END OF WEEK SIX

MANAGEMENT UPDATES

Now that your chicks are 6 weeks old it should no longer require supplemental heat. It is also no longer necessary to provide them with 24 hours of light. You should also switch to a grower diet.

IMPORTANCE OF LIGHT

Control of lighting is essential for year-round pullet and egg production. Duration of light, or day length, has a profound effect on development of sexual maturity in pullets (young female chickens). Increasing day length during the growing period (6-18 weeks of age) results in early maturity, with pullets starting to lay small eggs prior to 18 weeks of age, before their body size is adequate. Decreasing or constant day length will delay sexual maturity until adequate body size is achieved and pullets are placed in laying houses, and will prevent premature laying of small eggs.

In commercial operations, pullets are provided with 8 hours of continuous light per day until they are 18-20 weeks of age. At 18-20 weeks of age the hours of light are gradually increased (0.5 hours/week) until 14-16 hours per day are achieved. After that light duration is maintained constant. Pullets usually start egg production within 4 weeks of increasing the amount of light. Light during the laying period must never decrease, as this will cause egg production to stop. Control of artificial light is essential for year-round pullet and egg production. Without it, production would be seasonal due to annual variation in day length in countries not located near the equator.

Do you have a male or a female chicken?

Now that your chicks are 6 weeks old it should be easier to determine whether or not it is a pullet or a cockerel. Some of these differences between the sexes can become noticeable by about 6 weeks of age. The comb of the male will develop faster and the tail feathers will become longer.
FIND THE PARTS OF THE HEAD:

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