

Guide:

The guide below is intended to assist you in your rearing techniques and does not guarantee the survival of purchased birds. There are way too many factors that can affect having a successful rate of raising pheasants and some that are just simply out of anyone's control. The guide below is the sole opinion and techniques in which SHPF uses, but other options may be available when raising pheasants. We use what works best on our farm and can be altered to fit customer's needs at any time.

If you have raised chickens before and approach raising pheasants the same way we recommend you read this as well and adjust accordingly.

Some common question/concerns we receive for raising pheasant chicks:

Heat Source: Day old chicks should be at 95 Degrees and the temp should be dropped 5 degrees every week after until acclimated to current temp or 6 weeks of age. We use both red bulbs (250W) and White Bulbs (125W) pending the time of year.

Piling: When pheasant chicks are cold they will be piled for warmth. Pending how cold they are, the ones on the bottom sometimes forget to come up for air. Also round the corners of your brooders as chicks will pile in these areas most.

Ventilation: Just like humans' fresh air is always nice, the pheasants feel the same way. Don't use direct fans on them. Drafts will cause them to get cold then you have the piling issue.

Stress: Birds can get stressed out and die for reasons we can't explain. When purchasing whatever you are expecting to have by full maturity (20 weeks) we recommend purchasing 10% more. There are way too many factors that can affect the survival of these birds and 5 months is a long time!

Space Per Bird: 1 Day to 2 Weeks .25 Sqft 3 to 6 Weeks 1 Sqft
6 to 12 Weeks 4 Sqft 12 to 20 Week 10-20 Sqft

Food: We use 28% protein gamebird feed for the first six weeks after that week drop to 20% protein. Protein percentages may vary per supplier. We also use medicated feed but that is what we prefer. Check your local feed mill or farm supply retailer for available options. Oh, and stay away from chicken feed, pheasant are wild birds!

Water: Fresh water every day is a must! Sometimes twice a day! Disinfect waters at least every other day.

Bedding: Traction is key for stable footing. To prevent broken legs or choking hazards stay away from saw dust, pine shavings, cardboard and newspaper!!! We use straw from day one!! Change every week or two as poo-balls can form on their feet.

Cannibalism: Low protein in feed can cause pecking to be a concern. Being over-crowded and not having air circulation can also be a problem. At 5-7 weeks of age you want to use blinders to minimize this issue. You can also use a head of lettuce or apples to keep them occupied as pheasants get bored!

Shipments: We only ship chicks from the middle of May to the end of June. We maximize survival rates when temps aren't too cold or hot. Birds are shipped within 24 hours from hatching and can last up to

72 hours without food or water. Make sure your brooder is ready and warm before bringing them home. Dip each chick's beak in water as they will be thirsty from their journey.

Disappearance: At about 8-9 days old pheasants can jump knee high causing escape from their brooding area. Covers on top of brooding area is crucial in making sure they stay in their area. We are not fans of the cardboard brooder guard unless they are at least 36 inches high!

Outside Pens: At 6-8 weeks birds can be placed in outside pens. Make sure there is no rain in the forecast for three days before putting them outside. They have to get acclimated to outside conditions and a rain storm can destroy your hard work. When your pheasants are outside you also want good security to keep the birds in and predators out! Pens can get expensive but going the cheap route may sound good at the time but don't underestimate wild animals. If predators are hungry enough they will find a way!

For tips on building outside pens feel free to contact us.