

FEEDING MANAGEMENT

The major cause of failure in quail raising is the faulty practice employed by the raiser. The use of chicken feeds in quail raising is not advisable because quail cannot survive on chicken feeds for a long time. Below is a comparison requirements of crude protein of quail and chicken.

Stages	Quail	Chicken
Chick stage	28%	21%
Grower stage	24%	16%
Layer stage	26%	15%

MAINTAINING HEALTH

There is no known morbid disease of quails. While they suffer some respiratory disorders, these do not spread fast and the mortality rate is very low. The following can be considered in maintaining the health of the quails:

1. Regular cleaning and disinfecting cages and broiler boxes.
2. Adding vitamin premix to the feeds or water to promote growth and improve quail's performance.

MARKETING THE QUAIL

Broilers/Skewers

Quails have a feed conversion ratio of 3:1, making broiler production uneconomical. Birds are bled and scaled in hot water at 132-135°F, then eviscerated.

Eggs

Quail eggs are the main product. Store eggs in a cool, dry place with good air circulation for freshness for up to seven (7) days.

Prices

Broilers are more tender than skewers (culled layers) and are sold at a higher price. The selling price should be based on the cost of production from day-old to sixty (60) days, plus dressing, storage, and related selling costs.

Sources of Technology:

Department of Agriculture
LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
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QUAIL RAISING



Photo Source: Jeanette L.



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QUAIL RAISING

Quails are small birds originating from Europe, Asia and Africa and are classified as "game" or "hunting" birds. The common quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) and Japanese quail (*Coturnix japonica*) are among the most active, restless, and popular breeds.

Breeds of Quails

- Japanese Seattle
- Silver
- Negro
- Japanese Taiwan
- Tuxedo
- Brown Crosses nos. 1 and 2

STARTING THE PROJECT

Selection of Stock (Body Conformation)

The feathers should be tidy and neat, and avoid buying those with a streak of white or black feathers - these could be signs of inbreeding.

Size of the Flock

The size of the initial stock depends on the financial capacity of the person. Quails are not easy to raise and a beginner should first get the necessary experience prior to a large scale. A beginner can start with 10-15 pullets.

QUAIL MANAGEMENT

Housing and Equipment

One advantage of raising quail is that they require relatively small space, which makes the cost of setting up a cage cheaper. The materials commonly used in making quail cages are:

1. Plywood
2. ½ inch mesh wire
3. 1"x1" lumber to serve as a framework

Space needs change throughout a quail's life. The table below will serve as guide of the raisers to determine the space required for quails.

Stages	Japanese (per bird)	American (per bird)
Chicken stage (1-15 day old)	2½" x 2½"	2½" x 1½"
Growing stage (16-35 days old)	3" x 3"	3½" x 3½"
Laying stage (36 days old & up)	3½" x 3½"	4½" x 4½"

Brooding Management (Temperature)

During the first five (5) days, quails need a temperature of 90°F, decreasing to 85°F by the 10th day as they develop feathers for regular room temperature. Air vents should be provided in the brooding box for better air circulation. A gas lamp or electric bulb can control the brooder temperature. The brooder box needs to be cat and rat proof.

Rearing Management

After the 15th day, birds are moved to the growing cages. During this stage, it is best to limit the birds' light exposure to 12 hours. By the 35th day, male birds can be identified by their dark brown breast feathers. Female birds can then be separated and moved to laying cages.

Layer Management

On average, quail start laying after 45 days from hatching. The production cycle lasts for 300-320 days and within this period, the laying efficiency should be maintained at 65%. Some of the major consideration when managing layers are:

1. Smaller quails require less food daily. An adult quail typically eats 20 to 30 grams of food daily. They also start laying eggs earlier than other poultry birds, and certain layer breeds may lay up to 300 eggs per year.
2. Quail needs a lot of fresh and clean water.
3. Massive culling is essential and can be done regularly, preferably on a quarterly basis or every four (4) months.
4. Get rid of Quail manure, which has a high ammonia content, which can make the birds uncomfortable if not removed daily.
5. Laying quails need to have additional light until midnight.
6. Avoid mixing male birds in the laying cage except when fertile eggs are needed.
7. Quails are very sensitive to high salt levels in the feeds. The maximum level of salt should be 7% and it should never exceed 1%.

