

Housing of chicken

Chicken Housing

Tips to Consider in Construction of Poultry House

- ✓ Should be strong enough to last for a long time
- ✓ Have enough space for the birds to be housed comfortably.
- ✓ Should be easy to clean and drain.
- ✓ Should be well lighted.
- ✓ Should be well ventilated.
- ✓ Should have extra pen(s) where sick or injured birds will be isolated and kept.
- ✓ Isolation pen should not be located close to the main house.

Factors to be considered in selecting site for poultry house

Neighbours -

- Location of poultry house should not be too close to residential areas.
- Backyard poultry farm is the best option if it is close to residential areas
- Necessary precaution should be taken to prevent offensive odour
- Areas with flooding potentials should be avoided.

Sunshine-

- Long axis of the house should be located in an east-west direction
- Helps to minimize the amount of direct sunlight entering the sidewalls of the houses.

Electricity-

- Must be readily available either from municipal supply, generators or solar systems.

Daylight

- Chickens need 14 hours daylight to lay eggs
- Artificial daylight can be lengthened to 16-18 hours

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Water

- Good quality water must be available either from wells or a municipal water system or both

Types of chicken house

❖ Deep litter type of house

- Permanent structures are constructed for the birds.
- Can be used for rearing both layers and broilers.
- Birds are free to roam
- Floor is mostly cemented and covered with litter materials such as saw dust, wood shavings, straw and chaff.
- Litter materials must be well spread for aeration
- Must be removed and replaced with new litter when soiled
- Also the house should be properly disinfected.

❖ Battery Cage House

- Most intensive type of poultry production
- Useful where small quantity of floor space is available.
- Involves the building of permanent structures for the birds.
- Birds are not free to move within their compartments.
- Each hen is confined to permit very limited movement and allow the bird to stand and sit comfortably.
- Cage floor space is 14 x 16 inches and the height, 17 inches.
- Food and water receptacles are outside the cage.

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