

French Brooding Protocol

Notes of importance:

- Chicks are started in an “A room” using a density of .15” per chick
- At 4 weeks of age they move over to a “B room” that is double the size of the A room
- Using Ziggity nipples with cups in A room (1 cup/35 chicks)
- Lower a dozen bell waterers (for 10,000 chicks) a few days before birds are expected to go over to B room (B room has 40 bell waters for 10,000 chicks)

If using an automatic feed system, remove all feed pans from system and have feed go directly onto feed flats/trays (chicks will crawl into pans & pile if they are left on)

- Use feed troughs and feed flats throughout the room (1 per 100 chicks)
 - Put ½ feed pans back on system on Day 12
 - Put other ½ on Day 15
 - Remove light bulbs from corners (use the idea that French are afraid of the dark, removing corner bulbs, keeps them from piling in the corners)
 - Use fine crumble feed, do not use mash/meal (birds like to bury inside)
 - Cold weather hatches start at 98 degrees (adjust to 96 as needed)
 - Keep brooder lights (hanging spot lights) brighter than the ceiling lights. Turn down ceiling lights very low, when doing chores (keeps them away from corners)
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- Flush nipple lines once a week
 - Top dress ENTIRE ROOM day 14-17 (this helps prevent cocci)
 - After Day 7, drop temperature one degree a day 5 days a week.
 - By day 21, chicks will start to fly and “blow” out brooders. Have an LB white set for desired temp and use the LB white ONLY for a few days before the birds get moved over to the B room.
 - Get birds over to B room as close as you can to day 28.
 - Walk same pattern each day, when doing chores – birds will learn pattern.
 - Do not make more than TWO adjustments a day
 - Manual operate the feed system for the first week or two.
 - If you change one brooder light, change all, because the brighter light will attract birds
 - Humidity: When over 65% bad, over 50 watch (less humidity is better for French)
 - Young chukars are “afraid of the dark”. If too dark they will pile. Keep lights on 24 hours. Dim as they age.

Protocol for French Rearing

0 Days of Age

- Heat 96-98
- Fan set 10 seconds every 5 minutes (weather dependent)
- Monitor bird comfort every half hour for several hours after placement.
- Adjust nipple lines if necessary should be no more than 6" of water column pressure
- Lights set to be on 24 hours for entire time birds are in building.
 - Brooder lights brighter than ceiling lights

Day 1-3

- Fan – set to 10 seconds every 5 minutes (weather dependent)
- Check all water systems for leaks and adjust as needed.
- Add feed to trays/flats daily
- Adjust nipple lines if necessary check pressure.
- Adjust brooders as needed.
- Remove and count mortality and record.
- Read and Record Temperature high/low and humidity.

4 Days of age

- Check all water systems for leaks and adjust as needed.
- Add feed to all feed trays.
- Adjust brooders if needed.
- Remove and count mortality, record.
- Read and Record Temperature high/low and humidity.

Day 5-7

- Check all water systems for leaks and adjust as needed.
- Add feed to all feed trays.
- Remove and count mortality, record.
- Read and Record Temperature high/Low and humidity.

Day 8-11

- Check all water systems for leaks and adjust as needed.
- Drop temp 1 degree
- Remove and count mortality, record.
- Read and Record Temperature high/low and humidity.
- Increase timer by 10% (if the birds are doing well).
- Reduce ceiling lights

12 Days of Age

- Put ½ of feed pans on
- Check all water systems for leaks and adjust as needed
- Drop temp 1 degree
- Adjust brooders if needed.
- Remove and count mortality, record.
- Read and Record temperature high/low and humidity.
- Increase timer by .1 (if birds are doing well).

13 Days of Age

- Check all water systems for leaks and adjust as needed.
- Adjust brooders if needed.
- Remove and count mortality record.
- Read and Record temperature high/low and humidity.
- Increase timer by .1 (if birds are doing well).
- Check all water systems for leaks and adjust as needed.
- Adjust brooders if needed.
- Remove and count mortality, record.
- Read and Record temperature high/low and humidity.
- Increase timer by .1 (if birds are doing well).

15 Days of Age

- Put other 1/2 of feed pans on
- Check all water systems for leaks and adjust as needed.
- Adjust brooders if needed.
- Drop temp 1 degree
- Remove and count mortality, record.
- Read and Record temperature high/low and humidity.
- Increase timer by .1 (if birds are doing well).

16 days of Age

- TOP DRESS ENTIRE ROOM
- Check all water systems for leaks and adjust as needed.
- Drop temp 1 degree
- Remove and count mortality, record.
- Read and Record Temperature high/Low and humidity.
- Increase timer by .1 (if birds are doing well).
- Increase feed amounts available in feed pans

17 days of Age

- Check all water systems for leaks and adjust as needed.
- Drop temp 1 degree
- Adjust brooders if needed.
- Remove and count mortality, record.
- Read and Record Temperature high/Low and humidity.
- Increase timer by .1 (if birds are doing well).

18 Days of Age – 21 Days

- Check all water systems for leaks and adjust as needed.
- Drop temp 1 degree
- Adjust brooders if needed (wean them off brooder by day 25)
- Remove and count mortality, record.
- Read and Record Temperature high/Low and humidity.
- Increase timer by .1 every other day (if the birds are doing well).

22 Days

- Turn off brooders & run on LB white only – gets chicks ready for B room

25 Days

- Drop 12 bell waters – check frequently first day

28 Days of Age

- Open door to B room
- Have temp 4 degrees higher in B room
- Have light intensity slightly higher in B room

29-32 Days of Age

- Leave temp settings same
- Dim lights as needed

*Move outside at 8 weeks

FEED TYPE FOR CHUKAR CHICKS:

28% pre-starter- first 4 weeks

26% 4-8 weeks

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