

# Organizational and Technological Aspects of the Creation and Operation of Ostrich Farms

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**Annotation:** This article examines the main organizational and technological approaches to the establishment and operation of ostrich farms. Various models for farm development are analyzed, including egg incubation, rearing of young birds, fattening of birds, and breeding stock. The economic aspects of ostrich farming, cost structure, and factors influencing production profitability are presented. Particular attention is paid to the biological and behavioral characteristics of the African ostrich, the impact of stress factors on productivity, and the requirements for poultry husbandry. It is shown that the greatest economic efficiency is achieved by selling young birds aged 1 to 6 months, strictly adhering to technological and sanitary standards

**Keywords:** Ostrich farming; African ostrich; farm organization; egg incubation; raising young animals; breeding stock; stress resistance; productivity; economic efficiency

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## INTRODUCTION

Ostrich farming is a promising agricultural sector focused on the production of meat, eggs, breeding stock, and by-products. In recent decades, interest in African ostrich farming has grown, driven by the industry's high economic efficiency and the expanding global market for ostrich products.

There are various ways to set up an ostrich farm, including producing hatching eggs,

raising young birds, building a breeding flock, or fattening birds for slaughter. Each of these approaches has different costs, production cycle length, and economic returns.

Despite the industry's growing popularity, establishing ostrich farms requires consideration of the birds' biological characteristics, housing conditions, stress factors, and proper stock selection. Therefore, an analysis of the organizational and technological aspects of ostrich farms is essential.

#### Materials and Methods

The research material was based on data from the economic activities of ostrich farms in Europe, America and Russia, as well as technological recommendations for breeding African ostriches.

The work used methods of comparative analysis of various models of organizing ostrich farms, economic assessment of the costs of creating a farm, as well as analysis of the biological and behavioral characteristics of ostriches during maintenance and breeding.

Particular attention was paid to the analysis of methods for assembling the herd, the conditions for keeping birds of different age groups, as well as the sanitary and hygienic requirements for ostrich farms.

#### Results

The analysis revealed several main models for organizing ostrich farms. One of the most expensive is organizing production by purchasing hatching eggs. Fertilized eggs cost \$70–\$120 each on the global market, and it takes 2–3 years for a farm to reach production capacity.

An alternative option is to purchase day-old chicks or adult breeders. A pair of adult ostriches currently costs approximately \$2,000–\$4,000. A flock of 16 females and 8 males is considered optimal, producing approximately 500 young birds per year.

It has been established that the greatest economic profit comes from selling young birds aged 1–6 months. Farms typically specialize in either breeding poultry or fattening young birds for meat production.

It was found that on breeding farms it is necessary to raise ostriches with a high capacity for consuming green fodder, while on fattening farms preference is given to birds with a high live weight and a minimum content of subcutaneous fat.

The main costs of setting up a farm include the construction of buildings and pens, landscaping, purchasing poultry or hatching eggs, and purchasing equipment and feed.

Research has shown that ostriches are extremely sensitive to stress. Relocating birds during the breeding season can lead to a decrease or cessation of egg production. It has also been established that a stable staff and a calm care regimen are important factors in maintaining productivity.

It has been noted that poor sanitary conditions can lead to injuries to birds due to ingestion of foreign objects. When working with ostriches, their aggressiveness must be taken into account, especially in adult males during the incubation period.

The criteria for assessing the health and productivity of a bird are proportionality of body structure, correct gait, condition of plumage, activity, good appetite and absence of external defects.

#### Discussion

The obtained results indicate that the efficiency of ostrich farming directly depends on the correct choice of production organization model and compliance with technological requirements for poultry keeping.

The high initial costs of setting up a farm are offset by the steady demand for ostrich

products. However, the long production cycle requires careful planning and strict sanitary and hygienic conditions.

The behavioral characteristics of ostriches, including high stress sensitivity and a herding instinct, require the development of specialized care and handling methods. Selecting genetically sound breeding stock and preventing inbreeding are crucial.

Thus, the development of ostrich farming is possible with an integrated approach that includes technological discipline, selection work and economic planning.

#### Conclusion

It has been established that ostrich farms can be organized in several ways, including incubating eggs, raising young birds, forming a breeding herd, and fattening the birds for meat, with each model having different economic efficiency.

The most expensive method is to set up a farm using hatching eggs, but this method provides the opportunity to form a highly productive livestock.

The optimal structure of the herd (16 females and 8 males) allows for the production of up to 500 young birds annually, which confirms the high productivity of ostrich farming.

The most profitable area of activity for ostrich farms is the sale of young animals aged 1–6 months.

The productivity and safety of poultry directly depend on compliance with housing conditions, adequate feeding, sanitary and hygienic requirements, and the minimization of stress factors.

Selection of high-quality breeding material and prevention of inbreeding are important conditions for improving the productive qualities of ostriches.

Comprehensive compliance with organizational and technological requirements ensures increased economic efficiency of ostrich farms.

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