

ALEX SCHEMBRI'S TIPS FOR GOOD EGG PRODUCTION

Your chook's feed is most important, we use **SURE TO PLEASE** 16% protein layer pellets, ensure you keep a constant amount of this feed in front of them at all times, they should never run out of feed. Your birds will have less stress if you keep them on the same feed we have been feeding them, in fact this applies to all livestock.

Whilst feeding veggie scraps to your chooks may seem like a treat, it can unbalance their diet and reduce the number of eggs they lay. **Dried meal worms** are an excellent alternative treat for poultry, they're high in protein and amino acids. Feed in moderation and only give about 5 worms per day due to the worms high protein content.

Do not feed extra wheat or corn as this will unbalance the 16% protein, this is the most important factor for laying pullets. Scatter a **handful of scratch mix** on the ground daily to encourage the hens to scratch the litter over.

Clean water is a must and should constantly be available. Change their water often, especially when temperatures are hotter than usual. The **12-litre nipple drinker bucket** is the perfect waterer. It's designed to provide clean, easily accessible drinking water and it reduces the number of times you have to refill and clean their drinkers. Try dropping a bottle of frozen water in it in the hotter months to keep the water cool.

Poultry should be wormed about every three months, we use **KILVERM**. A good idea to help you remember when to treat for worms is to do it at the beginning of each season, spring, summer, autumn and winter. To ensure the birds drink the medicine, temporarily take their water away so they are thirsty enough to drink the medicine and never treat them on a hot day.

Mite and lice also need to be controlled, we use **PESTENE**. The birds, their perches and nesting boxes should be dusted with the powder. You can examine the birds for these pests by holding them upside down and examining their rear end. If either of the pests occurs and you have not noticed, one of the results will be no egg production. Use wooden perches with a 3" wide standing area x 2" deep. Use softwood shavings in your nesting boxes, not straw.

See photos and more info on our website <https://www.laymour.com/alexs-tips>

When you first buy your birds it's wise to keep them locked up for three to four days before letting them out, by doing this, they will always go back into their house on dusk but do try to remember to lock them back up because **Mr or Mrs Fox** are always on the lookout for a nice chicken dinner.

With good care and feeding, your birds will produce eggs for at least two years or longer. If you keep the birds for more than two years, you should look at the economics because the cost of their feed compared to the rate of their egg production may be too much. Also, a sign that you may need to replace your birds is when the shell quality deteriorates and becomes thin.

LAYMOUR'S birds are farmed under happy conditions,

so here's to happy hens and plenty of eggs!



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Mon to Fri 8:30am to 5:00pm
Sat 8:30am to 4:00pm

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