



## Poultry Industry and Production Questions

### 1. Why do brown shelled eggs cost more than white shelled eggs?

Brown shelled eggs cost more because the chickens that produce these eggs eat more feed and production costs are more.

### 2. Why are brown shelled eggs bigger than white shelled eggs?

Brown shelled eggs are bigger than white shelled eggs because they are produced from a dual purpose breed (eggs - meat) that is larger in size (6-7 lbs.) than a Leghorn breed that is smaller in size (3-4 lbs).

### 3. Does the time of the year affect the fertility rate?

Extreme cold (winter) or extreme heat (summer) can lower fertility rate dramatically.

### 4. How many females can one male service?

One male egg producing chicken (Leghorn) can service 10 - 15 females. One male dual purpose chicken (Rhode Island Red) can service 6-8 females.

### 5. What is the average life of the male chicken?

A male chicken would live on the average of 3-5 years.

### 6. How large are female chickens?

A female White Leghorn is about 4 lbs. and a female Rhode Island Red is about 6-7 lbs.

### 7. How can you tell a hen from a rooster?

Difficult to tell at hatch unless they are feathersexed (female primary feathers are longer at 3-4 days of age). In adults, males are larger with longer wattles and larger combs.

### 8. Do you need sunlight to formulate hard shells on eggs?

No. An adequate source of calcium in the diet is needed.

### 9. Do chicken houses need to be heated?

No. Usually chickens in large commercial houses provide their own heat.

### 10. How much light is needed in the chicken house?

Only enough light is needed to read a newspaper at arms length (about 1 foot candle).

### 11. When does production begin?

At sexual maturity. This is about 17-18 weeks of age for the female hen.

## **12. What factors affect egg production?**

Many factors affect egg production. The most important are diet (nutrition), temperature, humidity, length of artificial light (14 hours of constant light is recommended), and other nutritional and environmental factors

## **13. How long does it take to raise a fryer?**

About 42-49 days; six to seven weeks to market weight of 4.5 lbs.

## **14. What is a blood spot?**

A blood spot occurs from a broken blood vessel across the stigma line on the yolk follicle when the yolk is released into the reproductive tract.

## **15. What is a meat spot?**

A meat spot occurs when a part of the oviduct peels off when the egg is formed.

## **16. Is there one kind of egg carton that is better than another?**

A styrofoam carton is preferred to a paper carton because it protects the eggs better.

## **17. How long does it take to put the shell on the egg?**

It takes about 20-22 hours for the shell to be deposited around the yolk and albumen. This occurs in the uterus or shell gland.

## **18. What is salmonella?**

Salmonella is a bacteria that can form on the outside of the shell when an egg or its contents become contaminated. It can cause food poisoning if eggs are not properly handled and cooked.

## **19. What are the critical issues related to salmonella?**

Eggs and other food should be properly handled and cooked. Salmonella poisoning is not a problem if food products are properly prepared.

## **20. How often are eggs infected with salmonella?**

It has been shown that possibly one egg in one million eggs produced may have some salmonella growing inside an intact egg.

## **21. What is the proper way to cook an egg?**

Eggs can be cooked in many different ways. Thoroughly cooked eggs include: eggs cooked until the whites and yolks are not runny, hard-cooked eggs, baked eggs, and other egg-rich foods cooked to an internal temperature of at least 106 degrees F.

## **22. Do brown eggs have more cholesterol than white eggs?**

Brown and white shelled eggs have the same amount of cholesterol (200-210 mg per egg).

## **23. How many eggs does a chicken lay per year?**

250-270 eggs per year.

## **24. What causes a double yolk egg?**

The release (ovulation) of two yolks from the ovary simultaneously. It is abnormal and does not occur very often, but will occur in a hen's egg production cycle.

## **25. Is the shell hard or soft when laid?**

**hatching  
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The egg is hard when laid by the hen.

### **26. How is the egg fertilized?**

When the rooster inseminates the hen, the male sperm swim up the reproductive tract and localize in sperm host glands in the infundibulum. When a yolk is released one sperm penetrates the germinal disc and fertilization has begun.

### **27. When do the chicks need water?**

Immediately. The chicks need to drink water when they are transferred to the brooder box.

### **28. When do they need food?**

The chick needs food probably the first day, but can survive for up to 3 days after hatching.

### **29. What are hackle feathers?**

Hackle feathers are neck feathers on a chicken. A rooster has long pointed ones, and the female has short rounded ones.

### **30. What are saddle feathers?**

Saddle feathers are feathers toward the tail end of the chicken. A rooster has long pointed ones, and the female has short rounded ones.

### **31. Can you tell the sex of the chicken from the feathers alone?**

Yes, if the breed is feathersexed. The female chicks' primary feathers will be longer than the males. It is difficult to tell the sex of a newly hatched chick if the breed does not have the feathersexed characteristic.

### **32. Is there a pecking order?**

Yes, within a group of chickens from two to hundreds they establish a pecking order of dominance.

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