

## ***Turkey Brooding***

Brooding turkey poults can be a challenging task. Turkeys are highly sensitive and easily lost, if proper care isn't given during the brooding period. A few pointers may help you.

- Brood turkeys on a coarse litter or wire. The best litter seems to be pine wood shavings. **Don't** use fine bedding as the poults will eat the bedding and actually starve out. Hard wood shaving **should never** be used, do to causing eye and respiratory problems. **Never** brood on newspaper, cardboard or other slippery surfaces.
- Brooding temperature should be 99-100 degrees for the first week, week two should be 95-98 degrees, then decrease the temperature 5 degrees per week till you reach outside temperatures. Watch the poults behavior closely to pick up on brooder stress.
- We recommend putting a table spoon of dark molasses to a gallon of water for the first 3 to 5 days. After that vitamin and electrolytes can be added to fresh water.
- Turkey poults are very slow to learn to eat. We recommend **Fresh** turkey starter or turkey pre-starter. The fresh aroma of feed will help the poults find their feed. Marbles, metal washers, bolts, shiny change or other bright objects placed in the feed are beneficial in getting the inquisitive poults to eat. **Do Not** start turkeys on chick starter as the protein, fat and energy levels are too low to give the turkey the quick start it needs.

## ***Recommended Feeding Program***

Turkey Starter	Day 1 – Week 10
Turkey Grower	Week 11 – Within 10 days of Slaughter
Turkey Finisher	Last 10 days prior to slaughter