

COMMERCIAL POULTRY FARMING

- ☆ Easily understandable and lucid language. The book provides a concise overview of raising of domesticated birds such as chickens, turkeys, ducks, and geese, for the purpose of farming meat eggs for food.
- ☆ The object of this book is an attempt to place at the disposal of poultry men at large information relative to established and dependable practices.
- ☆ This book is designed to aid the beginner as well as the established poultry men and may serve as a reference tool for the solution of management problems.



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Commercial Poultry Farming

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This selection process (called genetic selection or genetics) allows the industry to select strains of birds which are produced very efficiently in intensive housing systems. There are two main types of commercial chicken breeds: layers and meat chickens. Poultry production encompasses a number of different species, including the chicken, turkeys, ducks, and other waterfowl and gamebirds. Each species and particular type of production is uniquely different. We will primarily focus on laying hens, broiler production, turkey production, and duck production. Meat chickens, commonly called broilers, are floor-raised on litter such as wood shavings or rice hulls, indoors in climate-controlled housing. Under modern farming methods, meat chickens reared indoors reach slaughter weight at 5 to 6 weeks of age.

Broilers are not raised in cages. They are raised in large, open structures known as growout houses. These houses are equipped with mechanical systems to deliver feed and water to the birds. They have ventilation systems and heaters that function as needed. The floor of the house is covered with bedding material consisting of wood chips, rice hulls, or peanut shells. Because dry bedding helps maintain flock health, most growout houses have enclosed watering systems which reduce spillage. Animal welfare groups have frequently criticized the poultry industry for engaging in practices which they believe to be inhumane. Many animal rights advocates object to killing chickens for food, the "factory farm conditions" under which they are raised, methods of transport, and slaughter. Compassion Over Killing and other groups have repeatedly conducted undercover investigations at chicken farms and slaughterhouses which they allege confirm their claims of cruelty. Conditions in chicken farms may be unsanitary, allowing the proliferation of diseases such as salmonella and *E. coli*. Chickens may be raised in very low light intensities, sometimes total darkness, to reduce injurious pecking.

The object of this book is an attempt to place at the disposal of poultry men at large information relative to established and dependable practices. Poultry production is not a business in which everyone may engage successfully. Before engaging in a poultry enterprise it is advisable to investigate the profitableness of the business in the locality concerned and the markets available. It is of course obvious that a person having experience and well informed has a greater chance of success. This book is designed to aid the beginner as well as the established poultry men and may serve as a reference tool for the solution of management problems.

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