

Smart Chicks

Rearing guide for day old chicks

This guide is designed to help your Sasso table chicks make the best start in life.

1. Prepare your house before the chicks arrive. Make sure the temperature is correct around 32degrees C, and the chicks have shallow trays for feed and a small water drinker that they can reach into. There is wood chip on the floor and the whole area is clean and hygienic.
2. The brooder is lit and the birds are spread evenly around the floor area. The food and water is within the warm area but not directly under the lamp. The chicks should not be clustered under the lamp or spread out around the edges panting. If they are too hot lift the lamp a little. If they are huddled lower the lamp to increase the temperature. If you think it is warm enough but the birds huddle on one edge check that there is not a draught. If there is sort it out!
3. As the chicks grow move there feed and water into adult size feeders. Raise the heat lamp weekly to reduce the temperature at floor level. By 3 weeks old the temperature should be 21degrees C. Reduce the temperature over the next two weeks, turning off on warm days but putting it on at night, until at 6 weeks the heat can be turned off.
4. Free range birds can go out doors into a protected run on warm days from around 2 weeks **BUT** they will need to be able to go in out of the cold. Don't turn the lamp off as they will need to go in to warm up.
5. By six weeks your birds will be fully feathered and will no longer need the heat lamp. Whilst they are able to go free range remember that they are still young and will be easily picked on by other birds and can easily be prey for corvids and birds of prey. I suggest not allowing them to mix with adult birds until they are large enough to compete.