
Housing of indigenous (local) chicken



Introduction

Why house indigenous poultry?

Indigenous poultry are housed to provide shelter for broody hens, eggs and chicks. Houses also protect birds from predators and bad weather.

Site

Select an area with shade and windbreaks to protect birds from the hot sun and strong wind.
Select a secure place around the farm to protect birds from predators.
Rectangular houses should run East to West to avoid the hot afternoon sun

Building Materials

Use local materials like wood thatch grass, clay or bricks.

- Remove barks from wood where parasites often hide.
- Remove any sharp objects from the house.
- Provide windows that cover half the height of the house for ventilation
- Use chicken wire on windows to keep away predators.

Types of houses

Some indigenous chicken houses include:

Basket housing

This is a simple house made of sticks, wire or reeds. It can hold 5-10 chickens and should be moved around daily.



Basket housing

Chick Baskets

Chick baskets protect chicks from adult birds, predators and bad weather. Keep and feed the hen and chicks in the basket.

Slatted houses

This house is raised half a meter from the ground to ensure dropping fall through. Slats are made from stick or hard wire, Allow 10 birds per meter squared in the house.



Raised slatted house

Deep litter house

The floor of this house is covered with litter material which absorbs moisture from droppings. Litter materials include wood shavings, hay or straw. Allow 8 birds per square meter.

Chicken runs

A chicken run is a fenced open area where poultry are kept in confinement and protected against predators. Provide a 2 meter wall made of clay, sticks or chicken wire as fencing. Chicken runs are useful during the planting season for feeding, watering and collecting eggs.

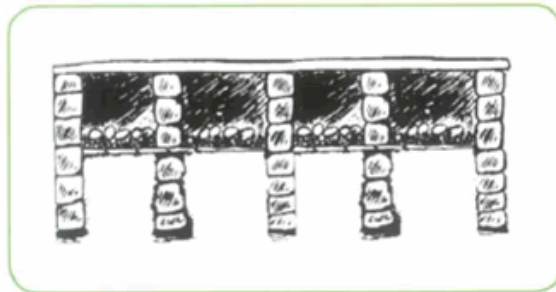


Chicken run

Nests and Perches

Nests make it easy to collect clean eggs. They are made out of clay pots, calabashes or baskets made of local fibers, cardboard, or wooden boxes.

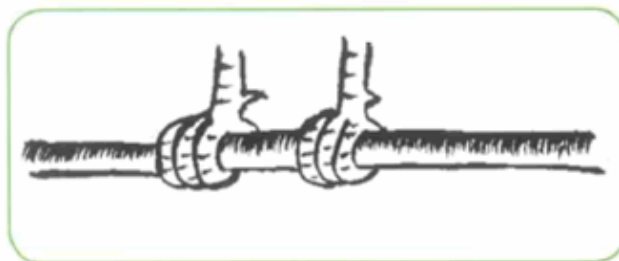
Build nests above the ground in a dark, quiet area. Battery nests measure 1 ft on all sides. Nesting material should be changed once every week.



Battery nests

Perches

These are important for birds to rest on inside the house. They are made of round medium sized sticks. Each meter of perch will roost 5 adult birds.



Perch

Perches are treated with waste oil or kerosene to keep away parasites

Hygiene

Build easy to clean houses to protect birds against diseases and parasites.

Use ash or acaricide to disinfect and kill parasites from the walls and cracks regularly.

Clear all grass and bushes 3 meters on all sides of the house to keep snakes and rats away.



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