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DUCK MANAGEMENT AND DISEASE PREVENTION



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Under
ICAR-NRC on Yak, Dirang, West Kameng
Arunachal Pradesh

Duck is a water loving bird reared by the farmer since century under traditional system with local low productive non-descript breed. Ducks have ability to lay more egg, larger egg, require lesser attention and thrive well in scavenging conditions, eat fallen grains in paddy fields, insects, snails, earthworms, small fishes and other aquatic materials, stand hardy against common diseases without any elaborate housing. Under present climatic and geographical condition, duck have great potential of income generation at minimum investment. Therefore, there is an urgent need to aware the rural farmers of Namsai district about duck farming, so that farmers can enhance their income generation and livelihood under existing condition.

Improved Duck breed:

Under scientific system the performances of ducks have been characterized based on their type. Duck breed have been divided in two categories. Based on the market demand, farmers can select breed.

Egg type breed	Meat type breed
1. Khaki Campbell 2. Nageswari, 3. Indian Runner, 4. Chara Chemballi	1. Pekin, 2. China duck, 3. Maskovi, 4. Ruel Kagua

- ‘Khaki Campbell’, among the egg laying breeds, is the best producer. Laying capacity 240 to 280 egg/bird/year. Khaki Campbell ducks weigh about 2 to 2.2 Kg, and drakes 2.2 to 2.4 Kg. Egg size varies from 65 to 75 gms (photo on front cover page).
- ‘White Pekin’ is the most popular duck in the world known for table purpose. It attains about 2.2 to 2.5 Kg of body weight in 42 days of age, with a feed conversion ratio of 1:2.3 to 2.7 Kg

Scientific Management:

Incubation: Incubation period in duck is 28 days higher than chicken. To start duck farm, disease free duckling should be purchased from reliable source or Govt. agency.

Source of duckling availability:

- Duck Nursery Project, Gela Pokhari, Tinsukia, Assam
- Govt. Duck Farms Joysagar, Sivasagar, Assam
- State Central Duck Breeding Farm, Kaliabor, Nagaon, Assam

Brooding (0-4 Weeks)

The brooding period (0-4 weeks) is very critical for duckling and highest mortality may observed, if proper care not taken. 1 sq. meter area for 100 ducklings or 100

sq. cms. per ducklings is sufficient for brooding. A temperature of 29 to 32°C (85 to 90°F) is maintained during the first week. It is reduced by about 3°C per week till it reaches 24°C (75°F) at the end of fourth week. If temperature is higher than the recommended level, air circulation should be increased. In case of winter, a 60 watt bulb at 1-1.5 meter height from the ground level is enough to maintain the required temperature.



Feed may be sprinkled or provided in the trays for encouraging the new born ducklings to pick up feed. From day two onwards ad libitum feed is provided in trough type of feeders. As the duckling grows bigger suitable feeders are used. Water in the drinkers should be offer frequently, 5 to 7.5 cm (2 to 3”) deep just sufficient to drink and not dip themselves. Try to keep duckling dry.

Housing:

As stated above duck do not require any elaborate housing, depending on rearing system. intensive, semi-intensive or range system, a house can be made with locally available resources like bombu, toku patta etc. Under intensive system, allow a floor space of 3 sq.ft.per bird. Under semi-intensive system, a floor space of 2-2.5 sq.ft area per bird is allowed as night shelter. Under semi intensive system duckling should allowed to access the field at the age of 4 weeks.



Feeding: (5-16 Weeks):

Supplementary feeding is essential for better results. Bird allowed to field should also be supplemented with concentrate feed at least half dose of recommended feed. The concentrate feed may be purchased or formulate with local feed ingredients. The feed should contain 16% protein for layer bird and 20% protein for broiler finisher bird. starter ration (0-8weeks) & grower ration should contain 22-24& 20% protein respectively.

Feed ingredients for 10 kg feeds (Adult bird):

maize-4 kg, Rice Polish-3kg, Mustard Cake- 1kg, Min mix- 350g, Salt- 250g, Vita mix- 250, Antibiotics-75g, Coccidiostate-75g. All ingredients should be free from

alfatoxin. Feed bird morning and late afternoon.

Disease management: Duck plague:

Virus disease infected birds are sluggish, have ruffled feathers and greenish-yellow diarrhea that are sometimes stained with blood. Vaccination and disease free stock is only treatment for duck plague. Duckling should be vaccinated at 8 to 12 weeks age.

Duck cholera:

The symptoms associated with diarrhea, mucous discharges and loss of appetite. Vaccination at 4 and 18 weeks of age and disease stock should be supplemented Neodox-forte powder along with liver tonic and vitamin mixture under the guidance of veterinarian .

Name of the Vaccine	Dose	Route	Age
Duck Cholera (Pasteurellosis)	Duckling: 1ml Adults: 2 ml	Subcutaneous	3-4 weeks After 1 month of last vaccination
Duck plague	Adults	Subcutaneous	8-12 weeks

Purchasing disease free stock, sanitation, mineral & vitamin supplementation, periodic used of coccidiostate, deworming and following schedule vaccination are the important steps for prevention of diseases.

Common Medication for Duck:

Electral: 10g/ltr water at the time of arrival of duckling

Stresroak: 20g/ltr water at the time of arrival and one in every week.

Vimeral: 5ml/ltr water 5 day continuously every month.

Amprolium (Anticoccidiostate): 1g/ltr water in normal bird start at 3 weeks of age continued 5-7 days and repeat every 2 month. In case of disease 2-5g/ltr water.

ISD powder (dewormer): 15g/100birds, start at 3 weeks of age, continued 5-7 days and repeat every 2 month.

Tetracycline: 5g/ltr water for 5-7 days in case of diarrhea.

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