

Turkey

Meleagris gallopavo · Meat breed

DIFFICULTY Moderate

TYPE Poultry, kept for seasonal meat
PRODUCTIVE LIFE Processed at 16–24 weeks



SPACE
0.3–0.5m²
shelter, large run
preferred



DIET
Turkey-specific
grower feed,
higher protein
than chicken
feed



WATER
Fresh daily, high
intake



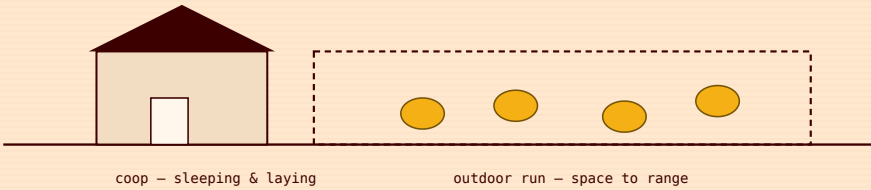
TEMPERAMENT
Docile but can be
flighty when
young



LIFESPAN
Kept typically
one season for
meat

01 More room than chickens

Turkeys grow considerably larger than chickens and need proportionally more space in both shelter and run to stay healthy and avoid injury from crowding.



02 Housing & setup

SHELTER	Sturdy, weatherproof shelter with roosts strong enough for a large bird.
FENCING	Secure, taller fencing — turkeys can fly reasonably well when young.
BEDDING	Deep litter, changed regularly.

03 Daily care

- Feed a turkey-specific grower ration — chicken feed alone isn't sufficiently high in protein.
- Provide ample space to reduce pecking and injury.
- Keep young poults warm and dry — they're more delicate than chicks.
- Plan processing timing around a target date (e.g. a specific occasion).

04 Health & problems

- **Blackhead disease** — a serious parasite risk, especially if housed with or after chickens; avoid shared ground.
- **Cold/wet sensitivity in poults** — keep young birds warm and dry.
- **Predator loss** — secure housing overnight.
- **Injury from crowding** — ensure adequate space as birds grow large.

05 Production & harvest

PROCESSING AGE	16–24 weeks depending on breed and target size.
YIELD	Often 5–10kg dressed weight depending on breed and sex.
METHOD	On-farm or licensed processor, as with meat chickens.
STORAGE	Fresh in the fridge a few days; freezes very well for months.

06 Compatibility & considerations

GOOD WITH

Standalone housing away from chicken flocks

AVOID KEEPING WITH

Sharing ground with chickens (blackhead disease risk)

NOTE

Avoid running turkeys on ground previously used by chickens, due to the blackhead disease risk carried by chicken-associated parasites.