



agriculture & rural development

Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

BROILERS

TOGETHER WE HAVE MADE KZN A BETTER PROVINCE TO LIVE IN



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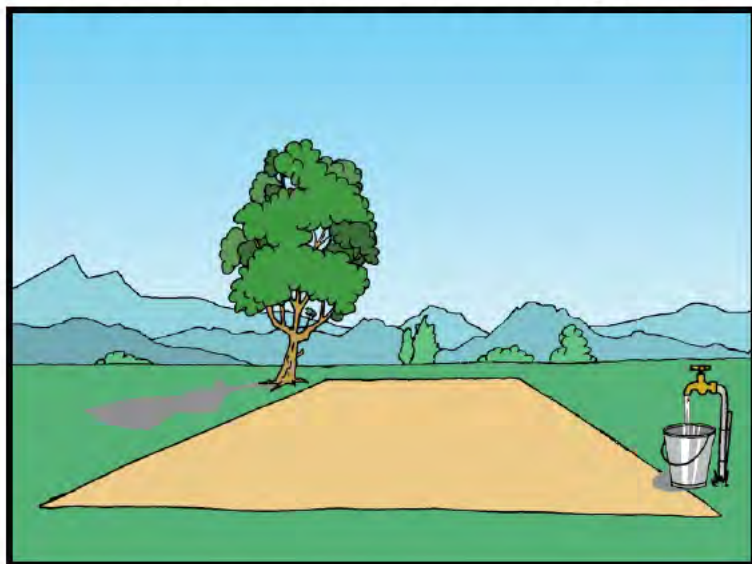
STARTING A BROILER PROJECT

**BEFORE YOU START A BROILER PROJECT,
YOU NEED TO ASK THE FOLLOWING
QUESTIONS:**

Where will you sell your chickens, and at what price? Does anyone else sell chickens in your area?



Where will you keep the chickens?
Is a suitable site and enough clean, water available?



COSTING A BROILER PROJECT

What would it cost to set up a 100 bird project?

Building material.....R _____
 Fencing material.....R _____
 Equipment needed.....R _____
 Labour costs: FencingR _____
 Labour costs: Building.....R _____
Total cost.....R _____



What will it cost to raise 100 chickens?

Day-old-chicks.....R _____
 8 bags of feed.....R _____
 Vaccines.....R _____
 Electricity / Gas.....R _____
 Wood shavings.....R _____
 Transport.....R _____
 Cleaning equipment.....R _____
 Detergents.....R _____
 Disinfectants.....R _____
Total cost.....R _____

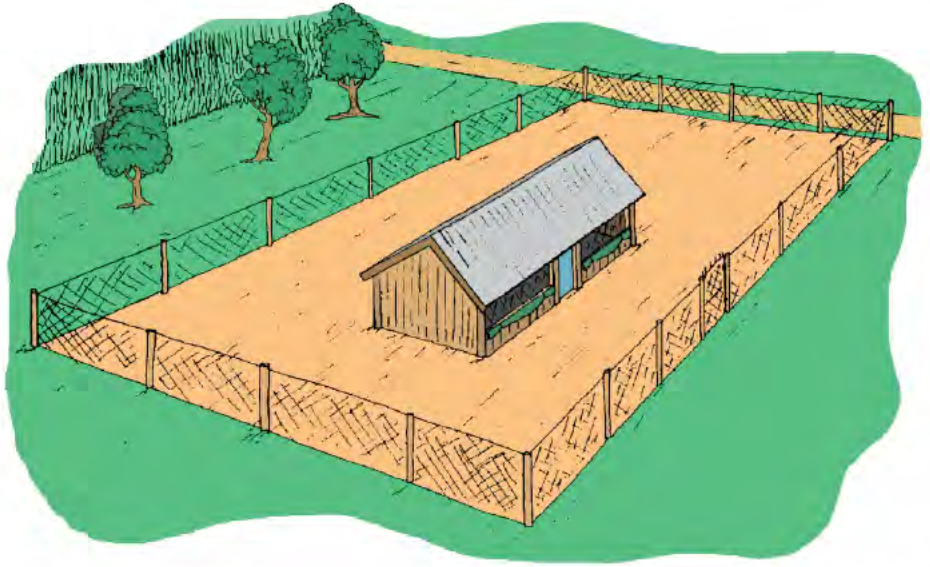


Who will supply day-old chicks and feed?
 Who will transport your inputs (chicks and feed)?

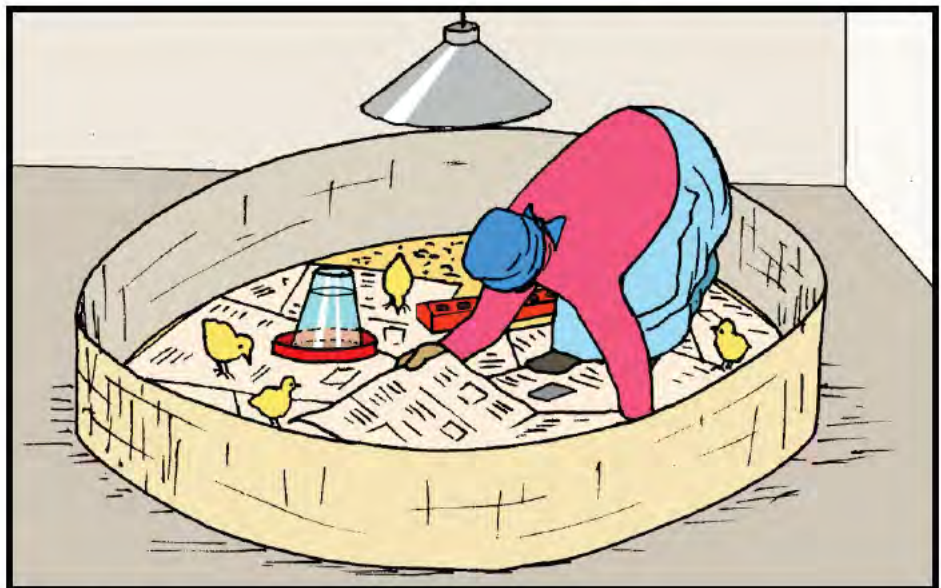


RUNNING A BROILER PROJECT

Will the chickens be safe from thieves?



Who will manage the project on a daily basis?

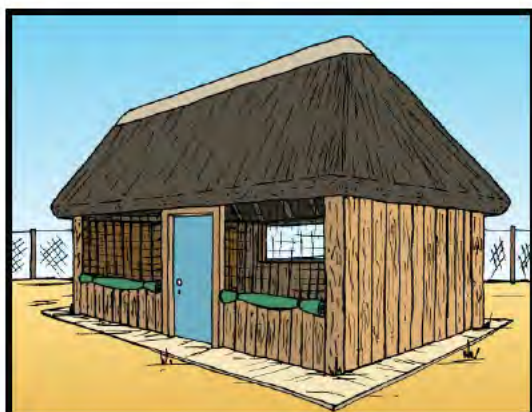
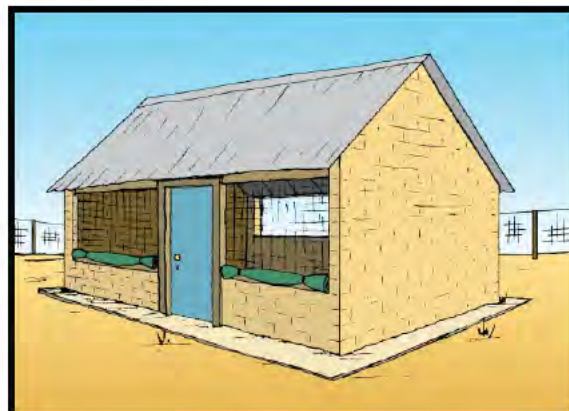
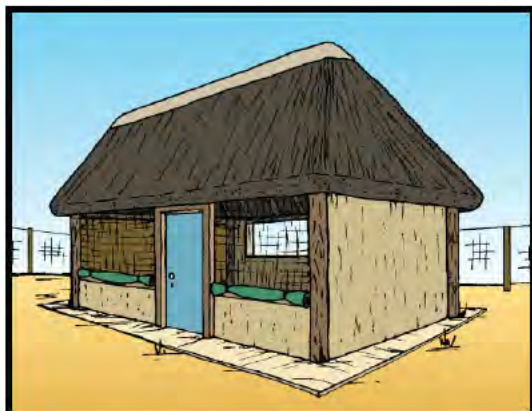


Who will keep records of the project?



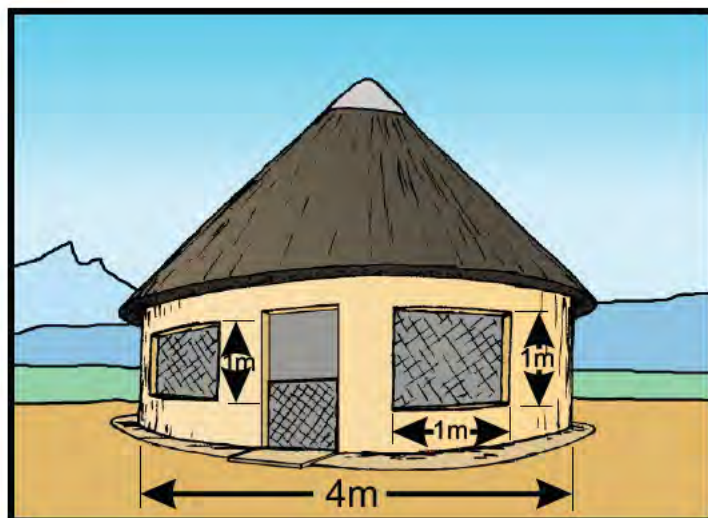
STRUCTURES FOR BROILER PRODUCTION

Types of houses suitable for broiler production.



Existing rondavels may be used, provided:

- A rondavel of 4m across does not house more than 100 chickens.
- Walls are plastered on the inside.
- Windows are 1m X 1m or larger - (air circulation).
- The roof is disinfected regularly.
- A welded mesh grid is installed at the door.



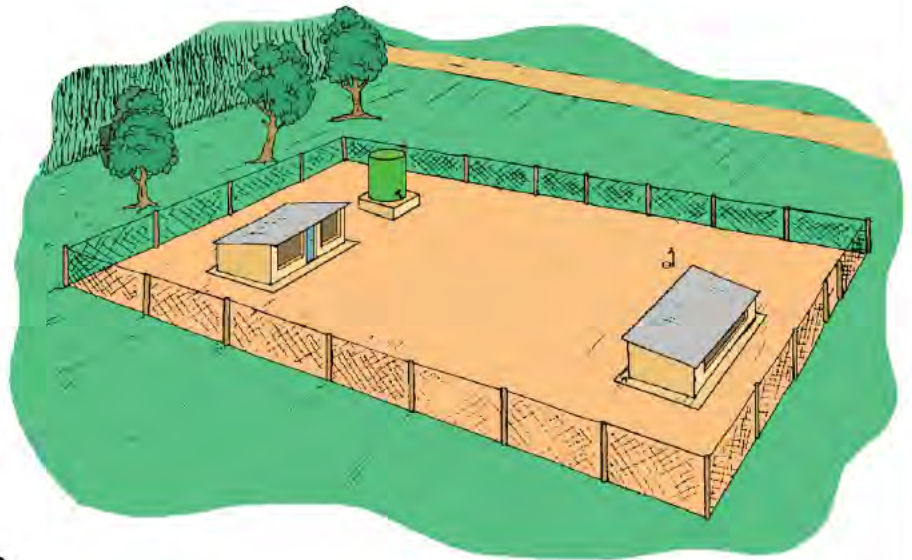
Requirements when building a new rondavel:

- At least 2 windows (1m X 1m or larger) covered with wire mesh.
- Plastered walls on the inside.
- A smooth concrete floor, sloped towards the door.
- A welded mesh grid at the door opening.
- A small cemented area in front of the door.

BUILDING A BROILER HOUSE

A suitable site should:

- Have enough, clean, water available.
- Have good air circulation.
- Be level, not in valleys.
- Allow orientation of the house (length) in an East-West direction.
- Be at least 30m away from other broiler houses or projects.
- Be accessible to suppliers and customers.



The area required by 10 broilers is 1m^2 , therefore:

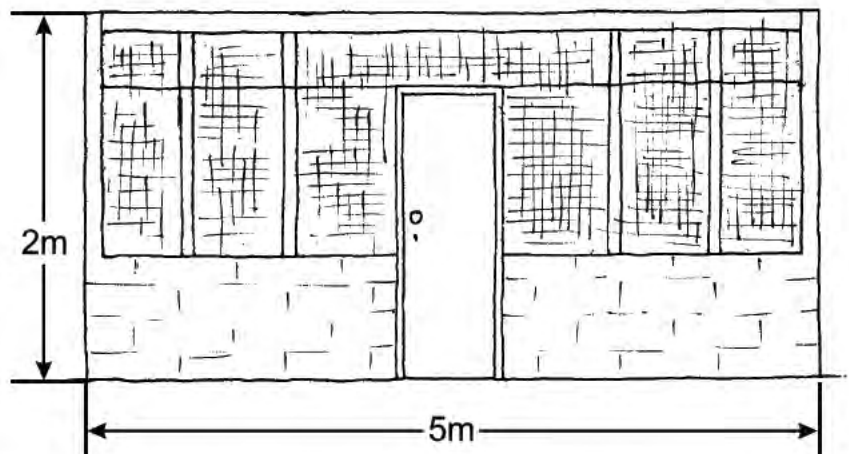
100 birds require 10m^2 ,
for example 2 X 5m.

200 birds require 20m^2

300 birds require 30m^2

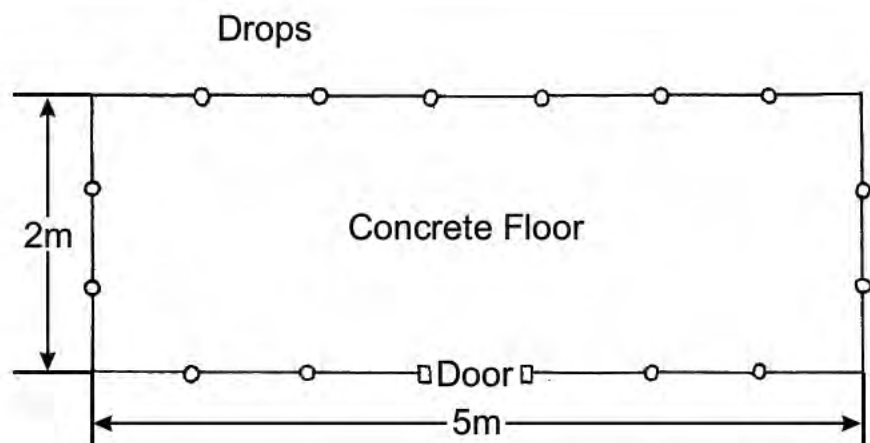
400 birds require 40m^2

500 birds require 50m^2



The floor should be:

- smooth,
- concreted,
- sloped towards the door.



BUILDING A BROILER HOUSE

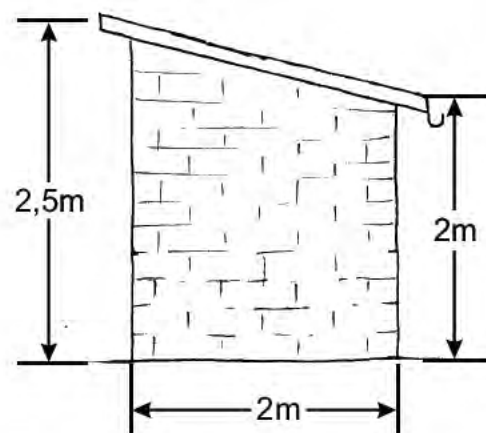
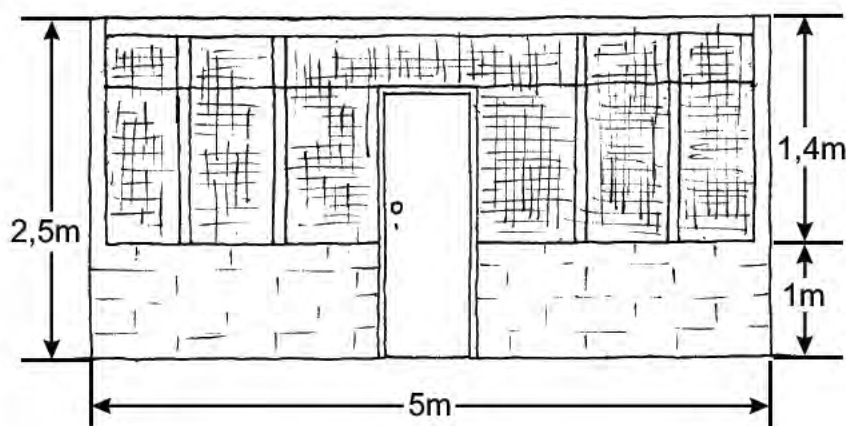
The walls should:

- Be smooth (plastered) on the inside.
- Be 2,5m from the floor in the front and 2.0m at the rear.

Wire or welded mesh covers the gap between the walls and roof.

Side walls should be solid.

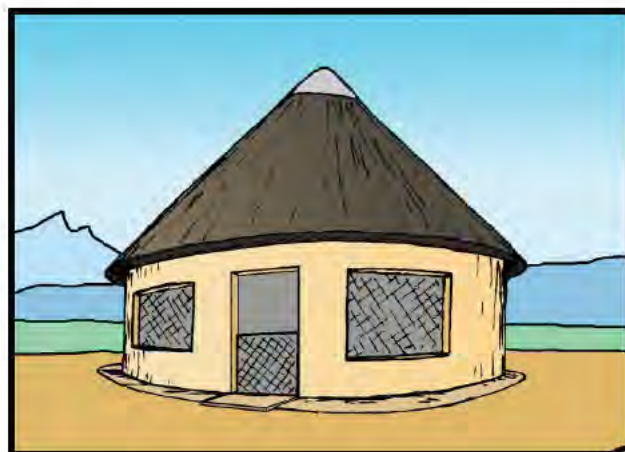
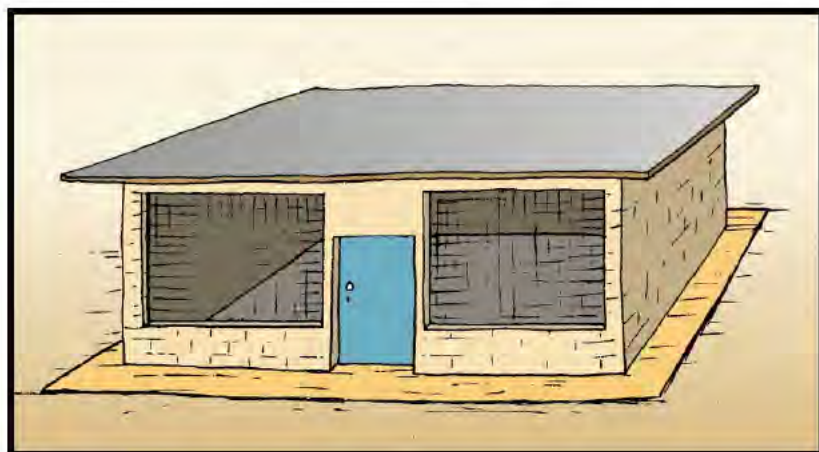
Curtains should be attached at the bottom of the wire mesh.



The roof:

- Must have a slope and must not leak.
- Must have an overhang of 0.5 - 1m in front and rear.
- Must have an overhang of at least 0.5m on the sides.
- Must be insulated, if asbestos sheeting or corrugated iron is used.

Use corrugated iron, asbestos sheeting or grass.



TIMING OF ACTIVITIES

Equipment should be purchased in time. Examples are:

- Scraping broom, bucket, shovel, rake, spade and wheelbarrow
- Detergent
- Registered disinfectant or Jeyes fluid
- Feeding trays and tube feeders
- Water founts and drinkers
- Water tank



Four weeks before date of planned arrival:

- Order chicks.
 - Buy shavings.
- For every 100 birds, buy:
- 2 X feeding trays and 3 X tubefeeders.
 - 2 X 4ℓ drinkers and 2 X 10ℓ drinkers.
 - 2 bags of broiler starter food.
 - 6 bags of broiler finisher food.
 - 1 bag of broiler post finisher.

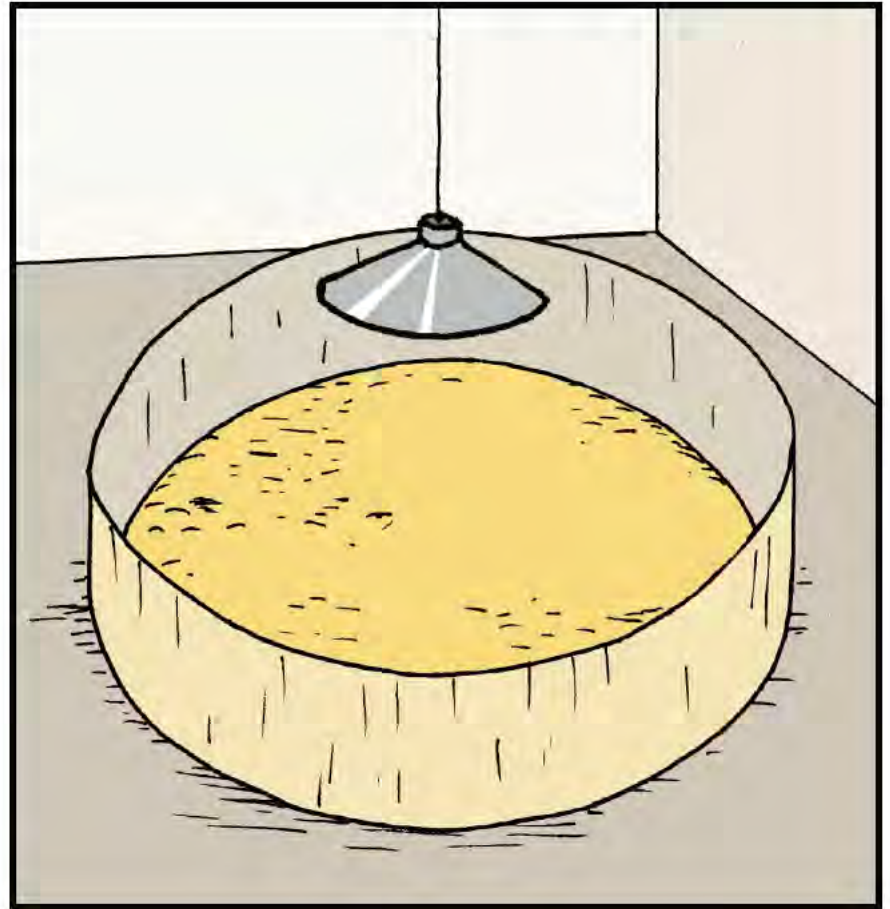
Clean and disinfect the house with a registered disinfectant or Jeyes fluid.



TIMING OF ACTIVITIES

One week before arrival of chicks:

- Install a brooder guard (30cm high and 3m in diameter - for 100 birds).
- Install a brooder lamp or heater.
- Spread shavings inside the brooder guard.

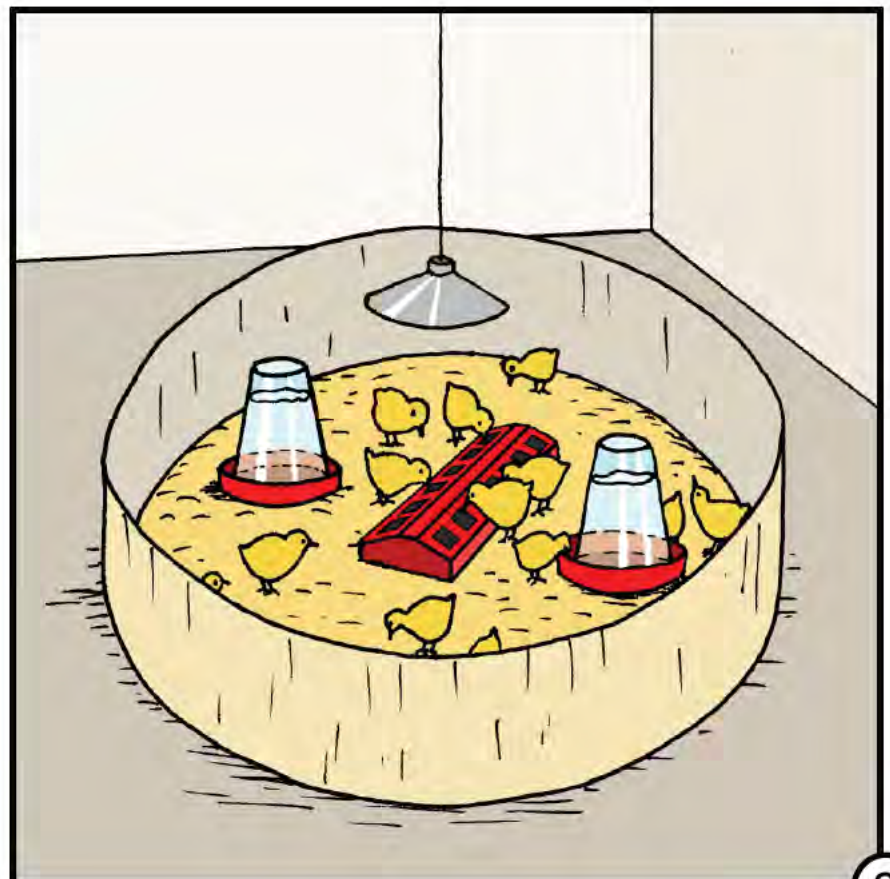


One day before arrival of chicks:

- Buy medication and vaccines such as:
 - ND Inkukhu for Newcastle disease
 - Vitamins for stress
 - Gumboro broilers for Gumboro

Vaccinate according to the vaccination program.

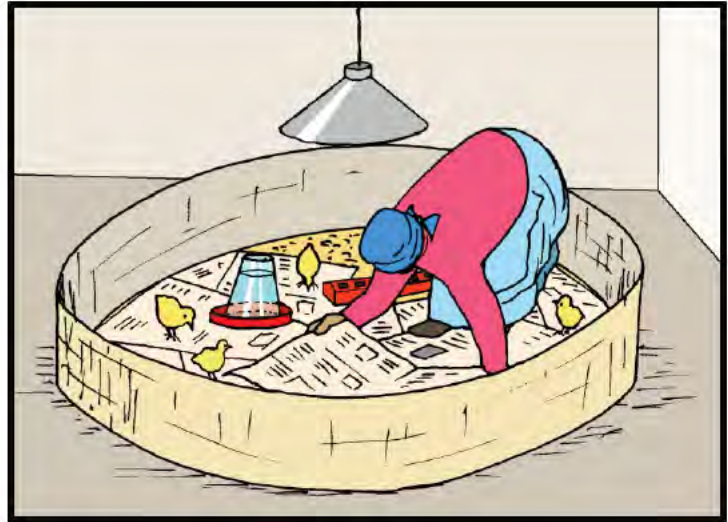
- Switch on brooder.
- Fill and put drinkers into brooder area to allow water to reach room temperature.



TIMING OF ACTIVITIES

Day 1: Arrival of chicks

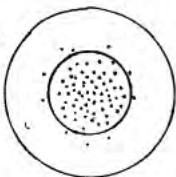
- Set brooder guard to full size
- Unpack chicks, check and remove injured or dead chicks.
- Add vitamins to water for first 3 days.
- Encourage chicks to drink before eating.
- Feed them 2 hours after arrival.
- Temperature in brooder guard should be 28°C.



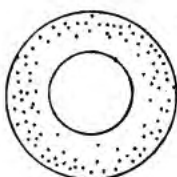
Day 2

- Give chicks enough feed and clean water every morning and afternoon.
- Watch chicks behaviour.
- Adjust brooders and curtains in order to maintain a required room temperature.
- Remove and bury dead chicks.

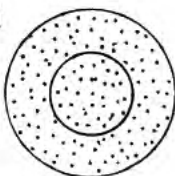
Too cold



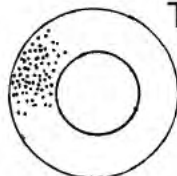
Too hot



Just right



Too draughty



TIMING OF ACTIVITIES

Week 2:

- Remove brooder guard after 7 days.
- Add clean shavings.
- Replace tray feeders with tube feeders and water founts with large drinkers.
- Temperature should be 25°C.
- Vaccinate against Newcastle disease at day 10 with ND Inkukhu.
- Vaccinate against Gumboro disease at day 14 with Gumboro broilers.



Week 3:

- Vaccinate against Gumboro disease at day 18 with Gumboro broilers.
- Introduce broiler finisher to replace starter feed.



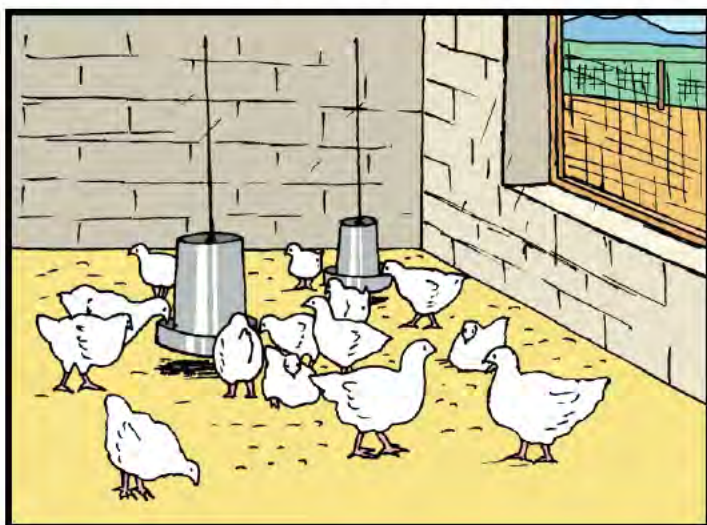
Week 4:

- Feed only finisher.
- Temperature should be 22°C.
- Vaccinate chickens again at day 22-24 with ND Inkukhu for Newcastle disease.

TIMING OF ACTIVITIES

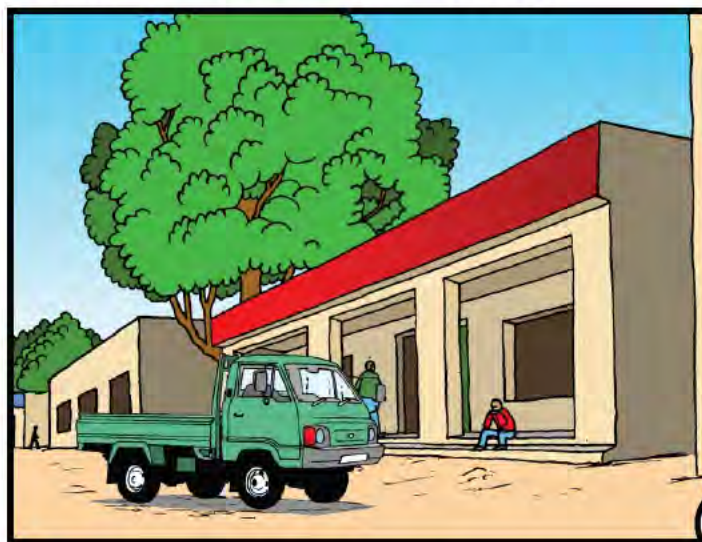
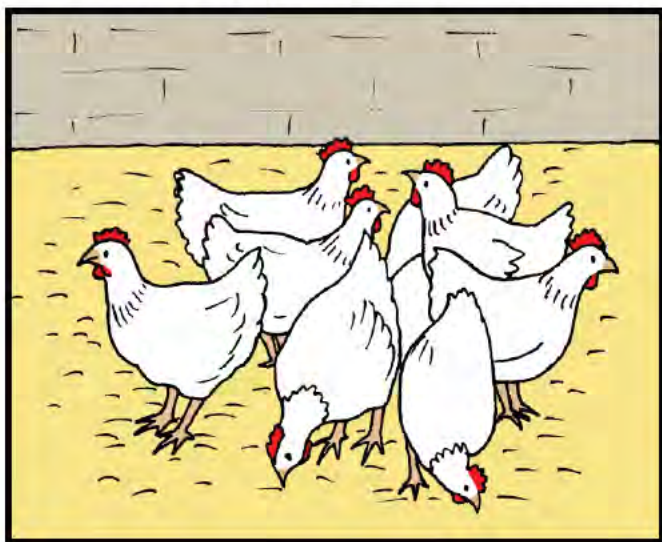
Week 5:

- Continue daily activities such as:
 - Feeding
 - Monitoring
 - Record keeping
- Let people know that broilers will be available in one week.



Week 6:

- Broilers almost ready to be marketed.
- Ensure enough food and water is available.
- Order chicks for the new cycle.
- Buy shavings for the new cycle.
- Start marketing.
- Try to sell all chickens before the end of week 7, because from week 7 feeding cost will increase drastically.



TIMING OF ACTIVITIES

Week 8:

- Remove all birds from the house.
- Clean and disinfect with a registered disinfectant or Jeyes fluid.
- The house must stay empty for at least two weeks (week 8 & 9).



Week 10: (Day 1 of new cycle)

- Prepare the brooder area before the new chicks arrive.
- Arrival of the new chicks.



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