

alfa chicks

suppliers of day old broilers

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For the farmer who wants to know more

The following are a few important aspects to look at:

Housing: For the optimal management off broilers the housing must be correctly designed and built. This will enable you to farm with the minimal labor and losses.

Important points here are:

- Floors must be smooth and slightly Sloping and sealed off with a durable sealer. This will ensure that bacteria and viruses do not penetrate the cement and sit there latently till chicks are placed in dens. Washing and disinfecting with sealed floors are optimum.
- High enough roof for free movement of people and enough space for good ventilation.
- Size and direction of house.
- Design and operation of curtains for good ventilation.
- Distance between houses and from any area where bacteria is breeding.
- Amount and kind of drinkers and feeders.
- Brooders and heat sources for small chicks.
- Footbaths in front of doors to prevent spreading of bacteria and viruses.

Disinfection and cleaning of houses before and while chicks are in houses must be done correctly, and with the correct remedies. The physical cleaning comes first - then the clinical cleaning.

Vaccinations: The vaccinations of the chicks are important to prevent virus-related diseases like Newcastle disease, Gumboro and Bronchitis.

Feed: Feed must be of a very high standard, make sure that all the right additives like growth stimulants and Anti-coccidiosis remedies are in every lot fed to the chicks.

Medicines: The right kind and the right amount of vitamins and antibiotics must be administrated.

Management: This is the most important aspect and there must be someone who cares to do it. This includes cleaning of houses, temperature control, medicines, ventilation, vaccinations, record keeping and all other aspects in connection to chicken farming.

Remember – always one-age chicks under one roof. Never more than one group!!!

Remember it is important that the farmers of Alfa Kuikenplaas will farm successfully and we shall always be there to assist you. From our side we try to give the best service and the best product available.

Suggested Chicken House

The photos opposite show how a chicken house should be built:

A **Sloping grano floor** worked off smoothly and sealed with "**stone sealer**". This will prevent bacteria from penetrating the porous surface and will help the cleaning process to be done correctly.

The walls on the **long side** must only be 300 millimeters high, and smoothly plastered and sealed off with stone sealer on the inside. It may be as long as necessary to get the necessary floor space. The direction must be from east to west to keep out direct sunlight. The wall on the short sides must go right up to the pitch of the roof. The insides must be smoothly plastered and sealed with stone sealer. The length can be from 6 to 12 meters, depending on the length of the long sides. For optimal ventilation if the long sides are less than 20 meters the short sides must not exceed 6 meters.

The **opening** between the low wall and the roof as well as the opening in the pitch of the roof must be closed off with bird mesh to keep out rats and birds.

The opening in the **roof pith** must have a flap to regulate airflow.

The **eaves** of the roof must be 1.5 meters to keep sunlight and rain splash out of house. The headspace inside must be high enough to stand up straight for ease of working conditions.

Curtains must be secured on the bottom and the top must be loose. Lower the curtain to open for more ventilation. Use a pulley system as seen on the photo below right to control the height off the wall (curtains)

Two **doors** are used, the big door allows a vehicle in for loading or offloading bedding, and the small door is for daily workers. It is not necessary for a big door if the house is too small.

A **footbath** is necessary inside the house in front of the doors. Construct it in such a way that workers are forced to walk through it and disinfect their shoes.

Concrete **paving** around the house will keep water and weeds away to prevent bacteria growth.

A 100 or 200-liter **water tank** on the outside to supply water to automatic drinkers and administered medicine is essential. See that it has a good lid to keep birds, insects and bacteria away.

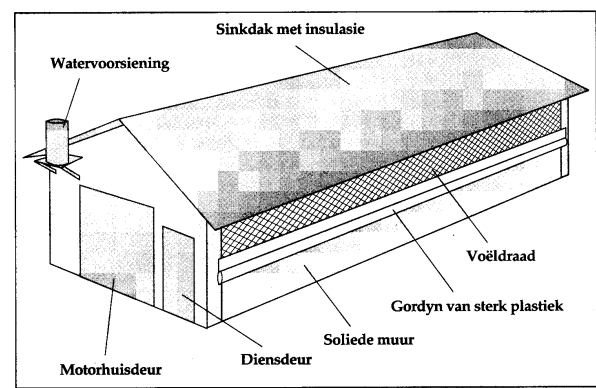


Fig.(3-2) Konveksiehuis met staandak.

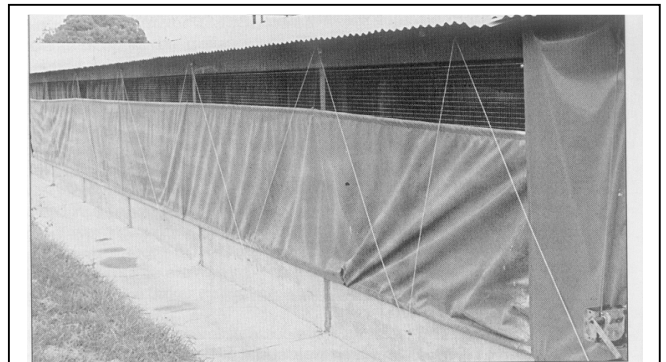


Fig.(3-6) Oopmaak van gordyne.

Placing of birds:

Floor surface must allow 1 square meter per 8 birds in summer And 10 birds per sqm in winter.

Supply 1 automatic drinker and 3 tube -feeders per 100 birds.

Screen off a quarter of the house with a plastic tarp to get a **tent effect**. To reduce the volume of air to keep on brooding temperature. This will prevent energy loss.

Get the temperature to the desired 32-degree c level before chicks are placed and monitor for 24 hours.

Ensure that tent always has good **ventilation**.

Record the morning and afternoon minimum and maximum temperatures. Hang the thermometers on chick level to see their environment.

Regulate the temperatures to the optimum as described.

Keep the chicks plus minus 2 weeks in tent then take the tent down.

Give ventilation from day 3 and increase rapidly every day, dependable on the weather. **Never close ventilation** completely. Rather supply more heat sources.

Use a fan heater with other heat sources in house; ensure **no direct** wind near ground level. (Draught)

Management program (In short).

1. Clean and disinfect houses and equipment prior to placing birds.
Methods: Take out all litter. Dispose of litter not near houses where diseases can incubate. Wash house from top to bottom with hi-pressure machine with a degreaser or scrub with soap and water. Wash roof, walls, curtains, floors, and equipment. Rinse every part thoroughly with clean water. If floor is constructed correctly, all the water should drain out of the house. Clean water lines, water drinkers, water tanks and tube feeders thoroughly. Leave to dry. Spray whole house and all equipment with Virokill or GPC8 or RBT disinfectant.
2. Put a bedding of white pine **shavings**, 100mm thick on floor to absorb moisture. This bedding must be turned over every week to prevent it from forming a hard crust. Change shavings where they get wet and solve cause of problem every day. If bedding gets moist and putrid it is an indication of bad ventilation and chicks will get sick.
3. Provide enough **water drinkers and feeders**. 1 Automatic drinker and 3 Tube feeders per 100 chicks. The first 3 days 2 extra 4-litre founts per 100 chicks should be provided. See that water drinkers are correctly adjusted and that there are no leaks.
4. Bactefort and Vitamins must be in drinking water for first 3 days. See the medicine program.
5. **Temperature** must be stabilized 24 hours before chicks arrive at farm. The ideal temperature for day old chicks is between 32°C and 35°C. Lower the temperature every second day with ½ degree Celsius. At 28 to 42 days a temperature of 20°C are ideal.
6. **Ventilation:** give more everyday as chicks grow. Allow for good ventilation from day 2. Never reduce ventilation to achieve a desired temperature – give more heat sources on chicken level to achieve desired temperatures. If there are water condensation on ceiling in the mornings it is an indication of insufficient ventilation, your bedding material will get wet and pundit. This will lead to bacteria growth and a high concentration of ammonia, your chicks will get sick and die.
7. **Lighting.** Broiler Chicks need 23 hours a day of sufficient light to see to eat and get optimal growth.
8. **Biosecurity.** Use a footbath in front of workers entrance with fresh disinfectant everyday to prevent contamination in and between houses.
9. Feed **Broiler starter crumbs 20% to 22% Protein** of a very high standard for the first 21 days (2 bags of 50kg each- per 100 chicks). Feed **Broiler growing pellets 18% to 20% protein** from day 22 to 42 (5 bags of 50kg each – per 100 chicks). Use feed with an additive against Coccidiosis. From day 43 give **Broilers finisher** (50kg). **This is a recommendation only and is subject to management, feed quality, feed range and climate.**
10. Vaccinate on the correct days and with the correct method and always use vitamins 2 days before and 2 days after vaccination. Use vitamins 2 days before chickens are to be caught to minimize stress losses.
11. Keep good record of culls, deaths, feed used, temperature, medicine and vaccinations given. Use data to adjust your management.
12. Never Chase your chicks, workers should take caution to work in a calm manner.
13. Never let any body from outside of your workforce like vendors or customers in or near your houses. Chickens up for selling should be taken away to a separate selling house and should never be returned to the growing houses.

14. Use a barrier to enclose chicks in a small space that are to be cached.
15. Buy a book from us about broilers, please see pricelist.
16. Look after your business and be there at least twice a day.
17. Enjoy your farming and make a good profit.

Medicine program

Day	Vitamines	Bactefort	Newcastle ND	Bronchitus	Digestabile
1	Yes	Yes			
2	Yes	Yes			
3	Yes	Yes			
4	Yes			If recommended after tests	
5	Yes				
6					
7					Yes
8					Yes
9					Yes
10					Yes
11					
12	Yes				
13	Yes				
14	Yes		Yes		
15	Yes				
16					
17					
18					
19	Yes	Yes			
20	Yes	Yes			
21	Yes	Yes			
22					
23					
24					Yes
25					Yes
26	Yes				Yes
27	Yes				Yes
28	Yes		Yes		Yes
29	Yes				
30	Yes				
31					
32					
33	Yes				
34	Yes				
35					
36					
37					
38					
39					
40					
41	Yes				
42	Chickens are ready to be caught and slaughtered.				

- a. Spray Virukill once a week in house, and Virukill mist over chicks.
- b. Gumborro vaccination must not be administered unless you are advised to use it on the farm.
- c. If birds must be slaughtered, don't feed them from the previous day. This enables a cleaner slaughtering process. The crop will come out clean and easy.

How to use vaccines and medicines

Vaccines

All the freeze-dried vaccines in the small bottles must be mixed and administered the same way. As follows; withdraw water 1 to 2 hours before mixing vaccine, dependable on weather, to get chicks thirsty. The smallest doses are 1000: Use **1-liter water per bottle for every day old of chicks**. Now you have a solution for 1000 chicks. If you have less than 1000 chicks start mixing as for 1000 chicks then use only pro-rata the correct amount for your amount of chicks. I.e. if you only have 400 chicks use only 400 milliliter of the solution for every day that they are old. Here is an example. If you want to vaccinate 700 chicks against Newcastle on day 14 - Use 1 bottle Newcastle Avinew vaccine and mix 14 litre water. From this solution only use $7 \times 14 = 9.8$ litre (7 = per day x 14 days) of formula is (amount of chicks ÷ 1000 x days). Dispose the rest in the sun on dry ground. Mix this solution with one dessert spoon skimmed milk for virus to life longer. Put out in a lot more drinkers as usual to ensure every bird have got immediately a drinking space. 3 drinkers per 100 chickens will be efficient. After about 1 hour when solution is finished open fresh water again.

Oxytetracycline (OTC)

For the treatment of sensitive bacterial diseases. Use as instructed. Instructions included on sachet.

Vitamines for stress

Use at **5-milliliter powder on 8-liter water** or in bulk at **100 gram on 200-litre water**. See medicine program on with days to administer. Vitamins build up the chicks' resistance against diseases. Carmino + contained added amino acids.

Kitasamycin

For the prevention and treatment of Respiratory Mycoplasmosis. **Mix 100g in 200Lt Water** for 3-5 days to reach a solution of 0.05%.

Cosumix

A Broad spectrum antibiotic for assistance in bacterial infections as well for the treatment of Coccidia and Coryza. **Administration is 24mg per litre drinking water for 1 to 5 days, withdrawal period is 24 hours.**

AS WELL AS

Used for treatment against E-coli and other secondary bacterial infections. E-coli is a stress-related infections and its course are directly linked to poor ventilation. If chicks do not get enough ventilation from day 1, they will get E-Coli.

Bactefort (Antibiotic) Oxytetracycline 55%

A broad spectrum bacteriostatic antibiotic effective for the prevention and treatment against Gram Positive and Gram Negative bacteria, as well as Mycoplasma. It is used against bacterial challenges prevalent in poultry during the production cycles that are sensitive towards oxytetracyclines. For growth promotion and increased feed efficiency. **Administration is 0.5mg per litre in drinking water or 100mg live mass per day.**

Super Air

Used for the relief of heavy breathing in cases of swollen head syndrome and with trouble of breathing. **Mix 25ml with 2 liters water. Mix with 100 liters drinking water.** Super air is not an antibiotic and should not be given together with antibiotics

Digestable (Liver tonic) Highly recommended.

Bedgen-40 Liquid is a liver modulator with Choline Chloride and Cynara extract, revitalizing the liver and improving liver function. A healthy liver improves the chick's ability to utilize the feed optimal. Use for 4 days continued in drinking water- **20ml / 10litre water.**

Superstart Vitamin pack

Superstart improves significantly early activity by: boosting antioxidant & electrolyte levels, increase energy availability, thereby, assisting in digestion and enzyme stimulation. **Give for first three days for six hours, 2 kg per 1000-liter water.**

Gutpro

Waterlines treatment with the main objective of reducing pathogen levels and organic levels in the water lines and improve gut health. Used in salmonella control programs. **From day 5, once per week. 5 ml per liter water.**

Voerdokter

For healthier animals. Ideal for all farm animals. Increases the immunity. Neutralises diarrhea and mycotoxins. Can be used on the shavings to absorb the wetness. **Mix 1kg into 50kg of feed.**

Disinfectants

Virukill

This is the newest on the market and is tested by Onderstepoort, SABS and Irene experimental station. It seems to be a very good product against **viruses and bacteria**. Use to disinfect houses prior to placing chicks. Also use as a weekly mist-spray over birds as well as on walls and litter. Use continuously in drinking water to stop bacteria spreading between chicks. Virukill have no irritating effect on chicks, and no corrosive effect on metal. Use as described on bottle.

RBT Eco Residual Sanitizer.

GPC 8 Disinfectant.

DRM Electric Brooder

500 Watt
230 Volts
2.4 Amps
210 mm Height
390 mm Diameter
1.7 Kg Weight

One brooder per 300 chicks in the winter is advised en one brooder per 400 chicks in the summer is advised. Subjected to climate / area and house material.

GAS BROODER (1200)

The Large Gas Brooder is a rectangular brooder that is suspended at a height of 1.2 meters from the ground and should be used with a High-Pressure Regulator. This unit can provide heat for up to 1 200 chicks.

GAS BROODER (600)

The Medium Gas Brooder is a rectangular brooder that achieves a temperature of 33°C when suspended at a height of 117cm from the ground and should be used with a Low-Pressure Regulator. This unit provides heat up to 600 chicks.

BIO – BRICK LARGE

Made of plant materials, ideal for the heating of the chick room, one brick enough for between 200 and 250 chicks. Ashes to be used for compost. **Burns between 4 to 5 hours.**

DIGITAL MINI-MAXI THERMOMETER

For the minimum and maximum temperature readings in the chick room. Small and easy to handle.

Hang at chick level to see what temperature chicks experie

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ALFA CHICK'S PRICELIST

Day old Broilers vaccinated against ND – Please contact ALFA CHICKS for current pricing.

Alfa Chicks and management reserves the right to change any prices without any prior notice

Equipment

Price per item

4 litre Water fount	2 per 100 chicks	R76.00
10 litre Water fount	1 per 100 chicks	R 159.00
12 litre water fount	1 per 120 chicks	R 190.00
Automatic Water fount with ballast	1 per 100 chicks	R 389.00
Bulk Chick Feeder	3 per 100 chicks	R 76.00
Jumbo Round Feed Tray	2 per 100 chicks	R 71.00
Ribbed Tube feeder	3 per 100 chicks	R 221.00
Infrared Lamp (250 watt)	2 per 100 chicks	R 210.00
Porcelain Lamp holder	as needed	R 25.00
DRM Electric Brooder	1 per 300 chicks	R 1000.00
Gas Brooder (1 200)	1 per 1200 chicks	R3 000.00
Gas Brooder (600)	1 Per 600 chicks	R1 700.00
HP Regulator	As needed	R650.00
LP Regulator	As needed	R250.00
Bio Brick	Large	OUT OF STOCK
Live bird crates	Per crate	R 455.00

Vitamins

Vitastress	950g	R 215.00
Anchorvite vitamin	100g	R32.00

ANTIBIOTICS & MEDICINES

Kitasamycin 10%	100g	R 55.00
Digestabile Antioxidant	250ml	R 113.00
Digestabile Antioxidant	1litre	R 280.00
Oxytetracycline (OTC)	200g	R 56.00
Cosumix	200g	R120
Cosumix	100g	R70
Gutpro	1 Liter	R 88.00
Super Air	500 ml	R 345.00
Super Start Liquid	1 L	R 201.00
Bactefort	1kg	R840.00
Bactefort	100g	R105.00

Disinfectants

Virukill	250 ml	R 75.00
Virukill	1Litre	R 195.00
Virukill	5Litre	R 685.00
RBT Eco Residual Sanitizer	20 Liter	R 1530.00
GPC 8	5 Liter	R 457.00

Soap

Shift	5 Liter	R 193.00

Digital Thermometer Min-Max		R 355.00
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Books

Chicken Production – D.R. Jean Cilliers (Book)	Eng/Afr	R 252.00
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Vaccines

New Castle	1000 dosis	R78.00

All above prices includes VAT