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Popular Article

## Winter Management of Chicken

SR Shaikh\*

Department of Veterinary Clinical Medicine

College of Veterinary and Animals Sciences, MAFSU, Parbhani (MH), India – 431 402

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### Brooding Management

Brooding is a period after the hatch when special care and attention is given to chicks to support their health and growth. Following points should be considered for brooding management of birds during winter season:

- Sugar water for first 8 hrs dosage @ 80 gm per lit of water.
- Paper feeding in Day 1 (24 hours).
- Turbo feeder feeding in Day 2 to day 15.
- Introduction of Adult feeders from Day 5.
- Introduction of Auto drinkers from Day 3.
- Extension of space for every 3 days.
- According to the shed climate, adjust the side curtains right from the day one onwards.
- Monitor the chicks' behavior and maintain the temperature and RH% accordingly.
- Crop scoring should be carried out daily to ensure the feed intake of chicks.

### Litter Management

Important functions of litter include absorbing moisture, to dilute excreta, thus minimizing bird to manure contact and to provide insulation from cold floor temperature. Following points should be considered for litter management during winter season:

- Litter material should be applied evenly to depth of 4 inch.
- Paddy husk 400 Kg for 1000 sq. ft.
- Raking the litter daily from 1st day onwards till marketing the birds.
- It is important to keep it dry with moisture of 20%.



- Litter should adhere to your hand and breakdown on release.
- If ammonia smell is high provide super phosphate/Potash h@ 10 Kg/1000 sq. ft.

### **Special Points for Winter Season Management**

In winter season, the first 10 days brooding period is most important and following special points should be considered for management of chicken:

- Space provision may be varied this season. It is advised to maintain standard temperature, 0.2 to 0.25 sq. ft. / chick during the first 3 days of brooding.
- This season heating source arrangement is very important to maintain the room temperature at standard level.
- This season we can use different heat sources like, coal brooder. drum brooder, Gas brooder, Bulb brooding & electric brooders.
- This season concentrate more in midnight 12 O' clock to early morning 8 O'clock. In this period, the temperature goes down to abnormal levels.
- Proper responsible person is needed in this period to maintaining good brooding management.
- Variety of curtains management to follow to maintain room temperature in this period as side curtains, double curtains, ceiling curtains and centre curtains / cross curtains.
- Normally in this season, farmers achieve good productivity through proper brooding management.

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