

Capon Production

Capons are produced by caponizing (surgically castrating) young male chickens and following a special program of management and feeding. Contrary to other types of poultry raising programs, capons should not be force fed for fast growth and low feed conversion. A program of controlled feeding of a high fiber ration is designed to grow a large frame and develop the legs of capons before fattening them. This feeding method will help prevent breast blisters and will produce more market Grade A's.

The feeding program for capons is a three stage program. The starter (0 - 4 wk.) gives fast growth and high livability. The starter is similar to that used in raising broilers. The developer diet (4 - 13 wk.) is high in fiber. This will produce excellent skeletal growth without excess carcass fat. The finisher diet (13 wk. - mkt.) will put an excellent finish on the capons.

Capons are marketed at 9.0 - 9.5 lbs. at about 17 - 18 wks. of age. Feed restriction is a common practice in raising capons between 7 and 14 weeks of age. Restricted feeding will improve feed efficiency and the number of Grade A buds in the flock.

Suggested Feeding Program - Full Feeding		
Weeks	Feeding Directions	Suggested Ration
0 - 4	Full Fed	1140 Corn 700 Soybean Meal, 44% 100 Meat & Bone Meal 30 FM Poultry 25 Amprol Plus Mixer 6 Salt <hr/> 2001
5 - 13	Full Fed	900 Oats 600 Corn 340 Soybean Meal, 44% 100 Meat & Bone Meal 30 FM Poultry 25 Amprol Plus Mixer 6 Salt <hr/> 2001
14 - Mkt.	Full Fed	1495 Corn 370 Soybean Meal, 44% 100 Meat & Bone Meal 30 FM Poultry 6 Salt <hr/> 2001



Suggested Feeding Program - Restricted Feeding

Weeks	Feeding Directions	Suggested Ration
0 - 4	Full Fed	1140 Corn 700 Soybean Meal, 44% 100 Meat & Bone Meal 30 FM Poultry 25 Amprol Plus Mixer 6 Salt <hr/> 2001
5 - 6	Full Fed	970 Corn 500 Oats 340 Soybean Meal, 44% 100 Meat & Bone Meal 30 FM Poultry 25 Amprol Plus Mixer 6 Salt <hr/> 2001
7	22 lb./day/100 birds	
8 - 10	25 lb./day/100 birds	
11	26 lb./day/100 birds	
12	28 lb./day/100 birds	
13	30 lb./day/100 birds	
14	30 lb./day/100 birds	1495 Corn
15-Mkt.	Gradually step up to full feeding level during the 15th week, then full feed to market	370 Soybean Meal, 44% 100 Meat & Bone Meal 30 FM Poultry 6 Salt <hr/> 2001

Caponizing (3 - 4 wks. of age)

A. Before Caponizing

- Three or four days before caponizing start adding soluble antibiotic and 2 teaspoons soluble vitamin K per 5 gallons of drinking water. Continue until caponizing time
- Remove all feed from birds for at least one day before caponizing, but continue with the medicated water until the evening before caponizing. Then also remove the water
- Check birds closely for any signs of colds or sickness. **SICK BIRDS CANNOT BE CAPONIZED**



Day of Caponizing

- No feed or water until after birds have been caponized
- After caponizing, give birds medicated water of antibiotics, vitamins, and electrolytes
- Make a wet mash of starter feed and medicated water. Scatter small amounts of wet mash frequently to keep birds moving around. Keeping birds active will prevent lameness and wind-puffs and chicks will recover quicker from shock and stress caponizing
- Keep lights on during the night of caponizing plus 1 or 2 extra nights to keep birds active
- Be sure to keep the birds warm during and after caponizing

Day following Caponizing

- Put chicks back on regular feed
- Continue with vitamins in water for the next 2 days

Management Suggestions

- Allow capons 2 inches of feeder space through 6 weeks of age and 3 inches from then to market. With restricted feed it is especially important to have ample space
- Worm capons at 7 and 12 weeks
- Begin feeding grit the sixth week. Feed 1 lb. per 100 birds per week. Feed all the weekly allowance on 1 day. Grit may be scattered in the litter or self fed from hanging feeders
- Vaccinating chicks for Newcastle, Infection Bronchitis or coccidiosis is not recommended. If you plan to vaccinate, wait until chicks have recovered from caponizing

Approximate Feed Requirements

Period: (weeks)	0 - 4	5 - 13	14 - Mkt.	0 - Mkt.
Full Feed	3.0	20	13.0	36
Restricted	3.0	16	12.5	31.5

