

Rear to the weight, not the calendar.

Two Lohmann guides — LSL-Lite and Brown-Classic — read straight from the rearing tables.

Body weight has a target for every week of rear

	WEEK	1	4	8	12	16	17	18	19
LSL-Lite (white), g		70	255	635	959	1200	1255	1306	1356
Brown-Classic, g		75	273	677	1047	1351	1421	1493	1565

Lohmann prints an average and a tight range for every week of rear. By 17 weeks the pullet should weigh about 1.26 kg (LSL) or 1.42 kg (Brown). The bird either arrives at point of lay on the curve, or it does not — and the whole laying life follows from which.

The diet switches on body weight — not on age

Lohmann, both guides: "The correct time for switching the diet is determined not by age but by body weight. Chicks and pullets should therefore be weighed at regular intervals." Feed chick starter if the standard weight is not reached; move to developer only once it is.

A flock average is not a flock — measure uniformity

TWO STANDARD MEASURES OF FLOCK UNIFORMITY

CV %

coefficient of variation
= (SD / mean body weight) x 100

% within +/-10%

share of the flock
within 10% of the flock mean weight

Lohmann's own weight-for-age range is about +/-3% of the average at each week — the target band. Weigh a representative sample regularly and read the spread, not just the mean: the average can sit on the curve while a tail of birds falls well below it.

The pre-lay bridge is a uniformity tool

PRE-LAYER FEED

2.0-2.5% calcium

~10 days before lay, max 1 kg / bird
For lay at week 19, start after week 17.
Started too early or fed too long, it harms.

What it evens out

Late-maturing birds get a better nutrient supply to catch up; early-maturing birds get the calcium for their first shells.

The rule this deck is arguing for

Body weight at point of lay is set in the rearing house, not the laying house. Weigh to the curve, hold the flock together, and use the pre-lay bridge to close the tail — because an underweight, uneven pullet flock matures late and never fully catches up on lay.

Based on Lohmann LSL-Lite and Brown-Classic Cage Management Guides — rearing sections, Table 4 / Table 17 (body weight by age), Table 5 (diet by weight), pre-layer feed section.

The rearing curve is a target, not a description.

Lohmann Table 17 — body weight development by age, average and range (g)

Read the range, not only the average

Lohmann prints an average weight and a range for every week of rear. The range is tight — about +/-3% of the average — because it is the target band the flock should sit inside, not a description of how a loose flock actually spreads. A well-reared flock fills it.

WEEK	LSL-LITE avg (range), g	BROWN-CLASSIC avg (range), g
1	70 (68-72)	75 (73-77)
4	255 (247-263)	273 (265-281)
8	635 (616-654)	677 (657-697)
12	959 (930-988)	1047 (1016-1078)
15	1143 (1109-1177)	1279 (1241-1317)
16	1200 (1164-1236)	1351 (1310-1392)
17	1255 (1217-1293)	1421 (1378-1464)
18	1306 (1267-1345)	1493 (1448-1538)
19	1356 (1315-1397)	1565 (1518-1612)

Weeks 1-8 set the frame you cannot re-grow

Most skeletal and organ growth happens in the first eight weeks. A pullet that misses weight here builds a smaller frame — and frame, unlike fat, does not come back later. This is why the end of brooding (about week 6) is the checkpoint Wednesday's paper tests.

17 weeks is the weight that matters most

By 17 weeks the bird should be about 1.26 kg (LSL) or 1.42 kg (Brown) — heavy enough, with reserves, to carry the start of lay. Point of lay near week 19 is the destination the whole curve is aiming at; miss the curve and the bird arrives light and unready.

Every diet change is triggered by a weighing.

Lohmann Table 5 — diet types and the body-weight rule for switching

Lohmann, verbatim

"The basis for switching between diet types is the hens' body weight development. The correct time for changing the diet is determined not by age, but by body weight. Chicks and pullets should therefore be weighed at regular intervals."

DIET	TYPICAL AGE	CRUDE PROTEIN	CALCIUM
Starter	week 1-3	19-20%	1.05%
Grower	week 1-8	17.5-18.5%	1.00%
Developer	week 9-17	15.0-15.5%	0.90%
Pre-layer	week 18 - 5% lay	17.5%	2.0-2.5%

Age columns are typical; the trigger is the weighing, not the week.

Underweight? Hold the bird on the richer feed

Feed chick starter if the standard body weight is not reached on grower, or if intake is expected to be low. Switch to developer only once the standard weight has been reached. The age on the bag is a default; the bird's weight overrides it every time.

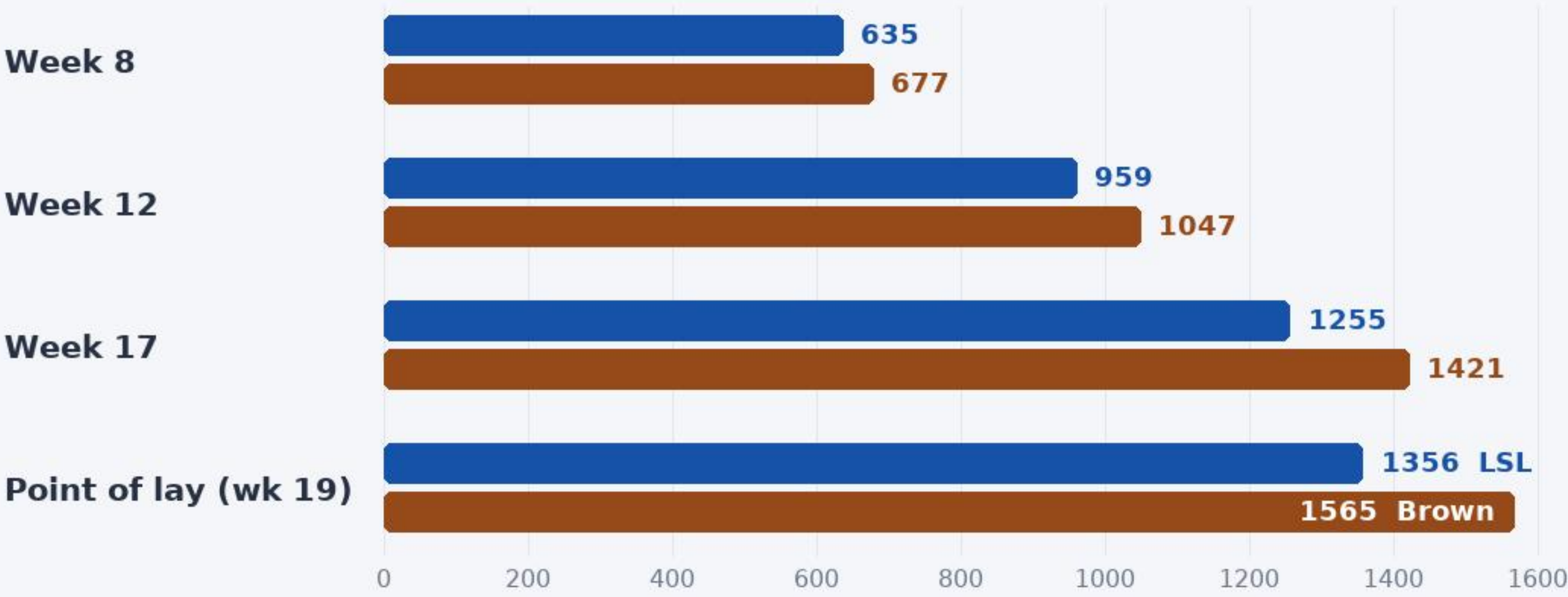
Why this is the discipline that protects the frame

Move a light pullet onto the leaner developer diet on schedule and you lock in the deficit — she never gets the density to catch up before lay. Weighing turns the feed programme from a calendar into a response: rich feed stays until the frame is built, then it steps down.

Two breeds, two curves. Do not rear both to one number.

Lohmann LSL-Lite and Brown-Classic — Table 17 and the performance summary

Body weight at key ages, g — Brown is heavier at every week of rear



Brown-Classic runs heavier all through rear. A Brown flock reared to the LSL curve is underweight.

The point-of-lay and mature weights differ by breed

At 17 weeks: LSL about 1.26 kg, Brown about 1.42 kg. At the end of production: LSL about 1.72 kg, Brown about 2.06 kg. The heavier Brown carries more frame and more reserve — its whole curve sits above the white bird's, week by week.

One curve per breed, one weight per bird

Rear each breed to its own published curve; there is no shared target. And weigh the individual, not just the group — the average can hit the curve while a quarter of the flock sits below it, which is exactly the tail a uniformity check exists to find.

The cross-breed lesson

"Brown is heavier" is the useful shorthand. Match the target weight and the diet programme to the breed in the house — a curve borrowed from the other bird rears a flock that is on target for a hen it is not.

UNIFORMITY

The average hides the birds a phase change is meant to protect.

Lohmann — weigh at regular intervals to check uniformity

How uniformity is measured

Two standard readings of the same sample weighing. $CV\% = (\text{standard deviation} / \text{mean body weight}) \times 100$ — lower is tighter. Or the share of birds within +/-10% of the flock mean — higher is tighter. Both are method definitions, not a Lohmann target number.

WHAT A WEIGHING TELLS YOU THAT A SILO DOES NOT

The mean

on the curve or below it — is the flock the right size at all?

The spread

CV% or +/-10% share — is it one flock or three sitting inside one house?

The tail

the underweight birds hidden behind an on-target average — the ones that mature late.

Lohmann's own band is +/-3% of the mean

The range column beside every average in Table 17 is about +/-3% of that average — the target width the flock should fill. Read the spread of your sample against it: if birds sit well outside the band, the flock is uneven whatever the mean says.

Why a uniform flock lays better

A flock that reaches sexual maturity together comes into lay together and holds a higher, steadier peak. A spread-out flock dribbles into lay over weeks and never stacks a clean peak — the tested version of this is Wednesday's paper, on real hens.

The pre-lay bridge builds uniformity and the first shells.

Lohmann — correct use of pre-layer feed, developer to Phase 1

The cliff it exists to cross

Developer feed is low in calcium (about 0.9%) and nutrient density. Layer feed is high in both. Move a pullet straight across at point of lay and two things go wrong: the calcium jump depresses a fragile appetite, and there is no bone reserve built for the first shells.

HOW LOHMANN SPECIFIES IT

Calcium	2.0-2.5%	twice the developer's ~1%, well below full layer
Duration	about 10 days	maximum 1 kg per bird
Start	by weight & maturity	for lay at week 19, after week 17

It is a uniformity tool, not just a calcium ramp

Lohmann flags pre-layer feed as especially valuable for flocks with low uniformity: it gives late-maturing birds the nutrient supply to catch up, while early-maturing birds get the calcium they already need for their first eggs. The flock is pulled back together.

The rule around it

Start on sexual maturity, age and body weight — not a fixed date. Use for about 10 days only, maximum 1 kg per bird. It is a compromise feed: too much calcium for rearing, not enough for full lay. Started too early or fed too long, it does more harm than good.

Why it belongs on a body-weight deck

The bridge is where an uneven rearing flock is given its last chance to converge before lay. Get it right and the tail closes; get it wrong and the spread you failed to fix in rear is locked in for the whole laying cycle.

Point-of-lay weight is decided in the rearing house.

Lohmann — the rearing curve, uniformity and the pre-lay bridge together

What the whole deck comes down to

The bird either arrives at point of lay on its breed's curve, uniform with its flock and carrying reserves — or it arrives light, late and uneven. Everything after that is consequence. You cannot re-rear a hen once she is in lay.

Weigh to the curve

Average AND spread, on the breed's own target, at regular intervals.

Switch feed on weight

Hold the richer diet until the standard weight is reached — never on the calendar alone.

Close the tail before lay

Use the pre-lay bridge to pull late maturers up and even the flock out.

The measurement gap

Every step above needs the weight of the individual bird, read often. Most houses weigh a small sample by hand a few times in rear and take the mean — a snapshot that hides the tail, and misses the weeks between weighings entirely. The average is not the flock.

What it would take to close it

Not a better table — Lohmann's are good. It would take knowing what each bird weighs, continuously, so the tail is visible while there is still time in rear to feed it up — instead of discovering an uneven flock only when it dribbles into lay.

Save this and check one thing this week

Pull your last rearing weigh sheet. Look past the average to the spread and the lightest birds — if the tail is there, the pre-lay window is your last chance to close it.

Based on Lohmann LSL-Lite and Brown-Classic Cage Management Guides — rearing sections.
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