

SMALL POULTRY FARMER

NSQF LEVEL 4

PRACTICAL MANUAL



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Practical 1

VISIT TO A POULTRY FARM

OBJECTIVE

After completing this practical you will be able to perform routine day-to-day activities in a poultry farm.

PRINCIPLE

A poultry farm is complex structure hence; a thorough understanding on the various activities to be performed day-to-day is a must for managing the poultry enterprise in an efficient manner. Hands-on experience on the different time-bound activities to be performed in a poultry farm like feeding, bio-security measures, care and management of birds of different age groups is important for the profitability of the farm.

TOOLS/EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS REQUIRED

Poultry farm with at least 500 to 1,000 birds.

PROCEDURE

1. Visit a poultry farm with at least 500 to 1,000 birds.
2. Contact the farm manager or In-charge of the farm and collect the information about the farm, different activities performed in the farm throughout the day and the working schedule.
3. Note down the following:
 - (i) **Poultry Farm:** Location of the farm, infrastructure for accessibility to the farm and transport connectivity, distance from the nearest market place and marketing infrastructure.



Notes

- (ii) Distance between the buildings, wind flow direction (Whether adult to young or young to adult stock), source of water and feed, location of feed store, feeding schedule, etc.
 - (iii) **Farm structures:** Various types of farm buildings, different sheds for different types of birds like broilers, chicks, growers, layers, etc. and note down their location.
 - (iv) **Farm Type:** Type of birds maintained, strains of broiler, breed/strains of layers maintained, breed/species of any other poultry reared.
 - (v) **Farming System:** System of management like extensive/semi-extensive/intensive (Deep litter/Cages etc.).
 - (vi) **Routine farm activities:** Schedule of day-to-day care and management of birds like brooding, feeding, deworming, judging, culling, vaccination, medication, post-mortem, marketing etc.
 - (vii) **Farm inputs:** Sources of different inputs of the farm like chicks, feed, equipment, medicines, vaccines etc.
 - (viii) **Record Keeping:** Various records maintained in the farm like livestock, feed, sales, medicines and vaccines, sledgers, journals, cash books etc.
4. Perform the routine day-to-day activities of the farm with the guidance and support of the farm manager.

OBSERVATIONS

- (i) Name and address of the farm visited
- (ii) Type, breeds/strains and number of birds reared in the farm
- (iii) Farm location
- (iv) Different farm structures and their arrangement
- (v) System of rearing
- (vi) Routine farm activities
- (vii) Source of farm inputs
- (viii) Records maintained in the farm

RESULTS

Visited farm and skilled in the following farm activities:

1.



Notes

2.
3.
4.
5.

PRECAUTIONS

- Enter the farm with the prior approval of the farm manager or In-charge.
- Do not cause hindrance or not interfere in the specific farm activities.
- Do not visit two different farms in the same day as it may lead to spreading of diseases.
- Before entering the poultry farm and poultry sheds, dip your foot completely in the footbath present at the entrance of the farm/shed.
- Wear protective clothing, apron, face mask, gloves etc. (wherever required) before performing the routine operations.
- Avoid spitting, sneezing and unhygienic practices inside the farm premises.

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(Instructor's Signature)



Practical 2

VISIT TO A BROILER FARM

OBJECTIVE

After completing this practical you will be able to perform routine day-to-day activities in a broiler farm.

PRINCIPLE

Proper and timely care and management of broiler birds is important for the profitability of the farm. If the routine activities like feeding, brooding, etc. are performed on time, it will affect the growth, health and overall performance of the broiler birds. It is essential to gain skills (Hands-on experience) on the different time-bound activities in a broiler farm like feeding, brooding bio-security measures, care and management of birds of different age groups in order to manage the broiler farm efficiently and economically.

TOOLS/EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS REQUIRED

Broiler farm with at least 500 to 1,000 birds.

PROCEDURE

1. Visit a broiler farm with the prior approval of the farm manager or In-charge.
2. Contact the farm manager or farm In-charge and collect the information about the farm, different activities performed in the farm throughout the day and the working schedule.
3. Observe and note down the following:
 - (i) **Farming System:** System of management like extensive/semi-extensive/intensive.
 - (ii) **Farm Type:** Type, number and strains of broiler maintained.



- (iii) **Farm premises:** Arrangement of buildings, distance between broiler unit with other units, dimensions of the broiler shed and floor, feeder and drinker space provided to each bird.
 - (iv) **Farm structure:** Note down its design, dimensions, cross-section and floor diagram of the building, type of roofing and flooring.
 - (v) **Biosecurity measures adopted:** Rat proof arrangement and wild bird proofing, if available, cleaning, sanitation and presence of footbath etc.
 - (vi) **Routine farm activities:** Schedule of day-to-day care and management of birds like brooding, feeding (schedule, allocation), watering, judging, culling, litter and its management, common diseases encountered and their prevention and control, deworming and vaccination schedules followed and marketing etc.
 - (vii) **Farm inputs:** Sources of different inputs of the farm like chicks, feed, equipment, medicines and vaccines, etc.
 - (viii) **Record Keeping:** Various records maintained in the farm like livestock, feed, sales, medicines and vaccines, sales, ledgers, journals and cash books, etc.
4. Perform the routine day-to-day activities of the farm like feeding, medication, culling, brooding, marketing, record keeping, cleaning and sanitation, etc. with the guidance and support of the farm manager.

OBSERVATIONS

- (i) Name and address of the farm visited
- (ii) System of rearing
- (iii) Farm location
- (iv) Different farm structures and their arrangement
- (v) Breeds/strains and number of birds reared in the farm
- (vi) Common diseases encountered in the farm
- (vii) Biosecurity measures adopted
- (viii) Vaccination and deworming schedule
- (ix) Routine farm activities
- (x) Source of farm inputs
- (xi) Records maintained in the farm



Notes

RESULTS

Visited farm and skilled in the following farm activities:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

PRECAUTIONS

- Enter the farm with the prior approval of the farm manager or in-charge.
- Strictly follow all biosecurity measures.
- Do not cause hindrance or interference in the specific farm activities.
- Do not visit two different farms in the same day as it may lead to spreading of diseases.
- Before entering the poultry farm and poultry sheds, dip your foot completely in the footbath present at the entrance of the farm/shed.
- Wear protective clothing, apron, face mask, gloves and gumboots, etc. (wherever required) before performing the routine operations.
- Avoid spitting, sneezing and unhygienic practices inside the farm premises.

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Practical 3

VISIT TO A LAYER FARM

OBJECTIVE

After completing this practical you will be able to perform routine day-to-day activities in a layer farm.

PRINCIPLE

Proper and timely care and management of layer birds is important for the profitability of the farm. If the routine activities like feeding, brooding etc. are performed on time, it will affect the growth, health and overall performance of the layer birds. It is essential to gain skills (hands-on experience) on the different time-bound activities in a layer farm like feeding, brooding, bio-security measures, care and management of birds of different age groups, egg collection and storage etc. in order to manage the layer farm efficiently and economically.

TOOLS/EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS REQUIRED

Layer farm with at least 500 to 1,000 birds.

PROCEDURE

1. Visit a layer farm with the prior approval of the farm manager or In-charge.
2. Contact the farm manager or In-charge of the farm and collect the information about the farm, different activities performed in the farm throughout the day and the working schedule.
3. Observe and note down the following:
 - (i) **Farming System:** System of management like extensive/semi-extensive/intensive (Deep litter/Cages, etc.).
 - (ii) **Farm Type:** Type, number and breed/strains of layer maintained.



Notes

- (iii) **Farm premises:** Arrangement of buildings, distance between layer unit with other units, dimensions of the layer shed and floor, dimension of the cages, feeder and waterer space provided to each bird, number of birds in each cage and location of drinker channel/nipple, feeding and egg collection channels (cage system); floor, feed and water space provided to each bird, location and position of the nest and number of nests (deep litter system).
 - (iv) **Farm structure:** Note down its design, dimensions, cross-section and floor diagram of the building, type of roofing and flooring.
 - (v) **Biosecurity measures adopted:** Rat proof arrangement and wild bird proofing, if available, cleaning sanitation, presence of footbath, etc.
 - (vi) **Routine farm activities:** Schedule of day-to-day care and management of birds like brooding, feeding (schedule, allocation), watering, judging, culling, cage management, litter and its management, common diseases encountered and their prevention and control, deworming and vaccination schedules followed, egg collection (method, frequency, schedule), marketing, etc.
 - (vii) **Farm inputs:** Sources of different inputs of the farm like chicks, feed, equipment, medicines, vaccines, etc.
 - (viii) **Record Keeping:** Various records maintained in the farm like livestock, feed, sales, medicines and vaccines, sales, ledgers, journals, cash books etc.
4. Perform the routine day-to-day activities of the farm like feeding, brooding, vaccination, medication, culling, cleaning and sanitation, egg collection and storage, record keeping, marketing, etc. with the guidance and support of the farm manager.

OBSERVATIONS

- (i) Name and address of the farm visited
- (ii) System of rearing
- (iii) Farm location
- (iv) Different farm structures and their arrangement
- (v) Breeds/strains and number of birds reared in the farm
- (vi) Source of farm inputs
- (vii) Common diseases encountered in the farm
- (viii) Biosecurity measures adopted



Notes

- (ix) Vaccination and deworming schedule
- (x) Routine farm activities
- (xi) Egg collection (method, frequency, schedule)
- (xii) Records maintained in the farm

RESULTS

Visited farm and skilled in the following farm activities:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

PRECAUTIONS

- Enter the farm with the prior approval of the farm manager or In-charge and follow biosecurity measures.
- Do not cause hindrance or not interfere in the specific farm activities.
- Do not visit two different farms in the same day as it may lead to spreading of diseases.
- Before entering the poultry farm and poultry sheds, dip your foot completely in the footbath present at the entrance of the farm/shed.
- Wear protective clothing, apron, face mask, gloves and gumboots, etc. (wherever required) before performing the routine operations.
- Avoid spitting, sneezing and unhygienic practices inside the farm premises.

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Practical 4

IDENTIFICATION OF EXTERNAL BODY PARTS OF A POULTRY

OBJECTIVE

After completing this practical you will be able to identify different external body parts of poultry.

PRINCIPLE

Before learning about the management of poultry, it is important to know about different body parts especially external, to properly understand the subject. The external body parts of poultry is different from that of the other livestock like cattle, sheep, etc. The poultry have beak, comb, wattles, wings, feather etc., which are not present in other farm animals. However, irrespective of broiler and layer birds, the body parts of poultry are almost similar. Knowledge on the different external body parts will help you to understand the theory lessons and also to assess the health condition of the birds. The picture of poultry with different body parts is given below (Fig. 4.1):

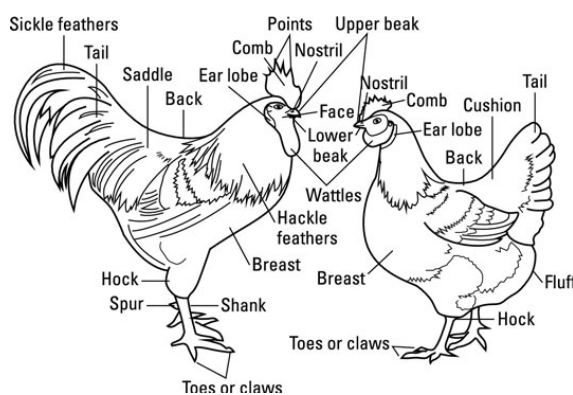


Fig. 4.1: Body parts of a poultry



The external body parts of poultry are as follows:

1. **Head:** The head of the poultry is the topmost part of the poultry which includes:
 - **Comb:** It is a fleshy growth present on top of the poultry head. In most of the breeds, it is red in colour. The shape of the comb varies from breed to breed. Common types of comb are single, rose and pea, etc. as below (Fig. 4.2)

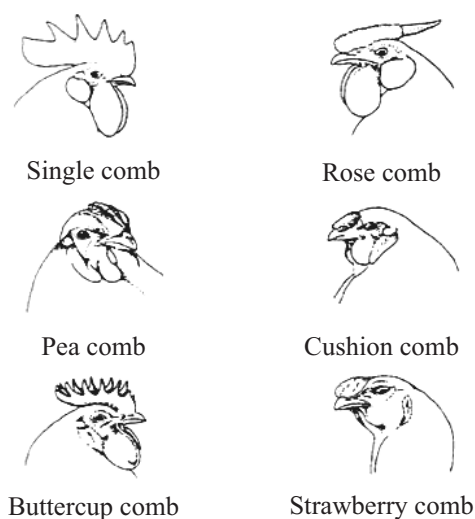


Fig. 4.2: Common poultry combs

- **Eyes:** Eyes (two) are situated below the comb on either side of the head.
 - **Ear lobe:** They are specialized skin found below the ear on either side of the head. The color of the ear lobe (red and white) varies with the breeds.
 - **Nostrils:** They are two small openings located on either side of the head between beak and comb.
 - **Beak:** It is a soft bony curved structure located in front side of head. Poultry have an upper and lower beak.
 - **Wattles:** Two red fleshy structures hanging below the beak.
2. **Neck:** Neck is a long slender structure situated just below the head, connecting the body and the head.
 3. **Trunk or body:** Body of poultry consists of the following parts:
 - **Breast:** It is front part of the body extending from neck to the abdomen.



Notes

- **Abdomen:** Area between the breast and hip bones.
 - **Back:** It is uppermost part of the body situated between bases of the wings and extending from neck to tail.
 - **Wings:** They are modified forelimbs (front legs) extended from the body and used for flying.
 - **Vent or cloaca or Anus:** It is an external opening present in the lowermost part of body through which excreta/droppings and eggs come out. It is normally not visible, since it is covered by feathers in the body.
4. **Feathers:** They are soft bony structures covering most parts of the body. The colour and pattern of the feathers varies from breed to breed.
 5. **Tail:** The tail comprises of long feathers extending from back of the bird. The colour of tail feathers is almost or same as the other feathers. Cock's tail feathers are curved downwards and looks like a sickle and hence called 'sickle feathers'.
 6. **Legs:** Poultry has two legs. The different parts of legs are as follows:
 - **Thigh:** It is upper portion of leg above knee joint and attached to the body of bird.
 - **Fluff:** The soft feathers on the underside of the leg of the bird.
 - **Hock:** It is a joint located between thigh and shank.
 - **Shank:** The lower portion of leg between claw and first joint.
 - **Toes:** Mostly, poultry have four toes on each foot. Some breeds have five toes.
 - **Spur:** The fifth toe is completely lost or as an outgrowth of bone. The spurs are mostly found in males, and used in mating competition or territory defense.

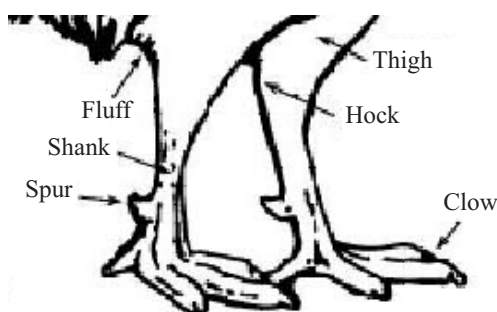


Fig. 4.3: Parts of poultry legs



Notes

TOOLS/EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS REQUIRED

A Hen or Cock.

PROCEDURE

1. Visit a broiler or layer farm and select a hen/cock.
2. Without disturbing the bird, carefully observe them from a distance and identify the different body parts starting from top to bottom.
3. Note down the different external body parts and their characteristics like colour, appearance, etc.

OBSERVATIONS

The external body parts observed by you in poultry are:

- | | |
|--------|---------|
| (i) | (xi) |
| (ii) | (xii) |
| (iii) | (xiii) |
| (iv) | (xiv) |
| (v) | (xv) |
| (vi) | (xvi) |
| (vii) | (xvii) |
| (viii) | (xviii) |
| (ix) | (xix) |
| (x) | (xx) |

RESULTS

You have identified _____ number of external body parts in a poultry.

PRECAUTIONS

- Always obtain permission of the owner/manager before entering the farm/shed.
- Follow the biosecurity measures before entering the shed.
- Carefully observe the different body parts from a distance without disturbing the bird(s).
- It is always safe to observe birds from outside the shed to prevent spreading of diseases.
- Do not frighten the bird(s).



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Practical 5

HANDLING OF BIRDS

OBJECTIVE

After completing this practical you will be able to handle birds properly for performing different management procedures like shifting, vaccination, debeaking, marketing and other routine operations.

PRINCIPLE

Poultry are delicate creatures. They experience stress during handling which in turn affects their body functions, behaviour and their overall performance (growth, production etc.). Research studies have shown that when the poultry are exposed to regular stress, it affects their performance. Moreover, if the birds are handled without proper care, it may injure them. Therefore, they should be handled properly to minimize stress and injury.

TOOLS/EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS REQUIRED

Adult bird, catching hook and a welded mesh L-shaped angle frame.

PROCEDURE

(a) *In Deep litter system:*

1. Using a welded mesh, collect birds to a corner of the shed.
2. Catch the bird by placing the catching hook on the shanks and grab the legs with fingers.
3. If the bird is light weight, hold the bird with one hand keeping the abdomen of the bird on the palm of one hand. Now, grab the two legs of bird in between fingers, head of the bird should face towards handler, keeping the other hand free for examination.
4. In case of heavy broiler birds, grab the two legs using both hands.



Notes

(b) In cage system:

1. Gently open the door of cage without disturbing the bird.
2. Place one hand on the bird's back and the other hand under the bird.
3. Hold legs in-between the fingers with breast bone resting on the palm of hand.
4. Lift and pull the bird out of the cage with head first.
5. Place the bird back into the cage with head first.

OBSERVATIONS

- (i) Type of farm visited:(Broiler/layer/breeder)
- (ii) System of rearing birds:(Deep litter/Cage)
- (iii) Type of the bird handled:(Broiler/Layer/Grower/Chick)
- (iv) Age of the bird handled:(in days of weeks)
- (v) Behaviour of the bird handled:

RESULTS

The bird reared in the system was (handled/not handled) properly.

PRECAUTIONS

- Do not frighten the bird.
- Never catch the heavy birds by their leg as it may lead to breakage of legs.
- Do not hold laying birds upside down for more than half a minute.
- Care should be taken to avoid injury to the bird.

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Practical 6

DESIGN OF POULTRY SHED

OBJECTIVE

After completing this practical you will be able to design poultry shed for safe and comfort rearing of birds.

PRINCIPLE

The design of poultry shed varies from region to region and place to place depending on the system of rearing and the environmental/climatic conditions. Commercially deep litter system and cage fitted poultry sheds are popular in India. The broiler grows better on deep litter sheds whereas the layer flock is preferably reared on cage fitted sheds. The design of the poultry shed is prepared in such a way that it provides comfortable environment to the birds with adequate space, ventilation and lighting.

Rules of shed construction:

- (a) **Direction:** The length of shed should be facing east to west to avoid the birds from hot winds and rain water.
- (b) **Length/width:** The width of shed should not more than 30 feet (9 meters). The length can be taken according to availability. The ideal length is about 100-120 feet (30-36 m).
- (c) **Floor:** The floor should be made with concrete at a height of one foot above the ground level.
- (d) **Walls:** The side wall in case of deep litter system should be about 1.5 to 2.5 feet height and rest is covered with wire net with a height of 4.5 feet.
- (e) **Roof:** The roof of the shed should be made with Asbestos sheets.
- (f) **Partition:** To avoid the overcrowding of shed, it should be divided in partition of 30×30 feet².



Notes

TOOLS/EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS REQUIRED

Open sided deep litter shed and/or cage fitted platform shed.

PROCEDURE

1. Visit the deep litter sheds for broiler and/or cages shed for layer rearing at nearby poultry farm.
2. Record the distinguishing features of shed keeping in view of the above rules.
3. Record the number of birds in each shed.
4. Observe and note down their dimensions, entry and exit directions.
5. Always follow biosecurity measures on entering in any shed.

OBSERVATIONS

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| (i) System of rearing: | (Deep litter or cage) |
| (ii) Type of birds reared: | (Broiler/Layer) |
| (iii) Length of the poultry shed: | (in feet or meters) |
| (iv) Width of the poultry shed: | (in feet or meters) |
| (v) Height of the poultry shed: | (in feet or meters) |
| (vi) Number of birds reared in the shed: | |
| (vii) Direction of the shed: | |
| (viii) Type of floor: | |
| (ix) Type of wall: | |
| (x) Type of roof: | |

RESULTS

The type of birds are reared in..... system and the shed design and dimensions (are/are not) as per the standards.

PRECAUTIONS

- Enter the farm with the prior approval of the farm manager or In-charge.
- Do not cause hindrance in the specific farm activities.

- Do not visit two different farms in the same day as it may lead to spreading of diseases.
- Before entering the poultry farm and poultry sheds, dip your foot completely in the footbath present at the entrance of the farm/shed.
- Wear protective clothing, apron, face mask, gloves, etc. (wherever required).

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Practical 7

BROODING OF CHICKS

OBJECTIVE

After completing this practical you will be able to brood the chicks for achieving optimum growth, production and quick returns.

PRINCIPLE

Chicks are highly sensitive to temperature and hence should be handled and taken care properly. For the first few days after hatching, the chicks require proper housing, temperature (heat source) and easily digestible feed. Hence, the chicks are normally kept in brooder house in broiler farm or brooder-cum-grower house in layer farm which provides comfortable environment to grow. In addition to this, the chicks should be regularly observed for their behaviour since it can help us in identifying the problems and rectify them on time. Overcrowding of chicks should be avoided as it may result in suffocation and even death. As the new-born child (in case of humans) requires regular and timely care and affection, the chicks also require proper care and attention with respect to temperature, feed, water, health care and other basic requirements for its proper growth and development which ultimately results on future productivity.

TOOLS/EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS REQUIRED

Broiler or layer farm, newly hatched chicks, brooder or brooder-cum-grower house, brooder/hover, brooder guard/chick guard, electrical bulb holder and bulbs of different watts, thermometer, litter (bedding) material, newspaper/gunny bags, disinfectants and scrub brush, jaggery, feeders and crushed maize/feeds, water troughs and clean water, plastic buckets/drums.

PROCEDURE

1. Visit the nearby allotted broiler or layer farm and engage yourself with full dedication to learn the different steps of rearing chicks.



2. Dip your foot in the disinfectant solution or footbath placed at the entrance of the farm before entering the farm.
3. Wear head and face masks, clean clothes and footwear.
4. Ensure the preparedness of brooder house before the arrival of chicks.
5. Clean and disinfect brooder house with suitable disinfectant like formalin, phenols, etc.
6. Spread adequate bedding material (rice husk or saw dust) of 2 to 3 inches thickness on the floor and cover it with newspaper to prevent accidental intake of bedding material by the chicks.
7. The size of the brooder will depend on the number of chicks you have. Aim for at least 2.5 sq feet per chick.
8. As soon as the chicks arrive, open the chick box and count the number of chicks in a box.
9. Observe the chicks for their uniform size (body weight 38 to 40 g), colour and any defects. They should be of uniform size and free from any defects.
10. Place one hand gently on the top of the chick, and the other under its rear end and feet.
11. Lift them one by one gently without squeezing its body and place them inside the brooder area.
12. Dip chick's beak in water and feed to familiarize the feed and water sources.
13. Jaggery solution is usually provided for the first 15 hours after the chicks are placed in brooder house and water should be provided before feed is given.
14. Clean the waterers with a scrub brush before placing them in brooder house.
15. Fill the waterers about 4 hours before chicks arrive.
16. Sprinkle feed or maize grit on the newspaper to help chicks identify the feed.
17. Carefully observe the chicks and identify the weak ones and provide special care if they are unable to reach for feed and water.
18. Check for the availability of feed and fresh drinking water. If not provided, make necessary arrangements so that adequate feed and water is available at all times.
19. Adjust brooding temperature by observing signs of overheating (panting, drowsiness) or chilling (huddling).



Notes

20. Set the temperature under brooder at 32-35°C (90-95°F) at chick level for floor brooding upon arrival of chicks, which has to be reduced at the rate of 2.7°C (5°F) per week until 21°C till brooding period (4-6 weeks).
21. Maintain 40 to 60% relative humidity in the brooder house.
22. Check brooder temperature with the help of thermometer by keeping it inside the brooder guard and provide continuous light during the first 2 days.
23. Observe the movement of chicks to assess adequacy of heat in brooder hover shed.
24. Remove the heating arrangement after 5 weeks of age.
25. Observe for the behaviour of the chicks in the brooder area especially during night which will give a clear indication of the comfort of the birds.

OBSERVATIONS

- (i) Type of the farm visited
- (ii) Number of birds maintained at the farm
- (iii) The type of roofing and flooring
- (iv) Dimensions of the brooder house (floor space, feeder and drinker space provided)
- (v) Method of brooding employed i.e. floor or cage brooding
- (vi) Type of brooder equipment used
- (vii) Number and wattage of bulbs used in canopy type brooder
- (viii) Temperature and humidity of brooder house
- (ix) The movement of chicks in the brooder (scattered/in the periphery/under the brooder/triangular fashion)
- (x) The condition of the litter and litter management routine
- (xi) Feeding schedule and feed allocations at different ages of chicks
- (xii) Watering arrangement and routine medications followed

RESULTS

1. The behaviour of the chicks while handling was (nervous/ comfortable).



Notes

2. The position of chicks in the brooder was (scattered/in the periphery/under the brooder/triangular fashion).
3. The method of brooding of broiler chicks was (correct/wrong).
4. The temperature of the brooder was (adequate/low/high).
5. Evaluate your visit to brooder house (satisfactory/unsatisfactory).

PRECAUTIONS

- As far as possible, minimize handling of chicks to avoid stress.
- If required, handle the chick carefully without squeezing them.
- Avoid handling of birds during hotter part of the day.
- Observe the behaviour of the chicks using the sidewalk constructed around the house without entering the brooder house.
- Regularly check the temperature of the brooder.
- Follow strict hygiene in the brooder house.

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Practical 8

RAISING GROWERS AND LAYERS

OBJECTIVE

After completing this practical you will be able to rear grower and layers for better and persistent egg production during laying period.

PRINCIPLE

Commercially birds of 8 to 16 weeks of age are called growers in layer operation. Birds should be shifted to grower shed at the end of 8th week or reared in brooder cum grower house. Pullet quality during growing period is very essential for optimum expression of the genetic potential of the layers. The primary objective of the growing programme is to produce a pullet which will come to lay around 20 weeks of age with an average body weight of 1.2 to 1.4 kg. Majority of the farmers tend to neglect layer birds at this age. However, it has to be kept in mind that the reproductive organs of the bird which produce eggs later on undergo proper growth during this age and it is all the more necessary to provide appropriate care during *grower phase*. When the birds are to be moved from a growing house to a laying house; just prior to sexual maturity; the usual routine of cleaning the house and equipment is must. Young pullet must be given a clean start. However, if they have been reared on litter in the laying house, no cleaning will be necessary. The use of old litter may be continued and the daily sanitation methods should be followed. Laying management starts right from the onset of lay through peak production and post-peak production up to culling. The laying period generally starts when the birds reach 5% egg production and continues to the end of the birds' laying period, and the birds are sold as "spent hens".

TOOLS/EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS REQUIRED

Grower house or brooder-cum-grower house, layer house, feeder and water trough, litter (bedding) material, electrical bulb holder and bulbs, scrub brush, clean water, feed, weighing balance, cages, egg collecting basket/filler flat, laying nest.



Notes

PROCEDURE

1. Visit a layer farm having grower and layer birds.
2. Dip your foot in the disinfectant solution or footbath placed at the entrance of the grower and layer shed.
3. Observe and note down the type of housing, system of rearing, number of birds reared, type of feeders, waterers used.
4. Observe/enquire and note down the egg collection method, frequency and schedule.

OBSERVATIONS

- (i) Name and location of the farm visited
- (ii) Number of birds and their breed, reared and the system of rearing
- (iii) Space allowances – floor, feeder and water space
- (iv) Litter material, condition and litter management practices
- (v) Lighting – arrangement, cleanliness and duration in a layer farm
- (vi) Routine feeding and watering at the farm
- (vii) Feed allowances for growers (weekly) and layers (daily)
- (viii) Egg collection method, frequency and schedule
- (ix) Cleaning and disinfection of equipment like feeders, drinkers, brooders, egg filler flats, crates, buildings, etc.
- (x) Vaccination – routine vaccination schedule followed in layer farm
- (xi) Mortality if any and their causes
- (xii) Bio-security measures followed in the farm

RESULTS

Visited a farm and the birds of breed are reared in system of rearing.

PRECAUTIONS

- Avoid overcrowding.



Notes

- Never mix grower birds with layer.
- Keep at least 100 metres distance between grower and layer house.
- Do not provide any artificial light during growing period.
- Do not carry out abrupt changes in the feed.
- The layer house should (as far as possible) be located away from noise.

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Practical 9

FEEDING OF POULTRY

OBJECTIVE

After completing this practical you will be able to feed broilers and layers of different age groups at the poultry farm.

PRINCIPLE

The broilers and layers also require balanced feed for various body functions including production of meat and egg respectively. Among several inputs in poultry farming, the scientific feeding with balanced ration constitutes about 60 to 70% of the total production cost of eggs and meat. Proper feeding of growing and productive poultry is an important work that is carefully carried out daily at regular interval by trained supporting staff of the poultry farm.

TOOLS/EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS REQUIRED

For broiler and/or layer farm of different age groups of birds: Different types of feeds, different types of feeders.

PROCEDURE

1. Visit a broiler and/or layer farm.
2. Dip your foot in the disinfectant solution before entering the farm and shed.
3. Wear head and face masks, clean clothes and footwear.
4. Observe and note down the type of feeders and waterers used, type of feed used. Also collect information about the different ingredients and their ratios used in the feed.
5. Collect information about the source of feed, schedule and frequency of feeding and quantity of feed fed to the birds.



Notes

6. Enquire and note down the information about the feeding strategies adopted during extreme environmental conditions like summer and winter.

OBSERVATIONS

- (i) Name and location of the farm
- (ii) Date and time of visit
- (iii) Type of farm visited
- (iv) The number and breed of birds maintained at the farm
- (v) System of rearing
- (vi) Type of feeders and waterers used
- (vii) Type of feed used
- (viii) Composition of the feed (different ingredients present in feed)
- (ix) Source of the feed
- (x) Feeding schedule, feeding frequency and feed quantity per bird at different age groups of birds
- (xi) Feeding strategies adopted during extreme environmental conditions
- (xii) Various records maintained in the farm related to feeding
- (xiii) Health status of birds maintained at the farm
- (xiv) The deficiencies in the farm and give your opinion or suggestions

RESULTS

1. Name and location of the poultry farm visited
2. Type and quantity of feed used at the farm were
3. Frequency of feeding was (1/2/3/4 times).
4. Time of feeding was (morning/evening/night).

PRECAUTIONS

- Always use freshly prepared or purchased feed.
- Always buy feed from the reputed dealer.

- Use right type of feed as per the age group of broilers.
- Store the feed in cool, dry, rodent proof location.
- Feeders should not be fully filled up to brim.
- Care should be taken to avoid feed wastage.

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Practical 10

IDENTIFICATION OF SICK BIRDS

OBJECTIVE

After completing this practical you will be able to identify sick birds from the flock for prevention and control of diseases.

PRINCIPLE

In poultry farming, flock health is the most important aspect for success of the enterprise. If one or few birds are sick and not identified timely/early, there is always danger for spreading of disease within the flock (group of birds) especially when the disease is caused by microorganisms (bacteria/virus/parasites/protozoa). Therefore, it is essential for you to regularly observe and distinguish sick birds from the healthy ones. A sick or diseased bird shows some physical and behavioural changes. Developing the skill of identifying sick birds in a flock by visual observation will help in early detection of disease in the flock and thereby taking suitable prevention and control measures to reduce economic loss.

TOOLS/EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS REQUIRED

Broiler or layer farm with both sick and healthy birds in a flock.

PROCEDURE

1. Go through the differences between healthy and sick birds (Poultry) discussed in theory lesson 10 (Poultry Health Care).
2. Visit a layer or broiler farm.
3. Wear clean apron, cap, face mask, hand gloves and gum boots.
4. Without disturbing the birds, carefully observe the physical and behavioural changes in each and every bird of the flock from the sidewalk provided around the poultry shed.



Notes

5. If sidewalk is available, dip your feet in the footbath before entering the poultry shed and observe the birds without disturbing them.
6. Observe for birds seeking corners looking dull, sleeping while standing and showing abnormal postures and behaviour.
7. Observe the colour of droppings, consistency of droppings, discharges from eyes and nostrils.
8. Identify sick birds based on their signs you learnt in lesson 10.
9. Note down your observations, at least about 5 birds which also incorporate sick birds.

OBSERVATIONS

Note down the condition of the following parts of a bird examined by you:

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| (i) Head | : |
| (ii) Eyes | : |
| (iii) Comb and Wattles | : |
| (iv) Beak | : |
| (v) Nose | : |
| (vi) Mouth | : |
| (vii) Feathers | : |
| (viii) Skin | : |
| (ix) Neck | : |
| (x) Wings | : |
| (xi) Legs | : |
| (xii) Vent | : |

RESULTS

The birds examined by you are (numbers) are healthy and are sick.

Symptoms of sick birds are as follows:

1.
2.
3.
4.



Notes

PRECAUTIONS

- Handle the birds gently but thoroughly.
- Don't be afraid of birds, they will not hurt you.
- Follow the instructions given by the owner/supervisor of the poultry farm.
- Birds should be observed at least twice in a day for identifying the sick birds from the flock.

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Practical 11

SELECTION OF GOOD LAYERS

OBJECTIVE

After completing this practical you will be able to select good layer bird for better and persistent egg production.

PRINCIPLE

Selection is the process by which you can select good layers for best production and generation. It is usually performed at the age of 26 to 28 weeks because all the birds should have an opportunity to produce at least one egg to know whether it is going to be a good layer or poor layer. Not all birds can be expected to start laying on the same day. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that by 26 to 28 weeks of age, all the birds should have produced at least one egg. From a farmer's point of view, maintaining a poor or non-layer in the farm is not economical. They should be identified at the earliest and should be removed (culled) from the farm. Judging is the process of identifying good layers from others based on the certain standard parameters.

TOOLS/EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS REQUIRED

Layer farm, layer type bird, hand gloves.

PROCEDURE

1. Visit a layer farm and enter into a layer shed after taking necessary safety measures like wearing clean apron, face mask, hand gloves and other biosecurity precautions.
2. Identify a bird and handle it properly as discussed in practical 5.
3. Carefully observe and note down the condition of comb, eyes, vent, distance between two pubic bones and the distance between tip of the breastbone and pubic bones.



Notes

4. Give your opinion about the type of the layer bird you observed (whether a good layer or poor layer or a non-layer) based on the characteristics observed as given in Table 11.1 and diagrammatic representation in Fig. 11.1 and 11.2.

Table 11.1: Judging the Poultry

Parameters	Good layer	Poor layer	Non-layer
Comb	Large, red, warm	Small, less warm, shrunken	Under-developed
Eyes	Big, bright and active	Comparatively looks small and less active	Appears dull and inactive
Vent	Oblong, moist and pink	Less oblong, may be moist and pink	Round, dry and has a yellow rim
Distance between two pubic bones	At least three fingers	Less than three fingers	Maximum one finger
Distance between tip of the breast-bone and pubic bones	At least four fingers, the region being soft and pliable	Less than four fingers, not very soft	Hardly two fingers, very hard and rubbery

Note:

1. One finger is approximately $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ cm.
2. Public bones are the bones on either side of vent
3. A non-layer is one that has not at all laid even one egg and a poor layer is that which is producing at a low rate.

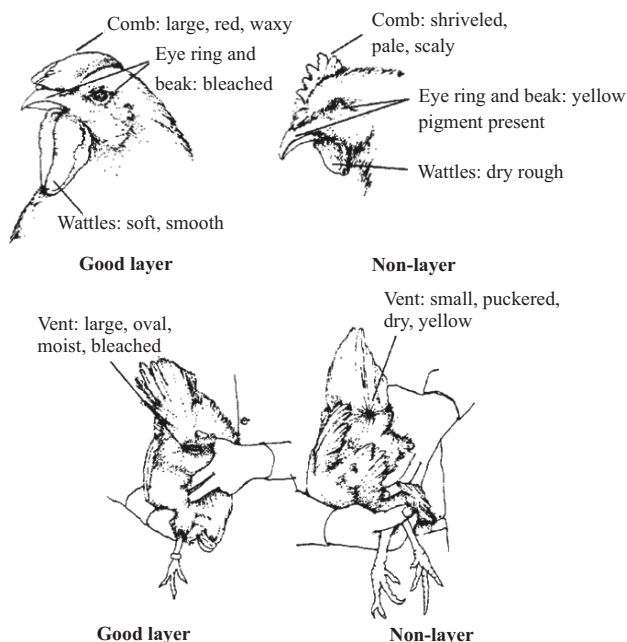


Fig. 11.1: Photograph showing differentiating points between good layer and non-layer

Source: Kenneth M French. 1981. Practical poultry raising, TransCentury Corporation, Washington, DC



Notes

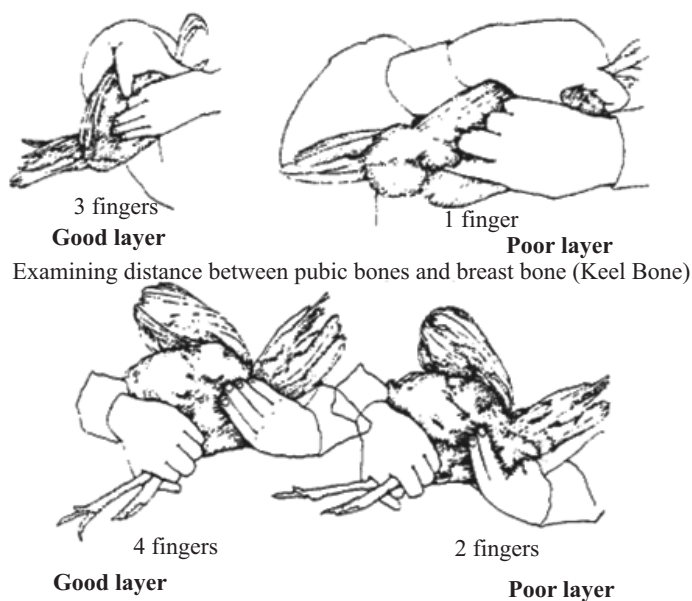


Fig. 11.2: Photograph showing differentiating points between good layer and poor layer

Source: Kenneth M French. 1981. Practical poultry raising, TransCentury Corporation, Washington, DC

OBSERVATIONS

Note down the characteristics of observed layer under following heads:

- (i) Comb
- (ii) Eyes
- (iii) Vent
- (iv) Distance between two pubic bones
- (v) Distance between tip of the breastbone and pubic bones

RESULTS

The layer bird judged by you is found to be a (good/poor/non) layer.

PRECAUTIONS

- Wear face mask, head gear and gloves before handling the bird.
- Handle the bird gently.
- Do not hold a layer bird in the inverted position for more than 30 seconds.



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Practical 12

DEWORMING AND MEDICATION OF BIRDS

OBJECTIVE

After completing this practical you will be able to perform routine deworming of healthy birds and medication of sick birds.

PRINCIPLE

The profitability of a poultry farm depends on the survivability and productivity of the birds. Poultry birds are highly sensitive in nature and their health needs to be properly taken care. Diseases due to infection or parasite are the major obstacles in the success of poultry farming. 'Prevention is always better than cure, is the basis for control of all diseases. Hence, in order to protect them from the parasites, it is essential to provide deworming drugs through water at regular intervals. Similarly, sick birds should be segregated and should be administered medicine on the advice of veterinarian in order to cure them as well as to prevent spread of diseases.

Before going to the actual procedure of deworming or medication, it is necessary to know the points to be kept in mind before deworming or medication of healthy and sick birds, respectively.

Deworming: Poultry birds are mainly affected by internal and external parasites. Internal parasites like roundworms and tapeworms affect the growth and productivity of the birds by utilizing their nutrients. Deworming is the process of giving an anthelmintic drug (dewormer) to healthy birds to prevent infestation of these internal parasites and improve the feed utilization. Points to remember while deworming are as follows:



Notes

- Birds, especially on deep-litter, are more likely to pick up external and internal parasites which depress their performance. Hence, deworming is practiced regularly in birds which are reared on floor. Birds in cages do not get access to faecal matter and therefore, are not expected to have worm load.
- The parasitic load actually appears after about 3 months of age and hence, there is no need of deworming during first 3 months.
- After 3 months of age, the birds on floor are dewormed once every 3 months by any commercial deworming preparations at the recommended level by the manufacturer. It is preferred to give the deworming drug through water.

Medication: Various medicines are given to birds for prevention and/or treatment of diseases or to improve their performance. One of the common methods for medication to the birds is through water. Points to remember while medication are as follows:

- Do not medicate the birds unnecessarily; this includes administration of vitamins which are expensive and when used without indication, cause economic loss.
- Sick birds must be handled preferably by a separate attendant; if it is not possible; they have to be handled after completing work with healthy birds. Under no circumstance attendants from a sick pen should be allowed to enter pens with healthy birds.
- Proper hygiene of the body parts, dresses etc. of the person administering the medicine should be maintained.
- Never attempt “hit and try” method, while using medicines for your farm birds as they may harm or even kill them.

TOOLS/EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS REQUIRED

A healthy flock, sick birds, anthelmintic drugs or deworming agents like albendazole, mebendazole etc. and/or medicine to be administered to the sick bird prescribed by the veterinary doctor.

PROCEDURE

The procedure for deworming/medication through water is given below:

1. Visit a poultry farm.
2. Identify the flock to be dewormed (for deworming) or a sick bird (for medication) based on the signs/symptoms and separate it from the flock.



3. Consult a veterinarian/poultry specialist and select the dewormer or medicine (anti-bacterial/anti-fungal/anti-mycoplasma) to be given through water.
4. Calculate the exact quantity of dewormer or medicine required according to recommended dose to have optimum effect in consultation with the veterinarian/poultry specialist.
5. Administer the deworming preparation or medicine by mixing it in the water at the proper dosage and in the prescribed schedule given by veterinarian.

OBSERVATIONS

Note down the following:

- (i) Deworming drug used and its dose
- (ii) Medicine and its dose prescribed by the veterinary doctor and administered to the sick bird

CALCULATIONS

Calculate the quantity of dewormer or medicine required based on the recommended dose with the help of veterinarian/poultry specialist.

RESULTS

..... quantity of dewormer or medicine was used for number of birds.

PRECAUTIONS

- Under-dosing or overdosing of medicines especially of antibiotics is harmful and must be avoided.
- Always keep a proper record of medicines given or to be given per pen or per house.
- All medicine containers should indicate the details of composition, dosage, schedule and precautions; the manufacturer's recommendations have to be strictly followed.
- Always keep harmful medicines at a secured and known place in the farm.
- Proper storage conditions for medicines as prescribed by the manufacturer should be maintained; otherwise the activity of the medicine will be lost.



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Practical 13

DEMONSTRATION OF VACCINATION IN POULTRY

OBJECTIVE

After completing this practical you will be able familiar with different routes for administration of vaccines in poultry.

PRINCIPLE

Vaccination is the process of administering vaccine in order to protect the birds from specific diseases. Vaccines are preparations (powder or liquid) when given to birds produces immune response which helps to protect against a specific disease. Vaccines can be administered through different routes like eye (ocular), nostril (nasal), mouth (oral) and injections.

TOOLS/EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS REQUIRED

Birds, vaccines, diluents, syringe and needle or automatic vaccinator, dropper.

PROCEDURE

1. Visit a poultry farm.
2. If the vaccine is stored in the refrigerator, remove the vaccine vial from the refrigerator.
3. If the vaccine is a dry powder, reconstitute the vaccine by adding the required quantity of diluent provided with the vaccine into the vaccine vial by following the instructions of the manufacture. Gently shake the vial in order to mix the contents properly.
4. Depending on the technique of vaccination, load the required quantity of vaccine in the syringe or automatic vaccinator.



Notes

5. Administer the required quantity of the vaccine as per the recommended method. Different methods of administering the vaccines are described below:

(A) Ocular (Eye drop) or Nasal or Oral

- (a) Catch the bird as per the method described in the experiment no. 5 and hold the chick/bird in left hand by securing its head with thumbs and index finger.
- (b) Gently squeeze the dropper to deliver vaccine drop by drop (only required quantity as per the instruction of the manufacturer) into one eye or nostril or mouth of each chick/bird.
- (c) Hold the chick/bird until the drop disappears.

(B) Drinking water

- (a) Discontinue all medication and disinfectants from the drinking water 24 hours before and after vaccination.
- (b) Rinse waterers with clean, non-sanitized water.
- (c) Do not provide water to the birds at least 1-2 hours prior to administration of vaccine.
- (d) Provide adequate waterers/drinkers so as to enable all birds to drink at one time.
- (e) Add skim milk powder to the water @ 3 g per liter of water before adding/mixing the vaccine in water.
- (f) Add the required quantity of vaccine to the above water.
- (g) Ensure the all birds drink the vaccine containing water.

(C) Intramuscular injection

- (a) Catch the bird as per the method described in the experiment no. 5 and hold the chick/bird properly.
- (b) Inject the required quantity of the vaccine using syringe and needle or automatic vaccinator into the muscle of bird usually the breast muscle.
- (c) Care must be taken to ensure that the needle does not pass through into a key organ or nerve or blood vessel.



Notes

(D) Subcutaneous injection

- (a) Fill the syringe with the required vaccine
- (b) Hold the bird properly.
- (c) This method involves the use of similar equipment to that are used with the intramuscular technique.
- (d) The vaccine is injected under the skin usually at the back of the neck and not into the muscle.
- (e) Care must be taken to ensure that the vaccine is injected into the bird and not just into the feathers or fluff. Such a precaution is more essential in case of very young poultry.
- (f) The dose being administered should be frequently checked for accuracy.

OBSERVATIONS

Record your observations under the following heads:

- (i) Name and the address of the poultry farm visited
- (ii) Type of bird and system of rearing
- (iii) Number of birds vaccinated
- (iv) Vaccine used
- (v) Method of vaccination
- (vi) Behaviour of bird before, during and after vaccination

RESULTS

..... birds (type and age of the birds) were vaccinated against..... disease using vaccine by method.

PRECAUTIONS

- All equipment used for vaccination should be carefully cleaned and sterilized by autoclave or dry heat (not using chemical) and should be free from detergents and disinfectants.
- Vaccines should be purchased only from a reliable source.



Notes

- Vaccines should be stored at proper temperature as per the instruction of the manufacturer. Never freeze the vaccine until recommended by the manufacturer.
- Ensure that all healthy birds in a poultry house are administered or receive the vaccine.
- Diseased or sick birds should not be vaccinated.
- Only freshly obtained or reconstituted vaccine stored under right conditions must be used.
- Read the instructions of the manufacturer before administering the vaccine.
- Transport the reconstituted vaccines in an ice pack.
- Preferably, vaccinate the birds only during cooler hours of the day or late evenings.
- Properly dispose the vaccine vials after use.
- Use only the sterile diluents supplied with the vaccine.
- Take out the vaccine vial from refrigerator/ice box just before the vaccination and place it back immediately after use.

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Practical 14

SANITATION OF FARM PREMISES AND EQUIPMENT/APPLIANCES

OBJECTIVE

After completing this practical you will be able to keep your farm premises and equipment clean and disinfected.

PRINCIPLE

Sanitation is the key of success to poultry farming, without which the biosecurity will remain incomplete. Clean surroundings and equipment reduces the viral and bacterial load. Reusable equipment should be thoroughly cleaned before soaking in disinfection liquid. Drinking waterer should be cleaned on daily basis either on deep litter or cages. Round feeders and cage feeders should be cleaned and disinfected on weekly basis.

TOOLS/EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS REQUIRED

Sprayer, disinfecting solution, water pump, scrubbing cloth, cage hops with birds, soft scraper, disinfection liquid, spraying device, etc.

PROCEDURE

1. Visit a poultry farm.
2. Enquire and note down the number of times the poultry shed and farm premises are cleaned in a day and the method of cleaning.
3. Observe and note down whether there are foot baths constructed at the entrance of the farm and also at the entrance of every poultry shed. Also note down whether the foot baths are filled with disinfectant solution.



Notes

4. Enquire and note down the schedule and dose of disinfectant used for different farm equipment.
5. Observe and note down the different sanitation and disinfectants used and their dose in the farm.

OBSERVATIONS

Note down your observations under following heads:

- (i) Name and type of poultry farm visited
- (ii) Farm cleaning and sanitation practices and schedule followed
- (iii) Foot bath at the farm entrance and entrance of poultry sheds
- (iv) Footbaths filled with disinfectant solution
- (v) Process of cleaning waterers and feeders
- (vi) Schedule and dose of disinfectant used for different farm equipment
- (vii) Name and dose of different sanitation and disinfectants used

RESULT

The farm visited (properly followed/not followed) the sanitation procedures of farm premises and farm equipment/appliances.

PRECAUTIONS

- Necessary precautions should be taken to prevent any harm to the person carrying out the operations or birds.
- Protective measures should be adopted (face mask, gloves, apron) while handling formalin and other dangerous chemicals as they are injurious for personnel handling them.
- Utmost care should be taken during cleaning, disinfection, sanitation and fumigation of poultry house as any negligence will increase the chances of spread of diseases.
- Use proper concentration of different disinfectants/sanitizers/chemicals.
- Read the instructions of the manufacturer of the chemicals/sanitizers/disinfectants carefully before use.

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Practical 15

DISPOSAL OF POULTRY FARM WASTE

OBJECTIVE

After completing this practical you will be able to dispose the poultry litter and droppings.

PRINCIPLE

Poultry litter and droppings are potential sources of infections. Therefore, timely removal of litter and collection of poultry droppings from shed/cages are important part of biosecurity. After removing from sheds the litter material and droppings should be carried to a safe distance for disposal in manure pit. This will prevent carry over infection from one batch to next.

TOOLS/EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS REQUIRED

Poultry shed with litter/droppings, scraper/phawda/shovel, trolley/wheel barrow, manure pit.

PROCEDURE

1. Visit a poultry farm.
2. Remove the poultry droppings and litter manually by scrapper and stack in the trolley/wheel barrow.
3. Move it to the disposal site.
4. Empty the contents of the trolley into the manure pit so that the level of the litter material/droppings in the pit reaches 2-3 feet high from the ground level.
5. Sprinkle water and cover the pit with earth/soil.



Notes

OBSERVATIONS

- (i) Name and type of farm visited
- (ii) Number of birds reared
- (iii) Quantity of litter/droppings generated in a day
- (iv) Equipment used for collection, transportation and disposal of litter/droppings

RESULTS

..... (Litter/droppings) were collected from the farm using
(scraper/phawda/shovel) and transported using to the
(site).

PRECAUTIONS

- Do not dump litter material close to shed.
- Do not make heaps of litter material or poultry waste near the shed.
- Remove debris from cracks and fittings.
- Litter trolley should be covered during transport.

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Practical 16

EGG COLLECTION, PACKAGING AND STORAGE

OBJECTIVE

After completing this practical you will be able to perform collection, packaging and storage of eggs in a poultry farm.

PRINCIPLE

Eggs are highly fragile in nature and can break easily with slight application of pressure. Hence, it is necessary to know how to handle eggs during its collection, packaging and storage to avoid the economic losses. Eggs should be collected as per proper schedule to save time and labour. During collection, care should be taken to prevent cross-contamination from humans and dirty/soiled eggs. Proper packaging maintains the quality of the product, as well as helps in handling of the product by the consumer. Eggs can be packed in baskets or plastic or wood pulp eggs filler flats as primary packaging and in cardboard boxes or cases as secondary packaging. Eggs are highly perishable in nature, they should be stored immediately after collection at 15°C in a holding room or cold store to avoid spoilage. Refrigeration is the best option for storage of eggs for longer periods.

TOOLS/EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS REQUIRED

Poultry farm with egg collecting (basket), packaging (filler flats, card boards etc.) and storage equipment (refrigerator or cold store).

PROCEDURE

1. Visit a poultry farm and collect information about the schedule and method of egg collection.
2. Before egg collection, wear clean dress and accessories.



3. Wash your hands with soap and dry your hands using clean towel. Maintain hygienic behaviour while collecting eggs to avoid cross-contamination.
4. Collect eggs manually as per the schedule practised in the farm.
5. Collected eggs should be kept in an easy-to-clean container like coated wire baskets or plastic egg flats.
6. Collect only clean, hygienic and unbroken eggs.
7. Collect dirty/soiled, leaking, defective and broken/cracked eggs separately and discard them immediately to avoid cross-contamination.
8. For primary packaging, arrange the clean and unbroken eggs in the wood pulp or plastic egg filler flats with broad end pointing upwards.
9. Pack the filler flats with eggs in a cardboard boxes or cases and label it properly.
10. After collection and packaging, shift the eggs to a holding area/room maintaining a temperature of about 15°C and 70 to 80% relative humidity (RH) for at least 12 hours at the poultry farm before shifting to cold store.

OBSERVATIONS

Note down your observations under the following heads:

- (i) Schedule of egg collection practised in the poultry farm visited
- (ii) Method of egg collection and the egg collection equipment
- (iii) Type of egg filler flats used for packing eggs
- (iv) Temperature of the holding room or cold store

RESULTS

The eggs were collected at (time) by method (manual or automatic) and the collected eggs were carried in (coated wire baskets or plastic egg flats) and packed in (wood pulp or plastic egg filler flats) and stored in (holding room or cold store)

PRECAUTIONS

- Eggs shall be handled as little as possible.
- The boxes or cartons should be properly labelled “Eggs Handle with Care”.



Notes

- The basic information like size, weight, quality/grade description of egg, how to store them and the expiry date should be clearly mentioned on the pack.
- The container may be marked with proper instructions, if any, so that the persons may follow these instructions while loading these products on different mode of transportation.
- Egg storage area should be cleaned regularly with odourless detergent/sanitizers and dried before the arrival of eggs.
- The storage room must be free from tainting products and materials.
- The storage area should have adequate power back up.
- Cold store should be maintained at 4°C (32°F) temperature and 80-85 % Rh.

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Practical 17

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MARKETING IN POULTRY FARMING

OBJECTIVES

- To draft a simplified DPR (Detailed Project Report) for a small-scale poultry unit.
- To analyze the financial viability of a broiler/layer poultry farm.
- To identify marketing channels and price dynamics in the poultry sector.
- To understand CRM strategies used in poultry farming.
- To familiarize with government support schemes and integrator systems.

PRINCIPLE

The principle of the entrepreneurship and marketing in poultry farming is to understand that entrepreneurship in poultry farming requires systematic planning through a detailed project report (DPR) for cost and profit estimation. Financial viability must be assessed by calculating input costs, revenue, and return on investment. Identifying suitable marketing channels ensures better price realization and risk reduction. Customer relationship management (CRM) builds trust and long-term buyer connections. Knowledge of government schemes and industry bodies supports business sustainability and growth. Maintaining accurate records and adopting transparent practices are essential for success in poultry entrepreneurship.

TOOLS/EQUIPMENT/MATERIAL REQUIRED

- Calculator/Spreadsheet Software (Excel or Google Sheets)
- Internet-enabled Device for Research



- Copies of DPR Templates
- Sample Poultry Farm Visit Reports
- Poultry Feed/Cost Sheet Samples (optional)
- Interview Sheet for Poultry Farmer Interaction

PROCEDURE

Step 1: Poultry Farm Visit/Case Study Discussion

- Visit a local commercial poultry farm or review a detailed case study.
- Observe infrastructure (sheds, feeders, waterers), feed storage, breed type, and labor involvement.
- Note down input costs (chicks, feed, medicine), output pricing, and marketing process.

Step 2: DPR Preparation

- Choose one: 500 broiler or 500 layer unit.
- Draft a DPR including:
 - o Land and building cost
 - o Equipment and electrification
 - o Feed, medicine, and chick cost
 - o Labor wages and depreciation
 - o Estimated revenue and profit/loss

Step 3: Marketing Channel Identification

- Interview a poultry farmer or integrator (can be virtual or classroom roleplay).
- Identify:
 - o Sale pattern (direct, indirect, integrated)
 - o Prices offered at farm gate and market
 - o Risks due to middlemen or market delays



Step 4: CRM & Government Support

- Research:
 - o Government schemes (e.g., NABARD, CPDO, SGSY)
 - o Role of NECC, BCC, AGMARK
 - o CRM practices like feedback collection, price transparency, and customer follow-ups

OBSERVATIONS

- (i) Feed cost makes up a major portion of total recurring cost (60–65%).
- (ii) Backyard farming has 100% ROI despite low revenue.
- (iii) Integrated contract farming reduces farmer risk but may reduce autonomy.
- (iv) Direct marketing increases margin but requires local demand and logistics.
- (v) CRM helps in building long-term partnerships with buyers and integrators.

RESULTS

Example Output from DPR (500 Broilers):

Parameter	Cost/Income (₹)
Capital Cost (shed, feeders)	₹2,00,000
Recurring Cost (5 cycles)	₹3,25,000
Revenue (Avg 475 kg @ ₹85)	₹4,04,000
Manure & Bag Sale	₹30,000
Net Profit	₹1,09,000

Profitability observed at ~22% ROI in year 1.

PRECAUTIONS

- Biosecurity protocols must be followed strictly during farm visit.
- Accurate weight and mortality estimation are crucial in financial calculations.
- DPR must include realistic cost estimations to avoid funding rejection.
- Market survey should consider price fluctuations and feed cost variability.



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Practical 18

RECORD KEEPING

OBJECTIVE

After completing this practical you will be able to maintain different farm records.

PRINCIPLE

A good record provides data to assess financial ability of business operation analysis, assists in obtaining loans, measure profitability, file income tax return and overall decision-making process. Two types of records maintained in a poultry farm are: (a) Financial records for accountancy and (b) Technical records to evaluate performance of birds. Financial records include: (i) Balance sheets (ii) Receipts (iii) Expenses. They are summarized on monthly or yearly basis to show the financial status of the farm. Technical records are: (i) Feed record (ii) Grower flock record (iii) Layer flock record (iv) Incubation record (v) Vaccination record (vi) Yearly assessment record, etc. such as egg collection and disposal, culling of birds and disposal etc.(which is recorded on daily basis). However, the format of records is modified as per the need and flock size.

TOOLS/EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS REQUIRED

A poultry farm with different types of records.

PROCEDURE

1. Visit a poultry farm (preferably one broiler and one layer farm).
2. Contact the farm manager or owner and enquire about the different records being maintained at the farm.
3. Observe and note down the different components of each record in the format of a table (for each record).
4. Identify the utility of each record.



Notes

OBSERVATIONS

- (i) Name and address of the farm
- (ii) Type of birds reared
- (iii) Whether records are maintained for different activities?
- (iv) Types of records maintained in the farm
- (v) Different records maintained in the farm (along with the different components within the record)
- (vi) Utility of different records

RESULTS

The (broiler/layer) farm visited (maintain/do not maintain) the records for different farm activities.

PRECAUTIONS

- Get the prior permission from the farm owner or manager before collecting the information.
- Collect the authentic information from the farm manager or the owner.
- Carefully observe different components of each record.

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Practical 19

OBSERVING AND PLANNING IN POULTRY FARMING COLLECTIVES

OBJECTIVES

- To observe the working of a local SHG/FPO poultry unit.
- To identify roles and responsibilities of members in a poultry collective.
- To prepare a simple financial plan for a small poultry farming group.

PRINCIPLE

The principle of observing and planning in poultry farming collectives is to first observe the working of poultry collectives to understand infrastructure, roles, and operations. Clear role distribution among members ensures better coordination and efficiency. Maintaining hygiene and biosecurity is essential to prevent disease spread. Financial planning with proper cost estimation and income projection is necessary for sustainability. Transparency and accurate record keeping promote trust and informed decisions. Continuous observation and improvement help overcome challenges and achieve long-term success.

TOOLS/EQUIPMENT/MATERIAL REQUIRED

- Financial calculator or spreadsheet software (optional).
- Copies of sample financial planning templates (if available).
- Access to a local SHG/FPO poultry unit for visit.

PROCEDURE

Step 1: Visit a Local SHG/FPO Poultry Unit

- Arrange a visit to a nearby Self-Help Group (SHG) or Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) involved in poultry farming.



Notes

- Observe the poultry unit's infrastructure, including sheds, feeders, and storage areas.
- Note down the general environment, cleanliness, and health management practices.

Step 2: Identify Roles and Responsibilities

- Meet with group members or leaders.
- Discuss and list the various roles such as management, feeding, health care, record keeping, marketing, and finance.
- Understand how tasks are distributed among members.

Step 3: Prepare a Simple Financial Plan

Based on the observations, draft a basic financial plan including:

- Estimated costs for chicks, feed, medicines, labour, and infrastructure.
- Potential income from sale of broilers or eggs.
- Profit projections and break-even points.
- Consider sources of funding such as internal savings or bank loans.

OBSERVATIONS

- Record the structure and scale of the poultry unit.
- Document roles of members and how they coordinate.
- Note financial figures such as input costs, sales price, and profits.
- Observe any challenges or unique practices in group management.

RESULTS

- Clear understanding of how poultry collectives function on the ground.
- Defined roles and workflow in collective poultry management.
- A basic financial plan showing expected costs, income, and profitability.
- Insights into the benefits and challenges of collective poultry farming.

PRECAUTIONS

- Seek permission before visiting poultry units.



Notes

- Maintain hygiene and biosecurity during the visit to avoid disease spread.
- Respect privacy and confidentiality of financial data shared.
- Verify financial estimates with multiple sources if possible.

DIAGRAMS

- Sketch layout of the poultry unit's infrastructure.
- Flowchart of roles and responsibilities within the group.
- Table showing financial planning details (costs, income, and profit).

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Practical 20

CALCULATION OF PERFORMANCE INDICES

OBJECTIVE

After completing this practical you will be able to assess the performance of the birds based on performance indices.

PRINCIPLE

Poultry are mainly reared for their eggs and meat. In order to get the maximum productivity from the birds, we perform different managerial procedures to keep the birds healthy and stress-free. For assessing the performance of the birds, there are indices like Feed Conversion Ratio (FCR), Hen-Day Egg Production (HDEP), etc. available for both broilers and layers.

TOOLS/EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS REQUIRED

Poultry farm records from a broiler and layer farm.

PROCEDURE

1. Visit a broiler and layer farm.
2. Collect the information about the performance of the birds from the farm records.
3. Calculate the different performance indices based on the data collected.
4. Give your opinion about the performance of the broiler and layer farms.

OBSERVATIONS

- (i) Name and address of the broiler and layer farms visited



- (ii) Quantity of feed consumed (in kg)
- (iii) Kilogram of egg produced
- (iv) Total number of eggs produced
- (v) Total body weight gain (in kg)
- (vi) Total number of eggs produced on a day
- (vii) Total number of live hens present on a day
- (viii) Total number of eggs produced over a period
- (ix) Total number of live hens over a period
- (x) Number of hens housed at the beginning of the laying period

CALCULATIONS

Calculate the different performance indices based on the formulas given below:

- (i) **Feed conversion ratio (FCR):** This is a performance index for both broiler and layer farms and is calculated as follows:

For layers:

Feed Conversion Ratio (per kg egg mass) =

$$\frac{\text{Quantity of feed consumed (in kg)}}{\text{Kilogram of egg produced}}$$

A value of 2.2 or less is profitable to the farm.

Feed Conversion Ratio (per dozen eggs) =

$$\frac{\text{Quantity of feed consumed (in kg)}}{\text{Total body weight gain (in kg)}}$$

A value of 1.5 or less is profitable to the farm.

For Broilers:

$$\text{Feed Conversion Ratio (Broilers)} = \frac{\text{Quantity of feed consumed (in kg)}}{\text{Total body weight gain (in kg)}}$$

A value of less than 2.0 is profitable to the farm.



Notes

- (ii) **Hen-day egg production (HDEP):** This is a performance index for a layer farm and is calculated as follows:

$$\text{For a particular day} = \frac{\text{Total number of eggs produced on a day} \times 100}{\text{Total number of live hens present on a day}}$$

$$\text{For a longer period} = \frac{\text{Total number of eggs produced over a period} \times 100}{\text{Total number of live hens over a period}}$$

A farm average of 85% or more per year is desirable.

- (iii) **Hen-housed egg production:** This is a performance index for a layer farm and is calculated as follows:

For a particular day =

$$\frac{\text{Total number of eggs produced on a day} \times 100}{\text{Number of hens housed at the beginning of the laying period}}$$

For a longer period =

$$\frac{\text{Total number of eggs produced over a period} \times 100}{\text{Number of hens housed at the beginning of the laying period}}$$

HHEP values of 80% or 295 or higher are desirable.

Generally, HDEP and HHEP will be same only when all birds housed survive throughout the period for a given flock. Whenever there is mortality, the HDEP will be greater than the HHEP.

RESULTS

1. The FCR of broilers is
2. The FCR of layers is
3. Hen-day egg production of the layer farm is
4. Hen-housed egg production of the layer farm is
5. Your opinion about the performance of the broiler and layer farms based on the calculations.

PRECAUTIONS

- Get the prior permission from the farm owner or manager before collecting the data.

- Collect the authentic information from the farm manager or the owner.
- Farm records should be consulted in order to get the authentic data.



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Practical 21

CONSUMER PREFERENCE AND MARKET SURVEY

OBJECTIVE

After completing this practical you will be able to assess the consumer preferences for different poultry products through market survey.

PRINCIPLE

Before starting any enterprise, it is essential to survey the market and get the information about the consumer preference about the particular product which you are planning to sell/produce. This will help us in planning the enterprise as per the market preferences and demand. This has a major impact on the profitability of the enterprise you are planning to establish. For example, if you are planning to set up a layer farm and as per the market survey, there is no demand for eggs in that particular locality, your product will not be sold. If, you have to make huge investment on packaging and transportation of your product to nearby market that will ultimately affect profitability of your enterprise. Hence, before starting a poultry enterprise (Layer/Broiler farm), you should take up a thorough market survey about the consumer preference of the poultry product (egg/meat) and accordingly set up your enterprise. In addition, it will also help you in diversifying your enterprise to meet the demand of the market. For example, if there is good market for value added egg/meat products, you can diversify your enterprise by establishing poultry processing plant that will increase your profit by many folds.

TOOLS/EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS REQUIRED

Structured interview schedule, market where poultry products are sold, ten poultry products consumers.



Notes

PROCEDURE

1. Visit a market where poultry products (egg/meat) are sold. Identify ten poultry products consumers.
2. After taking their consent, interview them with the structured interview schedule provided in this practical.
3. Note down their responses.
4. Compile the responses of the consumers.
5. Interpret the results.

OBSERVATIONS

- (i) Name and details of the market visited.
- (ii) Collect all the information given in the questionnaire.

RESULTS

Write your interpretation about the consumer preference on different poultry products based on the interviews.

PRECAUTIONS

- Clearly explain the purpose of the interview.
- Always get the consent of the consumer before interviewing them.
- Do not collect any personal/private information.
- Do not ask any unrelated questions.
- Always thank them for their responses and support.

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Sl. No.	Parameters	Response
1.	Name	
2.	Occupation	
3.	Address and contact details	
4.	Educational Qualification	
5.	No. of Family members	



Notes

6.	How often you purchase poultry meat?	Daily/ Twice weekly/ Thrice weekly/ Weekly/ Occasionally
7.	Frequency of consumption of poultry meat	Daily/ Twice weekly/ Thrice weekly/ Rarely
8.	If consumed daily, how many times you consume in a day?	Once/ Twice/ Thrice/ More than thrice
9.	From where do you purchase poultry meat?	Malls/ Butcher/ Packed (Branded)/ Any other (please specify)
10.	What type of poultry meat you prefer to buy? (branded)	Fresh slaughtered poultry meat/ Frozen meat/ Packed poultry meat
11.	Type of poultry products purchased	Live poultry/ dressed poultry/ ready-to-cook/ ready-to-eat/ prepared (Hotels)/ Any other (please specify)
12.	What type of packed poultry products you prefer to buy?	Poultry popcorn/ poultry biryani/ poultry curry/ poultry lollipop/ Poultry burger/ poultry sausage/ poultry nuggets/ Any other (please specify)
13.	Would you like to consume freshly dressed or frozen poultry?	Freshly dressed/ Frozen Poultry
14.	How often you purchase eggs? indicate the numbers of single purchase	Daily/ Twice weekly/ Thrice weekly/ Weekly/ Occasionally
15.	How often you consume eggs?	Daily/ Twice weekly/ Thrice weekly/ Weekly/ Occasionally
16.	If consumed daily, how many eggs you consume in a day?	Half/ One/ Two/ More than 2
17.	From where you purchase eggs?	Retail store/ Wholesale shop/ Local shop/ Any other (please specify)
18.	What type of eggs you prefer?	White eggs/ Brown eggs/ Desi eggs
19.	While purchasing eggs the points you look for?	Cleanliness/ size/ shape/ texture/ Any other (please specify)
20.	Whether you purchased value added egg products? If Yes, name the products	Yes/ No



Notes

21.	Type of egg preparation you often consume?	Raw/Boiled/Half-boil/scrambled/omelette/Egg burger/Egg sandwich/Any other (please specify)
22.	You would like to consume egg at which place?	Home/Restaurant/Party/Any other (please specify)

Date:

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Practical 22

VISIT TO A LOCAL MARKET

OBJECTIVE

After completing this practical you will be able to analyse the different types of egg and poultry meat products available in the market.

PRINCIPLE

Due to changing lifestyle and industrialization, the demand for various eggs, poultry meat and their value added products are on rise. New value added egg and meat products are being introduced into the market to cater to the needs of the people. Health conscious consumers are also looking for egg and meat products with health benefits. Therefore, this market survey will help you to analyze the demand and supply of different egg and poultry meat products in the market so that this will enable you to set up an enterprise according to the market requirement.

TOOLS/EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS REQUIRED

Local market where different poultry egg, meat and their products are available.

PROCEDURE

1. Identify a local market or shopping complex where different poultry egg, meat and their products are available.
2. Visit the market and enquire about the different types of poultry meat and egg products (at least one product each in raw egg, raw meat, value added egg and value added poultry meat products) are available and their movement/sale.



Notes

3. Note down the different poultry meat and egg products available, their packaging, special features, price, sales trend, demand and supply trend, seasonal fluctuations, storage conditions etc.
4. Analyse the information and give your opinion.

OBSERVATIONS

Parameters	Product 1	Product 2	Product 3	Product 4
Name of the market/shop visited				
Types of products available				
Type of packaging				
Special features of any products				
Storage condition of the products				
Demand supply trend				
Sales trend				
Price of the products				

RESULTS

Give your opinion about the information gathered.

PRECAUTIONS

- Talk politely with the salesman or shop owner/manager to gather the information.
- Get prior permission from the shop owner or manager for collecting the required data.
- Collect all the necessary information you require in order to give your opinion on the market trend.

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Practical 23

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS FOR SMALL POULTRY FARMERS

OBJECTIVES

- To prepare a basic weekly schedule for poultry care and operations
- To demonstrate communication in basic English with a customer
- To record daily income and expenses related to poultry farming
- To create a SMART goal chart for their poultry business

PRINCIPLE

The principle of employability skills is that proper planning and time management ensure smooth poultry farm operations. Maintaining a weekly schedule improves efficiency, bird health, and productivity. Accurate recording of income and expenses helps in better financial control and decision-making. Setting SMART goals provides clear direction, measurable progress, and realistic growth targets for the business. Effective communication skills build trust with customers and improve marketing. Regular monitoring and discipline in following schedules are essential for sustainable poultry farming.

TOOLS/EQUIPMENT/MATERIAL REQUIRED

- Internet-enabled phone (for online SMART goal template/search)
- Poultry daily log sheet (can be handmade)
- Printed SMART goal chart template (optional)



Notes

PROCEDURE

Write a Weekly Schedule for Poultry Care

- Divide the schedule by day (Monday to Sunday).
- Include activities like feeding, cleaning, health checks, egg collection, and record keeping.
- Allocate time slots for each activity.

Record One Day's Income and Expenses

- Use a notebook or log sheet.
- Write down morning expenses (e.g., 200 for feed), income (350 from egg sales), etc.
- Calculate total income and expenses for the day.

Create a Goal Chart Using the SMART Method

- Choose a goal (e.g., increase egg production, reduce feed cost).
- Make it SMART:
 - o Specific
 - o Measurable
 - o Achievable
 - o Realistic
 - o Time-bound

Example: “Increase weekly egg output by 15% in 3 months.”

OBSERVATIONS

- (i) Weekly tasks help maintain discipline and bird health.
- (ii) Daily record-keeping improves financial control.
- (iii) SMART goals help focus efforts and track growth.

RESULTS

- Learner was able to complete and present a weekly poultry care schedule.



Notes

- Learner recorded a full day's poultry-related income and expenses.
- Learner created a clear SMART goal chart with deadlines.

PRECAUTIONS

- Be realistic when creating goals (avoid overestimating capacity).
- Double-check income and expense entries for accuracy.
- Maintain cleanliness and safety while working on poultry care tasks.

SMART Goal Chart (Example):

Element	Goal Description
Specific	Increase daily egg count
Measurable	From 40 to 50 eggs/day
Achievable	Add 10 new birds
Realistic	Based on past production trends
Time-bound	Achieve in 2 months

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