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Brooding and space requirements for poultry

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Brooding Temperatures

The proper temperature necessary for baby poultry changes during the first weeks of life. Poultry raisers should strive to follow the suggested temperatures in the following chart by regulating heat in the brooding unit. The temperatures should be measured at the outer edge of the hover 4 to 6 inches (10.2-15.2 centimeters) above the floor. Room temperature should not be over 75°F (23.9°C) during the first few weeks. It is advisable to keep room temperature cool to encourage rapid feathering of the chicks.

Age	Brooding Temperature
0 to 1 week	93°-95°F (33.9°-35°C)
1 to 2 weeks	88°-90°F (31.1°-32.2°C)
2 to 3 weeks	83°-85°F (28.3°-29.4°C)
3 to 4 weeks	78°-80°F (25.6°-26.7°C)
4 to 5 weeks	75°F (23.9°C)
5 to 6 weeks	70°F (21.1°C)
6 weeks and over	Comfort Zone 50°-70°F (10°-21.1°C)



Space requirements for poultry

CHICKENS

Weeks of age		Per Bird			
		Square feet* of space		Linear inches* of trough	
		Floor	Cage	Feeder	Waterer/100
Brooding	0-4	½	½	1½	24
Growing	4-12	1	¾	2½	48
Roasters	8-12	2	1	2½	48
	12-16	2	1	3	48
Replacements	8-12	2	1	3	48
	12-21	2½-3	1	4	60
Layers					
Leghorn type	21+	2½-3	1	4	60
Dual-purpose	21+	3-3½	1	4	60
		Size of cage (inches)**		Birds per cage (Number)	
Typical laying cages	21+	w	d	h	
		8	14	18	1
		12	14	18	2
		16	20	18	3-5

TURKEYS

Weeks of age		Per Bird			
		Square feet* of space		Linear inches* of trough	
		Floor	Cage	Feeder	Waterer/100
Brooding					
Small type	0-8	1	—	1½	30
Grow-out	8-18	2½	—	3	60
Brooding					
Large type	0-8	1	—	2	30
Grow-out	8-16	2½	—	3	60
Finishing					
Hens	16-20	3	—	4	80
Toms	16-24	5	—	4	80

YARDS

Chickens	Mature	10
Turkeys	Mature	20

^{1/}To convert to metrics, use these equivalents - 1 square foot = .083 square meter; 1 inch = 2.54 centimeters.

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