SOBA
SIERRA LEONE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESS ACTION

Rearing of pullets in Sierra Leone

Arie Bijl
Associate expert for SOBA project
Poultry arming expert

Rearing period is most important

- Building the body
- Building immunity
- Do not compromise on feed composition: follow breeders or concentrate manufacturer recommendations

Rearing management

1) preparing the house for chickens
2) Hygiene and biosecurity
2) receiving the chicks
3) house climate
4) bodyweight
5) light
5) feed
6) beak trimming
7) administration

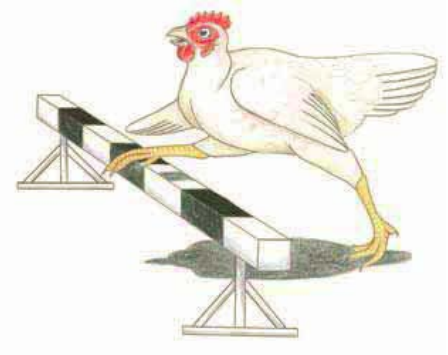
Preparation of house

Cleaning

- water
- dry

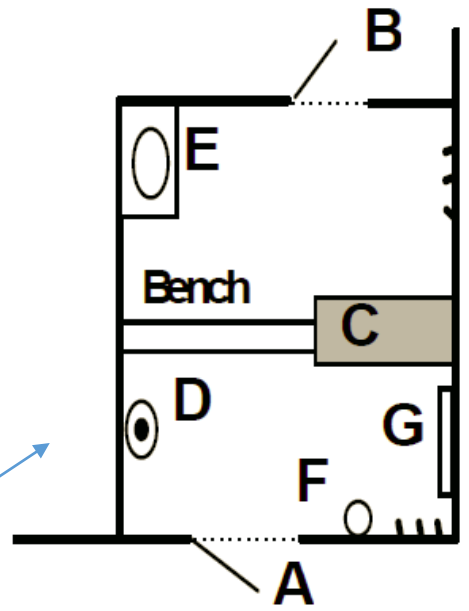
Disinfection

- clean surfaces
- right disinfectant
- right temperature (period)
- right RH



Hygiene and biosecurity

- Fence around farm
- No backyard fowl near the houses
- No entry of wild bird into the houses
- Vermin control
- Hygiene lock for entering the poultry house
- Disinfect equipment
- Workers and visitors disinfect at entrance
- Visitors only when necessary
- ……



A Entrance / exit
B Exit to clean area
C Storage cupboard
D Hand basin
E Boot rinse
F Laundry basket

Receiving day old chicks

Start heating in time

Floor rearing -> floor temperature 26 ^{o}C

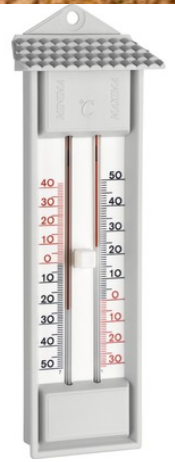
Free of odours of disinfection

Temperature 36 ^{o}C

Relative Humidity above 60 %

Thermometer

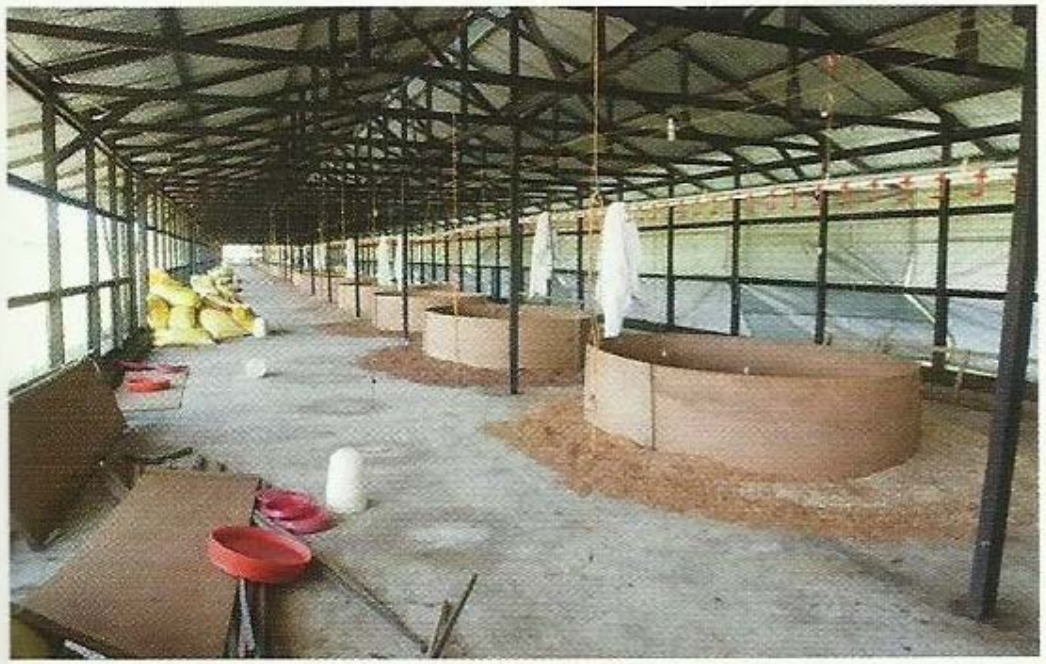
Hygrometer



Climate control

- Temperature
- Relative Humidity
- Minimum ventilation
- Air composition
- Air movement

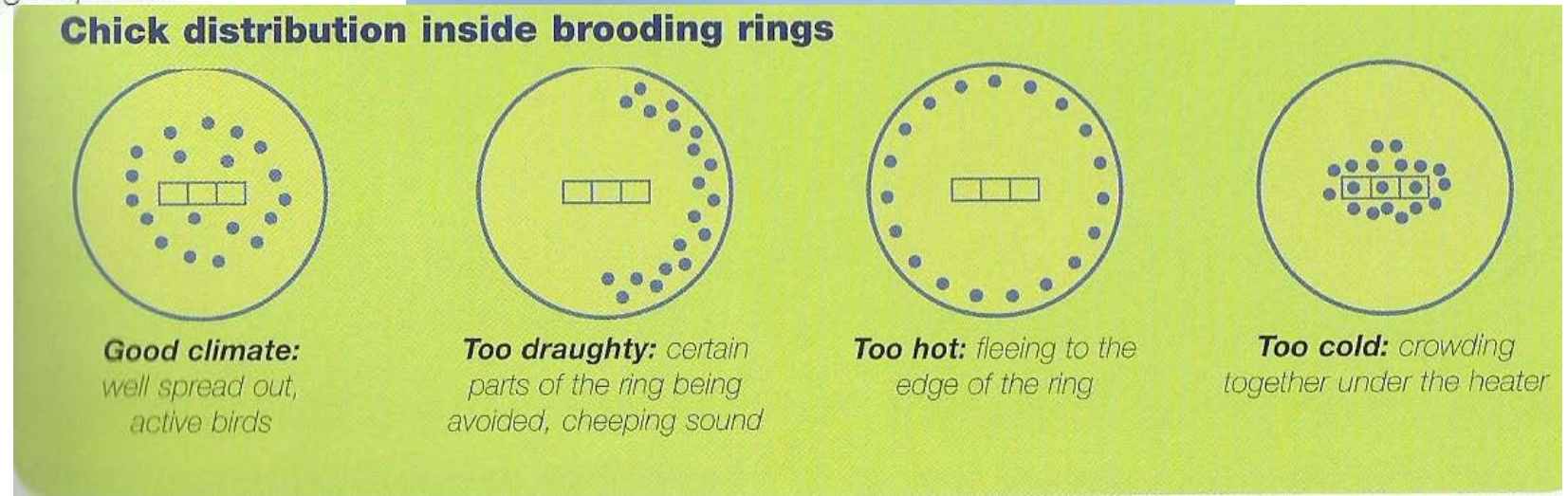
Alternative brooding



For each heat source serving 500 chicks, fit barriers in a circle approximately 6 metres in diameter. Enlarge these brooding rings regularly after a week, and remove them after three weeks, so that the chicks have enough space.

US $ 70 each

Fuel: butane or propane gas



Minimum ventilation

Calculated

- 15-20 % of maximum ventilation=3.6 m^3/ kilogram bodyweight/ hour
- => 0.6-0.7 m^3/ kilogram per hour
- + correction for fuel when direct heating

Measured

- gasses at a low level CO2;
- maintain temperature

Air velocity

Small chicks 0.1 m/s

Later (normal temperature) 0.25 m/s

Light

Normal program as management guide

Gradually decrease light to only daylight at 15 weeks

When 1st egg: increase 2 hours

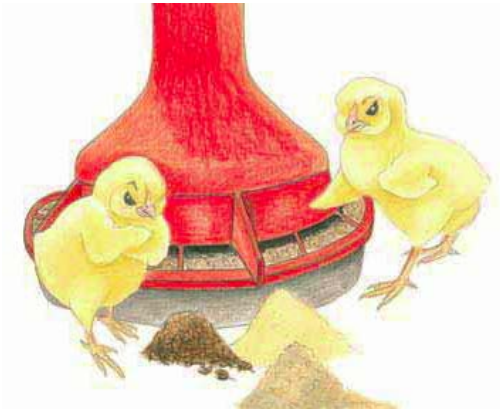
At 35 % lay: 2 hours more

At 60 % lay: 2 hours more (total 18 hours)

(source ISA Brown management guide)

Normal fluorescent tubes not suitable because of interaction with sight of chickens.

Feed



Feeder space correct.

(round feeders 1 per 30 birds; 10 centimetres per bird; laying period)

Feed on paper on floor first days

Water

- number or space sufficient
- water quality/ hygiene

Beak trimming

Shortening beaks to prevent damage of feather and damage by cannibalism.

Age:

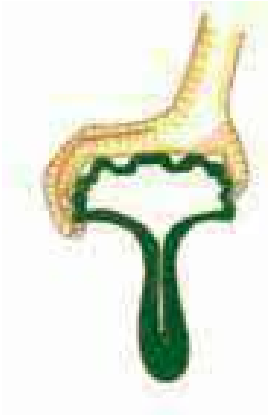
- At the hatchery (laser technique)
- before 10 days
- 6 weeks

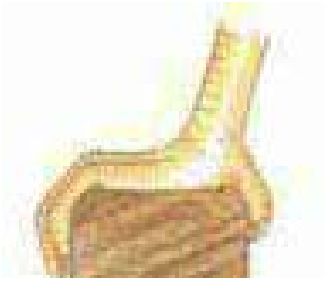
Type

- trimming
- burning

Do it well or don’t do it !!!!

Perches





- Exercise
- Natural behaviour
- Cooling

Body weight

Average bodyweight

Uniformity

Why monitoring bodyweight

- Feed management
- Managing start of production

Administration

Standard system

- room temperatures
- mortality
- feed consumption
- bodyweight development