



PRACTICAL BROILER PRODUCTION

This hands-on 5-day course is aimed at those who have just started farming with broilers on a small-scale or small commercial level, or those who have been growing broilers for some time but need reinforcement in the practical component.

Just under half the time is spent in the classroom with English- and Zulu-speaking facilitators. The simple notes are in English but the facilitators will be able to translate where necessary. Each day the theory is interspersed with practical sessions on the training farm, where delegates will work in groups to complete specific tasks using checklists. They will be assessed on their ability to perform the routine farm tasks. Delegates will also write simple multiple-choice tests during the week to evaluate their understanding.

The topics covered include:

1. Introduction to the broiler industry
2. Cleaning the broiler house (followed by an on-farm demonstration by Avipharm)
3. Brooding chicks
4. Bird health
5. Biosecurity
6. Feeding the birds
7. Water supply
8. House design
9. Managing the environment
10. Record keeping

The practical checklists cover the following procedures:

1. Preparing the house for broiler chicks
2. Placing and brooding broiler chicks
3. Observing bird health
4. Blood sampling
5. Vaccine in drinking water
6. Weighing broiler chicks
7. Managing the broilers and their environment