

Quail Farming

Dr. C.G. Apsinge
Reader

Advantages of quail farming

- Requires minimum floor space
- Needs low investment
- Quails are comparatively sturdy birds
- Can be marketed at an early age ie. five weeks
- Early sexual maturity - starts laying eggs in about six to seven weeks of age
- High rate of egg laying -280 eggs per year
- Quail meat is tastier than chicken and has less fat content. It promotes body and brain development in children.
- Nutritionally, the quail eggs are on par with that of chicken eggs. Moreover, they contain less cholesterol.
- Quail meat and eggs are a nutritious diet for pregnant and nursing mothers.

State Level Training Centre, Pune

Housing

1. Deep litter system

6 quails can be reared in a sq.ft. of floor space.

After 2 weeks, Quails can be reared in cages. This will help to gain good body weight, as unnecessary wandering of animals is avoided.

2. Cage System

Quails in cage system of rearing

Age	Cage Size	No.of birds
First 2 weeks	3 x 2.5 x 1.5 ft.	100
3- 6 weeks	4 x 2 .5 x 1.5 ft.	50

- Each unit is about 6 feet in length and 1 foot in width, and subdivided into 6 subunits.
- To save space, the cages can be arranged upto 6 tiers high. There can be 4 to 5 cages in a row.
- The bottom of the cage is fixed with removable wooden plates to clean the bird droppings.

Long narrow feed troughs are placed in front of the cages. Water troughs are placed at the back of the cages.

Commercial egg layers are usually housed in colonies of 10-12 birds per cage. For breeding purposes, male quails are introduced in the cages in the ratio of 1 to 3 females.

Feed Management

Feed can be formulated as follows.

Feed Ingredients	Chick mash	Grower mash
	0-3 weeks	4-6 weeks
Maize	27	31
Sorghum	15	14
Deoiled Rice Bran	8	8
Groundnut Cake	17	17
Sunflower Cake	12.5	12.5
Soya meal	8	-
Fishmeal	10	10
Mineral Mixture	2.5	2.5
Shell grit	-	5

Feed material should be made of small particles

A 5 weeks old quail consumes about 500 gms of feed

Quails of 6 month old, consumes about 30-35 gms of feed per day.

Quails require about 400 gms feed for the production of 12 eggs.

Broiler starter mash can be used by adding 5 kg of oil cakes to 75 feed.

The particle size is reduced by grinding the feed for one more time.

Management of quail farm

- At the age of six weeks, female quails usually weigh 175-200 g and the males weigh about 125-150 g
- Female quails start laying eggs at 7 weeks of age and continue upto 22 weeks of age
- Usually egg laying happens during the evening time of the day
- The quail egg usually weighs about 9-10 g
- The breast of the male quail is usually narrow and covered with equally distributed brown and white feathers. But the female quail has a broad breast covered with brown feathers with black dots.
- The female and male quails should be separated at the age of four weeks
- Sixteen hours of light per day should be available to the egg laying quails

Management of quail chicks

The day old quail chicks usually weigh 8-10 g. Hence, the quail chicks need more temperature. Absence of adequate temperature and exposure to high speed cool wind leads to clustering of young ones, which results in high mortality.

Reproduction

Quails start laying their eggs at the age of 7th week. They attain 50% egg production at 8th week of age

In order to produce fertile eggs, the male quails should be reared along with the females at 8-10 weeks of age

The male, female ratio is 1:5

Incubation period in quails is 18 days

With 500 female quails we can produce 1500 quail chicks per week

Diseases of quails

When there is deficiency of vitamins and minerals in the female quail breeders, the chicks obtained from their fertile eggs are usually lean with weak legs. To prevent this the breeder females should be provided with optimum minerals and vitamins in their feed

Generally quails are resistant to infectious diseases than chicken. So there is no vaccination required for quails

Proper management of quail chicks, disinfecting farm premises, providing clean drinking water to quails and feeding of quality concentrate feed will prevent disease outbreaks in quail farms

Quail meat

Dressed quail meat weighs 70-73% weight of live quail. Hundred grams of quail meat is usually obtained from a quail weighing 140 g

Challenges in quail rearing

Male quails usually make a different sound which is usually disturbing to the human

When rearing the male and female quails together, the male quails peck the other quails and make them blind. At times, death of the quails are also noticed.

Model Bankable Projects Quail

OBJECTIVE - TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO BENEFICIARIES WITH TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE WHO ARE WILLING TO TAKE UP PRODUCTION OF QUAILS FOR MEAT PURPOSE IN THE VICINITY OF THE URBAN AREAS.

ADVANTAGES - **ECONOMIC UTILISATION OF SPACE - 10 BIRDS/SFT.**

- 1) SHORT GENERATION INTERVAL (3-4 GENERATIONS IN A YEAR)
- 2) FAST GROWING BIRD - CAN BE SOLD AT 5 WEEKS
- 3) CAN BE USED AS READY TO COOK MEAT, PICKLED MEAT AND TANDOOR QUAIL
- 1) START PRODUCING EGGS AT 6-7 WEEKS OF AGE AND CONTINUE TO GIVE HIGH EGG PRODUCTION UPTO 24 WEEKS OF AGE (90 EGGS/BIRD)
- 2) EGG SIZE IS 10 GM. AND CAN BE USED AS BOILED EGG OR EGG PICKLE
- 3) FEED CONSUMPTION IS LOW
- 4) WEIGHT OF BROILER BIRD IS 110 GM AND OF LAYER 130 GM

SOURCE OF CHICKS - UAS, BANGALORE; CARI, IZATNAGAR; CPBF, CHANDIGARH AND MUMBAI

PROJECT COMPONENTS - SHEDS, CAGES, HATCHERY BUILDING, PROCESSING AND DRESSING ROOM, SETTERS AND HATCHERS, COOLER FOR EGG ROOM, DEEP FREEZER, MI STRUCTURE, WORKING CAPITAL

UNIT SIZE -
BREEDER UNIT - 400 FEMALES + 200 MALES

REARING UNIT - 1000 BIRDS/BATCH/WEEK

UNIT COST/BANK LOAN - RS. 4.00 LAKHS/RS. 3.0 LAKHS

REPAYMENT PERIOD - GRADED INSTALMENTS OVER A PERIOD OF SIX YEARS. NO GRACE PERIOD

IMPLEMENTATION - MAHARASHTRA, KERALA, TAMIL NADU, CHANDIGARH CALCUTTA, BOMBAY & HYDERABAD ARE ALSO POTENTIAL PLACES FOR THE SCHEME