

Ventura Grain Co, Inc.

Guide to Raising a Healthy Backyard Flock



It's chick time again here at Ventura Grain! We order many different varieties of chicks to complete your versatile flock. Our chicks come from a hatchery that regularly tests for avian influenza and practices the safest handling procedures. These chicks are **not** vaccinated.

The most important advice we can give is to **do your research!** If you are new to raising a backyard flock, we advise setting up your brooder before bringing the birds home. Clean and disinfect the brooder and set up your heat lamp to ensure proper temperature for your new birds. We recommend minimal handling of your birds during the early stages because they need to be under the heat lamp at all times. Clean cages frequently and thoroughly wash your hands after handling anything in the chick's environment. Use only kiln dried pine shavings for bedding, cedar shavings contain oils that can be harmful to birds.

We only order female chicks from our hatchery and the hatchery is 90% accurate. Ducklings are typically unsexed, but females can be special ordered by request.

Laying Chicks

***Initial Brooder Temp 90-95**

Day 1 to Week 8

Ventura Everyday Medicated Chick Starter Mash

Chick Starter is formulated with added amino acids, minerals, and vitamins for chicks and contains Amprolium, a coccidiostat that helps prevent cocci bacteria. **We recommend probiotics and electrolytes as well during this stage.**

Week 8 until Week 16-20

Ventura Everyday Chick Grower Crumble

Chick Grower provides the nutrition needed for the chicks growing stage. It is easy to digest and consume in a crumble form and contains a balanced amino acid profile to support the growth of bones, muscles, skin, and feathers.

Adult Chickens

Ventura Everyday Chicken Layer Ration
Available in pellet or mash

Layer feed is a complete balanced diet for adult birds. Our layer ration is designed for high production and egg quality. It contains added calcium to support strong shell development. Additional oyster shells and grit can be added periodically if desired. This diet can also be fed to roosters.

Ducklings

***Initial Brooder Temp 95**

Ventura Everyday Game Bird Feed
Available in crumble or pellet

Game Bird feed is a ration for all waterfowl, pheasants, peacocks, and quail. It is a fish based protein that can be fed to game birds from hatching to adulthood. Ducklings should be started on crumble as the smaller pieces are easier for them to digest. They can be switched to pellet once they reach adulthood if desired.

Additional care tips:

- Keep your birds in a temperature controlled environment with no fluctuations or drafts. Without feathers, young birds cannot regulate their body temperature. Place your brooder in an area that is comfortable in your home for about 6 weeks. Use a thermometer to monitor temperature in your brooder. If birds are becoming too warm they will flock to the outside of their brooder. They will flock under the heat lamp if they are too cold. The brooder lamp should be raised up or down to achieve desired temperature. After two weeks the brooder temperature should be reduced by about 5 degrees each week until the 6 week point. When the temperature in your brooder reaches the same temperature as outside, your birds can start to be transitioned into an outdoor coop.
- Always provide adequate food and water for your birds. The older your birds get, the more they will eat and drink. If you have a large amount of birds in your brooder, make sure you have multiple sources of food and water for all birds.

***DO NOT GET YOUR CHICKS OR DUCKLINGS WET.**



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Mon-Friday 8am-5pm, Sat 8am-3pm

Ventura Grain Co, Inc.

Guide to Raising Birds for Meat



The most important advice we can give is **do your research!** If you are new to raising meat birds, we advise setting up your brooder before bringing birds home. Clean and disinfect the brooder and set up your heat lamp to ensure proper temperature for your new birds. We recommend minimal handling of your birds during the early stages because they need to be under the heat lamp at all times. Clean cages frequently and thoroughly wash your hands after handling anything in the bird's environment. Use only kiln dried pine shavings for bedding, cedar shavings contain oils that can be harmful to birds.

We order fast growing Cornish broiler chicks, and Broad Breasted white meat turkeys. Meat chicks typically take 8 weeks from hatch to processing, and meat turkeys typically take 6 months from hatch to processing.

Meat Chicks

*** Initial Brooder Temp 85-90**

Day 1 to Day 7-10

Ventura Everyday Medicated Chick Starter Mash

This mash is formulated with added amino acids, minerals, and vitamins for chicks. It contains Amprolium, a coccidiostat that helps prevent cocci bacteria.

Day 7-10 to Processing

Ventura Everyday Broiler Grower/Finisher

This is a high energy feed for growing and finishing broilers. Feed continuously as the sole ration until processing.

Meat Turkeys

Day 1 to Week 8

Ventura Everyday Turkey Starter Medicated Crumble

A feed designed for starting turkeys with Monensin, a coccidiostat to help prevent coccidiosis in young turkeys. Amino acids are added for improved growth.

Week 8 to Month 5

Ventura Everyday Turkey Grower Pellet

A complete grower feed for meat turkeys, amino acids are added for improved growth and development.

Month 5 to Month 6

Ventura Everyday Turkey Finisher Pellet

Finisher helps to put a cover of fat on the bird and increase flavor and tenderness.

Additional care tips:

Keep your birds in a temperature controlled environment with no fluctuations or drafts. Without feathers, young birds cannot regulate their body temperature. Place your brooder in an area that is comfortable for about 6 weeks. Use a thermometer to monitor temperature in your brooder. If birds are becoming too warm they will flock to the outside of their brooder, and they will flock under the heat lamp if they are too cold. The brooder lamp should be raised up or down to achieve desired temperature. After two weeks the brooder temperature should be reduced by about 5 degrees each week until the 6 week point. When the temperature in your brooder reaches the same temperature as outside, your birds can start to be transitioned into an outdoor coop.

Always provide adequate food and water for your birds. The older your birds get, the more they will eat and drink. If you have a large amount of birds in your brooder, make sure you have multiple sources of food and water for all birds.

Turkeys should be kept away from chickens to prevent the spread of blackhead disease.

We have everything you need to raise healthy poultry:

- Chick Waterers
- Chick Feeders
- Heat Lamps & Bulbs
- Thermometers
- Electrolytes & Probiotics
- Chick Grit
- Pine Shavings

We also carry all the supplies needed as your birds mature:

- Large Waterers
- Large Feeders
- Nesting Boxes
- Egg Cartons
- Dust Baths
- Flock Blocks
- Oyster Shells
- Mealworms & Cakes
- Treats


Lucerne Farms
Producers of Quality Forage Feed

KOOP CLEAN

***Superior Insulation for
A Warm, Happy Flock!***

