

Chapter Twenty Two

Poultry Husbandry

- This is a farm in which only birds are reared for sale or to be eaten. - Birds such as fowl, turkey, duck and guinea fowl are reared on this farm.

Starting the farm:

- When you are a beginner or a person who wants to start keeping birds, then you must start with a few birds. – If they do not die, then the number can be increased.

The housing systems:

- After going to buy or get your birds, the next thing that a farmer must consider or think of is where to keep them.
- If they are kept in a poor and a bad housing system, then a lot of them may die.

Kinds of housing systems:

- The housing systems used for the keeping of poultry are:
 - (i) The extensive system.
 - (ii) The semi- intensive system.
 - (iii) The intensive system.

(1) The extensive system:

- This is the cheapest type of housing system in poultry keeping.
- In this, the birds are allowed to move about looking for their own food and water.
- There are two types of the extensive system and these are:
 - (a) The free running system.
 - (b) The free – range system.

The free running system:

- In this, the birds are allowed to move freely about over a large area, around and far from the farmer's house. -
- The farmer builds small coops or houses for them, so that they can come and lay eggs in them or sleep in them during the night.

The free range - system:

- In this system, the fowls are kept in houses or coops but are allowed to move freely on a large grass run, which is fenced during the day.
- The grass run consists of a piece of land on which grass has been planted.

(2) The semi – intensive system:

- This is the type of housing system, in which the birds spend part of their time in buildings and part on fenced runs.

There are two types and these are:

- (a) The run system.
- (b) The movable fold unit system.

The run system:

- In this system, the fowls are kept in a permanent house which is surrounded by a fenced run.

The movable fold unit system:

- This is made up of a small or a portable house, to which a run has been attached or fixed.
- The portable house and the run can also be moved from one place to another.

(3) The intensive system:

- This is the system in which many birds are kept within a small area, and never allowed to go out.
- There are two types and these are:
 - (a) The deep litter system.
 - (b) The battery cage system.

The deep litter system:

- In this system, the birds are kept in a pen day and night.
- While the water trough is used to provide the birds with water, the feed trough is used to provide them with feed or food.
- Litter material such as grass or saw dust must be placed on the floor of the pen.

- This material will collect the droppings or the waste of the birds.
- litter material must be changed from time to time.
- house in which chicken are kept, can also be referred to as a pen.

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The battery cage system:

- This consists of a number of cages, in which the birds are kept.
- The number of birds placed within each cage depends on the size of the cage.

Poultry production:

- The types of poultry reared in Ghana include fowls, turkey and ducks.

The importance of poultry- keeping:

- People keep birds or poultry because:
 - (a) It provides people with work.
 - (b) It provides people with income or money.
 - (c) We eat the eggs of the birds.

Types of poultry:

- There are two types and these are:
 - (a) The exotic breed.
 - (b) The local breed.
- The exotic breed is from a foreign country, but the local breed is from this country.

Differences:

<u>Exotic Breed</u>	<u>Local Breed</u>
(1) They are large in size.	(1) They are small in size.
(2) They lay more eggs.	(2) They lay a few eggs.
(3) Their eggs are large in size.	(3) Their eggs are small in size.

Incubation:

- This is the time taken by a hen or an incubator to hatch out chicks.
- There are two types and these are:
 - (i) Natural incubation.
 - (ii) Artificial incubation.