

BROILER STARTER GUIDE

SIMPLE STEP-BY-STEP FOR WEEK 1 TO WEEK 6 · BB FEEDS HAZYVIEW

Well done on your new chicks!

This short guide explains, in plain language, how to look after broiler chicks from day one until slaughter at six weeks. Follow it step by step and ask us at BB Feeds if anything is unclear — we stock the feed, remedies and equipment you need.

6 WEEKS

from chick to market

12-15

birds per m²

3 + 3

drinkers & feeders /100
birds

5%

normal mortality

1 Before the chicks arrive

- Clean and disinfect the whole house. Let the disinfectant dry — do not wash it off.
- Put down 75 mm of shavings.
- Make a round chick area (brooder ring) instead of using the whole house. It is easier to keep a small area warm; open it up as the chicks grow.
- Switch on heaters or red lamps well before the chicks arrive so the floor is warm.
- Set up 3 drinkers and 3 feeders for every 100 chicks, and lay newspaper or flat cardboard with starter feed on top.
- Put a foot bath at every door and keep visitors out. Biosecurity keeps disease away.

2 Day one — placing the chicks

- Weigh a sample of chicks: about 40 g each is normal.
- Add a stress pack (Carmino) to the drinking water for the first five days.
- Feeders and drinkers must ALWAYS be full — never let them run empty.
- 4-6 hours after placing: check the chicks are eating, drinking, running around and that the temperature is right.
- The next day: feel the crops. About 95 out of 100 should be soft and springy — that means they ate and drank.

3 Temperature — watch how they sit

No thermometer? The chicks are the thermometer. Make sure your lamps or gas heaters can be raised and lowered.

TOO HOT

Chicks move away from the heat, spread against the walls, panting.

JUST RIGHT

Chicks spread evenly over the whole brooder, busy and noisy.

TOO COLD

Chicks huddle in a tight pile right under the heat source.

4 Fresh air (ventilation)

- Bad air causes coughing, wheezing and slow growth.
- Ammonia smell means the litter is wet — it burns the birds' feet and lungs.
- In cold months close the curtains, but always leave a small gap open for fresh air.
- Check the foot pads: clean pads mean good air and dry litter.

5 Do not overcrowd

- Keep 12 to 15 birds per square metre.
- 3 drinkers and 3 feeders for every 100 birds.
- Too many birds in a house means less eating, slower growth, lighter slaughter weights, more disease, pecking and more deaths.

6 Diseases to watch for in week 4

- **Coryza** Lung and sinus problems — swollen faces, rattling breathing.
- **Ascites** Fluid in the belly; the bird usually dies of a heart attack.
- **Fowl pox** Spread by mosquitoes and flies; scabs on the comb and face.
- **Coccidiosis** A parasite that damages the gut. Look for bloody droppings. Can kill quickly.

The best medicine is prevention: steady temperature, fresh air, clean dry litter, quiet handling, clean water and full feeders — plus foot baths in front of every house.

7 Five mistakes that cost you money

- Empty feeders or drinkers, even for a few hours.
- Changing from starter to grower to finisher overnight instead of mixing over a few days.
- Too many birds in too small a space.
- Wet, caked litter and no fresh air moving through the house.
- No foot baths and no records — you cannot fix what you did not measure.

8 Your shopping list at BB Feeds

- ☐ Alzu / Epol / Rossgro starter, grower and finisher
- ☐ Stress pack (Carmino)
- ☐ Shavings
- ☐ Chick drinkers and feeders
- ☐ Gas or infrared heating and lamps
- ☐ Disinfectant and foot bath
- ☐ Thermometer
- ☐ Scale for weighing birds

WEEK BY WEEK, RECORDS & WHAT TO BUY

STARTER → GROWER → FINISHER

Week by week: starter → grower → finisher

WEEK 2 & 3

Keep feeders and drinkers full at all times. Open the chick area bigger as the birds grow and keep adding shavings. Week 3 is the last week on starter — mix the last starter crumbs with grower crumbs so the change is gradual.

WEEK 4

Watch out for sickness this week. Mix the last grower crumbs with grower pellets. Birds now need about 20 °C and at least 11 hours of darkness so they can rest — this prevents heart attacks.

WEEK 5 & 6

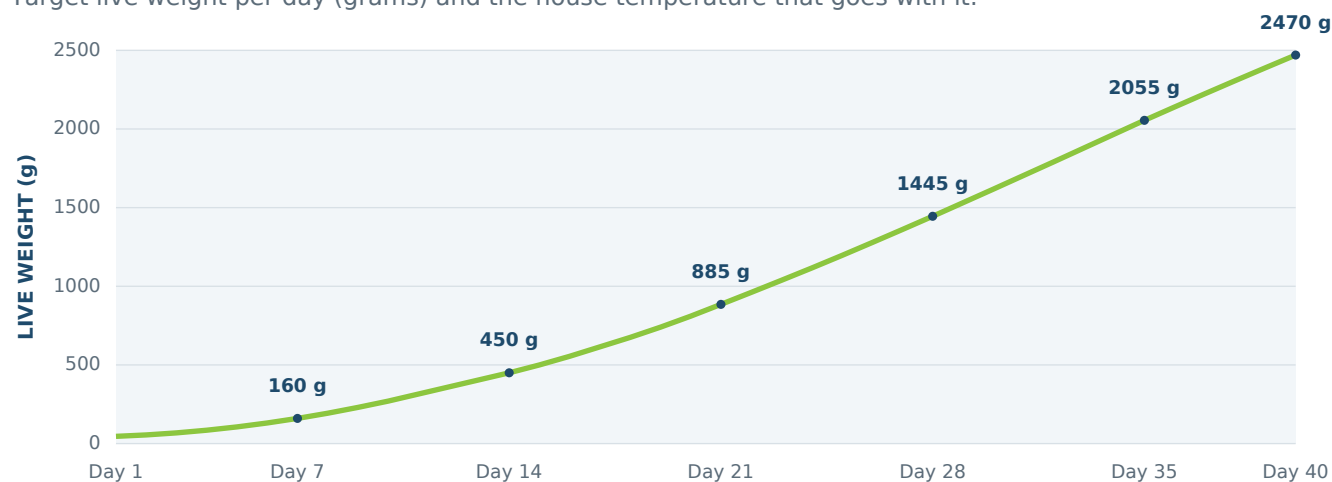
The final two weeks before slaughter, on finisher feed. Keep the birds calm and the feeders and drinkers full. On very hot days add a stress pack (Carmino) to the water.

9 Keep records of every cycle

Write it down for each batch: deaths (5% is normal), medication, vaccinations, live weight, feed used, temperature and your profit. Records show you exactly where you can improve. Use the chart on the next page — print it and stick it up in every house.

What good growth looks like

Target live weight per day (grams) and the house temperature that goes with it.



HOUSE TEMPERATURE

30-28 °C	27-25 °C	25-23 °C	22-21 °C	20 °C
Day 1-5	Day 6-12	Day 13-20	Day 21-27	Day 28-40

BROILER MANAGEMENT CHART

WEEK 1 TO 6 · PRINT AND PUT UP IN EVERY HOUSE

Farmer name: _____ Batch / house: _____ Chicks placed on: _____

Week	Day	Feed	Target weight (g)	Your weight	Target temp °C	Your temp	Light hrs	Deaths
1	1	Starter	46		30		23	
	2	Starter	55		30		23	
	3	Starter	68		28		23	
	4	Starter	85		28		23	
	5	Starter	106		28		23	
	6	Starter	131		27		23	
	7	Starter	160		27		22	
2	8	Starter	193		27		22	
	9	Starter	230		26		22	
	10	Starter	270		26		22	
	11	Starter	315		26		22	
	12	Starter	360		25		22	
	13	Starter	405		25		22	
	14	Starter	450		25		17	
3	15	Starter	500		24		17	
	16	Starter	555		24		17	
	17	Starter	615		24		17	
	18	Starter	675		23		17	
	19	Starter	740		23		17	
	20	Starter	810		23		17	
	21	Starter	885		22		17	
4	22	Grower	961		22		13	
	23	Grower	1038		22		13	
	24	Grower	1116		21		13	
	25	Grower	1196		21		13	
	26	Grower	1278		21		13	
	27	Grower	1361		20		13	
	28	Grower	1445		20		13	
5	29	Grower	1531		20		13	
	30	Grower	1617		20		13	
	31	Grower	1704		20		13	
	32	Grower	1791		20		13	
	33	Finisher	1879		20		13	
	34	Finisher	1967		20		13	
	35	Finisher	2055		20		13	
6	36	Finisher	2140		20		13	
	37	Finisher	2224		20		13	
	38	Finisher	2307		20		13	
	39	Finisher	2389		20		13	
	40	Finisher	2470		20		13	

Need feed, remedies, drinkers, feeders or heating?

BB Feeds Hazyview stocks Alzu, Epol and Rossagro feeds — call 013 737 7091 or WhatsApp 064 751 1599.