

**Quails** have certain distinct characteristics that made them suitable for both egg as well as meat production. These are:

- Early marketing age (Five weeks for meat purposes, which is slightly below six weeks for broiler chicken)
- Early sexual maturity (They require six to seven weeks of age to produce eggs)
- High rate of lay (280 eggs per year)
- Occupation of a minimum floor space (Eight to ten birds can be kept in the same space housing a single chicken)

Sources from where quail chicks or eggs can be procured-

1. **Central Avian Research Institute (CARI)**, Izzatnagar -243122 Bareilly U.P. (INDIA), Phone Numbers: 91-581-2303223; 2300204; 2301220; 2310023  
[www.icar.org.in/cari](http://www.icar.org.in/cari)
2. **Central Poultry Development Organization (Eastern Region)** Nayapalli (Near Jayadev Bihar), Bhubaneswar-751012  
**Odisha.** Phone :- 0674-2420175(O)  
[www.cpdonrhd.gov.in](http://www.cpdonrhd.gov.in)



*For further information please contact:  
Sr. Scientist & Head  
Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Mokokchung  
Email: [kvkmokokchung@gmail.com](mailto:kvkmokokchung@gmail.com)*



## Quail Farming



**Krishi Vigyan Kendra  
Mokokchung :: Nagaland**

The Quail, is a small type of bird that belongs to the Pheasant family. They were first domesticated in Japan in 1595. There are two species of quail in India; the black-breasted quail found in jungle and the *brown-coloured Japanese Quail which is bred for meat or the one used for commercial Quail production*. They were introduced in India in 1974 from California.

‘**Quail farming**’ means, raising quails commercially (like other poultry birds) for the purpose of profitable eggs and meat production. Almost all types of weather conditions are suitable for starting quail farming business. Meat and eggs of quail are very tasty and nutritious. Quail eggs are very nutritious than other poultry eggs. *Because quail eggs contain comparatively more protein, phosphorus, iron, vitamin A, B1 and B2.* Quail farming can play a vital role to meet up the demand of food and nutrition. Quail farming business require small capital and labor. Quails can be raised along with your other poultry birds for meat or eggs production.

## Rearing of quails

### 1. Deep litter system

6 quails can be reared in a sq.ft. of floor space. After 2 weeks, Quails can be reared in cages. This will help to gain good body weight, as unnecessary wandering of animals is avoided.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Cage Size</u>	<u>No.of birds</u>
First 2 weeks	3 x 2.5 x 1.5 ft.	100
3- 6 weeks	4 x 2.5 x 1.5 ft.	50

### 2. Battery System Rearing

Each unit is about 6 feet in length and 1 foot in width, and subdivided into 6 subunits. To save space, the cages can be arranged upto 6 tiers high. There can be 4 to 5 cages in a row. The bottom of the cage is fixed with removable wooden plates to clean the bird droppings. Long narrow feed troughs are placed in front of the cages. Water troughs are placed at the back of the cages.

### Brooding

*Quail chicks are very sensitive to temperature. And absence of adequate temperature leads to clustering of young chicks and causes high mortality rate.* Recommended warmth should be provided for the first 3-4 weeks of age for which heat lamps needs to be used. The heat lamps should be placed at least 18 inches above the floor. *The best guide for adjusting the heat is the behaviour of the chicks-if they crowd near the heat source and seem cold, the temperature is low, if they tend to settle a few inches from the hottest area the temperature is about right. And if the chicks scatter far away from the heat source then it is too hot.*

<u>Age</u>	<u>Temperature (degree Celsius)</u>	<u>Light (hour)</u>
1 week	37	24
2 weeks	35	24
3 weeks	32.2	12

### Feeding

Approved Nutrient requirement for quails is as indicated below.

<u>Nutrients</u>	<u>Broiler Quails</u>		<u>Layer Quail (For Egg)</u>		
	<u>Starter (0-4 wks.)</u>	<u>Finisher (4-6 wks.)</u>	<u>Starter (0-4 wks.)</u>	<u>Grower (4-5 wks.)</u>	<u>Layer (&gt; 6 wks.)</u>
Energy (Kcal /Kg)	2800	2800	2750	2750	2700
Protein %	27	24	24	20	19
Calcium %	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.6	3.0
Phosphorus %	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.45

Broiler Pre starter followed by starter ration can be used.

- *Feed material should be made into small particles*
- *A 5 weeks old quail consumes about 500 gms of feed*
- *Quails of 6 month old, consumes about 30-35 gms of feed per day.*
- *Quails require about 400 gms feed for the production of 12 eggs.*

**Wholesome adequate drinking water should be made available.**