

10TH EDITION



# THE CHOOK BOOK

An introduction to caring for chickens  
and other poultry in backyard flocks.

RIDLEY

**BARASTOC**

*we put the chicken before the egg*

## FOREWORD

People and chickens have been living side-by-side for a very long time. Our feathered friends were digging up worms and laying fresh eggs in backyards over 5,000 years ago. And from the beginning, they've had people all over the world asking the big question: which came first, the chicken or the egg?

At Barastoc we firmly believe in putting the chicken before the egg. More than 75 years of experience in feeding poultry have taught us that healthy, happy and well-nourished chooks produce better eggs, more often – which means more delicious, nutritious, breakfasts for you!

When it comes to taking care of backyard chickens, they give back what you put in. That's why we've put together the Barastoc Chook Book, to give you all the information you need to feed and care for your own flock of laying hens. The Chook Book also includes an overview of caring for other poultry, such as turkeys and ducks, as well as a section on the Barastoc range of feeds and how to use them.

Keeping chooks is incredibly rewarding, and with a little guidance anyone can do it – after all some of the best backyarders we know are kids! Your chooks aren't just champion layers-in-training; they're affectionate, interesting and intelligent creatures that will give you years of companionship with the right care. Whether you're a first-timer or an experienced backyarder, we hope that the Chook Book will be a helpful guide for you.

If you'd like more information about anything in the Chook Book, please call Ridley Sales & Support on **1300 666 657**



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## AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DOMESTICATED CHICKEN



ALL OF THE HUNDREDS OF BREEDS OF DOMESTIC CHICKENS FOUND TODAY HAVE A COMMON ANCESTOR IN THE RED JUNGLE FOWL (*GALLUS GALLUS*) OF INDIA AND SOUTH EAST ASIA, WHICH IS STILL FOUND IN THE WILD.

People started domesticating wild chickens over 5,000 years ago. Over this time we have selectively bred into the chicken characteristics to make them not only better layers but also to produce a wide range of sizes, colours and feather types, from the common Isa Brown to the exotic and adorable Silkie Bantam. If all 200 breeds of the modern domestic chicken (*Gallus domesticus*) could be assembled in one place it would make for a very interesting and colourful family photo!

Generations of selective breeding have made chickens one of the most widespread, useful and beloved domestic animals in the world – it's hard to imagine life without them. Thankfully, our understanding of how to care for them has evolved in step, and it's easy to look after them just as well as they've looked after us.

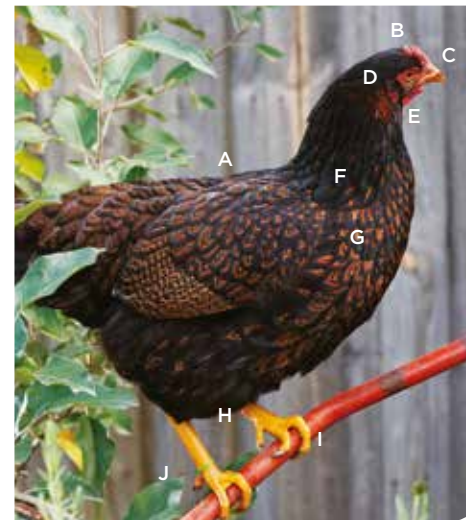
#### DID YOU KNOW?

DNA analysis has shown that chickens are the closest living relative of dinosaurs such as T-Rex.

### ANATOMY OF THE DOMESTIC CHICKEN

While it's not necessary to be an ornithologist, a basic knowledge of chicken anatomy can be very helpful when talking about your home flock to other poultry enthusiasts or the vet.

**The following diagram shows the key external features of the domestic hen.**

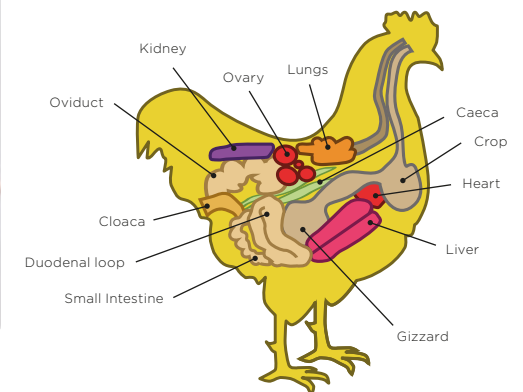


- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>A.</b> Cape   | <b>F.</b> Hackle  |
| <b>B.</b> Comb   | <b>G.</b> Plumage |
| <b>C.</b> Beak   | <b>H.</b> Scales  |
| <b>D.</b> Ear    | <b>I.</b> Claws   |
| <b>E.</b> Wattle | <b>J.</b> Spur    |

Male and female chickens have all the same basic parts, and it can be quite difficult to tell them apart when they are young.

The differences between males and females become clearer as birds mature, with male chickens displaying a larger comb and wattles, and longer spurs than females.

**The following diagram illustrates the key internal features of the domestic hen.**





## AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS

### CHICKEN CHARACTERISTICS AND BEHAVIOURS

Understanding chicken behaviour and characteristics will make it easier to take care of your home flock. Knowing how to recognise unusual behaviour can also help you pick up any issues with health or living conditions before they become serious.

#### Diet

Chickens are not vegetarians, as is often assumed. They are in fact omnivores, and in the wild are very happy to eat lizards, small snakes or young mice as well as seeds and insects.

#### Social behaviour

Have you ever wondered where the term 'pecking order' came from? Chickens!

#### DID YOU KNOW?

The gizzard performs a similar role in chickens to what teeth do in other animals. It uses a muscular action to break down grains and seeds with the help of small stones and grit that chickens swallow for this purpose.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Chickens have exceptional eyesight and they see the world in colour, just like we do.

They are social animals, but within a well-defined hierarchy that is quickly established when new birds are housed together. You'll notice this most at feeding time, where the top hens will eat first, chasing off the lower-ranked and younger birds. Only when the top hens have eaten their fill will the lower-ranked birds be allowed to eat.

They're also very loyal, and can and do develop long-lasting bonds with each other. Sets of BFFs (best friends forever) can be found in backyard flocks.

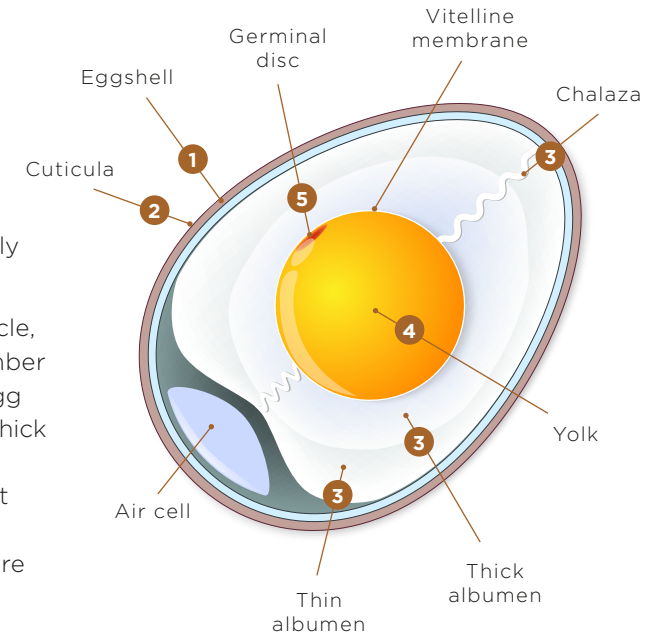
#### Intelligence

Chickens are quite smart and have great memories. They can distinguish between over 100 different faces of people or animals.

### THE EGG

Fresh eggs are one of the main reasons that people keep chickens, so it can be useful to understand what they're made of, how they form in the chicken and exactly what makes a good egg.

In the chicken's natural life cycle, the egg is an incubation chamber for a developing chick. The egg contains everything the new chick needs during the three-week incubation period and the first couple of days after it has hatched - which is why eggs are so packed full of nutrients.



#### The egg is made up of 5 main sections

- 1 The eggshell, which consists mainly of calcium carbonate, is quite porous, containing nearly 8,000 minute holes through which gases and water vapour can pass.
- 2 The shell membrane (cuticula), which acts as a barrier against bacteria.
- 3 The layered albumen (egg white) including the chalaza, which hold the yolk in the centre of the egg.
- 4 The yolk.
- 5 The germinal disc, which can be seen as a very small spot on the centre of the yolk's surface, is where the chick develops in a fertilised egg.

## AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS



IT TAKES ABOUT 24 HOURS FOR A HEN TO MAKE AND LAY AN EGG.

First the yolk (or 'oocyte') is produced in the ovary and then released into the oviduct. This is the point at which fertilisation will happen, with any luck, if the hen has mated with a rooster. If not, the egg will remain unfertilised.

As the egg continues down the oviduct the albumen (egg white) is laid down, followed by the egg shell. The egg shell is initially flexible (much to the relief of your chickens), but it quickly hardens once the egg has been laid.

### EGG SHAPE

The familiar pinched oval shape of the egg is no accident. It offers a lot of important advantages to the chicken and any potential chicks growing inside.

First, the arched 'dome' is one of the strongest architectural forms, because it distributes weight and pressure

equally across the entire structure. Try squeezing an egg from the ends and you'll see what we mean.

The pointed oval is also the easiest shape for the hen to lay, which is no small thing when she's laying up to 300 of them a year!

### DID YOU KNOW?

Eggs play a large part in creating the texture of cakes and other baked goods, which is why the size of the egg as well as the number of eggs to use are listed in recipes.

### EGG SIZE

In Australia, egg sizes are graded on the basis of their weight<sup>1</sup> as follows:

Size category	Weight (grams)
Medium	41.7 - 49.9
Large	50.0g - 58.2g
Extra large	58.3g - 66.6g
Jumbo	66.7 - 71.6g
Extra jumbo	71.7+

BREED TYPE AND THE WEIGHT OF THE CHICKEN ARE OTHER FACTORS WHICH CAN AFFECT EGG SIZE. GENERALLY SPEAKING, THE OLDER THE CHICKEN, THE LARGER THE EGG.

### DID YOU KNOW?

As the yolk travels through the oviduct, it is continually rotating, which twists structural fibres into rope-like strands that anchor the yolk in the thick egg white. This is why the yolk is always at the centre when you crack an egg open.

<sup>1</sup> Source; Australian Egg Corporation Limited Labelling Guidelines

## AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS



A GOOD EGG NEEDS A GOOD SHELL, NOT JUST TO HOLD IT TOGETHER, BUT ALSO TO PROTECT IT FROM BACTERIA AND CONTAMINANTS.



### EGG SHELL STRENGTH

The egg shell is made primarily from calcium carbonate, known as “nature’s ceramic”, which is the same hard substance found in chalk, limestone and coral. Hens need a lot of calcium to produce strong egg shells.

Each hen requires around 4 grams of calcium a day, in order to get the 2 grams needed for one egg shell. In human terms, this is the equivalent of about 1.5kg of calcium per day (for a 70kg person), which is as much as you’d find in 1,500 litres of milk! This is one of the many reasons that a proper diet is so important for laying hens.

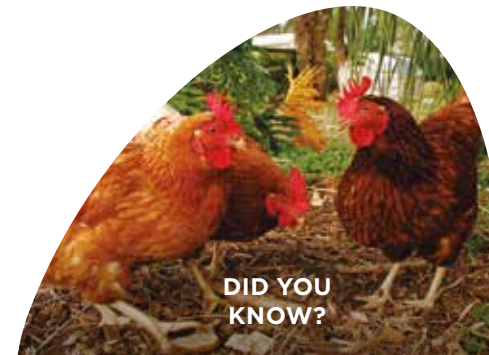
### EGG SHELL COLOUR

Egg shell colour can be white, creamy-coloured or brown, and this often depends on the breed of the chicken. And there’s no need to colour code – colour has no impact on the flavour or nutritional value of eggs, and they can all be stored, handled and cooked exactly the same way!

### BLOOD STAINS ON THE SHELL

You may find blood stains on the shells of your eggs, especially with younger hens. This is not usually cause for concern. Sometimes small blood vessels in the oviduct rupture when the egg passes through, and subsequent eggs will generally not be stained.

**Important:** Blood-stained eggs can also be a sign of cannibalism within the flock. It is especially important to investigate and check each bird for possible injury around its vent (rear end). Table 2 on page 44 has more information on what to do in this case.



#### DID YOU KNOW?

You can tell what colour eggs a hen will lay by the colour of her ear lobes. A hen with white ear lobes will lay creamy to white eggs. A hen with red ear lobes will lay brown eggs.

## AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS



### YOLK COLOUR

The lovely golden colour of egg yolks comes from carotenoids, the same natural pigments that give fruit and vegetables their bright orange and yellow colours. The more of these fruits and vegetables in a chook's diet, the richer the colour of the yolk she will produce – simple!

A variety of feed sources, including pasture and veggie scraps, will contribute a range of carotenoids to your flock's diet, so variation in yolk colour is likely. And although bright orange yolks look great on toast, they're no more nutritious than lighter coloured yolks.

### BLOOD IN THE YOLK

Sometimes when you crack an egg, you'll get an unpleasant surprise in the form of blood spots. While these can be off-putting, they are harmless and can be easily removed – no need to throw out the whole egg!

It's also no cause for alarm. Sometimes when a mature yolk is released from its follicle in the ovary (which usually occurs along a line called a 'stigma'), a tiny blood vessel may be torn, releasing a little blood into the forming egg.

Some breeds of laying birds have a genetic tendency to lay more eggs with blood spots. Also, you can expect more blood spotting in young hens just coming into lay.

### MULTIPLE YOLK EGGS

Eureka! There's nothing quite like the thrill of your first double-yolker. A double (or even triple) yolk egg is formed when multiple ovulations take place in a very short time. The resulting yolks all go down the oviduct together and become encased in the same shell, and you reap the rewards.



MULTIPLE YOLKS ARE MORE COMMON IN YOUNG LAYING HENS, ESPECIALLY IN HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE BREEDS, BUT GENERALLY BECOME LESS SO AS THE HEN MATURES.

### ALBUMEN TEXTURE

The albumen, or 'egg white', can vary in texture, from sitting high and close to the yolk (the ideal scenario) to being thin and runny (not so great).

Runny albumen can be caused by a number of factors. Fresh eggs will usually have a firmer albumen. Genetics also play a role, and generally speaking the older a hen is, the runnier the albumen will be in her eggs. Watery egg whites are also more likely when your flock doesn't get enough key nutrients, like protein, in their diet.



## AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS

### MEAT SPOTS IN THE ALBUMEN

Another 'no thanks' for many people, 'meat spots' are thought to be pieces of albumen left behind during the formation of the previous egg, or sometimes fragments from the lining of the oviduct. However, just like blood spots, they are harmless and can be easily removed from the rest of the egg.

Meat spots can be pigmented or non-pigmented, and the pigment involved (Ooporphyrinse) is also a part of the colouration of brown-shelled eggs. Meat spots are therefore much less common in white-shelled eggs.

Unlike blood spots, meat spots can occur at any time throughout lay, no matter the age of the hen. However, birds that tend to lay eggs with meat spots are likely to continue to do so.

### CHARACTERISTICS OF A FRESH EGG

As any backyarder will tell you, there's no substitute for fresh eggs. Fresh eggs are more flavoursome, have a better nutritional profile and produce firmer cakes, custards and meringues.

The size of an egg's air cell will always give away how fresh it is; the smaller the air cell, the fresher the egg. When it's first laid, the egg doesn't have an air cell at all. As it cools and loses moisture, a slight vacuum is created which draws air in through the porous shell. As the egg ages, this process continues and the air cell expands.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

You can test how fresh a raw egg is by putting it in a bowl of water. Older eggs will float (because of the enlarged air cell) while fresh eggs will sink.

### PRESERVING EGG FRESHNESS

Check your nesting boxes every day! The best way to keep your eggs fresh is to collect them as soon as they've been laid and put them straight in the fridge. As a rule of thumb, as much freshness is lost in 3 days at room temperature as in 3 weeks in the refrigerator!

It is also important to check that your eggs are uncracked, clean and dry.



**BACTERIA FROM DIRT AND STAINS CAN PENETRATE EVEN THROUGH AN UNBROKEN SHELL AND CAUSE THE EGG TO GO OFF, AND MOISTURE SPEEDS THE PROCESS.**

### To wash or not to wash?

It may surprise you to know that washing eggs is often not the best thing for them. Egg shells are porous, and washing has the potential to allow harmful bacteria inside. This can become a food poisoning risk, even in fresh eggs.

### But wait. What about commercial eggs? Don't they get washed?

Yes - it's standard practice for commercial egg producers to wash eggs. However, these producers are obliged to follow strict procedures established by the Australian Food Standard Code, to ensure the safety of their product. As a backyard producer, you are unlikely to be able to reproduce these conditions, so we don't recommend washing your eggs.

The good news is that if you're maintaining your nesting boxes and following good hygiene practices in your hen house, your eggs shouldn't need washing. If an egg does get a bit dirty, give it a brush with a clean, dry, abrasive cloth, using a gentle rubbing motion.

## WHY KEEP CHICKENS?



The Romans used chicken behaviour to divine the future, especially during war time (lively chickens meant good news; sluggish chickens didn't get a second gig). African tribes revered them as symbols of nurture and fertility. The Victorians bred them specifically for their plumage and colour.

Chickens were also prized by the Europeans settling in Australia, as they provided much needed protein in the form of eggs and meat – and they required much less food and land than other farmed animals.

The backyard chook was a fixture of the Aussie household until urbanisation and industrial food production, which really took off in the 1950s. Chickens then mostly disappeared into commercial barns, other than in the country where the need for self-sufficiency remained.

So why is there so much interest in backyard chickens again? Reversing the trend of half a century of de-chooking our suburbs, the last decade has seen a re-emergence of the backyard hen-house across Australia. People are rediscovering the benefits and the beauty of these fantastic birds, which go well beyond fresh eggs. Read on!



WHILE THE PLEASURE OF CARING FOR YOUR OWN FLOCK IS ITS OWN REWARD, PEOPLE THROUGH THE AGES HAVE KEPT CHOOKS CLOSE TO HOME FOR ALL SORTS OF REASONS.

### FOR THEIR EGGS

Eggs are considered one of nature's most complete foods, containing essential amino acids, vitamins and minerals.

**Just two eggs will supply the following percentage of daily dietary requirements<sup>2</sup>:**

Protein	25%
Calcium	6%
Phosphorus	21%
Iron	14%
Iodine	29%
Kilojoules	581
Vitamin A	32%
Vitamin B1 (Thiamine)	11%
Vitamin B2 (Riboflavin)	29%
Vitamin B12	40%
Vitamin D	8%

<sup>2</sup> Source; Food Standards Australia New Zealand, Food Standards Code.

**3 LAYING HENS** 

WILL TYPICALLY PROVIDE YOUR FAMILY WITH

**18 EGGS**   
OR MORE A WEEK

Which is probably more than enough to meet your needs. And nothing tastes better than a really fresh egg! Unless of course it's a really fresh egg turned into custard, or cake.

## WHY KEEP CHICKENS?



### TO SHARE AN EXPERIENCE OF NATURE WITH YOUR FAMILY

One of the best things about keeping chickens is that kids love it! It's a fantastic way for them (and you) to learn about caring for animals, how food is produced, and the cycles of life and death in nature. It's also an opportunity for them to experience something that their grandparents, and perhaps their parents, grew up with.

### AS PART OF AN URBAN SELF-SUFFICIENT ECOSYSTEM

Who would have thought that this ancient practice could help solve one of modern society's biggest problems?

Growing your own fresh produce is a fantastic way to make your household more sustainable, and backyard chooks are a great place to start. In addition to their eggs, your flock will also offer their services in helping to control bugs and other pests, as well as providing a regular supply of natural fertilizer for home-grown food crops.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Chickens communicate with more than 24 vocalisations, each with a distinct meaning, including warning their friends about different types of predators or letting their mothers know whether they're comfortable.

### FOR THEIR BEAUTY

It's not all about the eggs and the manure. Some people keep, breed and show rare breeds of chicken for their spectacular plumage and/or unusual shapes.

State-based Royal Agricultural shows are a great opportunity to see beautiful chooks of all shapes and colours on display.

### FOR COMPANIONSHIP

Chickens make wonderful pets! They have many of the qualities we associate with more traditional pets, including distinct personalities, a loyal disposition and the occasional vet bill. Like other domesticated animals, they can be handled with correct training from an early age, and with the right care they'll be part of your family for many years.



## ESTABLISHING YOUR OWN HOME FLOCK



YOUR FIRST STEP SHOULD BE TO MAKE ENQUIRIES WITH YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU CAN AND CANNOT DO. MANY LOCAL COUNCILS HAVE REGULATIONS ON THE KEEPING OF POULTRY.

Typically, council regulations will include a restriction on the number of birds that are allowed on any given property. Many will also prohibit keeping roosters in metropolitan areas – yes, they do crow at dawn, and yes, your neighbours *will* mind.

### CHOOSING THE RIGHT BIRDS FOR YOUR FLOCK

There are three main considerations – the breed of bird, the number of birds and their age.

#### Breed

What sort of birds do you want? The breed of bird should be determined by your main reasons for wanting chickens in the first place. If you like the idea of a lifetime supply of eggs, then commercial hybrids with high egg-laying potential such as the ISA Brown or Hy-line Brown are for you.

If you're all about looks or just after a loyal chook companion, then your options are limited only by your imagination. Recommended breeds that are available in Australia are Plymouth Rock, Barnevelder, Silkie, Polish, Frizzle, and Sebright.

#### Number

How many should you get? Chickens are social animals, so you'll need at least two birds for their psychological wellbeing. Council regulations may cap the number of birds you are allowed, so make sure to check these first. Otherwise the only limit is the size of your property. As a general rule, a large urban backyard with a lawn and garden can comfortably accommodate 3–4 birds. Rural lifestyle blocks can accommodate much larger flocks.

#### Age

While chicks are adorable, rearing chickens from day-old requires husbandry skill, time and proper equipment. For this reason, we recommend that you establish your flock first with 'point-of-lay' pullets (16–18 weeks). If you want chicks, it might be better to wait until they're hatched by their mother, who will then do all the work to keep them happy and healthy.

**Important:** Regardless of the breed, number or age, all birds should be purchased from a reputable source: Either a commercial hatchery or a recognised breeder. Often the classified section of rural newspapers will have advertisements for poultry detailing available breeds and prices.

## ESTABLISHING YOUR OWN HOME FLOCK

### REPLACING YOUR FLOCK

If eggs are the main reason you're keeping chickens, then you should consider replacing your laying birds when they reach 75 weeks/1.5 years of age. Beyond this age, they will begin to lay poorer quality eggs, and less frequently.

Once retired from active service, an older hen will still continue to patrol the garden for insects and weeds, fertilise the garden, visit her friends and provide companionship for a number of years.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

It is common for a hen in a backyard setting to live 8-10 years, which is about the same age as many dogs.

### HOUSING YOUR BACKYARD FLOCK

The Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals and Domestic Poultry in Australia regulates poultry housing. This is available from your State Department of Agriculture or Department of Primary Industries. You should make sure your hen house complies with the requirements of the Code, for the health and safety of your hens, your family and your neighbours.

It's important to provide all poultry with protection against weather extremes and predators. It's also helpful to have them lay their eggs where you want them rather than all over the garden! The hen house serves both roles.

There are a lot of fantastic hen houses available commercially – or you can build your own. Regardless, consideration should be given to the following points to keep your hens comfortable, healthy and productive.

#### Enough room

If you're keeping hens in your backyard, they may well be free to range in the garden during the day. To determine the appropriate size of a hen house for your flock, allow approximately 0.37 square metres (4sq.ft.) of floor space per bird.

#### Adequate ventilation

Proper ventilation isn't just about keeping your hens comfortable. Accumulated moisture can lead to respiratory illness, and ammonia fumes created by decomposing manure which can cause eye irritation.

#### Protection from the elements

Your hen house should insulate the hens against extremes in temperature, especially radiant heat, which will easily put them under stress. The best options will offer shade from direct sunlight as well as waterproofing from the rain.

#### Security from predators

Chickens are unfortunately a firm favourite in the diets of foxes, ferrets and feral cats. If you love your hens, it's essential that the hen house is constructed to keep them safe from these predators.

- Use strong, galvanised wire of a small mesh size on all facings, including the top and floor so predators can't dig their way into the hen house.
- Make sure that there are no gaps between the doors or windows of the hen house.




**Chickens lack sweat glands! To keep cool they instead spread their wings, use their plumage to move air across their bodies, and pant to release excess heat.**

- Ensure that the doors and windows are properly secured with catches and locks.
- Motion activated lighting can also scare away an inquisitive visitor.

Most importantly, make sure all your chooks are secured in the hen house before the end of the day! Predators are most active at night, and a loose chicken is an easy target.



## ESTABLISHING YOUR OWN HOME FLOCK

THE AVERAGE  
**HEN**   
 NEEDS APPROXIMATELY  
**250MM** (10 INCHES)  
 OF PERCH  
**SPACE**

### Perches for roosting

Anything within reach is fair game for a roosting chook! Including nets, feeders and the top of the fence.

Without perches to roost on at night, the birds will huddle together in a corner of the hen house. Before long this will create a hard, caked patch of manure which will transfer to claws and feathers and then to nests and eggs - bad news for everybody.

Providing perches for roosting will give you cleaner eggs, and calmer, less 'flighty' chickens. Additionally, the perch needs to be within a comfortable jumping height - 600mm (2 feet) is about right - and of the right thickness for their feet to get a secure hold.



### A place to nest

While hens can and do lay their eggs anywhere that feels safe, it's not always convenient to go hunting through the garden for them. Your flock will instinctively use nesting boxes if you make them according to some basic requirements:

- The nesting boxes need to be comfortable and fairly dark to ensure seclusion from the rest of the hen house. Egg-laying is a private business.
- Nesting material should be dry, light and loose (straw and wood shavings are ideal) and should be at least 100mm (4 inches) deep. Shallow nests cause fighting and encourage feather pecking and cannibalism.

- The amount of nesting space per flock is again dependent on your flock size. As a rule, 3 laying birds require approximately 1/2 square metre (5sq.ft) of nesting space.

Hens can be trained not to sleep in the nests by providing perches and closing off nesting boxes in the evening. This will also help to stop your birds becoming broody. You can reopen the nesting boxes once the chickens are asleep, and after a week or two they'll have formed a roosting habit, which means you'll spend a lot less time cleaning manure out of the nests.

## ESTABLISHING YOUR OWN HOME FLOCK



PROPER LIGHTING DOES A LOT MORE THAN SET THE MOOD IN THE HEN HOUSE. YOUR HENS NEED A MINIMUM OF 15 HOURS OF LIGHT PER DAY TO REACH OPTIMAL EGG PRODUCTION.

### Lighting to promote egg production

This is especially true if they're coming into lay in autumn, when the days are getting shorter.

If you do want to control lighting, safe access to electricity is important.

### Easy cleaning

Do yourself a favour, and design your hen house to be practical and easy to clean. Good hygiene is critical to keeping healthy and productive chickens, but you don't want to spend your whole weekend cleaning up after them.



### Optional extras that make your life easier

A range of poultry equipment is available from most produce or pet care stores, including feeders and water dispensers. Automatic feeders that can hang by a chain from the roof are particularly good, as they only need to be filled as necessary. They also prevent your birds from fouling the feed and help keep the rats and mice out of the food.

### Mobile chicken homes

Mobile chicken pens are especially good for sustainable backyards. They can be moved to different areas of the garden to allow your chooks access to the weeds, seeds and insects in the soil, and you can quickly shift them to sun or shelter as required. After the chicken pen is moved, make sure any chicken manure that is left behind is removed or watered into the ground. Manure is potent stuff when it's fresh, and it can cause damage to grass and plants.

## ESTABLISHING YOUR OWN HOME FLOCK



### INTRODUCING BIRDS TO THEIR NEW HOME

We all know how stressful moving house can be, and it's no different for your chickens. It's important to make the transition as easy as possible for your new flock. Prepare the hen house by sprinkling fresh wood shavings on the floor and bed up the nesting boxes. Place feed and water inside, ready for the new arrivals.

The new chickens might be a little stressed on arrival and should be allowed to acclimatise in their new home. Keep them within the hen house for around a day before allowing them out to roam and explore the garden.

### INTRODUCING NEW BIRDS TO AN ESTABLISHED FLOCK

Chickens are 'social', but not always 'friendly'. Existing flocks have well defined social hierarchies which need to be re-established when new birds are introduced. Be prepared for some aggressive behaviour, such as pecking and chasing, in the first 2-3 days as the birds work out where they sit in the pecking order. Once this is established, peace is normally restored.

During this period of adjustment, watch out for excessive bullying and injury to birds. If you're concerned for the wellbeing of the newcomer, remove her from the hen house, allow her to recover, and then reintroduce her at a later stage.



### INTRODUCING BIRDS TO OTHER PETS

If your chickens will be sharing the backyard with other pets, such as the family dog or cat, then these should be introduced and socialised gradually and under supervision.



**ADULT CHICKENS ARE TOO LARGE FOR MOST CATS TO CONSIDER AS PREY, AND ONCE THEIR INITIAL CURIOSITY HAS BEEN SATISFIED THEY WILL TYPICALLY IGNORE THE CHICKENS.**

Once dogs have accepted the chickens as part of 'their pack' they will become quite protective of them, and help deter foxes and other predators.



## ESTABLISHING YOUR OWN HOME FLOCK

### REARING OF DAY-OLD CHICKENS

Rearing chicks, while very rewarding, requires a lot of extra care and attention if they are to thrive.

It is critical for day-old chicks to be vaccinated against Marek's Disease and Infectious Bronchitis Virus, and this should be done by the commercial supplier before you take them home.

Chicks should be reared for at least the first 3 weeks inside a draught-free enclosure, on clean, dry litter material (such as wood shavings or rice hulls), with a heat lamp or heater positioned so that the temperature at the level of the litter is 32°C to 35°C.

You should decrease the temperature gradually, aiming to reach about 21°C-24°C at 3-4 weeks of age.

Once the birds are fully feathered, at around 5 or 6 weeks of age, they'll be able to tolerate lower temperatures.



**YOUR CHICKS WILL NEED EASY, UNRESTRICTED ACCESS TO FRESH WATER AND A BALANCED FEED.**

Remember that a chick's beak is tiny and the feed should be appropriately sized. If you scatter the feed on paper around the feeders and drinking points for the first 24 to 48 hours, the young chickens will learn how to access their feed and water. We recommend using a water dispenser rather than a bowl, so that your chicks are not at risk of drowning.

### HANDLING YOUR CHICKENS

With their soft feathers and gentle disposition, chickens can be lovely to hold, especially for kids. If your family wants to be able to pet and handle your chickens, then it's best to start from an early age so the bird becomes used to it as it grows up.

The best way to hold a chicken is to put your hand under its body to support its weight. With your other hand hold the wings down, which will prevent the chicken from flapping about.



## KEEPING YOUR HOME FLOCK HEALTHY



### WATER IS LIFE

#### Water availability

Like all living things, chickens need to stay hydrated to thrive. Easy access to fresh, clean and cool water at all times is critical, especially over the hot summer months. Pay particular attention to water temperature in summer and try to avoid black plastic containers, as they will heat up very quickly in the sun.

Use the following table as a guide to how much your chooks are likely to drink. Bear in mind that actual consumption will depend on the size of bird, level of egg production, the season and the type of drinker you're using.

#### WATER CONSUMPTION GUIDE

Age	Weekly Water intake per bird
1 week	200ml
5 weeks	750ml
10 weeks	1000ml
15 weeks	1100ml
20 weeks onward	1500ml

*Note: In extremely hot weather a good rule to follow is to provide at least three times the usual water allowance.*

### WATER QUALITY

Water quality is commonly overlooked as an important factor in caring for backyard chickens. Your chooks' favourite drop should be fresh and free from chemical contaminants, water-borne parasites and infectious agents. Water with a high salt content is also not good for chickens, and can cause poor shell quality and wet litter.

If you're using surface water (dam, river or irrigation) or any water from a source that has potentially been contaminated by waterfowl and other wild birds, it must be sanitised first. Your produce store or pet-food store should have everything you need to do this.

As a rule of thumb, try to give your flock water that you'd be happy to give a person! Potable and treated tap water is absolutely fine. It's also a good idea to keep drinking water off the ground so it stays clean and free of droppings.



## KEEPING YOUR HOME FLOCK HEALTHY

### GOOD HOUSE-KEEPING

Keeping your backyard flock healthy isn't difficult and comes down to good basic house-keeping and hygiene practices. A little routine goes a long way, and we've provided a breakdown of the tasks you'll need to do daily, weekly and monthly, as well as a couple of the jobs you'll need to do occasionally in special circumstances.



**Daily**



**Weekly**



**Monthly**



**Occasionally**

### TASKS TO KEEP YOUR FLOCK HEALTHY



**Daily**

Check that there is sufficient cool, fresh, clean water available.

Top up the feeder.

Chickens should have enough food to eat when they need to.

Give your chickens a visual check over to make sure they look lively and have no obvious signs that would indicate a health problem (see page 40 for warning signs).

Collect eggs twice a day and put them straight in the fridge! This will maximise their freshness and help avoid broodiness and egg eating in your flock.



**Weekly**

Clean out dirty nests and any droppings in the hen house. This is essential to minimise the risk of disease and fly problems. If you're going to use the manure on your garden, make sure you let it mellow in a composter first.

Remove damp litter or soil and replace it with clean, new material which will significantly reduce the risk of nasties like coccidiosis (see Table 1 on page 40).

Check over the hen house to make sure there are no new gaps or faulty latches which might allow predators in at night.

Check for signs of rats or other pests.

Move the run to a new place to ensure their grazing area remains fresh.



**Monthly**

Deter mites and lice by painting perches with a mix of lime and water.

Thoroughly clean out and sanitise nest boxes.

Fix up leaky drinkers or taps. Damp conditions promote the build-up of internal parasites in the flock.

Dust chickens with a powder that kills lice and mites. e.g. Pestene powder



**Occasional tasks**

Before introducing new birds to the hen house, all old litter material should be removed and the house should be washed down with a detergent.

You should also sanitise it with an approved sanitiser for poultry houses. Ideally, to control external parasites and litter beetles, the house should also be treated with an approved insecticide.

## KEEPING YOUR HOME FLOCK HEALTHY



### COMMON PROBLEMS

Even with the best of care, chickens occasionally do get sick. A sick chook will do her best to hide her symptoms (an evolutionary defence against predators), so it's important that you know what to look for. Table 1 provides a summary of the most common illnesses, as well as their causes, symptoms and some good ways to prevent and manage them.

From time to time, just like other domestic animals, chickens can also exhibit behavioural problems. A summary of the more common ones is provided in Table 2, along with suggestions for their management.



TO HELP PREVENT DISEASE AND BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS IN YOUR BACKYARD FLOCK, IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP STRESS TO A MINIMUM, FEED A COMMERCIAL COMPLETE AND BALANCED DIET AND IMPLEMENT GOOD HOUSEKEEPING AND QUARANTINE PRACTICES.

### WHEN TO CALL A VET

Unfortunately, once chickens get seriously ill they tend to go downhill very quickly and are unlikely to recover without professional help. In this situation, you will need to make the difficult decision about whether you want to have your hen medically treated or whether it would be more humane to have her euthanised. It's a choice nobody wants to make, and you should take into consideration the hen's quality of life, the cost of treatment and the likelihood of success.

It's also worth remembering that not all small animal vets are experienced with the treatment of chickens. You may want to do some research ahead of time (i.e. before you have a sick chicken) to find the best place to go.



## KEEPING YOUR HOME FLOCK HEALTHY



**TABLE 1: COMMON HEALTH PROBLEMS**

Health issue	What is it	Symptoms	Prevention, management and treatment
<b>Ammonia poisoning</b>	Ammonia is a gaseous product formed from the breakdown of chicken wastes within the environment. Ammonia accumulates when there are poor litter conditions and ventilation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Severe irritation to the eyes</li> <li>• Open mouth breathing</li> <li>• Skin burns</li> </ul> <p><b>If left untreated can be fatal.</b></p>	Management of ammonia build up relies on improving ventilation and removing excess wastes and damp litter on a regular basis.
<b>Aspergillosis</b>	Fungal disease caused when the spores of <i>Aspergillus</i> germinate and are inhaled causing respiratory problems in chickens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laboured breathing</li> <li>• Lethargy</li> <li>• Seizures</li> </ul> <p><b>If left untreated can lead to death.</b></p>	Management of aspergillosis infection involves stress management, environmental cleaning with antifungal agents and antifungal medications where required.
<b>Blackhead</b>	A protozoan infection that occurs in poultry, and one that turkeys are very susceptible to.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cyanosis of the head (a discolouration of the skin on the head)</li> <li>• Sulphur-yellow diarrhoea</li> </ul> <p><b>If left untreated can lead to death.</b></p>	To reduce the spreading of the disease, sick birds must be removed and their litter changed.
<b>Bumblefoot</b>	Severe swelling of the foot caused by the bacteria, <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bacteria multiply within cuts or ulcers, resulting in the swelling, redness and balding of chicken scales</li> </ul>	Remove affected birds and treat early injuries by daily cleaning with sterile saline, diluted Betadine (weak tea colour) or antibiotic creams.
<b>Calcium deficiency</b>	When a bird is getting inadequate calcium intake from their diet.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weakness</li> <li>• Lameness</li> <li>• Weak egg shells, or no egg shell</li> <li>• Broken bones</li> </ul>	Ensure birds are getting an appropriate commercial diet, which is complete and balanced in nutrients, as the main source of food. Supplement with additional limestone or oyster shell.
<b>Coccidiosis</b>	A disease caused by the intestinal parasite, <i>Eimeria</i> that causes symptoms from diarrhoea to death. Birds under 14 weeks of age are most at risk. Beyond the point of lay, birds will generally have developed an immunity to coccidia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diarrhoea</li> <li>• Weight loss</li> <li>• Bloody droppings</li> <li>• Hunched posture</li> <li>• Ruffled feathers</li> <li>• Huddled</li> </ul> <p><b>If left untreated, is often fatal.</b></p>	Good animal husbandry practices that avoid damp ground litter in the hen house (which encourages the survival and maturation of the oocyst - the infectious stage of the coccidiosis life cycle).  Given the prevalence of coccidiosis, use of an anticoccidial feed additive is advised for chicks and pullets.
<b>Dehydration</b>	The condition that occurs when there is a loss of body fluids usually during episodes of hot weather, diarrhoea or when they have lost their appetite.	If a hen has to do without water for even a short time, her comb may turn a blue-black colour and she will cease to lay. In hot weather, lack of water for even a few hours can be fatal.	Keep clean, cool water available at all times. Keep it out of direct sunlight and change the water within the drinkers regularly. Manage any illnesses sooner rather than later.

## KEEPING YOUR HOME FLOCK HEALTHY



**TABLE 1: COMMON HEALTH PROBLEMS (CONTINUED)**

Health issue	What is it	Symptoms	Prevention, management and treatment
<b>External parasites</b>	External parasitic infestations include ticks, lice and mites which can live on the birds or in the hen house and feed off the chickens when they roost.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drop off in egg production</li> <li>• Leg scales that are enlarged and start to lift are indicative of scaly leg mite</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deter mites and lice by painting the perches with a mix of lime and water every month</li> <li>• Regular use of a poultry lice control or dust will help to remove lice parasites which infest birds around the vent and neck</li> </ul>
<b>Sour crop</b>	Sour crop describes a yeast infection of the crop (found at the base of the chicken's neck and forms part of the oesophagus).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enlarged, hard crop</li> <li>• Bad breath</li> <li>• Off food and water</li> </ul> <p><b>Can be fatal if not treated early.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gentle massage of the crop to manually remove food</li> <li>• Veterinary treatment such as antifungal medication and antibiotics</li> <li>• Probiotics</li> </ul>
<b>Vent problem</b>	A problem with the vent (the area where the egg, urine, faeces and urates pass) due to infection (Vent Gleet), being egg bound or a prolapse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swelling in the area</li> <li>• Redness</li> <li>• Discharge</li> <li>• Feathers stuck to vent</li> <li>• Odour</li> <li>• Pecking at the backend</li> </ul>	Actual vent problems are serious and should be seen by a veterinarian. Treatment involves feeding the chicken back to full health, increasing immunity, reducing stress, and medications for any infection.
<b>Worms</b>	The presence of parasitic worms such as roundworms ( <i>Ascaridia</i> spp), tapeworms ( <i>Raillientina</i> and <i>Davainea</i> spp), hairworms ( <i>Capillaria</i> spp) and caecal worms ( <i>Heterakis</i> spp). Worm infections usually occur after wet periods during the warmer months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor condition i.e. dull feathers</li> <li>• Weakness</li> <li>• Weight loss</li> <li>• Pale comb, wattle or mouth</li> <li>• Watery, smelly droppings</li> </ul>	<p>Worms are an easily preventable problem in chickens with routine treatment.</p> <p>Worming treatments should be given to the whole flock.</p> <p>Clean the coop thoroughly to remove worm eggs within infected droppings.</p>
<b>Wounds</b>	Wounds can range from small scratches to severe open cuts caused by objects in the environment, the action of parasites or aggression from other birds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Missing feathers</li> <li>• Signs of blood</li> <li>• Withdrawal from the flock</li> </ul>	<p><b>Small wounds</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trim feathers around the wound</li> <li>• Wash with warm sterile saline</li> <li>• Consider an approved antibiotic ointment</li> </ul> <p><b>Large wounds and with bleeding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult a vet</li> </ul>

## KEEPING YOUR HOME FLOCK HEALTHY



**TABLE 2: BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS**

Behavioural issue	What is it	Symptoms	Management and treatment
<b>Broodiness</b>	When a hen insists on sitting on the eggs hoping they will hatch (fertilized or not). Broody hens occupy the nest for extended periods of time, thereby preventing other hens from laying.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prolonged nest sitting with or without eggs</li> <li>• Flattened wing stance over her nest</li> <li>• Aggression when her nest is approached</li> <li>• Aggression towards other birds in the nesting area</li> </ul>	Broody hens should be removed or separated from the rest of the flock. Isolate them for 3 to 4 days to eliminate their broody behaviour after which they can be returned to the flock. Keep a close watch for the next few days, as they may lapse back to being broody. Repeat the above isolation treatment if they do.
<b>Egg eating</b>	When a chicken breaks and eats an egg and develops a liking to it. It often starts as an accidental exposure to a broken egg, which leads to curious pecking and developing a liking to it. A chicken may also eat egg shells if deficient in calcium.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presence of broken eggs in the nests</li> </ul>	<p>First make sure the culprit is not a snake, rat or other wildlife.</p> <p>As chickens imitate each other and follow suit it is critical that this behaviour is stopped as soon as it is detected.</p> <p>This includes prompt removal of broken eggs and collecting eggs twice a day, and recondition behaviour preparing a bad tasting egg mixture for the culprit hens.</p>
<b>Feathering, pecking and cannibalism</b>	This vice usually results from overcrowding, lack of drinking and feeding space, boredom and poor living conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pecking injuries that affect the feathers, vent, comb and toes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stress is the most common reason for cannibalism. It is important to pick up early signs and determine the stressor and remove it</li> <li>• Removal of injured birds from flock</li> <li>• Removal of aggressive birds</li> <li>• Provide areas where the birds low in the hierarchy can escape</li> </ul>



## BIRDS OF A FEATHER FLOCK TOGETHER

If you're a bird enthusiast, there's no need to pick favourites. There are a number of birds that will happily mix with chickens and have very similar care and feeding requirements. As always, before you start looking to diversify your flock, make sure to check local Council regulations.

Following is a short introduction to other breeds of birds that are great to keep with chickens. If you'd like more detailed information on how to care for these other types of birds, it's best to approach a breeder, poultry club or experienced enthusiast.

### TURKEYS

#### Choice of birds

A number of heritage breeds make colourful additions to a backyard flock, including the bronze wing, slate and bourbon red.

Turkeys are best purchased when mature. Unlike chicken chicks, newborn turkeys cannot fend for themselves and need hours of hands-on care before they can feed and drink on their own.

Take care, as always, to purchase turkeys from reputable breeders.

#### Housing

Turkeys are the gentle giants of the poultry world and need a little more space, but otherwise their housing requirements are very similar to those of chickens. If you're keeping chickens with the turkeys, you will need individual nesting boxes so that the chickens feel comfortable laying eggs around their much larger cousins.

#### Feeding

Turkeys have very similar nutritional needs to chickens and can share the same packaged retail feeds available from pet stores and fodder stores, including those that contain medications to prevent coccidiosis.

If you're keeping turkeys as companion birds rather than for their eggs, it's better to use a packaged meat-bird or game-bird feed that is lower in calcium.

Always ensure that there is plenty of fresh water available alongside the feed!

#### Health

Turkeys are susceptible to many of the same diseases as other poultry. They are particularly prone to blackhead disease, a protozoan infection. Symptoms to watch out for include bluish cyanotic head and yellow, watery droppings. Sick birds need to be quarantined quickly and you should get in touch with a vet as soon as possible.

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NATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA, THE DOMESTIC TURKEY IS MOST OFTEN ENCOUNTERED IN ROASTED FORM! BUT IT'S MUCH MORE THAN DELICIOUS – THE TURKEY IS A BEAUTIFUL BIRD WITH A SOCIABLE TEMPERAMENT THAT MAKES IT A FINE ADDITION TO BACKYARD FLOCKS.

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## BIRDS OF A FEATHER FLOCK TOGETHER



### DUCKS

Ducks have a lot of personality, often sport beautiful plumage and can also provide eggs. They're also very independent and somewhat more self-sufficient than many types of poultry. Duck eggs, one of the main reasons for keeping them, are larger than chicken eggs and have a harder shell. They are also richer in flavour, making them ideal for baking cakes and cooking.

### Choice of birds

Like chooks, ducks are social birds and will be happiest in flocks of at least two. Other than the popular white Pekin duck, consider the Campbell's and Indian Runners, which will give your chickens some competition in the laying department. Bantam Mallards and Calls are also good laying breeds and their small size makes them easier to fit into a smaller garden.

Again, always purchase your birds from reputable breeders!

### Housing

Ducks should be housed separately from chickens as they are much messier and prefer to sleep on the floor rather than on a perch.

Laying ducks will need to build their own nests in which to lay and/or incubate their eggs. Provide plenty of clean mulch or wood shavings for them.

Ducks are just as vulnerable to predators as chickens are, and you'll need to take the same security measures when it comes to their housing. Ducks will typically need 0.5 m<sup>2</sup> of housing, assuming they are allowed to free range in the backyard during the day.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Bread is junk food to ducks and should only be provided occasionally as a treat. On no account should ducks be fed mouldy bread.

### Feeding

A commercially prepared pellet, supplemented with leafy greens, will meet a duck's nutritional requirements. As ducks scoop their food (rather than pecking), it will need to be provided in a flat container that allows for this action. The design of a duck's bill also doesn't allow it to pick up small food particles, so it's important to provide a quality feed that is low in fines. Ducks will self-regulate their feeding, so food should be available at all times, just as with chickens.

Be especially careful to check your feed for medications. Some medications added to turkey and chicken growing feeds are harmful for ducks.

### Water

Ducks are waterfowls, so it's important for them to have access to enough water to wash, groom and eat (though they don't necessarily need a pond to swim in). They also need plenty of water to wash down their food. As a rule of thumb, a duck needs at least twice the amount of water as chickens and other land-based poultry.

## BIRDS OF A FEATHER FLOCK TOGETHER

### OTHER POTENTIAL COMPANIONS

#### A. Guinea Fowls

Gregarious, low-maintenance birds that fit in well with chickens and turkeys.

#### B. Geese

As the majority of their diet is grass, geese should only be considered when there is sufficient quantities available for them to graze.

#### C. Peafowl

The blue peafowl (peacock) is the best choice of this showy species as it can tolerate colder climates and live with other species of birds without fighting. Peafowl require a large space in which to range and they can also be noisy!

#### D. Pheasants

A sociable bird that mixes well with other breeds of poultry. Although they are able to fly short distances, they generally prefer to run. Like peafowl, pheasants do require a large space to roam.



A



B



C



D

## FEEDING FOR SUCCESS



CHICKENS ARE OMNIVORES, SO THEY ARE HEALTHIEST WHEN THEY HAVE A DIET CONTAINING BOTH MEAT AND VEGETABLE MATERIAL. IN THE WILD THIS WOULD CONSIST OF FORAGING FOR INSECTS, WORMS, CARCASSES, SEEDS AND OTHER PLANT MATERIAL.

The diet of domesticated chickens should aim to provide a similar range of nutrients to what they would get in the wild. It should also encourage the chicken's natural foraging behaviours. Your garden is unlikely to provide everything your chooks need in sufficient quantities, especially if they're laying hens, so commercial feeds (which also include complete vegetarian varieties) are indispensable for a happier, healthier flock.

### THE KEY NUTRIENTS

To achieve good health and well-being a chicken's diet needs to provide the following key nutrients.

NUTRIENT	ROLE
<b>Water</b>	Often overlooked, water is one of the most important nutrients. Poultry require twice as much water as feed. Water is essential for keeping the bird hydrated, carrying nutrients around the body, and is involved in many other essential body functions.
<b>Energy</b>	Laying eggs is an energy-expensive process, and a laying hen needs good sources of this from the carbohydrates and fat in her diet.
<b>Protein</b>	Dietary protein provides amino acids, which are the building blocks to most structures in the chicken and its egg.

### FEEDING FOR LIFE STAGE

Just like us, chickens have different dietary requirements at different stages of life.

Chicks will mature in only a few months, so they require a diet that can provide the nutrients needed for rapid growth and feather development. As such, chick feeds have higher levels of energy and protein than adult bird feeds. Chicks also need their feed supplied in a form that they can eat with their much smaller beaks.

Once pullets are fully feathered, their energy requirements are reduced. Feeding layer pullets aims to maintain a growth rate that will lead to the pullet reaching physical maturity at the desired age. And just like us, it's important to regulate her diet to avoid obesity.

Adult layer feeds are different again, aimed at providing a balanced diet that supports consistent egg production, while maintaining healthy weight and overall condition.

NUTRIENT	ROLE
<b>Fibre</b>	Fibre plays an important role in the overall health and wellbeing of the bird in the gizzard and small intestine. In laying hens, providing fibre has been shown to reduce the number of dirty eggs.
<b>Vitamins and minerals</b>	These support essential body functions and build resistance to disease.
<b>Calcium</b>	Calcium is required for strong bones and good quality eggshells. It can be beneficial to also offer coarse sources of calcium such as shell grit or limestone chips. These provide a sustained slow-release of calcium and allow for the selection of extra calcium by hens.

## FEEDING FOR SUCCESS

### CHICKEN KNOWS BEST

A chicken knows how to self-regulate its food intake (worth pointing out to your dog or cat) to meet its needs and should have 24/7 access to feed. You can still get enjoyment from scattering food for your chickens (and it's a great thing to do with kids) but make sure that this is not the only way you feed them.

Chickens feed according to their pecking order, with dominant chickens feeding first. Remember this when scattering out food and make sure that there is enough for the submissive birds.



**YOU DON'T NEED TO WET DRY FEEDS BEFORE FEEDING TO CHICKENS.**

### PACKAGED COMMERCIAL FEEDS

While it is tempting to think that your home flock will be able to get enough food from hunting down insects and eating greens from free ranging, the reality is that most backyards are neither large nor diverse enough for this to be possible.

Commercial feeds provide a convenient, reliable and safe way to ensure that your flock gets enough to eat, day-in and day-out.



Commercial feeds are formulated to provide a chicken with all the nutrients it requires at its different life stages. Better still, most packaged feeds are complete feeds, meaning that the feed provides all the nutrition your chicken needs to survive and thrive. Be aware that these are distinct from supplementary feeds, which are intended to be used from time to time, either as a treat or to encourage a particular behaviour.

### GREENS

Green vegetables and plants are sources of vitamins and can contribute carotenoid pigments for yolk colour. Hens that are allowed to free range in the garden will happily graze on plants and you can provide leafy greens as treats.

Greens must always be viewed as a supplementary food source however, as they will not provide the balance of nutrients a healthy chicken requires.

### KITCHEN SCRAPS

Contrary to conventional wisdom, chickens will not survive on vegetable scraps alone! In fact, feeding your flock too often from the scraps bin can result in nutrient dilution, where the lower nutrient content of the scraps 'dilutes' the good stuff obtained from quality feed sources.



This in turn can compromise your hen's health. Veggie scraps should therefore only be given as an occasional treat for your hens – turn the rest into compost.

Take extra care to avoid access to mouldy or 'off' feed, such as old damp stored grain or mouldy bread. These can contain toxins that can affect the health and performance of laying hens.

### HARD GRIT

Grit is generally described as small, insoluble stones of approximately 3mm (1/8") in diameter. Hens don't have teeth, so they use these small stones to grind their feed in the gizzard. This is why you need to give them grit when you feed them coarse grains like wheat, or any other foodstuff which needs to be broken down.





### BARASTOC HAS A FEED FOR EVERY FLOCK

We have been trusted for generations to provide poultry owners with performance feeds that result in healthy, happy and productive flocks. We've got the right feed to provide your birds with a nutritious, balanced and complete diet, at every stage of life.

#### Each and every feed we make;

- Is specifically formulated using the latest nutritional science.
- Is made from quality raw materials sourced predominantly from Australian farmers, in accredited manufacturing facilities.

*At Barastoc, we put the chicken before the egg!*



The following pages provide information about our ranges of feeds.

#### ESSENTIALS RANGE

##### You get back what you put in.

Our nutritionists have been formulating poultry diets for a long time now and have built an intimate understanding of how nutrition underpins the health, wellness and egg laying ability of backyard chickens.

The Barastoc Essentials range has been developed using this market leading know-how to blend quality ingredients into complete diets for backyard flocks at all stages of life.



#### NATURALS RANGE

##### Everything you want, nothing you don't want.

Based on the same sound nutritional science as our essential's range, Barastoc Naturals address the needs of those consumers who have made lifestyle choices about the animals they care for and the food they eat.

All products in the Barastoc Naturals range are guaranteed to be made from natural ingredients, and are free of medications, added hormones, artificial colours and flavours.



#### WELLNESS RANGE

##### A happy chicken is a productive chicken.

Like their human owners, not all chickens are the same and if they don't get the right nutrition, their health, wellness and egg laying will be impacted.

The Barastoc Wellness range offers supplementary feeds that provide the health and happiness of your home flock, especially during the demanding stages of life.

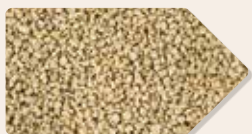


## CHICK STARTER



**GIVE THEM  
THE BEST START  
IN LIFE**

A nutritious, balanced and complete crumbled feed for chicks, from hatching to 8 weeks of age. Suited to a wide range of layer bird-breeds.



### WHAT WILL IT PROVIDE MY CHICKS?

We understand that for a chick to develop into a laying champion it needs to be provided with a high-quality feed during the first 8 weeks after hatching. This will optimise its growth, health and wellbeing during this crucial developmental stage.

Feed is a concentrate of high-quality ingredients that meet the nutritional demands of growing chicks.

Contains an anticoccidial as an aid in the prevention of coccidiosis. For more information on this condition refer to page 40.

Presented as a small crumble which is suitable for small beaks.

### FEEDING GUIDE

Chicks should have continuous access to feed - do not restrict feed consumption. Self-feeders designed for poultry are a good way to ensure feed is continuously available.

Hatchlings can be encouraged to start eating feed by scattering feed on newspaper placed around feeders.

You can expect young chicks to consume 50 grams of feed per bird each day.

Ensure that your chicks have access to clean, fresh water at all times.

### NUTRIENT LEVELS

Min Crude Protein	19.5%	Min Calcium	1.0%
Min Crude Fat	2.5%	Min Available Phos	0.5%
Max Crude Fibre	6.0%	Min Added Copper	8.0mg
Max Added Salt	0.5%	Min Added Selenium	0.3mg
Bovatec® 20CC (Lasalocid Sodium)		80mg	

Typical analysis as fed / kg

### WHAT'S IN IT?

INGREDIENTS SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING: Cereal Grains and their By-products, Legumes and their By-products, Vegetable Protein Meals, Fats and Oils, Calcium Carbonate, Mono-Di Calcium Phosphate, Ridley Vitamin and Mineral Premix, Essential Amino Acids and Enzymes, Anticoccidial - Bovatec® 20CC.

## PULLET GROWER



**FUEL FOR  
FUTURE LAYING  
CHAMPIONS**

A nutritious, balanced and complete crumbled feed specifically formulated for growing pullets, from 8 weeks to 16 weeks of age. Suited to a wide range of layer bird breeds.



### WHAT WILL IT PROVIDE MY PULLETS?

We understand that for a pullet to develop into a laying champion it needs to be provided with the right balance of nutrients to support its growth, and to optimise its health and wellbeing as it approaches point of lay.

Feed provides the right balance of protein, energy, calcium and phosphorus to help pullets transition from immature birds into strong, healthy laying birds.

Contains an anticoccidial as an aid in the prevention of coccidiosis. For more information about this condition refer to page 40.

Presented as a crumble which is suitable for smaller beaks.

### FEEDING GUIDE

Pullets should have continuous access to feed - do not restrict feed consumption. Self-feeders designed for poultry are a good way to ensure feed is continuously available.

You can expect growing pullets to consume 95 grams of feed per bird each day.

Ensure that your pullets have access to clean, fresh water at all times.

### NUTRIENT LEVELS

Min Crude Protein	15.5%	Min Calcium	1.0%
Min Crude Fat	2.5%	Min Available Phos	0.5%
Max Crude Fibre	6.0%	Min Added Copper	8.0mg
Max Added Salt	0.5%	Min Added Selenium	0.3mg
Bovatec® 20CC (Lasalocid Sodium)		80mg	

Typical analysis as fed / kg

### WHAT'S IN IT?

INGREDIENTS SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING: Cereal Grains and their By-products, Legumes and their By-products, Vegetable Protein Meals, Fats and Oils, Calcium Carbonate, Mono-Di Calcium Phosphate, Ridley Vitamin and Mineral Premix, Essential Amino Acids and Enzymes, Anticoccidial - Bovatec® 20CC.

## GOLDEN YOLK



### AUSTRALIA'S NO. 1 EVERYDAY LAYER POULTRY FEED

A nutritious, balanced and complete everyday pelleted feed specifically formulated for laying birds of all breeds in a home flock.



#### WHAT WILL IT PROVIDE MY CHICKENS?

We understand that each egg a hen lays depletes her body of protein, energy, calcium and other nutrients. A hen therefore requires a nutritious feed to remain in peak condition and to produce eggs day-in and day-out for her laying lifetime.

Nutritionally balanced layer feed to support hen health and egg production from the point of lay onwards.

Contains PoultryStar®, a poultry-specific blend of probiotics and prebiotics that help build and maintain a healthy gut flora. For more information visit [www.biomin.net](http://www.biomin.net).

Fortified with bio-available calcium, phosphorus & vitamin D<sub>3</sub> to provide the building blocks for stronger shells.

Enriched with bio-available vitamin E and selenium to assist with repair and recovery.

Contains functional fibres to promote more efficient digestion of food.

#### FEEDING GUIDE

Hens should have continuous access to feed - do not restrict feed consumption. Self-feeders designed for poultry are a good way to ensure feed is continuously available.

Make sure that Barastoc Golden Yolk makes up the majority of the hens' total daily feed, to ensure a balanced diet. Other feeds such as green scraps, pasture and hay may be fed, but only in small amounts.

You can expect laying hens to consume 120 – 130 grams of feed per bird each day.

Ensure that your hens have access to clean, fresh water at all times.

#### NUTRIENT LEVELS

Min Crude Protein	15.0%	Min Calcium	4.0%
Min Crude Fat	2.5%	Min Available Phos	0.4%
Max Crude Fibre	10.0%	Min Added Copper	6.5mg
Max Added Salt	0.3%	Min Added Selenium	0.1mg
Min Vitamin D <sub>3</sub>	2,000 IU	Min Vitamin E	10mg

Typical analysis as fed / kg

#### WHAT'S IN IT?

INGREDIENTS SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING: Cereal Grains and their By-products, Legumes and their By-products, Animal and Vegetable Protein Meals, Fats and Oils, Calcium Carbonate, Mono-Di Calcium Phosphate, Ridley Vitamin and Mineral Premix, Essential Amino Acids and Enzymes, PoultryStar®.

## EVERYDAY LAYER



### BALANCED NUTRITION YOUR CHICKENS WILL LOVE

A nutritious, balanced and complete grain mash feed specifically formulated for laying birds of all breeds in a home flock.



#### WHAT WILL IT PROVIDE MY CHICKENS?

We understand that each egg a hen lays depletes her body of protein, energy, calcium and other nutrients. A hen therefore requires a nutritious feed to remain in peak condition and to produce eggs day in and day out for her laying lifetime.

A nutritionally balanced layer feed to support hen health and egg production from point of lay onwards.

Balanced calcium and phosphorus levels to enable the hen to produce eggs with strong shells.

An assortment of cracked and milled ingredients to encourage natural foraging behaviour.

#### FEEDING GUIDE

Hens should have continuous access to feed. Do not restrict feed consumption. Self-feeders designed for poultry are a good way to ensure feed is continuously available.

Ensure that Barastoc Everyday Layer makes up the majority of the hens' total daily feed to ensure a balanced diet. Other feeds such as green scraps, pasture and hay may be fed, but only in small amounts.

You can expect laying hens to consume 120 – 130 grams of feed per bird each day.

Ensure your hens have access to clean, fresh water at all times.

#### NUTRIENT LEVELS

Min Crude Protein	15.0%	Min Calcium	3.5%
Min Crude Fat	2.5%	Min Available Phos	0.5%
Max Crude Fibre	10.0%	Min Added Copper	10.0mg
Max Added Salt	0.3%	Min Added Selenium	0.3mg

Typical analysis as fed / kg

#### WHAT'S IN IT?

INGREDIENTS SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING: Cereal Grains and their By-products, Legumes and their By-products, Vegetable Protein Meals, Fats and Oils, Calcium Carbonate, Mono-Di Calcium Phosphate, Ridley Vitamin and Mineral Premix, Essential Amino Acids and Enzymes.



## TOP LAYER



### WHEN PERFORMANCE COUNTS

A nutritious, balanced and complete premium mash feed with higher levels of nutrients required for egg laying. Barastoc Top Layer is formulated to maximise egg production for laying birds of all breeds in a home flock.



### WHAT WILL IT PROVIDE MY CHICKENS?

We understand that each egg a hen lays depletes her body of protein, energy, calcium and other nutrients. A highly nutritious feed will keep the laying birds in your home flock in peak condition and enable them to produce more eggs, more often.

A higher protein level to help your bird achieve her laying potential.

Fortified with bio-available calcium and phosphorus to provide the building blocks to support strong eggshells.

An assortment of cracked and milled ingredients to encourage natural foraging behaviour and enhance yolk colour.

### FEEDING GUIDE

Hens should have continuous access to feed. Do not restrict feed consumption. Self-feeders designed for poultry are a good way to ensure feed is continually available.

Ensure that Barastoc Top Layer makes up the majority of the hens' total daily feed to ensure a balanced diet. Other feeds such as green scraps, pasture and hay may be fed, but only in small amounts.

You can expect laying hens to consume 120 grams of feed per bird each day.

Ensure your hens have access to clean, fresh water at all times.

### NUTRIENT LEVELS

Min Crude Protein	16.5%	Min Calcium	4.0%
Min Crude Fat	2.5%	Min Available Phos	0.4%
Max Crude Fibre	10.0%	Min Added Copper	10.0mg
Max Added Salt	0.3%	Min Added Selenium	0.3mg

Typical analysis as fed / kg

### WHAT'S IN IT?

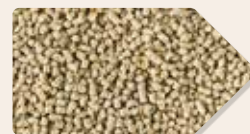
INGREDIENTS SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING: Cereal Grains and their By-products, Legumes and their By-products, Vegetable Protein Meals, Fats and Oils, Calcium Carbonate, Mono-Di Calcium Phosphate, Ridley Vitamin and Mineral Premix, Essential Amino Acids and Enzymes.

## CHAMPION LAYER



### WHEN PERFORMANCE COUNTS

A nutritious, balanced and complete premium short cut pellet feed, formulated to maximise egg production for laying birds of all breeds in a home flock.



### WHAT WILL IT PROVIDE MY CHICKENS?

We understand that each egg a hen lays depletes her body of protein, energy, calcium and other nutrients. A highly nutritious feed will keep the laying birds in your home flock in peak condition and enable them to produce more eggs, more often.

A higher protein level to help your bird achieve her laying potential.

Added fine and coarse limestone particles to support the development of strong eggshells.

Finely milled ingredients are pressed into a pellet for ease of feeding and to decrease wastage caused by selective feeding.

### FEEDING GUIDE

Hens should have continuous access to feed – do not restrict feed consumption. Self-feeders designed for poultry are a good way to ensure feed is continually available.

Ensure that Barastoc Champion Layer makes up the majority of the hens' total daily feed to ensure a balanced diet. Other feeds such as green scraps, pasture and hay may be fed, but only in small amounts.

You can expect laying hens to consume 120 grams of feed per bird each day.

Ensure that your hens have access to clean, fresh water at all times.

### NUTRIENT LEVELS

Min Crude Protein	16.5%	Min Calcium	4.0%
Min Crude Fat	2.5%	Min Available Phos	0.4%
Max Crude Fibre	10.0%	Min Added Copper	10.0mg
Max Added Salt	0.3%	Min Added Selenium	0.3mg

Typical analysis as fed / kg

### WHAT'S IN IT?

INGREDIENTS SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING: Cereal Grains and their By-products, Legumes and their By-products, Animal and Vegetable Protein Meals, Fats and Oils, Calcium Carbonate, Mono-Di Calcium Phosphate, Ridley Vitamin and Mineral Premix, Essential Amino Acids and Enzymes.

## DARLING DOWNS



**100%  
VEGETARIAN  
GOODNESS**

A nutritious, balanced and complete vegetarian feed formulated from natural ingredients for laying hens in a home flock. Suitable for all breeds of laying poultry.



### WHAT WILL IT PROVIDE MY CHICKENS?

We understand your desire to provide a meat-free alternative to your chickens without compromising their health and wellbeing. We have developed Barastoc Darling Downs as a complete vegetarian feed specifically formulated using only high quality plant and vegetable based ingredients.

A nutritious, balanced and complete feed made from natural ingredients to support hen health and egg production.

A vegetarian blend of whole and cracked grains and sunflower seeds to encourage natural foraging behaviour.

A nutrient rich pellet has been included to ensure the bird's diet has all the vitamins and minerals it needs, naturally.

### FEEDING GUIDE

Hens should have continuous access to feed - do not restrict feed consumption. Self-feeders designed for poultry are a good way to ensure feed is continually available.

Ensure that Barastoc Darling Downs makes up the majority of the hens' total daily feed to ensure a balanced diet. Other feeds such as green scraps, pasture and hay may be fed, but only in small amounts.

You can expect laying hens to consume 130 grams of feed per bird each day.

Ensure your hens have access to clean, fresh water at all times.

### NUTRIENT LEVELS

Min Crude Protein	15.0%	Min Calcium	3.8%
Min Crude Fat	3.0%	Min Available Phos	0.2%
Max Crude Fibre	6.0%	Min Added Copper	8.0mg
Max Added Salt	0.3%	Min Added Selenium	0.3mg

Typical analysis as fed / kg

### WHAT'S IN IT?

INGREDIENTS SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING: Cereal Grains and their By-products, Legumes and their By-products, Vegetable Protein Meals, Vegetable Fats and Oils, Shell Grit (fine and coarse calcium), Mono-Di Calcium Phosphate, Ridley Nutri-Bit Pellet (Essential Vitamins and Minerals), Essential Amino Acids and Enzymes.

## GRAINS & GREENS



**AS NATURE  
INTENDED**

A nutritious, balanced and complete mix feed formulated from natural ingredients, including lucerne, for laying hens in a home flock. Suitable for all breeds of laying poultry.



### WHAT WILL IT PROVIDE MY CHICKENS?

We understand the pleasure that comes from watching your chickens forage for food when you let them out to range freely in your backyard. Barastoc Grains & Greens is a complete and balanced, all-natural blend of grains, seeds and lucerne that provides your chickens with all the nutrition they need to thrive. The assortment of textures and colours will also encourage your flock to scratch and forage, just as nature intended.

A nutritious, complete and balanced high protein diet to support hen health and egg production from point of lay onwards.

A blend of natural whole and cracked grains, seeds and cut lucerne to encourage your birds' natural foraging behaviour.

Fortified with bio-available calcium and phosphorus to provide the building blocks for stronger eggshells.

### FEEDING GUIDE

Hens should have continuous access to feed. Do not restrict feed consumption. Self-feeders designed for poultry are a good way to ensure feed is continually available.

Ensure that Barastoc Grains & Greens makes up the majority of the hens' total daily feed to ensure a balanced diet. Other feeds such as green scraps, pasture and hay may be fed, but only in small amounts.

You can expect laying hens to consume 130 grams of feed per bird each day.

Ensure that hens have access to clean, fresh water at all times.

### NUTRIENT LEVELS

Min Crude Protein	18.5%	Min Calcium	4.0%
Min Crude Fat	4.0%	Min Available Phos	0.35%
Max Crude Fibre	6.0%	Min Added Copper	8.0mg
Max Added Salt	0.2%	Min Added Selenium	0.3mg

Typical analysis as fed / kg

### WHAT'S IN IT?

INGREDIENTS SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING: Whole and Cracked Cereal Grains, Legumes, Vegetable Protein Meals, Sunflower Seeds, Vegetable Fats and Oils, Lucerne, Shell Grit (Fine and Coarse Calcium), Mono-Di Calcium Phosphate, Salt, Ridley Vitamin and Mineral Premix, Essential Amino Acids and Enzymes.



## MIXED FLOCK



### ONE FEED FOR YOUR ENTIRE FLOCK

A nutritious, balanced and complete short cut pellet made from natural ingredients to support the growth and maintenance of a wide range of birds in a home flock. For all breeds of poultry, game-birds and waterbirds in a home flock from 12 weeks of age.\*

\*Intended for poultry, gamebirds and waterbirds where their primary purpose is not to lay eggs.



### WHAT WILL IT PROVIDE MY POULTRY?

We understand that keeping a mixed flock of birds can provide a lot of pleasure, but it can also make feeding difficult due to their different sizes and nutritional requirements. Barastoc has therefore developed this versatile feed that meets all the nutritional needs of chickens, ducks, geese, guinea fowl and quails in a highly palatable short cut pellet.

A nutritious, balanced and complete feed that meets the nutritional requirements of a wide range of birds\* including chickens, ducks, geese, guinea fowl and quail.

A natural blend of ingredients sourced from Australian farmers.

Small pellet size that is suitable for a diverse range of birds of all sizes.

### FEEDING GUIDE

Daily feed intake depends on bird breed and size.

Birds in a home flock should have continuous access to feed - do not restrict consumption. Self-feeders designed for poultry are a good way to ensure feed is continually available.

Ensure that Barastoc Mixed Flock makes up the majority of the birds total daily feed to ensure a balanced diet. Other feeds such as green scraps, pasture and hay be fed, but only in small amounts.

Ensure that your birds have access to clean, fresh water at all times.

### NUTRIENT LEVELS

Min Crude Protein	22.0%	Min Calcium	3.8%
Min Crude Fat	3.0%	Min Available Phos	0.35%
Max Crude Fibre	5.0%	Min Added Copper	10mg
Max Added Salt	0.3%	Min Added Selenium	0.3mg

Typical analysis as fed / kg

### WHAT'S IN IT?

INGREDIENTS SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING: Cereal Grains and their By-products, Legumes and their By-products, Vegetable Protein Meals, Vegetable Fats and Oils, Shell Grit (fine and coarse calcium), Salt, Ridley Vitamin and Mineral Premix, Essential Amino Acids and Enzymes.

## 3 GRAIN



### YOUR BIRDS WILL LOVE IT!

A blend of grains and seeds designed for supplementary feeding. For all bird breeds from 16 weeks of age.



### WHAT WILL IT PROVIDE MY POULTRY?

We understand the pleasure of watching your birds scratch and forage, just as nature intended. Barastoc 3 Grain Scratch Mix is a special blend of whole and cracked grains that your birds will find irresistible. Dispense through a feeder or scatter around the coop or garden to keep your flock happy and active.

A blend of whole and cracked grains and seeds, designed to complement the poultry diet.

Formulated to entice birds and encourage their natural foraging behaviour.

A variety of grains and seeds to suit the preferences of a diverse range of bird breeds and sizes

### FEEDING GUIDE

Barastoc 3-Grain is a supplementary feed and should be used intermittently and in addition to a complete feed, such as Barastoc Golden Yolk or Barastoc Darling Down, ensuring that these complete feeds make up the majority of the diet.

Barastoc 3-Grain Scratch Mix can be fed by scattered liberally around the coop or yard to encourage birds' natural foraging behaviour.

Ensure that birds have access to clean, fresh water at all times.

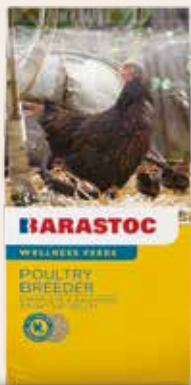
### NUTRIENT LEVELS

Min Crude Protein	10.0%	Min Calcium	2.0%
Min Crude Fat	2.5%	Min Available Phos	0.3%
Max Crude Fibre	6.0%	Min Added Copper	NIL
Max Added Salt	NIL	Min Added Selenium	NIL

Typical analysis as fed / kg

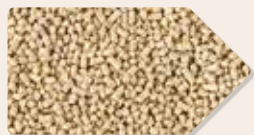
### WHAT'S IN IT?

INGREDIENTS SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING: Cereal Grains, Legumes, Fats and Oils, Calcium Carbonate, Mono-Di Calcium Phosphate.



### SUPPORTING NEW MOTHERS

A nutritious, complete and balanced, high protein short cut pellet, formulated to meet the nutritional requirements of breeding hens. Suitable for all breeds of poultry.



### WHAT WILL IT PROVIDE MY POULTRY?

We understand how rewarding hatching your own birds can be. Successful breeding is dependent on having a strong and healthy breeding hen, able to produce fertile eggs with high hatchability. Barastoc Poultry Breeder is a complete and balanced feed, developed specifically to meet the nutritional needs of your breeding hen during this crucial stage of life.

A nutritionally balanced feed to support the health and fertility of a breeding hen and to promote egg hatchability.

Fortified with the anti-oxidant vitamins E and C to support and protect a breeding hen.

Small pellet for ease of consumption by a wide range of breeds and sizes.

### FEEDING GUIDE

Expected daily feed intake depends on bird breed and size.

Ensure birds have continuous access to feed - do not restrict consumption. Self-feeders designed for poultry are a good way to ensure feed is continually available.

Ensure that Barastoc Poultry Breeder makes up the majority of the birds daily feed to ensure a balanced diet. Other feeds such as green scraps, pasture and hay may be fed, but only in small amounts.

Ensure birds have access to clean, fresh water at all times.

### NUTRIENT LEVELS

Min Crude Protein	16.0%	Min Calcium	3.5%
Min Crude Fat	2.8%	Min Available Phos	0.45%
Max Crude Fibre	8.0%	Min Added Copper	8.0mg
Max Added Salt	0.3%	Min Added Selenium	0.3mg

*Typical analysis as fed / kg*

### WHAT'S IN IT?

INGREDIENTS SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING: Cereal Grains and their By-products, Legumes and their By-products, Vegetable Protein Meals, Fats and Oils, Calcium Carbonate, Mono-Di Calcium Phosphate, Ridley Poultry Breeder Vitamin and Mineral Premix, Essential Amino Acids and Enzymes.



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MORE INFORMATION



Barastoc poultry feeds have been formulated to provide complete and balanced nutrition for your backyard flock. This feeding guide shows what feeds should be fed at each stage of a bird's life.

THE BARASTOC LAYER POULTRY RANGE

GROWING PULLETS (WEEKS OLD)		LAYING HENS	
			
2	8	10	16
ESSENTIAL FEEDS		NATURAL FEEDS	WELLNESS FEEDS
CHICK STARTER CRUMBLE	PULLET GROWER CRUMBLE	DARLING DOWNS VEGETARIAN LAYER GRAIN MIX	POULTRY BREEDER PELLET
		MIXED FLOCK PELLET	3 GRAIN SCRATCH MIX
		GRAINS & GREENS GRAIN, SEED & LUCERNE MIX	
	CHAMPION LAYER PREMIUM PELLET		
	TOP LAYER PREMIUM MASH		



We've covered the basics, but there's always more to learn about keeping these wonderful birds!

Below we've listed a range of sources with additional, in-depth information about everything in the Chook Book.



AUSTRALIAN EGGS  
australianeggs.org.au

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AND WATER RESOURCES  
agriculture.gov.au

AUSTRALASIAN VETERINARY  
POULTRY ASSOCIATION  
avpa.asn.au

AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE  
TURKEY SOCIETY INCORPORATED  
turkeysaustralia.com.au





**AUSTRALIA'S LEADING PROVIDER  
OF HIGH PERFORMANCE ANIMAL  
NUTRITION SOLUTIONS.**

At Ridley we are passionate about providing tailored animal nutrition solutions to a diverse range of customers, from commercial farms through to backyard enthusiasts, to feed all types of animals including poultry, dairy cows, beef cattle, pigs, sheep, fish, prawns, horses, dogs and lifestyle animals.

This and every product we sell is backed by our investment in a dedicated team of world class nutritionists, manufacturing facilities that adopt the highest quality standards and research & development that keep us at the forefront of advances in animal nutrition and science.

Ridley: Proudly working side by side Australians who feed animals for a living or count them as part of their family.



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