

Turkeys

- Turkey poults require high levels of protein to grow properly. We recommend a 24% game chick starter for the first 6 weeks, changing to 20% in week 7, and 15% grower/finisher after 12 weeks.
- Turkey coops should include at least 6' of space per turkey.
- Hold off letting your turkeys free range until they are 12 weeks old.
- Chickens have the potential to carry Blackhead disease which can be deadly to turkeys. Owners raising both should be aware and educate themselves on prevention.

Geese

- We recommend 20% chick starter for the first 10 weeks, switching to 15% grower weeks 10-18, and 16% layer after 18 weeks.
- Geese do well in a variety of barnyard environments and usually get along well with most other animals.
- Geese typically do not like to be handled, but herd very easily if necessary to move them to a particular area or enclosure.
- Geese have extremely good eyesight and memories. They love routine and make excellent "watchdogs."
- Geese are excellent foragers, loving to graze on grass and bugs, but require feed to supplement their diet.

Guineas

- For keets (baby guineas) we recommend 24% game chick starter for the first 6 weeks, changing to 20% starter weeks 7-12 and 15% grower after week 12.
- Keeping guineas inside their new coop for 6 weeks before allowing them to free range helps establish it as their new home.
- Guineas voraciously eat insects (including ticks) and weed seeds, providing the pest control benefits of chickens without scratching which can damage plants.
- Guineas are highly active and move in "swarm-" or "school-" like behavior.



DUCK

& SPECIALTY FOWL

CARE TIPS



RAISING MORE THAN CHICKENS

Other poultry have different needs. Here are some quick care tips for the rest of your flock.



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT
www.TractorSupply.com/Chicks

DUCK CARE TIPS

In addition to the basic chick care information provided, new duck owners should find these additional tips and information helpful.

NOTE: Most domestic ducks cannot fly or migrate and should never be released into the wild or in public areas.

Feeding Baby Ducks

- Never feed ducks without water. Water helps get food down and cleans beak vents. Always give baby ducks access to water for at least an hour before feeding.
- We recommend chick starter with 20% protein for the first 10 weeks, switching to a 15% grower weeks 10-18, and a 16% layer after 18 weeks.
- Ducklings have no teeth but appreciate finely chopped fruits, vegetables or greens. Small insects and worms make good treats, as well.

Shelter

- Not just an escape from predators and the elements, ducks need shelter to provide quiet and seclusion.
- The shelter should be well-ventilated and large enough that your ducks can fully expand their wings and groom.

Water

- Ducklings need a ready source of clean water. Chick fountains are recommended.
- Ducklings will play in water, making a mess. Be sure to clean it often.
- Water should be no more than ¼" deep. Make sure ducks can easily escape the water. Baby ducks love to play in water but can easily drown if they tire.
- Ducklings don't produce waterproofing oil until 4 weeks of age. In the wild, mothers apply it. Swimming your ducks too early can result in death from chill or even drowning from fatigue.

Flight

- Most commercially grown ducks are too large to maintain flight and will stay around a good source of food, water and shelter.
- Straight run ducks at TSC can include a mix of breeds. Be advised migrating species such as Mallard may be included. Once adult, these may or may not take up permanent residence.

Eggs

- A duck egg can be used for anything a chicken egg would, but take size differences into account for recipes.
- Besides being larger, duck eggs have thicker whites and proportionately larger yolks than chicken eggs. Overcooking will render them rubbery.
- Many prefer duck eggs for baking, believing they help cakes to rise and stay risen while the high fat content adds richness and flavor.

SPECIALTY FOWL CARE TIPS

These additional tips and information should be helpful if you are interested in raising game or heritage breeds.

Bantam Chicks

- Other than smaller space requirements, bantams require much the same care as standard size breeds.
- Smaller and lighter, bantams are better at flying, making them more difficult to contain but more adept at caring for themselves.
- Bantams are more susceptible to hawks and snakes.
- Their speed makes bantams excellent for insect control.
- It takes 2-3 bantam eggs to equal one standard chicken egg.

Heritage & Game Chicks

- Some heritage and game breed chicks require higher protein in the first eight weeks for optimal growth. We recommend a minimum 24% game chick starter, changing to 20% starter weeks 9-17 and 15% grower after week 17.
- Not bred solely for traits beneficial to commercial production, heritage breeds can take longer to fully develop.
- Heritage and game breeds are typically more hardy in backyard flocks.