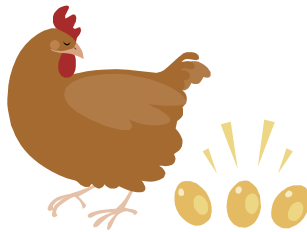
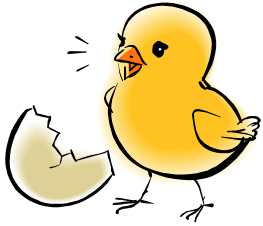
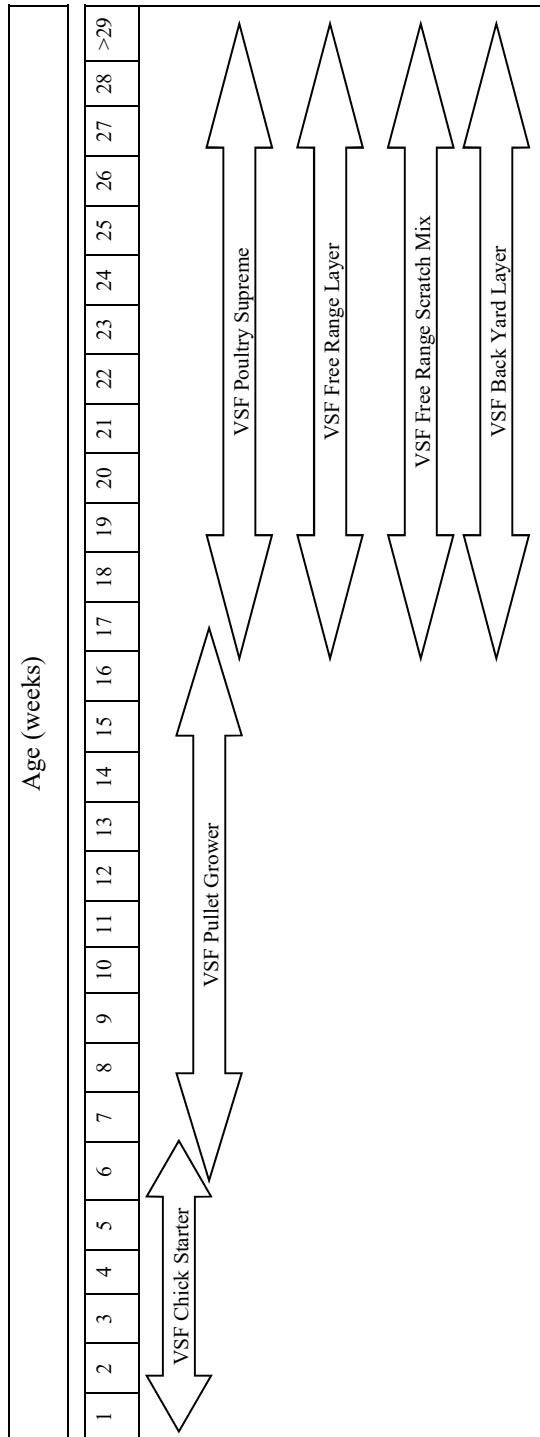


TIPS FOR REARING - LAYERS



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As birds come onto the lay there are four possible feeds available and each one has it's own unique attributes, selection will be dependent on your personal egg production requirements and budget. Please feel free to contact us to help in the decision of which layer feed is best suited to your circumstances.

Some Facts

- Want high egg production, then you need to focus on a high nutritional energy dense layer diet
- Young layers require approximately 310 - 340 Kcal of energy to produce one egg whilst still growing per day, their potential intake can be 80 - 120 grams per day pending, age, size, breed, access to water and feed, light hours, health (stress) and temperature. Assuming a daily intake of 110 grams of a nutritionally balanced diet of 2800 Kcal / kg they would get 308 Kcal. So with this in mind we would recommend a high nutritional energy dense diet for the first 40 weeks of age, where, thereafter their energy requirements are only for egg production & maintenance only.
- Egg production will taper off after approximately 40 weeks of age & continue to decline with age, egg size will increase with age.
- Egg shell strength will decrease as birds age due to larger egg mass, additional feeding of high calcium grit can assist with shell strength.
- Blood spots are more than likely from a scare.
- Yolk colour is not an indication of the eggs nutritional value, a golden yoke just looks better.
- Unwashed & refrigerated eggs have a longer shelf live, just wipe eggs down with a dry cloth if needed.
- Chicks & Pullets that do not get sufficient nutrition or suffer setbacks will not reach their potential egg production due to lower maturity weight.
- For more product information please visit our web site www.thevellagroup.com.au or contact our sales team.

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Chick Phase (0 - 6 weeks)

- Chicks ideally to be vaccinated from day old for, Marek's, Infectious Bronchitis and in high risk areas, Newcastle Disease and Infectious Laryotracheitis.

- Raise chicks well away from older birds and ideally on ground that has been rested from mature birds.

- Chick brooding area to be sanitised and dry, well ventilated but not overly drafty.

- Brooding area floor to be covered with clean, dry wood shavings or similar (approx 2 cm deep). Flooring & shavings to be kept as dry as possible to assist against exposure to Coccidiosis (internal parasite). VSF Chick Starter contains a coccidiostat but poor conditions may overly expose chick to the disease.

- Chicks ideally should have easy & free access to a sanctuary area with a temperature of 30 - 35° C, for 1 - 2 weeks, thereafter over the following 5 - 6 weeks reduce temperature gradually to ambient temperature, this will assist chicks to "feather up". In very cold climates or areas of large overnight fluctuations a warm sanctuary may still be required. These areas should be well ventilated but draft free.

- Chicks ideally to have 20 - 22 hours of lighting per day for the first week, gradually reducing lighting hours to 10 - 12 hours per day at 7 - 9 weeks of age.

- Provide at least 10 cm of water trough & 5 cm of feed trough space per chick to ensure less dominant chicks have access (24/7). Ensure all waters & feeders are kept clean and full at all times.

•Feeding Recommendations

VSF Chick Starter, fed adlib from day old to 6 weeks of age, estimated intake over this period 1kg + spillage.

Pullet Phase (6 - 18 weeks)

- Pullets ideally to be treated for worms at 7, 12 & 18 weeks of age. Worm infestation can cause poor weight gains which will latter effect overall egg production and bird health.

- If possible raise pullets well away from older birds and ideally on ground that has been rested from mature birds.

- Pullet rearing area to be sanitised and dry, well ventilated but not overly drafty.

- Floor area to be covered with clean & dry wood shavings or similar (approx 2 cm deep). Flooring & shavings to be kept as dry as possible to assist against the exposure to Coccidiosis (internal parasite). VSF Pullet Grower contains a coccidiostat but poor conditions may overly expose pullets to the disease.

- Pullets will look to "dust bath" this is a natural instinct to reduce dust mite, commercial dusting powder is available to further assist.

- Provide at least 10 cm of water trough & 10 cm of feed trough space per pullet to ensure less dominant pullets have access (24/7). Ensure all waters & feeders are kept clean and full at all times.

- Excessive free ranging or vegetable scraps may limit required intake of the Pullet Grower over the 6 -18 week period resulting in a slower maturity / weight and subsequent egg production over the life span of the bird.

•Feeding Recommendations

VSF Pullet Grower, to be phased in as Chick Starter is being phased out and fed adlib. Vegetable scraps should be limited so as not to substitute the high nutritional properties of the VSF Pullet Grower. Estimated intake over the pullet period, 5kg + spillage.

Laying Phase (18 - >52 weeks)

- Hens can now be fully introduced to other mature hens if desired

- Although VSF Pullet Grower can still be fed to birds coming onto point of lay, it is desirable to us a true layer feed as it is more nutritionally balanced to assist the bird with their egg production demands. Rule of thumb layer feed can start to be introduced at 16 weeks of age with the Pullet Grower.

- Hens will look to "dust bath" this is a natural instinct to reduce dust mite, commercial dusting powder is available to further assist.

- Allow 1 nesting box per every 5 hens, line nesting boxes with wood shavings or similar to help prevent egg breakage.

- Provide at least 10 cm of water trough & 10 cm of feed trough space per hen to ensure less dominant hens have access (24/7). Ensure all waters & feeders are kept clean and full at all times.

- If high egg production is required, birds to have 15 - 16 hours of consistent lighting per day. Peak egg production is normally seen between 26 - 30 weeks of age. Replacement stock should be coming through between 1.4 - 1.8 years.

- Collect eggs daily & refrigerate

•Feeding Recommendations

VSF Poultry Supreme
VSF Free Range Layer
VSF Free Range Scratch Mix
VSF Back Yard Layer

Layer diets to be fed adlib & available (24/7). Vegetable scraps and pasture can be made available, avoid mower clippings though. Estimated intake per day 80 - 120 grams pending climate, lighting, bird size, health & feed and water quality and access.