

# CORNISH CROSS MEAT BIRD FEEDING SCHEDULE

Cornish Cross chickens are fast growing meat birds that produce a great product in just 8 weeks. There is a certain science behind feeding them and I'm going to share with you my schedule and tips for successfully feeding these birds to full term.

## WEEK 1

Chicks need plenty of room and a light, full feed and plenty of water. We jump start them in a stock tank with bedding in our enclosed building. It's important to make sure they stay warm so a heat lamp may be used for the first couple of weeks of life.

## WEEK 2-4

For the next three weeks, chicks will grow fast. They will triple in size. They will still need plenty of space so providing larger pens should be considered. At week four, start pulling the feed out of their pen at night. They will no longer be on full feed day and night.

## WEEK 5

Continue to provide full feed all day, pulling the feed out of the pen at night. Also, plenty of water is important as well as clean bedding. As the chicks start to gain weight, exercising them around the pen should be considered as a daily practice. Gently maneuvering them around the pen can help improve leg circulation.

## WEEK 6

Stick with the same feeding schedule. Chicks should be cleaning their feed up in the evening so you shouldn't have to pull it out. Keep water well stocked and exercise daily.

## WEEK 7

Same Feeding schedule. Watch out for chicks who start having heart attacks. They are just at the end of their life and can be harvested. Keep water well stocked and exercise daily.

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## WEEK 8

This is the last week and Cornish Cross chickens are at the end of their life. They may have already started dying so it's time to harvest. They should be about 10 pounds. Harvest the heaviest chickens first. You can leave lighter chickens on another week or two if you desire.

## HARVEST TIME!

It's time to butcher birds for the freezer. You should be harvesting 10 pound birds humanely with a cone. Processing tips can be found at [www.farmfitliving.com](http://www.farmfitliving.com)