**Top Crop Chick Info form**

Chicks need to be picked up by 1pm on the day they arrive at Top Crop

\*The first 48-72 hours of a chick’s life is critical\*

Chicks could arrive a day early. Miller’s Hatchery sends a confirmation date but Canada post could have them here early. Please be ready for your chicks at least a day ahead of expected delivery.

**Before chicks arrive**

Remove old litter. Make sure you clean and disinfect the ceiling, walls and floor of the poultry house. Clean and disinfect all equipment including feeders, waterers, and brooders. Check all the equipment to see that they are working. Operate the brooder for 24 hrs before the chicks arrive. Put out the feed in containers and the waterers a few hours before the chicks arrive.

**After chicks arrive**

To maximize immunity, performance and livability the floor temp should be 90 -92 degrees F/ 32-34 degrees C.

Comfortable: Chicks will be spread out, eating and drinking. Chicks feet will be warm.

Hot: The chicks will be panting. A “chirping” distress sound may be heard. Chicks will move away from the heat source.

Cold: The chicks will be less active. They may huddle or bunch around the heat source or in the feeder trays. They may have cold feet.

Chicks do not have the ability to control their body temperature until they are 2 weeks old.

Provide plenty of fresh air for chicks. Keep litter dry, this is important to prevent coccidiosis and other diseases.

**Feed**

Keep feed and water with chicks at all times. Clean waterers frequently and place them on slated or wire platforms. Start chicks on a starter feed and follow feed manufacturers guidelines.