

# Brooding of poult (small Turkey)

## Turkey (Poult) brooding

- **Turkey brooding procedure**

- Start brooding turkeys from **day-old to 6-8 weeks of age**.
- Maintain a **starting temperature of 35°C (95°F)** in the first week.
- **Reduce temperature by 2.5°C weekly** until ambient conditions are comfortable (~26-28°C).
- Use **heat sources** such as:
  - Charcoal stoves (ensure no smoke)
  - Infrared lamps or gas brooders
  - Kerosene lanterns in local settings
- Set up a **circular brooder guard** (1.5-2 m diameter for 50 poults) to retain heat and prevent piling in corners.
- Provide **16-18 hours of light** daily in the first weeks to reduce stress.
- Use **dry, absorbent bedding** (wood shavings, rice husk) 5-10 cm deep; turn regularly to keep dry.
- Place **shallow trays or newspapers** to offer feed within the first few days.
- Provide **clean, lukewarm water** immediately upon arrival; add glucose or vitamins if possible.
- Feed with **turkey starter mash (26-28% protein)** for proper early growth.
- Watch for signs of **pasty vent and coccidiosis**, common during brooding.
- Prevent overcrowding to avoid heat stress and suffocation.
- Maintain **strict hygiene**: clean and disinfect brooding area before introducing poults.
- Restrict access to the brooding area to reduce the risk of disease.
- Ensure **protection from predators** and cold drafts, especially in open or rural environments

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