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Guidelines for Turkey Farming

Dr. Majdood Ahmad

## Guidelines for

# Turkey Farming

Dr. Majdood Ahmad



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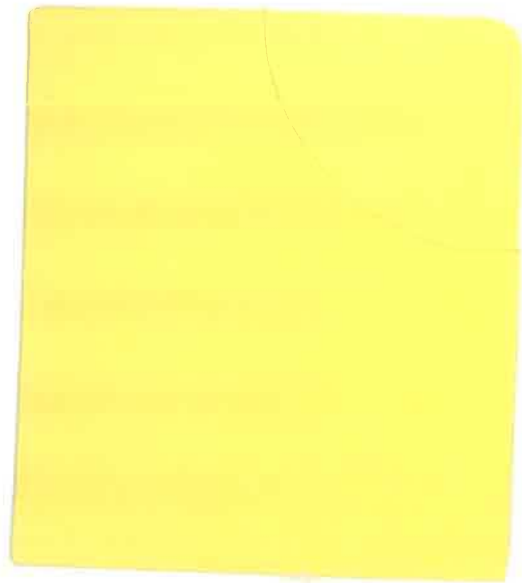
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## Preface

The turkey (*Meleagaris gallopardo*) is a well known bird in North America and Europe, but in rest of the world especially in developing countries it is yet to be established on commercial line. The probable reason for turkey not being popular in our country is because chickens are so familiar and grow so well that there seems no reason to consider any other poultry. In spite of this fact the turkey has good potential in developing countries especially in the areas where people prefer lean meat. The bird is quite suitable for upliftment of small and marginal farmers as it can be easily reared in free range or under semi-intensive system with little investment for housing, equipment and management. Unlike chicken turkeys are reared only for meat purpose, as they have ability to grow fast.

In India following institutions are maintaining small turkey units:

- Department of Animal Husbandry, Kerala
- Department of Animal Husbandry, Punjab
- Department of Animal Husbandry, Tamil Nadu
- Tamil Nadu University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences
- University of Agriculture Sciences, Bangalore
- Hissar Agriculture University, Hissar
- Central Poultry Development Organizations, Hessaragatta & Mumbai.
- Central Avian Research Institute, Izatnagar



Success in Turkey Farming is question of proper understanding of the biology and behavior and their proper management including knowledge of their diseases and latest equipments to handle them. We lack in technical competence and practical knowledge of Turkey Farming

An attempt has been made to put into this book authentic and upto dates on all aspects in concise and popular style.

Thus This Book entitled "TURKEY FARMING- Ideal raw material for rational and curative nutrition" is intended to serve as a reference book for students,extention workers,poultry enterprioners and all those interested in Turkey Farming as a profession.

I owe thanks to my Wife (Dr. Nilofer Ahmad) for encouraging me to this endivour and my Daughter (Mrs. Nurin Farooqui) for designing and computerizing this Book.

**Dr. Majdood Ahmad**



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## How to Raise Turkey for Profit?

# 1

**T**urkey birds in India have gained some popularity in recent years and mainly reared for meat purpose and its meat is the leanest among other domestic avian species. Turkey has a better meat -to -bone ratio than broiler meat. The meat of turkey has nutritional and sensorial properties, which make it almost ideal raw material for rational and curative nutrition. The turkey can produce 30gm of digestible protein from 100gm of feed. The dressing percentage of turkey is 80-87% which is highest of all farm animal species. Turkey is synonymous with Christmas. Turkey demands have high degree of seasonality with demands rising in winters and festival seasons. Therefore, turkey could be reared with high profit margins particularly in winters. Commercial turkey farming is a profitable business idea. Turkey grows faster like broiler chickens and become suitable for slaughter purpose within a very short time. Turkeys are also very social with humans and raising turkeys is really very fun and enjoyable. The probable reason for turkey not being popular in our country is because chickens are so familiar and grow so well that there seems no reason to consider any other poultry. Here I am describing some basics steps for starting commercial turkey farming business.