

How to give your pullets the best possible start



Advancing Poultry Performance

How to give your pullets the best possible start

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“We work together to ensure the flock is loaded, transported and housed in an organised, efficient manner, with the welfare and well-being of the pullets the primary consideration.”

- Martin Humphrey
*Wynnstay Humphrey
Feeds & Pullets*



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Introduction

Giving your flock the best possible start

A great deal of care and attention goes into the first 16 weeks of your bird's life so that when the pullet leaves the rearing farm, it is in perfect condition to start producing eggs.

All that hard work developing the pullet can be set back significantly if the move to the laying house does not go smoothly.

One of the main contributors to a healthy and productive laying flock are low levels of stress, and if not carefully handled, being caught, vaccinated, loaded onto a lorry then transported to a new environment can involve an element of anxiety.

If birds come into lay around three to four weeks after delivery, as they should, it is crucial that the flock achieves the best possible start.

Richard Jones, Commercial Manager Pullets



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The rearing process

Attention to detail at every stage

Through attention to detail, and our extensive experience, ensures that we deliver immunologically and physically robust pullets capable of sustained and productive laying cycles.

The following elements are closely monitored and controlled in rear:

- ✓ Bio-security
- ✓ Feed, nutrition and water quality
- ✓ Body weight profile
- ✓ House and litter temperature
- ✓ Lighting
- ✓ Vaccinations



For more information on these key elements, please download our [How we rear your birds](#) ebook.

DOWNLOAD

Training the birds

Equipping birds to thrive in multi-tier housing systems

With multi-tier housing systems fast becoming the norm, we mimic that environment appropriately in our rearing houses so that the birds are supported to thrive when they arrive on farm.

Developing pullets are trained to explore multiple levels of platforms and perching, with drinker lines and feed tracks strategically placed to encourage use of these elevated areas.

Training the pullets in this way helps them find food, water and crucially, the nest boxes more quickly, to better equip them for life in a multi-tier house, minimising stress and growth setbacks when they arrive.

“Birds don’t like things they are not used to and may not move around so freely if the new environment is significantly different from the rearing farm, and if they have not been trained sufficiently to explore upwards on the systems in the rearing house.”

- James Wilson
Wynnstay Humphrey
Feeds & Pullets



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Stockmanship and monitoring

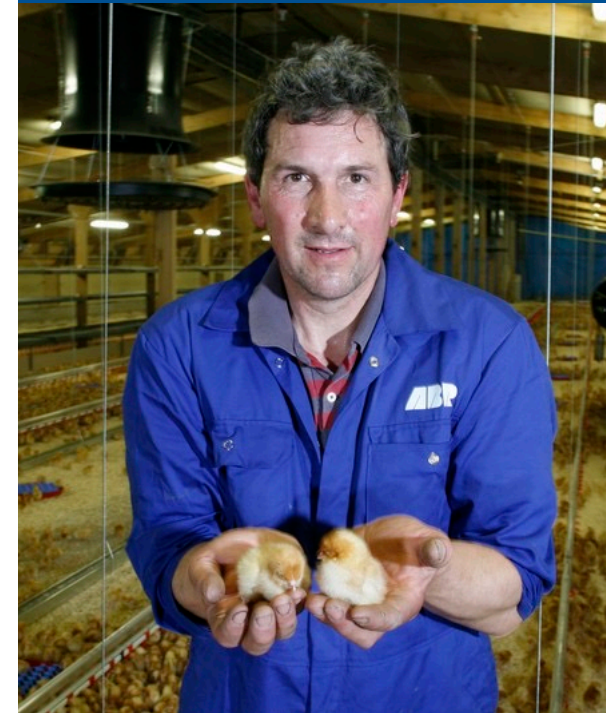
Observation and record keeping

From day one of the chicks' arrival, and right the way through the rearing programme, regular observation, interaction and record-keeping are essential.

It is important to spend as much time as possible with the chicks so that they become comfortable with human presence in the house.

An even spread of chicks feeding, playing and resting is a good indication of a contented flock. Listening to the chicks can also provide an indication of how happy they are with their environment.

At Wynnstay Humphrey Feeds & Pullets we encourage our customers to visit the farm rearing their birds, to see for themselves their progress, weigh them, and assess them against the weekly reports of the birds' development.



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Pullet loading and transportation

Transition to the laying house

Prior to the move the pullets are wormed and provided with electrolytes via their drinking water to assist them with the journey.

For the sake of the birds' welfare, and minimising logistical challenges on the road, birds are loaded in the late afternoon after a day of feeding and drinking normally. Where possible, the birds are transported overnight for several important reasons.

- ✓ Night is a time when they are used to resting and sleeping
- ✓ Roads are less congested so journey time is reduced
- ✓ Temperatures are lower
- ✓ Birds do not miss out on a day of feed and water
- ✓ Early morning arrival gives staff on the receiving farms the maximum amount of time to unload and settle the birds.

They are then introduced to their new home, giving them a full day to acclimatise and find feed and water.



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Pullet arrival and follow up

On farm specialist support and expertise

As soon as the delivery truck arrives, some of the modules containing the birds are offloaded to allow air to circulate around the birds. Unloading will commence first thing in the morning, at the time agreed, and will always be attended by a Wynnstay Humphrey Feeds & Pullets representative.

Having enough helpers is important, because the faster you remove the pullets from the module, the quicker they can feed and drink - something which should always be there freshly waiting for them.

Once the birds are in their house, their behaviour must be closely monitored to assess how well the delivery has gone. If they are feeding and drinking, and making the right noises, then it has gone well.

Visits from the Wynnstay Humphrey Feeds & Pullets representative will continue on a routine basis, initially weekly, to monitor the birds' health and progress against breed targets.

“Delivery is an anxious time for the flock and thanks to the team at Wynnstay Humphrey Feeds & Pullets the birds arrive calm and settle quickly which is important as a smooth unloading process always leads to better production.”

- Susie Macmillian
The Macs Farm

Farmers Weekly Poultry
Farmer of the Year 2019



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In summary

We go to great lengths at Wynnstay Humphrey Feeds & Pullets to ensure that we give our customers' flocks the best possible start.

Using our expert knowledge, gained from over 85 years of manufacturing layers feed and rearing pullets, our team's sole aim is to deliver birds that are able to express their full productive potential, socialized, stress-free and familiar with our customers' laying shed conditions.

Ensuring that your pullets are robust enough to cope with your laying requirements, whilst producing eggs suitable to market, requires attention to detail at every stage of the rearing process - everything must be right.

For more information about Wynnstay Humphrey Feeds & Pullets and how we can help you optimise the laying performance for future flock success, please do get in touch.



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How to get in touch

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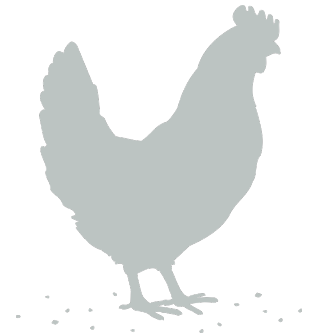
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