pellets	5kg - 19096	20kg - 76022
	Meal	n/a	20kg - 76021

Allen & Page

Provides a complete feed for free range hens, though fresh vegetables or mixed corn may still be fed as a treat in the afternoons. This feed provides all the vitamins, minerals (including calcium) and natural ingredients needed for a good sized egg with a natural golden yolk colour.

FREE from ARTIFICIAL YOLK PIGMENTERS.

Includes OMEGA 3 OILS for healthier birds and better eggs.

Feed all year round, on a free access basis. An average hen will eat 100-150g (4oz) per day. As the hen's crop can only hold about 100g it is best to give grain or mixed corn separately, later in the day, or she will be unable to eat sufficient pellets or meal. Meal may be fed dry, or can be fed wet if preferred.

Oil 4.0% Protein 16.0% Fibre 5.0%



Low Protein Free Range Layers

Code: Pellets 20kg - 76020

Allen & Page

For the truly free range bird. Lower protein levels can result in less nitrogen pollution of the soil.

Provides a complete feed for free range hens, though fresh vegetables or mixed corn may still be fed as a treat in the afternoons.

This feed provides all the vitamins, minerals (including calcium) and natural ingredients needed for a good sized egg with a natural golden yolk colour.

FREE from ARTIFICIAL YOLK PIGMENTERS.

Includes OMEGA 3 OILS for healthier birds and better eggs.

Feed all year round, on a free access basis. An average hen will eat 100-150g (4oz) per day. As the hen's crop can only hold about 100g it is best to give grain or mixed corn separately, later in the day, or she will be unable to eat sufficient pellets.

Oil 3.5% Protein 14.0% Fibre 5.0%

Turkey Starter Crumbs

Code: 20kg - 21915

Allen & Page

Feed from hatching through to 5 weeks. Mix with Turkey Grower pellets for a smooth changeover.

Oil 5.0% Protein 22.0% Fibre 3.5%

- ALL SMALL HOLDER POULTRY FEEDS ARE COCCIDIOSTAT FREE.
- All our poultry pellets are small enough (2.5mm diameter) for bantams.
- Fresh water and poultry grit should be available at all times.



Turkey Grower Pellets

Code: 20kg - 76013

Allen & Page

Mix with Turkey Starter Crumbs initially for a smooth changeover. Feed from 5 weeks onwards. They can be fed to appetite to growing birds and for those being reared for meat they may be fed right up until finishing, with or without wheat from about 12 weeks. Alternatively Poultry Grower/Finisher may be used as a finishing feed.

Oil 4.0% Protein 19.0% Fibre 5.0%

- ALL SMALL HOLDER POULTRY FEEDS ARE COCCIDIOSTAT FREE.
- All our poultry pellets are small enough (2.5mm diameter) for bantams.
- Fresh water and poultry grit should be available at all times.



Goose/Duck Starter Crumbs

Code: 20kg - 76123

Allen & Page

These starter crumbs are a high energy diet that will get waterfowl growing well straight from hatch. From a day old until about 3 or 4 weeks old, these will give the best start and provide all the essential nutrients needed for this stage of growth, in a convenient form. Ducklings can be allowed to eat at will, so fill troughs/feeders once a day and allow free access to the feed. In an emergency Baby Chick Crumbs may also be fed to ducks or geese (i.e. when Goose/Duck Starter Crumbs are unavailable), though in general you should be very careful about feeding chick crumbs to ducks as some companies' products contain an anti-coccidiostat which can be harmful to them.

Oil 4.0% Protein 18.5% Fibre 3.75%

* Protexin - supports a healthy digestive system by assisting the balance of beneficial gut flora. May be particularly helpful after the use of wormers, in young animal and birds, or at times of stress

- ALL SMALL HOLDER POULTRY FEEDS ARE COCCIDIOSTAT FREE.
- All our poultry pellets are small enough (2.5mm diameter) for bantams.
- Fresh water and poultry grit should be available at all times.



Goose/Duck Breeder Pellets

Code: 20kg - 76086

Allen & Page

These provide additional nutrients required by breeding birds for fertility optimum egg output, and successful breeding.

Oil 4.0% Protein 16.0% Fibre 5.5%

* Protexin - supports a healthy digestive system by assisting the balance of beneficial gut flora. May be particularly helpful after the use of wormers, in young animal and birds, or at times of stress

- ALL SMALL HOLDER POULTRY FEEDS ARE COCCIDIOSTAT FREE.
- All our poultry pellets are small enough (2.5mm diameter) for bantams.
- Fresh water and poultry grit should be available at all times.



Goose/Duck Grower/Finisher Pellets

Code: 20kg - 76124

Allen & Page

From about 3 weeks old, start to mix in Goose/Duck Grower/Finisher Pellets with starter crumbs to ensure a smooth changeover. They can be fed to appetite to growing birds (until about 16 weeks), and for those being reared for meat they may be fed right up until finishing (usually achieved between ten and twenty weeks).

Oil 3.25% Protein 15.0% Fibre 4.5%

- ALL SMALL HOLDER POULTRY FEEDS ARE COCCIDIOSTAT FREE.
- All our poultry pellets are small enough (2.5mm diameter) for bantams.
- Fresh water and poultry grit should be available at all times.



Ornamental Poultry Pellets

Code: 20kg - B0635634

Allen & Page

The ideal feed for all mature fowl (poultry & waterfowl). Suitable for bantams, gamebirds, ornamental ducks, guinea fowl, peafowl and ornamental quail.

Contains Omega 3 oils for gleaming plumage. Suitable for birds that are shown or kept for pleasure.

Oil 5.25% Protein 16.0% Fibre 4.5%

- ALL SMALL HOLDER POULTRY FEEDS ARE COCCIDIOSTAT FREE.
- All our poultry pellets are small enough (2.5mm diameter) for bantams.
- Fresh water and poultry grit should be available at all times.

