

# Ready-To-Lay Pullet Care Guide



The Ready-To-Lay Pullets you have purchased have been raised under our strict supervision, have received the necessary vaccinations for most poultry diseases, and have most had their beaks trimmed to prevent feed waste and pecking. We do offer some Ready-To-Lay Pullets with untrimmed beaks if you would prefer that. Also, they have been tested for Avian Influenza and Salmonella Enteritidis at 14-weeks. Our floor raised birds will perform well in free-range or confined housing (minimum of 1.5 -2 sq. ft. /bird). Please note: If you intend to pasture your birds, confining them inside for a period of 14-21-days after arrival is recommended. This will allow them to become familiar with the location of feeders, waterers and nesting areas. Smooth transition from the growing house to laying house is critical to ensure health and productivity.

Proper management is the key to avoiding production "F. L. A. W.s"

## Feed

- These are the feed rations at each age recommended to maximize egg number and size:

Weeks Old	16-30	31-40	41-50
% Protein	18	17	16
Layer Ration			

- We do NOT recommend supplementing their feed ration with any other grain or caloric intake; this will disrupt the nutritional balance of the properly formulated ration. Anything short of their nutritional requirement can have a devastating impact on egg production.
- During peak production (28-40-weeks), layers should also have oyster shells available to supplement calcium requirements.
- Feed pans approximately 6 to 8-inches off the floor will reduce feed waste.
- SPACE FOR FEEDERS: Hanging feeders with a diameter of approximately 12-inches will accommodate up to 25 birds.

## Light Stimulation

- This is one of the most important factors in maximizing egg numbers and size.
- If day length is allowed to decrease when pullets are beginning to lay or in lay, these birds will drop in production or stop laying completely.
- At 16-weeks these pullets are getting 12-hours of day length per day. (Example: 6:00 am to 6:00 pm)
- We recommend using a timer to increase day length following this schedule:

Weeks Old	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Daylight Hours	12	13	14	15	15 <sup>1/2</sup>	16	16 <sup>1/4</sup>	16 <sup>1/2</sup>	16 <sup>3/4</sup>	17

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## Light Stimulation Continued

- These increases must be given every 7-days.
- Remember that natural day length changes both morning and evening, so it's best to add am and pm lights.
- Once you reach 17-hours of light per day, maintain this lighting program year around.
- Turning the lights on at 4:30 am and off at 9:30 pm is ideal and will cover any outside daylight influence.
- Lights in your laying house that are too bright could lead to pecking and flightiness; one 60-watt bulb for up to a 12-foot by 12-foot area is adequate.
  - **REMEMBER: never let day length decrease on layers.**

## Air

- Fresh air movement is important to ensure healthy birds.
- It will prevent eye damage or blindness from ammonia burn during the winter months.
- Extreme high, low, or variable temperatures will adversely affect egg production and overall health.
- The ideal temperature is 70°.
- During the winter months, keep the temperature above 50°.

## Water Transition

Most started pullets are raised with nipple drinkers. Because of this, these birds are not used to fountain style drinkers.

- If using fountain type waterers, make sure to have the drinkers at head height. This will make it easier for the birds to see the water.
- Putting in additional lights above the waterers during transition from pullet to layer house will help the birds find their new watering system.
- **SPACE FOR WATERERS:** A round waterer with a diameter of approx. 15-inches will accommodate up to 75 birds.
- If using a trough waterer, allow 2-inches of space per bird.
- If using nipple drinkers, it will allow 10 birds per nipple.
- Warm water or feed build-up in the watering system will aid in bacteria growth.

**REMEMBER: if you won't drink it, don't give it to your layers.**

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We thank you for the opportunity to serve your poultry needs.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

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