



MAXIMIZING PERFORMANCE IN LAYER FARMING

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR POULTRY SUCCESS



**RIEDEL
MULTILINKS
AGRO**

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Maximizing Performance in Layer Farming

1. CHOOSING THE RIGHT BREED

One of the first and most critical decisions is selecting the right layer breed. Chicks from reputable hatcheries are bred for optimal egg production, so the choice a farmer makes here lays the foundation for success.



Layer



Specialized for Eggs

Broiler



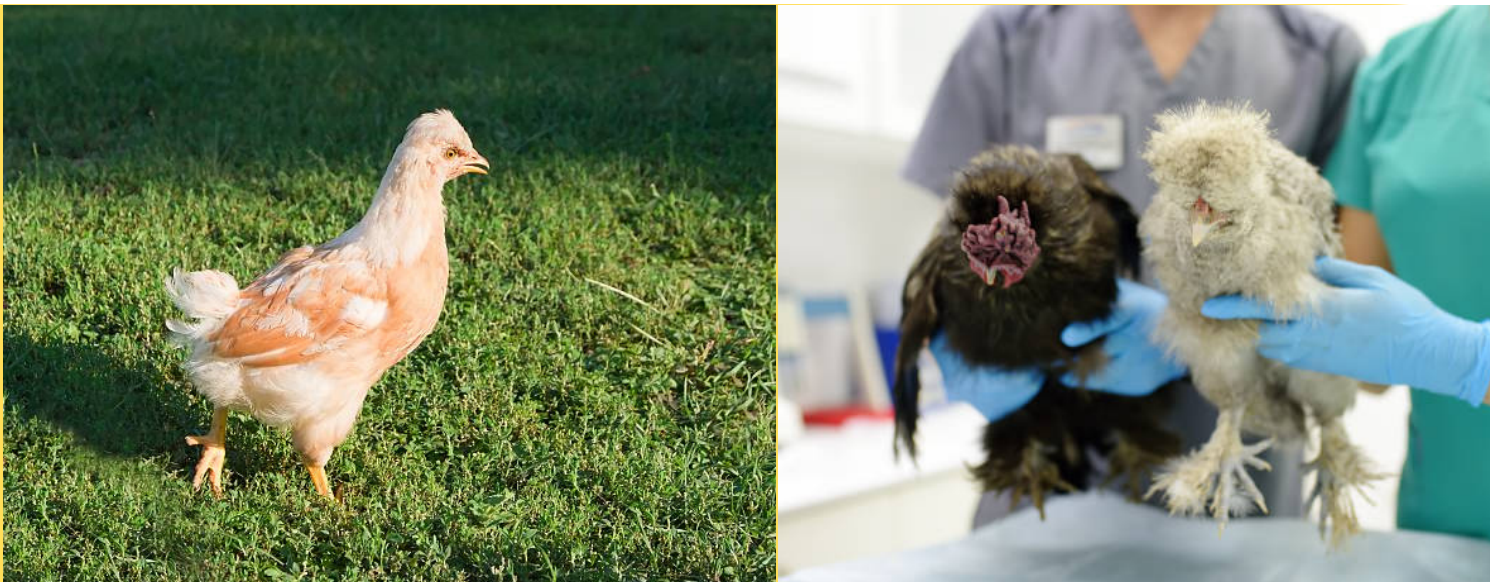
Specialized for meat

2. EFFECTIVE FLOCK MANAGEMENT

How you manage your birds determines how well they produce. Proper flock management not only ensures that hens reach their full laying potential but also helps maintain a consistent production pattern throughout their laying cycle



3. RAISING PULLETS RIGHT



Getting pullet management right is crucial. Focus on their nutrition, lighting schedule, and disease prevention. A healthy pullet should weigh around 1.5kg at the onset of laying. Early laying before they reach the right body size can lead to issues like cloacal prolapse.

Routine practices include monthly deworming starting from 8 weeks and beak trimming (ideally between 8 and 12 weeks) by trained hands. When trimming, the lower beak should be slightly longer to aid feeding.

In many ways, the future productivity of the layer flock is determined by how well the pullets were raised.

4. LIGHT MANAGEMENT

Light isn't just for visibility. It's a key driver of a hen's reproductive system. In the first four weeks, chicks should receive continuous light. As pullets mature, increasing the day length encourages earlier onset of laying. However, stimulating hens too early (before 17-18 weeks) may compromise their lifetime productivity.

Once laying starts, birds need at least 16 hours of light daily, and reducing light during this phase can disrupt egg production. Still, too much light can cause stress and lead to negative behaviors like pecking or egg-eating. For natural lighting, build poultry houses facing east-west to regulate exposure and reduce overheating.



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5. FEEDING

Proper feeding is non-negotiable. Layers need a balanced diet with the right levels of energy, protein, fats, minerals, and vitamins. Cutting corners like giving birds separate meals or mixing feeds often backfires by upsetting the nutritional balance. On average:

- A chick will consume about 2kg of chick mash from hatch to 8 weeks.
- Between weeks 9 and 20, a pullet eats around 7kg of growers mash.
- A mature layer will consume about 50kg of feed over a 12-month laying period (roughly 140g per day).

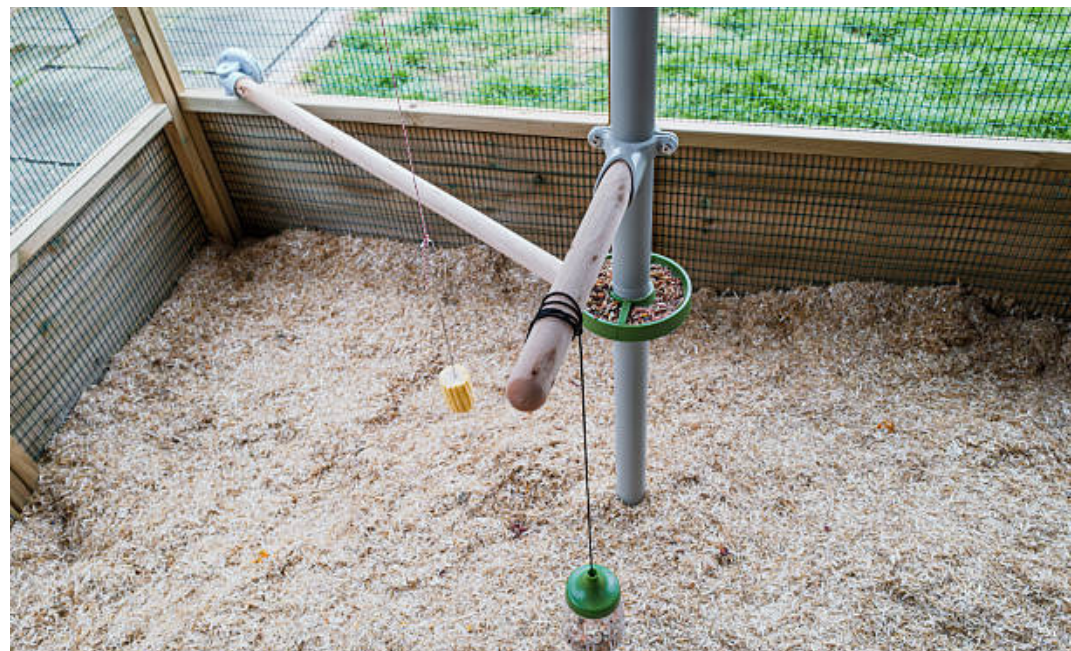
Excessive feed consumption could indicate spillage or cold weather, both of which can be addressed by adjusting feeder height.

Water, often overlooked, is even more critical than feed. At normal temperatures, hens drink twice as much water as feed. During heat stress, their water intake can double or more. Always ensure access to clean, fresh water.



6. HOUSING & SPACE REQUIREMENTS

Each layer needs at least 2 square feet of space. Provide perches for roosting at night. This not only improves comfort but helps manage waste by concentrating droppings. Nesting boxes should be about 1ft x 1ft and can serve about five hens each. Line floors with 4 inches of wood shavings to absorb moisture and keep the birds warm.



7. IDENTIFYING LAYING BIRDS

Laying hens often appear leaner, with bright red combs and wattles. A simple way to check: you should be able to fit three fingers between their pelvic bones



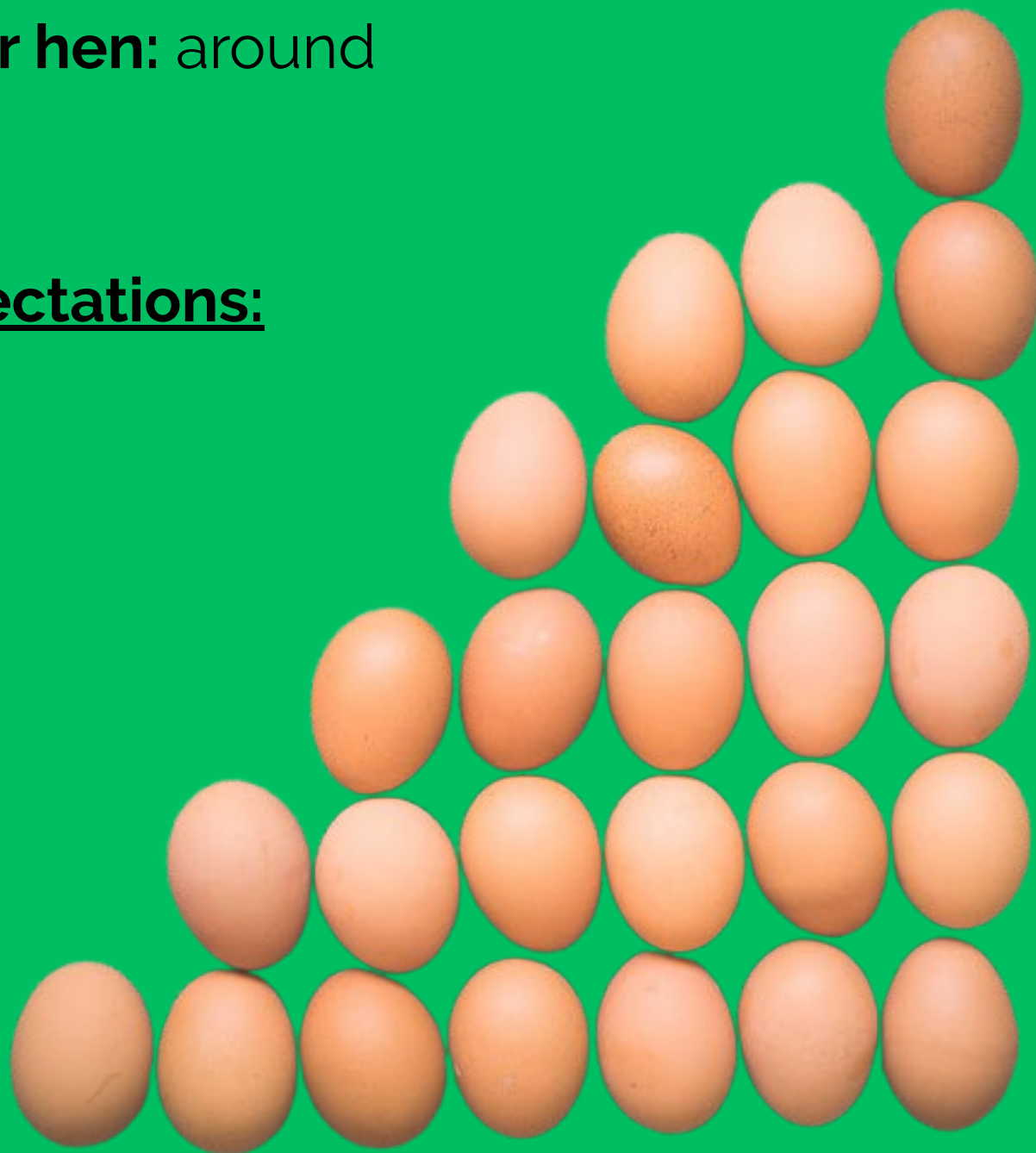
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8. WHAT TO EXPECT: PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS

- **Mortality (rearing phase):** below 5%
- **Mortality (laying phase):** not more than 8%
- **Start of lay:** 1820 weeks
- **Lifetime egg output per hen:** around 318 eggs

Weekly production expectations:

- Week 19: ~6%
- Week 20: ~20%
- Week 21: ~50%
- Week 22: ~78%
- Week 2343: ~9093%
- Week 4460: ~8089%
- Week 6173: ~7079%
- Week 7480: ~657



9. COMMON REASONS FOR DROP IN EGG PRODUCTION

A healthy hen can lay between 24-27 eggs a month. Reasons for a drop in egg production include:

1. Extended laying beyond 12 months
2. Weather-related stress
3. Stress from vaccinations or transport
4. Disruptions from noise or predators
5. Restricted or poor-quality feeding
6. Inadequate water supply
7. Insufficient lighting
8. Parasite infestations
9. Diseases
10. Egg-eating or nutrient deficiencies
11. Predators consuming eggs

Thankfully, most of these issues are preventable or manageable with proper care.

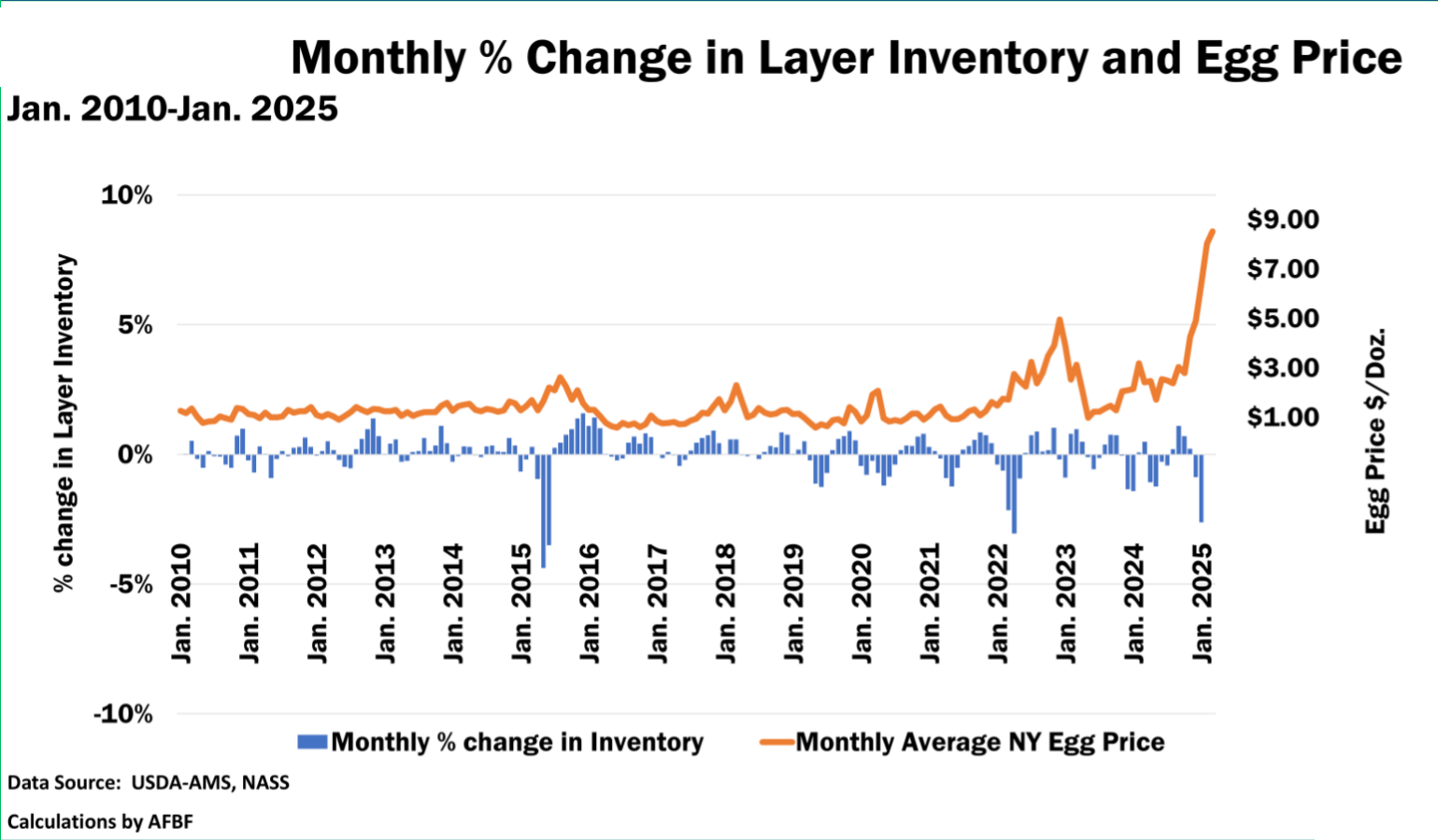


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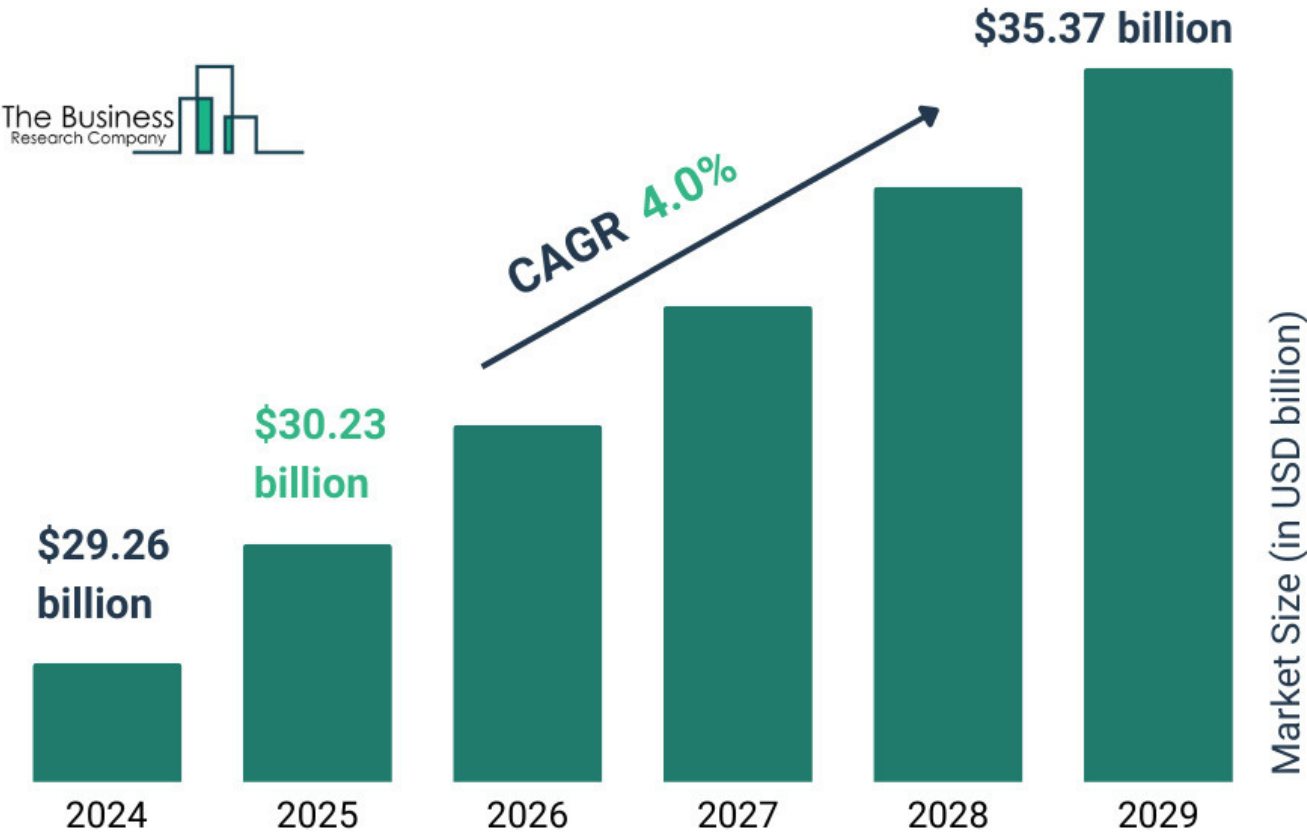
WHY CHICKENS STOP LAYING EGGS



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Egg Processing Global Market Report 2025



THANK you...