

NELBEX PTY LTD

ACN 073 862 825
ABN 75 073 862 825

Ph/Fax: (07) 4697 7800
bondnelbex@bigpond.com
www.bondenterprises.com.au



HINTS ON REARING BOND DAY OLD MEAT & LAYER CHICKS

Bond Enterprises is one of the largest suppliers of pullets and meat chicks to commercial and hobby farmers in Eastern Australia. Our birds have excellent livability and production capabilities. Any setback they receive in rearing will reduce that performance.

LAYER STRAINS

- **Brooding** - All Bond chicks require artificial heating 24hrs a day for 7 days a week for the first couple of weeks, depending on what time of year it is. **Winter** - 1st 21 days full heat, next 7 days heat only at night. **Summer** - 1st 14 days full heat, next 7 days heat only at night. As a rule, when birds have 3/4 of their body feathers, heat may be removed. Protection from wind and draft is required during this period and preferably for the first 4-5 wks.
- For brooding, heat from a **100 WATT** lightbulb is ideal. Bond chicks should be kept in a draft proof box (150cm. sq. / 100 chicks) with paper as a base. The paper should be changed regularly. Tops of aerosol cans can be used as water containers (4 tops/20 chicks) and feed spread over the paper for the first 3 days. Scratch trays should be used for the remainder of the brooding time, as this reduces the loss of feed through wastage.
- The chicks behaviour is a good indication if they are comfortable or not. If the chicks are crowded under the light, they are too **COLD**. Lower the light into the box or increase the wattage. If the chicks are spread towards the outer of the pen away from the light they are too **HOT**. Lift the light higher or remove it completely. Ideally, they should be moving around freely during the day and at night form a circle around the light. As it gets cooler they may move closer to the light. **PARTLY** cover the box at night to retain the heat.
- The most common problem with the chicks is chilling, which causes the birds not to eat. These birds may get **COCCI**, a disease of the intestines, which can be fatal. Wings usually drop down, eyes are dull and weepy and the birds generally find it difficult to stand up. Later, blood in the droppings may be observed. Early treatment will minimize losses. Treat with either Amprol mix or a sulphur based product mixed in water. These products are usually available from your produce agent or chemist. A 5-7 day treatment is usually sufficed. **NB - ALL CHICKS MUST BE TREATED.**
- During the 1st 6 wks, Bond chicks should be fed chick starter crumbles **MEDICATED**. Pullet grower or developer **mash or pellets** should be used from 6-16 wks. Laying mash, 17% protein should be used after this. The mash is generally more expensive but the birds eat less and lay more. These feeds for the different phases of the birds rear are available from your produce agent.
- Once the birds are past 4 wks old they require very little care. It is best to keep them separate from the older birds, at least until they lay depending on the type of birds, conditions through rear and the time of the year. Summer reared birds lay earlier than Winter ones. Birds should be de-wormed at 10wks and again at 16 wks. Spray for lice if noticed. Two applications are required, generally 10 days apart. **Laying birds should have access to may AT ALL TIMES. Grass clippings, scraps, etc. are good but cannot take the place of the all rounded diet of mash. ALL GRAIN MIXES ARE NOT A SUITABLE FEED.**

MEAT CHICKS

- Bond meat chicks are very rapid growers and should weigh around 2kg at 7-8wks of age. These birds should be treated the same as the layer chicks for the 1st 3-4 wks. They should be fed broiler starter medicated crumbles or turkey starter during this period. At 4 wks of age, feed them broiler finisher medicated pellets. De-worm with piperazine or a similar product at 5wks.