

# How Many Meat Birds Should You Raise?

*A Myers Poultry guide for choosing the right flock size for you.*

## MEAT NEEDS

How much chicken does your household eat in a year?

Will you raise all of your own chicken, or supplement as needed?

## BATCHES

Will you grow one large batch or stagger smaller batches throughout the season?

## LOGISTICS

If raising birds indoors, can you manage bedding, ventilation, and access as birds grow?

If raising birds in chicken tractors, does your schedule allow for regular movement of chicken tractors?

Can you realistically keep water available without constant refilling?

Will local or state regulations affect how many birds you can raise?

## SPACE

How many chicks can you comfortably brood at one time?

*Chicks need an average of 1½ sq. ft per bird up to 3 weeks of age.*

*One heat lamp can cover 50-100 chicks.*

Can your housing support that number as the birds grow?

*Crowding reduces growth and increases stress.*

*Many resources suggest 1.5 to 3 square feet per bird.*

## PROCESSING CAPACITY

How many birds can you realistically process in one day?

*Even with the right time-saving tools, one chicken can take around 15-30 minutes to process by yourself.*

## EXPERIENCE LEVEL

Many beginners opt for smaller batch (15-25 chicks) sizes when they're first starting out.

Scale up once your workflow is established.



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