



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LIVESTOCK RESEARCH SECTION

GUIDELINES FOR BROILER KEEPING



The applicant should be a registered farmer, having no less than a 1000 metre square of land.

LOCATION

The chosen site should:

- not be in a flood-prone area
- be more than 15m away from any water source (flowing river, seasonal stream)
- be 30m away from any dwelling house other than a designated agricultural area
- have enough space for the requested project
- not have too many boulders (big stones) on the project area
- not in a valley
- have tall bushy plants at the boundary
- be able to accommodate:
 - a chicken pen well built with its necessary facilities such as feeders and drinkers
 - a standard manure shed
 - a feed store
 - a water storage facility
 - a tools' store
 - a staff toilet & shower
 - if staff is to reside on farm, a staff accommodation or a watchman shed
 - sewage system facilities
 - a fence if necessary
- have 30m from each type of animal pens (ruminant/pig/others) on the land for a better hygiene & biosecurity system.

N.B: It's advisable to consider extra acreage for any possible future expansion, SAA should be informed prior to the broiler chicken project in case there are other plans by the applicant for other types of projects in the future on the same parcel number or adjacent to it.

BUILDING SIZE

The building dimension will depend on the amount of land available and the quantity of birds that has been granted permission to rear. To facilitate the daily operation/activities inside the chicken coop, the entrance must be large enough to allow any vehicle inside the coop, if ever there is any need to, eg: for manure cleanout...

The height of a chicken coop must be 4.2m- 4.8m high and 10.5m wide

The acceptable amount of chicken is 14 birds per square meter

The roof should not be less than 3m high to facilitate proper ventilation

The walls surrounding the chicken coop must be 30cm high.

ORIENTATION

The chicken coop should be constructed on the east west side to avoid direct sun rays and rain water inside the coop, always keep a distance of 2.5m between any other coops.

ROOFING

The roof cover must be connected with a rain gutter to discharge the rain water in a safe place. Rain water harvesting can be done by connecting the rain gutter to a water tank/reservoir.

FLOORING

A 4 inches (10cm) concrete is acceptable for the chicken coop floor; with a sloping of 3% gradient. It is not advisable to rear poultry on compacted soil only as it increases the risks of infection.

MANURE SHED

A small shed with concrete flooring and surrounded on 3 sides by well plastered retaining walls (not less than 120cm in height) that houses all manure from the chicken coop.

Manure should be regularly removed as it contains ammonia from animal wastes. High level of ammonia in an enclosed environment could be hazardous and affect production.

FEEDERS

- Feeder plates or empty gunny bags or even cardboard are used to feed the day old chicks, distribute them with a spacing of one meter apart into the brooder
- Gradually change to the regular feeders and have the chick feeders removed at the end of the first week
- 1 Manual Feeder is for 75-100 chicks.

Always keep the feeders clean!

DRINKERS

- When chicks arrive water should be present in chick drinkers and distributed in the brooder area
- 70-80 chicks should use one drinker
- The chicks drinker will gradually be replaced by automatic drinkers starting from the 3 day
- The maximum distance between the drinkers is 2.5m
- If using automatic drinker the height should be adjusted according to the age and size of the broilers
- A water reservoir is advisable in each coop to supply drinkers in that particular coop, as this will facilitate medication like vitamin or any other treatment required by the Veterinary personals
- Water consumptions generally are twice as much as the feed intake
- During hot weather the water consumption may increase
- Cool water will encourage the chicks to drink and eat more, that will improve the growth and feed conversion
- The water reservoir in the coop should be checked regularly to ensure the water quality is satisfactory for the birds' consumption.

Always keep the drinkers clean!

In Seychelles it is recommended that the all in all-out system in broiler management.

BEFORE RECEIVING THE CHICKS

- 2 weeks before the arrival of the new batch of chicks you must clean and disinfect the coop with suitable disinfectant
- 1 week before the litter is spread over the floor at about 4 inches thick and disinfect the litter if necessary
- Fill and place the drinkers, feeders plates into the brooder 24 hrs before the arrival
- Brooder- The surround is usually of masonite or plywood of approximately 45cm high. These should be placed in such a way that the area for the chicks can be increased whenever necessary.

CHICK ARRIVAL

- When the chicks arrive the brooder should be at the optimum temperature of 33°C
- Place the chicks in the surrounds
- If the temperature is optimum, the chicks will immediately locate water and feed, this prevent dehydration and mortality
- Check the behavior of the chicks regularly and ensure that they start drinking as soon as they arrive
- If they are too slow to reach/drink water encourage them by dipping the beak of some chicks in water.

BROODING *(Please refer to the leaflet- **Brooding in Poultry Management**)*

In the brooder, the chicks select their own desired temperature

How to detect if the temperature is too high?

- The chicks tend to breath restlessly and move away from the heat source

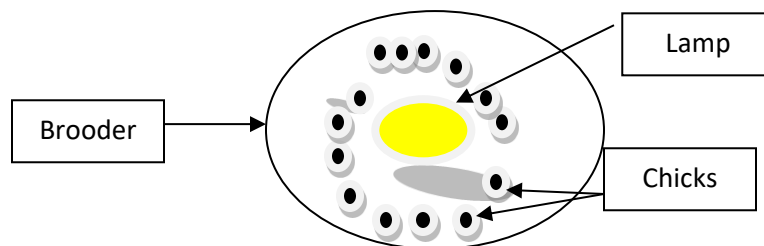
Solution: Raise the lamp slightly higher

How to detect if the temperature is too low?

- The chicks are crowded near the source of heat making a typical distress noise

Solution: Lower the lamp slightly

If the temperature is good, the chicks are evenly spread over the floor and are comfortable. Always monitor the chicks to ensure this kind of distribution.



FEED/FEEDING

Broiler Starter	From day old until 3 weeks old
Broiler Finisher	From 4 weeks old until slaughter (6 to 7 weeks)

NB: The older the birds are, the more feed they need for maintenance

RECORD KEEPING

This is important to keep the source and number of birds being placed in the farm and it helps in the financial management of the farm.

It helps the farmer to know:

1. The number of birds culled or dies each day
2. The amount of feed/ water/ medication given

This helps to give an indication of the overall performance of the farm and allows the farmer to calculate whether a profit or a loss is envisaged. It helps in better managing the business.

Statistics prove that farmers who keep records are better in managing their finances, compared to those who do not.

BIOSECURITY

This is a series of measures necessary to prevent diseases from entering the farm. It is often neglected but vital to avoiding farm production losses.

- Fence the farm and restricting access to authorized personal only
- Place a vehicle dip at the entrance of the farm (the disinfectant used should be broad spectrum antibacterial/antifungal/virucidal and should be changed daily)
- Place a footbath at the entrance of each coop
- Maintaining an effective rodent eradication program
- Maintaining an effective fly control program using baits or insecticide sprays
- Proper cleaning and disinfection of tools, equipment
- Feed stores should be rat /bird proofed with proper ceiling
- Feed should be stored on pallet and not directly on floor and arrangement of feed should be such that will be rotated on a first come first serve basis
- Manure must be stored in a properly covered manure shed with a concrete floor slopping to an outside drain that is connected to the waste water disposal system or soak away pit depending on accessibility of either. Must be stacked at least 10 meters from the main pen.
- The tool store should be kept clean & tidy with shelves to store pesticides and disinfectant
- All medications should be stored in a fridge in a secure safe place under lock and key

- Adoption of an all-in-all-out, whereby only one age bird is reared at one time in one coop
- After each batch of birds has been removed from the coop, disinfect the entire coop, inside and outside, from the walls to the surrounding fence, then allow for 2 weeks rest period before re-stocking. This helps break any cycle of microbes from the previous batch from passing on to the new one
- Clean all piping system and water tanks
- All dead birds should be disposed by deep burial
- Careful daily visualization of the entire flock should be able to detect any unthrifty (unwell) birds.
- Prompt notification of the Veterinary Services should be done upon detection of any suspicious sickness or deaths.
- For human own safety and to prevent any spread of animal diseases, it is always advisable to wear a separate set of protective clothing on the farm
- The farm house or watchman room should consist of toilet, shower, small cooking area, resting room and a place to store their personal belonging like bags, overalls and boots.

N.B: If any abnormal deaths occur, Veterinary Services should be contacted prior to disposal of the broiler chicken as there might need to conduct further examinations and sampling of infectious tissues from the broiler chicken.

BACK YARD

Only a limited amount of 50 free range chicken/any other avian is permitted. They can be rear in 4.5-meter square of pen and need an area of 50-meter square as exercise yard. It's also advisable to limit the amount of cockerel and quail as their noise might be a nuisance to the neighbours.

For More Information

Seychelles Agricultural Agency	– Headquarters	– 4676450
Ms. Marie-Michelle Payet	– Senior Agricultural Scientist	– 2724993
Livestock Veterinary Doctor	–Grand Anse Mahe	– 2723291
Seychelles Agricultural Agency	–Praslin	–4233313