

info

Lighting for Commercial Turkeys

The following are examples of several commonly accepted lighting schedules.

1. Confinement Growing

TOMS					
Age in Days or Weeks	Hours of Lighting	Time of Lighting	Midnight Snack	Light Intensity	
				Foot Candle	Lux
Day 1	24			10	100
Day 2	23			10	100
Day 3-5	20	2:00am-10:00pm		10	100
Day 6-9	18	3:00am-9:00pm		8-10	80-100
9 days – 15 weeks	16	5:00am-8:00pm	1 hour	6-10	60-100
15-18 weeks	16-18	4:00am-8:00pm	1-2 hours	6-10	60-100

HENS					
Age in Days or Weeks	Hours of Lighting	Time of Lighting	Midnight Snack	Light Intensity	
				Foot Candle	Lux
Day 1	24			10	100
Day 2	23			10	100
Day 3-5	20	2:00am-10:00pm		10	100
Day 6-9	18	3:00am-9:00pm		8-10	80-100
9 days – 13 weeks	16	5:00am-8:00pm	1 hour	6-10	60-100
13-16 weeks	16-18	4:00am-8:00pm	1-2 hours	6-10	60-100

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2. Intermittent Lighting

Toms and Hens: 3 hours ON and 1 hour OFF for a total of 18 hours of light per day.

3. Open Sided Barns

For example: in an area where natural day length is 16 hours in summer and 10 hours in winter (ie: 7:00am – 5:00pm)

Toms and Hens:

- **Summer** - natural day length, plus 1 hour midnight snack = 17 hours
- **Winter** - 4:00am – 7:00am, artificial light
 - 7:00am – 5:00pm, natural light (keep lights on during the day if it is too dark)
 - 5:00pm – 8:00pm, artificial light
 - 12:00am – 1:00am, artificial light
- **Spring/Fall** - make adjustments as required

Note:

- Over-activity and cannibalism can sometimes be controlled by reducing light intensity
- If the intensity is too low, the birds will become lazy and sit down too much
- For heavy hens (birds kept beyond 18 weeks of age), long days can cause photo-stimulation and egg production

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