

POULTRY HOUSING

A poultry house is a building for housing poultry. There are different types of poultry which are greatly influenced by the rearing system in use.

Types of Poultry Management Systems

- 1) Free-range or extensive system
- 2) Folding unit system
- 3) Intensive system (Deep Litter System and Battery Cage System.)

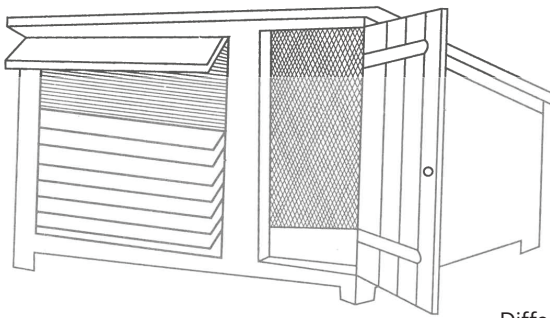
Key Considerations in Management Systems

- 1) The purpose for starting a poultry farm
- 2) Climatic conditions
- 3) Farm location
- 4) Poultry type

DIFFERENT TYPES OF POULTRY HOUSING

1) Free-range or extensive system / Night Shelters and Runs

They are used in free range system where the birds spend the night but during the day, they go out to scavenge. The night shelters should be raised off the ground on stands or hung on a tree to discourage predators.



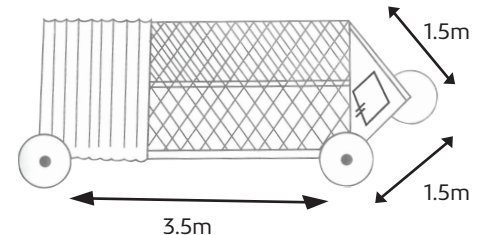
Different Designs Of Night Shelters

2) Folding Unit Systems

A fold should measure 3.5m long x 1.5m wide x 1.5m high.

One third of the fold should be roofed to provide shelter.

The rest of the fold should be left open but enclosed by a wire mesh. The unroofed part is used for sunning and exercises. Folds should be moved daily to fresh grounds to reduce buildup of diseases and parasites. A fold can only keep a small number of birds (10-15)



3) Intensive system

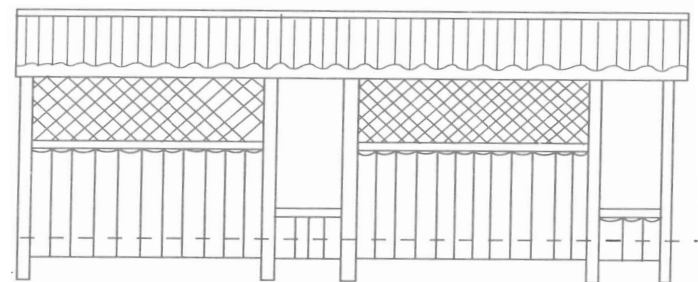
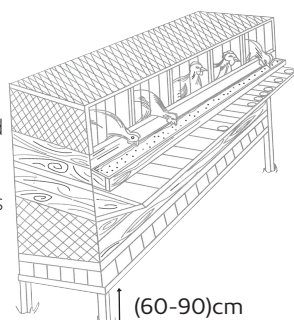
A. Deep Litter Houses

- a) Proper ventilation: Make the leeward side wall solid up, 60-90cm from the ground and the rest of the wall to be made of wire mesh.
- b) Leak-proof roof: To avoid dampness in the house which encourage diseases infections.
- c) Litter on the floor (15-30cm deep): Use sawdust, wood shavings, crushed maize cobs, coffee or rice husks.
- d) Draught-free: This is achieved by making the windward side wall solid top to bottom.
- e) Enough space: To avoid overcrowding
- f) Proper drainage

B. Battery Cage Houses:

In this system birds are kept in battery cages which are fixed in the house. Cages are placed at a height of 60-90cm above the ground.

They are arranged in tiers such that droppings from each tier are easily disposed of. Housing requirements for this house are the same as the Deep Litter Housing



Readily available building materials

Roofing materials (iron sheets or grass), Wire netting, Timber posts, off-cuts and rails, Cement, sand and aggregate, Nails, hinges and latches, Pre-fabricated battery cages and Stones or blocks

Stocking density for different breeds

- a) Layers; deep litter (4 – 6 birds per square meter), Semi Intensive (6 – 7 birds per square meter)
- b) Chicks (25 chicks per square meter)
- c) Growers (4 – 5 birds per square meter)
- d) Broilers (25 chicks per square meter between 4 to 7 weeks of age)