

28. Care and management of layers.

Layer Management: From the point of lay to one year it is called laying period.

When first egg laid – Pullet – pullet egg.

Floor space	: 2 sq.ft.
Feeder space	: 4 sq.ft.
Water space	: 2 sq.ft.
Nest space	: 1 box for 5 birds
Litter Depth	: 6 box for 5 birds.

Feeding : Layer mash is fed during this period - 18% protein. Daily ration is decided and issued two to three times in a day. This helps in lesser feed wastage and better balancing.

Choice feeding of calcium : Calcium is supplied to the birds in feed. Supply of calcium in the feed assures a more uniform intake of calcium by all the birds.

For hens in very high egg production and in high environmental temperature supplementation of extra calcium is necessary. This is given in the form of shell grit. 5-10 Kgs./100birds/Month.

Lighting : Layer birds has to be kept with a period of at least 16 hours a day. Twelve hours of day light is supplemented with additional 4 hours night lighting. It is introduced as step up programme.

20 th week	6-6 ½ PM	5.30 – 6.00 AM
21 st week	6-7 PM	5 - 6 PM
22 nd week	6-7.30 PM	5 – 6 AM
23 rd week	6 – 8.00 PM	5 – 6 AM
24 th week	6 – 8.30 PM	5 – 6 AM
25 th week	6 –9.00 PM	5 – 6 AM

Light stimulates anterior pituitary gland through brain and the liberation of F.S.H. helps the follicles to mature.

A forty watts bulb at a height of 7 feet with 100 feet distance from another, will provide the required intensity of light for 100 sq.ft. area.

General guidelines :

1. Provide balanced feed.
2. Use clean wholesome water
3. Never reduce the light during laying period
4. Supplement vitamins to relieve stress
5. Deworm once in 45 days.
6. Litter to be raked up once a week
7. Add Lime at 5-10 Kg/100 sq.ft. to keep them dry.
8. Cull-the unproductive birds/then and there.

Vaccination - refer disease

Culling

Cage layer fatigue

Calcium feeding.