

## **Gain awaits – Turkey Fowl**

### **Breed Selection**

There are different breeds in Turkey fowl but blacks suits our country. Exotic breeds like Broad Chested france, White Turkey, small while turkey are others that are normally reared by our farmers.

### **Rearing**

Rearing is for either chick production or for meat. It may be reared by 3 methods i) Stall feeding ii) Grazing type iii) Stall cum Grazing. In grazing method the farmer should possess big coconut, fruit or flower gardens. For shelter at nights and at rain small sheds may be constructed. The area required is 1 sq ft per bird.

Grazing type is advantageous because the birds control pests and weeds. Moreover it also adds manure to the garden.

### **Feed Preparation :**

#### **Chick feed**

Maize – 50 kg, Groundnut cake – 25 kg, Salt less fish meal – 10 kg, Grains (Cambu, Sorghum, Ragi, Wheat in equal proportion) – 10 kg, Rice bran – 3kg, Mineral salt – 1 kg, Vitamin mineral mixture – 1kg.

Grind the above items. feed @ 10gm/chick.

This may be increased as per growth.

#### **Fowl feed**

Maize – 50 kg, Groundnut /gingerly cake – 23 kg, Salt less fish meal – 15 kg, Rice bran – 8kg, Mineral salt – 3kg, Mineral + Vitamin mix – 1 kg.

Grind the above items and feed @ 50gm/fowl.

Intall cum grazing type, the chicks should be allowed for grazing for 6hr/day before keeping them in stalls. The feed rate will be high in this type.

In stall feeding type may be followed when space is limited. Stalls with good aeration and concentrated feeds are essential. This method yields more weight gain

When compared to the other two methods hence it is followed for commercial production.

### **Stall Construction**

Stalls should be erected in East West Direction high elevation without water stagnation. Width should not be less than 20 feet. The roof should be made of asbestos, thatch or tarpaulin.

The sides should be brick walled. The height should be 11/2ft.

Top of side wall should be covered with net. At 3ft height, cross shafts for fowls rest should be provided. Floors should not be 5 months, They should be covered with groundnut shell. Do not used wood shavings.

### **Temperature**

Fowls should be grown in the ratio of 1 male : 5 female to avoid false eggs. This ratio will not be

applicable for broiler. Bulbs were lit up where chicks are reared. As if the chicks stand under the bulbs always, it means that the temperature is less, then the bulbs power should be increased. In other case, when the chicks do not come near the bulbs, it means that the temperature is too hot for the chicks, in this case, the power should be reduced. Each and every chick requires one watt's heat energy, for the first month (30 days). Otherwise the chicks cannot survive.

The chicks require more proteins on the first day feed with rava (sooji) or broken wheat which is easily digestible. On the next day, roasted Bengal gram mixed with rice kanji may be feed.

Chicks do not drink water for the first two days. In order to attract them to water, put broken bangles or marbles (koli kundu) in the water provided for them. Turmeric powder may also be added in the drinking water.

### **Weight Gain**

If the weight gain is poor in the chicks, deworming should be done. Either with readily available medicines or with neem oil. While giving neem oil, care should be taken, not to touch the tongue.

Two months chicks should be fed with cattle feed. The chicks do not gain much weight during the first two months. Later it should be fed with concentrates. The gain would be 1kg, if the chicks are feed with 3 kg concentrates. Similar feeding will show a weight gain of upto 6 kgs in 5 months. (In grazing type of feeding, this weight gain is achieved in 7 months). The concentrates can be prepared at home to reduce the cost. Vegetables waste may also be fed.

### **Disease Management**

The first ten days is crucial, as the chicks are attacked by number of diseases. To prevent the attack of ranikhat disease, apply one drop of RTVF drops each in eyes and nose. On the 21st day, pox preventing injection should be given under the wings. On the 30th day, lasota should be given for ranikhat in eyes and nose. Similarly on the both day, RTVF drops should be administered in the eyes and nose. Chicks are mostly affected by pox, specifically in the first three months. The affected chicks should be rubbed with turmeric powder and neem oil in the day time.

Pox boils will fall if the above practice is done for fifteen days. During this period, neem leaves should be ground and mixed with 10 liters' of water and sprayed on inner and outer walls, floor of the shed, while doing this the shed should not have chicks, feed and water.

### **Ranikhet Disease**

To manage this disease grind 1 spoon of cumin, 7 peppers, 10 small onions, 4 pinch of turmeric powder, half- table spoon of fresh curd and mix it with butter milk. For chicks, give half ink-filler and for adults one full filler of this mix. This can be given twice a day.

For (rattha kalisal noi), grind one bundle of aloe Vera and mix it with drinking water. For lice infestation take 10 vasambu sticks, powder it and mix it with 5 liters of water. Each chick should be drenched in this liquid upto neck level.

### **Caution while feeding :**

After thirty days, the chicks may be fed with any type of greens including cynodon grass.

Feeding with cynodon grass, improves the immunity as well as helps in keeping the stomach clean. The chicks should not be fed with cauliflower or cabbage leaves, as these contains a lot of pesticide residue which is fatal to them. Concentrates can be prepared at home. Otherwise buy 100kg of broiler feed and mix it with salt less fish meal powder and 1 kg of sesamum oilcake to feed them. Grains and groundnuts affected with Aflatoxin fungus should not be fed to the chicks. If the chicks are feed unknowingly, grind kilanelli (phyllanthus) and mix it with drinking water.

The chicks may also be feed with 50 grams of Azolla but it should be mixed with other feeds. Turkey fowls plays an important role in integrated farming system. Here, the droppings are used as feed for fish. In one year, 5 tones of droppings can be obtained from 20 turkey fowls. This is a good manure to plants as it contains 5.9 % of nitrogen, 2.7 % of potash.

### **Turkeys – That harvest rain water:**

Usually, turkeys dig 4 to 5 pits for sand bath. Each pit will be of 1 feet length and half feet depth. These act as rain harvesting sites as they can hold 2 liters of water each. I total, 100 liters of water can be harvested in one year from 10 rains. This means 100 turkeys can harvest 10,000 liters of water.

Rearing of fowls should be planned well in advance, so that the birds can be culled at the time of festivals like Christmas & Ramzan. The wastage in turkey meat is only 20% hence 1 kg of meat costs Rs.140.

This is indeed a profitable enterprise.

Economics for a stall fed- turkey fowl		
Particulars	Expenditure	Income
30 days old chick	125. 00	
Medicines & syringe	15.00	
Shed, Electricity, Depreciation	50.00	
Logistics	10.00	
Feed Rs.20 * 20 kg	400.00	
Insurance	15.00	
Unexpected loss	25.00	
Labour charge	50.00	
Weight in 5 months Rs.140 * 6 kg	-	840.00
Total	690.00	840.00
Net Profit		150.00

In gracing type, the feed cost can be reduced upto 50%, but similar weight is untainted only after extra 2 months. However, the profit is about 350 rupees, which is higher than most other methods.

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