



## 5.2.2 Learning Outcome 2:

### Acquire Day-old Chicks



#### 5.2.2.1 Introduction to the Learning Outcome

In this learning outcome, you will learn how to source day-old chicks, transport day-old chicks and place day-old chicks in brooder unit.



#### 5.2.2.2 Performance Standard

- Day-old chicks are transported as per PPM and animal welfare guidelines.
- Placement of day-old chicks is done as per poultry production guidelines in the PPM.

#### Suggested Training Delivery

Training Activities	Training Delivery Methods and Description	Resources Required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transport day-old chicks.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Show the trainees a video on transportation of day-old chicks. Afterwards, ask the trainees to identify the features of the transportation vehicles.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Charts</li><li>• Marker pens</li><li>• Memory cards</li><li>• Projector</li><li>• Laptop/ computers</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Placement of day-old chicks.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Instruct trainees as they carry out placement of day-old chicks into a brooder.</li></ul>	

**Duration: 6 hours**



#### 5.2.2.3 Information Sheet

##### Acquiring day-old chicks

This involves sourcing day-old chicks from disease-free flocks that are well vaccinated, especially against Marek's diseases.

##### Transporting day-old chicks

Always transport day-old chicks with due regard to their welfare. It is strongly recommended that chicks are transported under the following conditions:

- Chicks should first be packed in plastic crates or carton boxes before being loaded onto transportation trucks.



*Figure 60: Day old chicks in transportation carton boxes*

- The crates or cages, as well as the trucks, should be disinfected and well ventilated.
- During transportation, avoid stopovers. In fact, look for the shortest route possible to your farm from the hatchery. Chicks should reach the farm within 24 hours and should not be delayed for more than 72 hours.
- Do not feed them during transit - chicks can survive for up to 72 hours without feeding.



(Source: the-star.co.ke)

*Figure 61: Well ventilated transportation truck for day-old chicks*



## Placing day-old chicks in brooder

Below is the procedure of placing day-old chicks into a brooder:

- Prepare to receive the chicks by having enough personnel on stand-by based on the number of chicks. Ensure that the personnel have disinfected their hands and donned required PPEs.
- Disinfect the brooder house before the chicks arrive based on farm practice.
- Pre heat the brooder ring at least 6 hours in readiness for chick placement.
- Inspect microclimate in the brooder before chicks arrive – refer to thermometer and hygrometer readings.
- Off-load chicks from transportation trucks and carry the crates to the brooder in an upright horizontal position.
- Unbox the packages and inspect chicks individually for defects as you pick them out.
- Healthy chicks should be put under the brooder hover while deformed ones should be euthanized. Weak chicks can be aided to drink water.
- Place healthy chicks in the brooder ring as quickly as possible. Do not throw the chicks into the brooder.
- Recount the number of chicks placed.



### Note:

- Always handle the chicks humanely.
- After placement, they should be observed for some minutes to be sure that they are in a state of comfort.



Figure 62: Placement of day-old chicks





