Cobb500™

Increase Total Hatching Eggs Per Hen Housed

We're always working to improve our products and bird traits including feed conversion, livability, feathering and meat quality. These continuous improvements might require adapting management techniques over time to achieve the best results possible.

The suggestions below are designed to increase total eggs and hatching egg output to 65 weeks of age. You can implement these tips across the board or try them in a few select houses.

The Checklist

- Update your flock management system to include our latest published body weights and feed specifications.
- Body weight control is crucial during the first 4 weeks. Measure feed intake during the first week. Don't use adlib feeding through 2 weeks.
- Females with standard body weight at 4 weeks allow for more constant feed increases from 5 to 13 weeks of age. Weekly feed increases are usually in a range of 2-3g during this time frame that is often referred to as the Maintenance Period. This reduces stress and helps maintain uniformity (>70%). Consistent weekly feed increases are vital for consistent weekly weight gains.
- Ensure feed space is never compromised when increasing bird densities. Use progressive feed space in rearing for better feed and bird distribution.
- Begin larger feed increases when birds are 13-14 weeks of age to prepare females for adequate body composition. The largest feed increases should begin at no later than 16 weeks or proper conditioning may not be achieved before photo stimulation.
- Increase feed by 40-44% for birds from 16-20 weeks of age. This should translate into a 36-37% increase in body weight (or higher) to get females in condition on time. Lower-density feeds may require additional feed increases.
- Females should have a minimum fleshing score of 60-70% 3's and 30-40% 4's, with 75-80% having pelvic fat by 20 weeks of age. Consult with your Cobb Technical Service Manager for details on scoring fleshing and fat reserve.
- Photo stimulation can begin as early as 147 days when females have a minimum dry body weight of 2.45 kg for Cobb 500 Fast Feather flocks, and 2.53 kg for Cobb 500 Slow Feather flocks.
- Delaying photo stimulation to 150-154 days is an option if proper condition is not achieved on time (by 147 days).
- Control feed increases after 20 weeks of age by 2 to 4 grams per week until production starts at 5%.
- Verify correct feed increases from 5% to peak production, per Cobb's recommendation.

Apply basic management techniques consistently and correctly throughout daily operations. Contact your technical service manager with questions. We'll help you evaluate your programs and performance and offer solutions to improve your results.

Troubleshooting Tips

- A delayed production start in females from 24 to 25 weeks of age can negatively impact productivity. This can lead to loss of hatching eggs to 30 weeks of age and, consequently, to 65 weeks of age. Lost production to 30 weeks of age is not typically recovered at a later time.
- Females lacking proper condition at the beginning of light stimulation (147-154 days of age) or overly heavy female birds at production start can also reduce productivity. Females with incorrect fleshing condition at 12 and 16 weeks of age and delayed conditioning of pelvic fat at 20 weeks of age can also cause issues. This often occurs when incorrect feeding curves or outdated feed specifications are used.

Cobb®

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ONE PURPOSE.

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