

# Broiler Breeder Growth Profile

Body Weight

## 0-27 Days | 0-4 Weeks

- Achieve target body weight uniformly.
- Develop chick appetite through good brooding practice.
- Ensure adequate feeder and drinker space.
- Monitor crop fill.
- Monitor bird behavior.
- Maintain optimum temperature, humidity and ventilation.
- Initiate weekly body-weight monitoring. Start to record individual body weights from 14-21 days of age to calculate CV%.
- Where light-proofing is available reduce light intensity to 10-20 lux (0.9-1.9 foot candles) by 10 days of age.



Rapid growth of skeleton, immune, digestive & cardiovascular systems & feathers.

## 28-63 Days | 4-9 Weeks

- Achieve target body weight uniformly.
- Grade at 28 days.
- Grade in to 2 (CV% 8-10%) or 3 populations (CV% above 10%).
- Within each graded population control growth and feed to achieve revised body-weight targets by 63 days.
- Stop movement of birds between graded populations at 63 days.
- At 63 days review body weights against target; re-draw target if necessary.



Period of continued growth and development.

## 64-105 Days | 9-15 Weeks

- Adjust feed allocation to achieve target body weights uniformly:
  - Birds under target weight should follow a profile which brings them back to target by 105 days.
  - Birds over target weight should follow a profile which runs parallel to the target curve.
- Birds should not lose body weight during this time.



90% of skeletal growth is completed by around 80-95 days of age.

## 106-161 Days | 15-23 Weeks

- Increase feed levels to stimulate growth rate in line with targets and prepare birds for sexual maturity.
- Assess pin bone spacing weekly to monitor maturity.
- Assess flock uniformity one week before first light increase is planned:
  - If birds are on target and even (CV% below 8%) light-up as recommended.
  - If birds are under target or uneven (CV% above 8%), delay lighting by at least 7 days.
- Mate-up at 147 days; ensure males and females are uniformly mature.
- Observe feeding behavior regularly to monitor separate sex feeding and feed distribution.



Accelerating growth & weight gain to prepare birds for sexual maturity and mating-up.

## 162-210 Days | 23-30 Weeks

- Feed females to stimulate and support increases in egg production, egg weight and growth.
- Introduce the breeder ration no later than 5% production.
- Feed males to achieve growth and support fertility.
- Follow a male reduction program and assess male physical condition for:
  - Legs and feet
  - Fleshing
  - Facial color
  - Vent condition
- Where light proofing is available do not exceed 13 to 14 hours of light a day (30-60 lux/2.8-5.6 foot candles).



Rapid growth of oviduct, ovaries and testes.

Sexual maturity occurs 10-14 days after lighting-up.

Age