



Hy-Line

Practical Tips for Managing Hy-Line Varieties

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Practical Tips

- * *Commercial W-36*
- * *Commercial W-98*
- * *Commercial Brown*



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Pullets

Invest in the pullet program.

No return from this time, but it's the foundation on which the next 1 or 2 years performance is built.



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Temperature

Starting day-old chicks:

<i>W-36</i>	88-92° F (31-33° C)
<i>W-98</i>	88-92° F (31-33° C)
<i>Brown</i>	95-99° F (35-37° C)





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Temperature

Reduce temperatures 5° F (2° C) per week until 70° F (21° C).

The first reduction in temperature of 2-3° F (1° C) needs to start by day 3 or 4.

Make the chicks comfortable.



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Relative Humidity

Starting day-old chicks:

<i>W-36</i>	35 - 60%
<i>W-98</i>	35 - 60%
<i>Brown</i>	35 - 60%





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Lights

Start all pullets with 20-22 hours of light the first week at 3 ftc (30 lux) intensity.



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Beak Trimming

<i>W-36</i>	1 time at 7-10 days of age
<i>W-98</i>	1 time at 7-10 days of age
<i>Brown</i>	1 time at 7-10 days of age



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Body Weight

Grow your pullets to meet or exceed early body weight (BW) targets.

This is the time when maximum bone growth occurs and allows the birds to get early egg weight.



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Body Weight

<i>W-36</i>	Exceed 13 week BW by .20 lbs (90 grams)
<i>W-98</i>	Meet the goal of 1000 grams at 12 weeks
<i>Brown</i>	Meet the goal of 1050 grams at 12 weeks



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Body Weight

Do not exceed target weight gains between 12 and 17 weeks for the *W-98* and *Brown*.

Maintain the extra .20 lbs (90 grams) from 12 to 17 weeks for the *W-36* if possible.



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Body Weight

12-17 weeks continued:

During this time, pullets will use excess calories to develop fat cells.

This will hurt layer efficiency at later ages as fat cells expand in times of caloric excess.



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Body Weight

Meal feeding the pullets and use of extra fiber in the diet between 12 and 17 weeks is recommended for the *W-98* and *Brown*.



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Prelay

2.50 to 2.75% calcium and not before 16 weeks of age.

Based on BW, light stimulation will also be taking place around this time.



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Pre-lay

As sexual maturity begins, the birds are able to take advantage of the extra calcium in the diet to increase bone density and ensure a reserve of calcium for egg production.

Due to birds coming into lay earlier, this time frame for pre-lay will be about 2 weeks.



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Housing

Before onset of production if possible to allow the birds a chance to adjust to the layer house.



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Housing

Age and Temperatures:

<i>W-36</i>	16 weeks of age – 65-70° F (18-21° C)
<i>W-98</i>	16 weeks of age – 70-75° F (18-21° C)
<i>Brown</i>	16 weeks of age – 75° F (21° C)





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Laying Ration

Formulate the laying ration to meet the calcium and phosphorus intake needs of all strains during peak egg production.

This will ensure a good calcium reserve is maintained throughout the lay cycle.



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Laying Ration

Calcium and phosphorus formulation changes may need to be increased if the flock's consumption during hot weather, or other stress, remains low for a 2-3 week period.



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Light Stimulation

Optimum time for light stimulation is by using body weights:

<i>W-36</i>	2.8-2.9 lbs (1270-1315 grams)
<i>W-98</i>	2.7-2.8 lbs (1230-1270 grams)
<i>Brown</i>	3.25 lbs (1475 grams) at 17+ wks





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Light Stimulation

Light intensities in the layer barn need to be higher than the pullet barns:

<i>W-36</i>	more than 1 ft candle (10 lux)
<i>W-98</i>	1 ft candle (10 lux)
<i>Brown</i>	1 ft candle (10 lux)



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Light Stimulation

The best performance of a flock is when light intensity in the darkest areas of a cage can meet the previous minimum ft candles (i.e. light uniformity).



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Egg Weight

Planning to control egg weight must begin prior to a desired goal.



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Egg Weight

If a 60.5 gram or 48 lb case weight is the goal, then starting at these case weights can help.

<i>W-36</i>	47-47.5 lbs (59.3 - 60 grams/egg)
<i>W-98</i>	46.5 lbs (58.5 gms/egg)
<i>Brown</i>	47-47.5 lbs (59.3 - 60 grams/egg)





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Egg Weight

Do everything to stimulate feed consumption early –
then adjust temperature and number of feedings to help stabilize consumption.



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Egg Weight

A good body weight (BW) monitoring program in conjunction with house temperatures of 80-85° F (27-30° C) can be used to maintain feed consumption and prevent excess egg weight (EW) late in lay.



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Body Weight

Adult body weights should not exceed:

<i>W-36</i>	3.5 lbs (1590 grams)
<i>W-98</i>	3.8 lbs (1725 grams)
<i>Brown</i>	4.6 lbs (2090 grams) – floor 4.3 lbs (1950 grams) – cage





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Body Weight

For the *W-98* and *Brown* – monitor body weight closely between housing and peak. Control during this time is essential to prevent birds from becoming too heavy.

Diet changes with lower energy during this time may be used if excess weight gains are experienced.



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Body Weight

For the *W-36* – make sure the birds are maintaining or gaining is essential to prevent the birds from running out of energy.

Diet changes with higher energy during this time may be used to ensure BW is maintained and weekly gains made.



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Feed Intake

Consumption at:

<i>W-36</i>	22 lbs (100 grams)
<i>W-98</i>	22-22.5 lbs (100-103 grams)
<i>Brown</i>	24 lbs (110 grams)





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Feed Intake

To help hold consumption at the previous levels, house temperature of 80-85° F (27-30° C) can be used if good air quality can be maintained.



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Feed Intake

Controlling feed consumption while making sure all birds are getting feed.

W-98 and *Brown* – may remove the feeding around 12:00 pm and with the *W-36* to help stimulate consumption we may add a feeding for one hour at 12:00 am.



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Conclusion

Monitor body weight closely.

Maintain a balance between egg mass, controlling egg size and body weight and optimizing efficiency.



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