

- **Poultry**: Those species of birds which provide useful services for mankind.
- **Example**: Chicken, ducks, geese, turkey, guinea Fowl, pigeon, quail, ostriches and pheasants.

- **Broilers:** raised for meat 1.5-2.0kg in 35-42 days
- **Layer:** raised for table egg production. Laying start at 17 weeks and give us 250-300eggs/year
- **Breeder:** birds of both sexes kept for breeding to obtain fertilized eggs for hatching.  
Broiler breeder and layer breeder.
- **Pullet:** a young hen, soon to lay eggs, 3-5-month old
- **Hen:** Fully mature female chicken and egg laying
- **Cockerel:** young rooster under 1 year
- **Cock/ rooster:** fully mature male chicken
- **Sexed-chicken:** chicks which can be sexed at hatch on the basis of down color
- **Down:** chick soft feather at hatch
- **Capon:** castrated male chicken

## Characteristics of classes.

characteristics	classes			
	American	English	Mediterranean	Asiatic class
earlobes	red	red	White	red
Skin color	yellow	white	white	yellow
Shanks	No feather	No	No	Feathered
Egg shell color	brown	brown	White	Brown
Body size	medium	medium	small	heavy
Examples	Plymouth rock, Rhode island red	Australorp, cornish	White leghorn, fayumi	Cochin, brahma

## **Importance/Advantages of poultry farming**

1. Provide essential food items. i.e, meat and eggs (2). Provide high quality protein (3). Quick return (4). Poultry manure (5). Income throughout the year (6). Easy management by children and women (7). Source of income and employment.

## **Preference of poultry farming over livestock and agriculture farming**

1. Size of bird is small
2. Simple physiology
3. Simple digestive system
4. High fertility rate
5. Early maturity
6. Less feed and space require
7. Less capital income
8. Quick return and easy manageable

## **Selection of site for poultry farm**

1. Well connected with roads
2. Electricity and water
3. Away from residential area and industrial area

### Environmentally controlled houses

1. Initial investment high, expensive
2. More effective
3. The walls and roofs well insulated no direct opening
4. Artificial light
5. Temperature and ventilation controlled
6. Very reliable power and water supply
7. standard FCR

### Open sided houses

1. Low, less expensive
2. Less effective
3. Side walls have windows
4. Natural and artificial
5. Not easily control
6. Area where not continuous power supply
7. FCR Good sometime not

### Temperature, humidity and ventilation

**Temperature:** 1st week 32C reduce 2.5 C every week so at week 4th you will have 22C or room temperature. In F it is 95F reduce 5F per week until 70F.

**Humidity:** Ideal 50-60%. But, a wide range 30-70 %. Below 30% respiratory problem, above 70% wet litter problem.

**Ventilation:** Proper ventilation is required

1. to remove Co<sub>2</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub> and other harmful gases
2. Control moisture, regulate temperature, control diseases
3. In winter sunny days during brooding, curtains are raised to allow ventilation, lowered at evening.
4. In cold regions during 1-3 weeks plastic curtains are placed on the inside of windows to maintain temperature.
5. Leave some space around the size of a brick at top and bottom to allow ventilation

### Construction of a house

1. prefer concrete floor, easy to clean and sanitize
2. Should be 0.5-1m above the ground level.
3. Width 10-13m (fixed).
4. Length 30-100m. Depend on you
5. Length 3.5-4m in center and 3-3.5m at two sides. If uniform height 3.5m

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Species	Scientific name	Incubation period	Age at sexual maturity
Chicken	<i>Gallus Domesticus</i>	21	18-20 weeks
Duck	<i>Anas Platyrhynchos</i>	28	28-30 weeks
Goose	<i>Anser Anser</i>	28-32	28-30 weeks
quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	17-18	6-7 weeks
Turkey	<i>Melagris Gallopovo</i>	28	28-30 weeks
Pigeon	<i>Columba Livia</i>	18	10-12 weeks