



Agriculture & Rural Development

Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



"Together we move North West Province forward"

www.nwpg.gov.za

Agricentre Building: Cnr Dr. James Moroka Drive & Stadium Road . Private Bag X 2039, Mmabatho, 2735 . Tel: +27 (0)18 389 5111

Management of Layers

By

Sello Lephale

Information day

07 December 2021



**Agriculture &
Rural Development**
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



WE BELONG



WE CARE



WE SERVE



“Together we move North West Province forward”

www.nwpg.gov.za

Introduction

The following questions require answers as part of the market survey:

- Where is the market ? Who are the consumers ?
- What is the price ?
- Is all the market information available ?
- Who is going to run the business ?



**Agriculture &
Rural Development**
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



"Together we move North West Province forward"

Point of lay hens

Popular imported layer lines available in South Africa are the following:

- Hy – line (USA)
- Lohman (Germany)
- Amberlink (USA)



**Agriculture &
Rural Development**
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



WE BELONG



WE CARE



WE SERVE



“Together we move North West Province forward”

www.nwpg.gov.za

Point of lay cont

- ❑ The best option is to purchase hens at point of lay.
- ❑ Small farmers find it difficult to compete with commercial suppliers in selling eggs in open market.
- ❑ Farmers should sell their product as fresh as possible in the shortest period of time. Value adding.



**Agriculture &
Rural Development**
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



"Together we move North West Province forward"

www.nwpg.gov.za



Pure bred lines – dual purpose

- ❑ Locally in S.A old breeds such as Australop, Rhode Island Red, New Hampshire and Potch Koekoek are available and sold as dual purpose.
- ❑ These breeds will do well in semi intensive system with reasonable production but can not match commercial layer or broiler lines.



**Agriculture &
Rural Development**
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



“Together we move North West Province forward”

www.nwpg.gov.za



Feeding

- ❑ Feed costs is 70% of the production costs of eggs.
- ❑ It means that if it costs R1.00 to produce six eggs the cost of feed alone amounts to 70 cents, all other expenses such as electricity, vaccines salaries of staff is only 30 cents.
- ❑ Feed wastage is a factor.



**Agriculture &
Rural Development**
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



"Together we move North West Province forward"

www.nwpg.gov.za

Feeding cont . . .

- ❑ To lay well, hens must get the best possible feed.
- ❑ They need plenty of calcium to lay eggs with hard, strong shells.
- ❑ It is best to buy a good commercial feed such as laying mash or pellets.
- ❑ The mash is specially formulated to provide all the nutrients that hens requires in the correct quantities.



**Agriculture
Rural Development**
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



"Together we move North West Province forward"

www.nwpg.gov.za



Feed Suppliers

- ❑ Feed is the single most expensive item on the list of expenses of any poultry producer.
- ❑ The small poultry farmers are confronted with the problem of purchasing small quantities of feed at inflated prices.
- ❑ The problem of inflated prices can be eliminated by groups of small farmers (co operatives).



**Agriculture &
Rural Development**
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



"Together we move North West Province forward"

Feed supplier cont . . .

- ❑ By buying feed in bulk at discounted prices from suppliers and redistributing it within their own ranks.
- ❑ The formation of co – operatives can play an important role in the distribution of feed to its members.



**Agriculture &
Rural Development**
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



WE BELONG



WE CARE



WE SERVE

“Together we move North West Province forward”

www.nwpg.gov.za



Record keeping

❖ Just as in any business enterprise it is essential that a poultry farmer maintains records of all activities for the following reasons :

- ❑ Compare existing flocks with previous flocks as well as advanced planning.
- ❑ To identify and rectify management problem areas.
- ❑ To increase production efficiency and profits.



**Agriculture &
Rural Development**
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



"Together we move North West Province forward"

www.nwpg.gov.za



Record cont

- Records must be complete.
- They must be accurately maintained.
- Only essential records should be kept.
- Records should be plain and clear.
- They must be kept over a full period.
- Dates and times of records must be clearly

indicated



**Agriculture &
Rural Development**
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



"Together we move North West Province forward"

www.nwpg.gov.za

Type of records

Four main groups of records are vital i.e

a) Growth records

❖ Financial growth records

❖ Management growth records

b) Egg production records

❖ Financial egg production

❖ Management egg production records.



**Agriculture &
Rural Development**
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



WE BELONG



WE CARE



WE SERVE



"Together we move North West Province forward"

www.nwpg.gov.za

Records

Good records will contain the following

- Egg production.
- Mortalities.
- Culling.
- Feed consumption and feed costs.
- Production costs and income per dozen.

➤ Profit per hen.



**Agriculture &
Rural Development**
Department of
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



"Together we move North West Province forward"

Lighting

- ❑ The supply of light is one of the most powerful tools to ensure constant level of production.
- ❑ By supplying light to keep the day length constant its will be possible to have hens maintaining level of egg production regardless of the time of the year.
- ❑ Layers should never be exposed to a declining light pattern or variation in light period during production.



**Agriculture &
Rural Development**
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



"Together we move North West Province forward"

www.nwpg.gov.za

Lighting cont . . .

- ❑ The supply of light is one of the most powerful tools to ensure constant level of production.
- ❑ By supplying light to keep the day length constant its will be possible to have hens maintaining level of egg production regardless of the time of the year.
- ❑ Layers should never be exposed to a declining light pattern or variation in light period during production.



Agriculture &
Rural Development
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



"Together we move North West Province forward"

www.nwpg.gov.za

The Importance of egg quality

- ❑ Egg quality is reflected by consumer satisfaction.
- ❑ Eggs can be separated into four grades: Grade 1, 2, 3 and Undergradable (mixed).
- ❑ The requirements of each grade are as follows :

1. Grade 1

➤ No cracks may appear on the egg shells.

➤ The eggs must be clean at all times.



**Agriculture &
Rural Development**
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



"Together we move North West Province forward"

The Importance of egg quality cont . . .

- The egg shells must be uniform and strong.
- No blood, blood spots, blood rings, moldiness may be present in the egg.
- The egg yolk should have a fine colour without any spots and should not be flat or enlarged.
- The albumen (white of the egg) should be clear and

firm



**Agriculture &
Rural Development**
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



"Together we move North West Province forward"

Egg standards

Size	Minimum mass per egg (grams)
Jumbo	Morethan 66 g
Extra Large	Morethan 59 g
Large	Morethan 51 g
Medium	Morethan 43g
Small	Morethan 33 g



**Agriculture &
Rural Development**
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



WE BELONG



WE CARE



WE SERVE

“Together we move North West Province forward”

www.nwpg.gov.za



Layer record sheet

Batch no: Hatch date: No at beg of per:

Starting no at pullets :

Feed given (bags)								
Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Week 1								
Week 2								
Week 3								
Week 4								
Total								



**Agriculture &
Rural Development**
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



“Together we move North West Province forward”

www.nwpg.gov.za

Death and culls

Death and Culls

Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Week 1								
Week 2								
Week 3								
Week 4								
Total								



**Agriculture &
Rural Development**
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



WE BELONG



WE CARE



WE SERVE



"Together we move North West Province forward"

www.nwpg.gov.za

Eggs laid

Eggs laid								
Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Week 1								
Week 2								
Week 3								
Week 4								
Total								
Mortality _____ % Feed Intake _____ g/h/day								
ROL _____ Remarks _____								



**Agriculture &
Rural Development**
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



WE BELONG



WE CARE

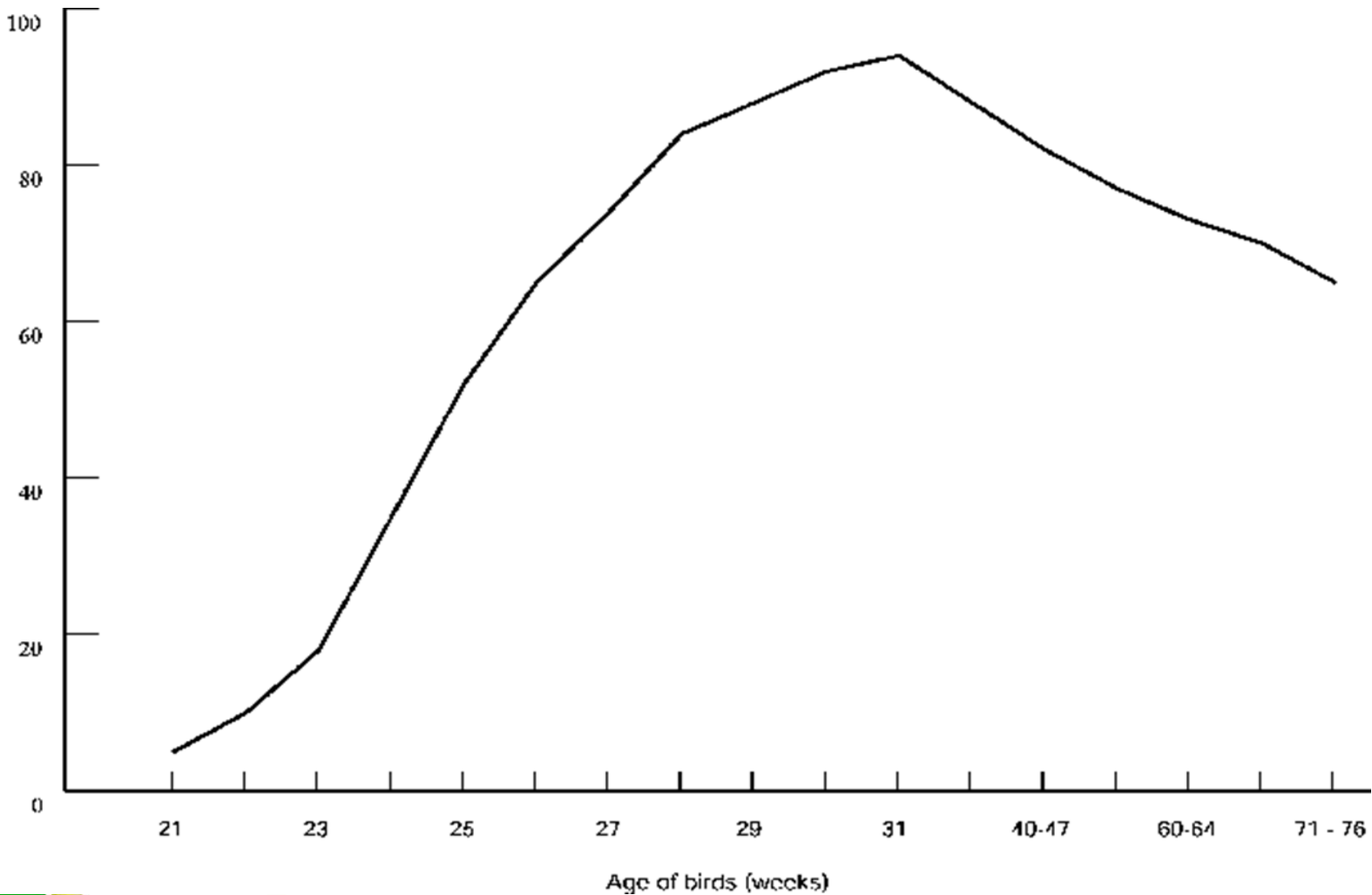


WE SERVE



“Together we move North West Province forward”

www.nwpg.gov.za



**Agriculture &
Rural Development**

Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



“Together we move North West Province forward”

www.nwpg.gov.za

Importance of Bio security

- ❑ The importance of bio security is to prevent contact between layers and diseases causing organisms.
- ❑ People are the main transporters of diseases.
- ❑ It is important not to allow visitors into poultry houses before they have gone through a shower and changed into clean clothes.



**Agriculture &
Rural Development**
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



“Together we move North West Province forward”

www.nwpg.gov.za



Importance of Bio security

- ❑ Wild birds are carriers of viruses that causes new castle diseases.
- ❑ Rats and mice are carriers of bacterium known as *salmonella enteritidis* and eggs that are contaminated with those organisms are not allowed to be marketed.
- ❑ Disposal of dead birds should be done in a proper manner. Dead birds harbour viruses and bacteria.



**Agriculture &
Rural Development**
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

WE BELONG WE CARE WE SERVE



"Together we move North West Province forward"

www.nwpg.gov.za

Prevention of diseases

- ❑ Prevention is better than cure.
- ❑ The daily inspection of laying hens is imperative.
- ❑ The experience manager will, the moment he /she enters the laying house know immediately whether hens are healthy or not.
- ❑ Poultry farmers have to cope with a variety of

diseases.



**Agriculture &
Rural Development**
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



"Together we move North West Province forward"

www.nwpg.gov.za



Prevention of diseases cont . .

- ❑ There are good vaccines available for most of important diseases.
- ❑ For the best results, the vaccines must be used strictly according to the directions.



**Agriculture &
Rural Development**
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



WE BELONG



WE CARE



WE SERVE

“Together we move North West Province forward”

www.nwpg.gov.za



Conclusion

- ❑ Keeping farm records is one of the most neglected activities in the farm management.
- ❑ Farmers consider record keeping as time consuming therefore they often ignore this practice.
- ❑ Keep track of what is happening in farm is one of the most important aspects in order to improve welfare and farm management.



**Agriculture &
Rural Development**
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



“Together we move North West Province forward”

www.nwpg.gov.za

**NB.
EVERY
SUCCESSFUL
FARMER
KEEPS
RECORDS**



**Agriculture &
Rural Development**
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



WE BELONG



WE CARE



WE SERVE



“Together we move North West Province forward”

www.nwpg.gov.za

Thank you



Agriculture & Rural Development

Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



WE BELONG



WE CARE



WE SERVE



“Together we move North West Province forward”

www.nwpg.gov.za