



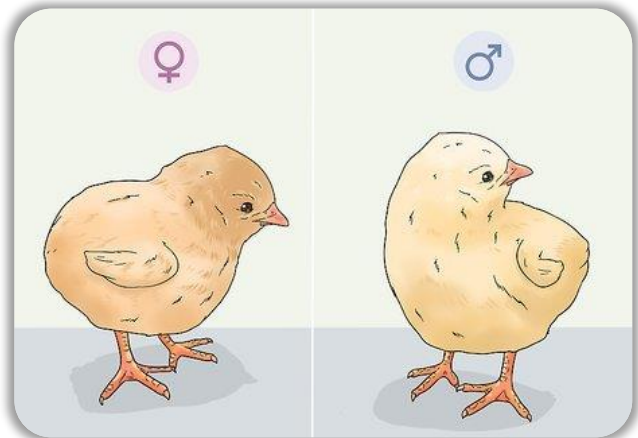
## Lecture title: Chick Sexing

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### Summary:

#### Introduction

- When it comes to the poultry industry, one skill stands out as an invaluable asset: **chick sexing**.
- The ability to accurately determine the gender of day-old chicks is a critical practice that helps farmers and hatcheries optimize their operations.
- From breeding programs to meat production and egg-laying, chick sexing plays a vital role in streamlining processes and maximizing efficiency.



#### Things You Should Know:

1. When **sexing chicks**, look for larger bodies and uniform wing feathers, because these are signs that the chick is male.
2. With **older chicks** and **chickens**, identify male birds by their facial comb skin and their jagged, sharp saddle feathers.

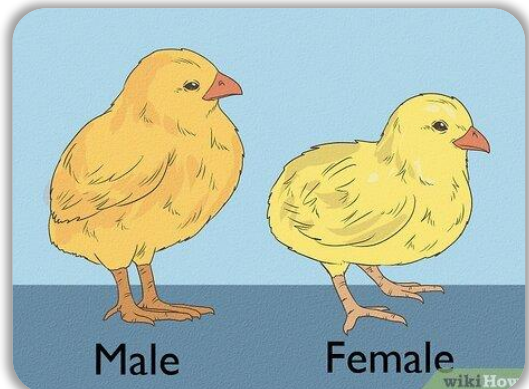
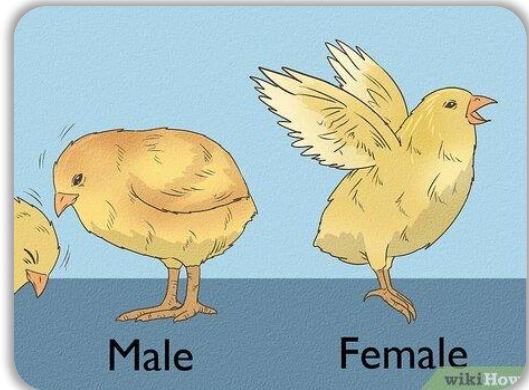


## Methods of Chick Sexing

### 1. Visual Inspection:

- Visual inspection is one of the most commonly used methods of chick sexing.
- Experienced sexer carefully examine various physical traits, including **wing feather length and pattern, Comb Size, Color and Differences in behavior.**

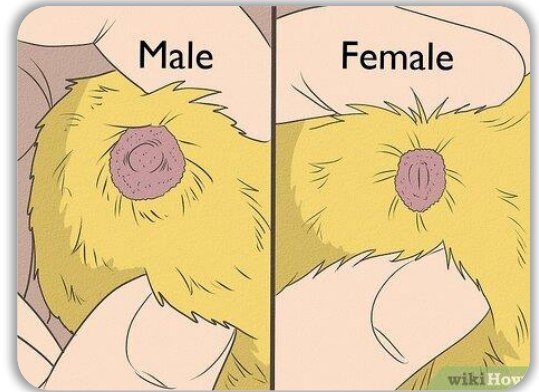
1. Male chicks will act less nervous.
  2. Female chicks are more easily frightened by loud noises and will run in response
  3. Compare their size, stance, and legs.
  4. Male chickens tend to grow larger and faster than females, which is often apparent when they're 3-4 weeks old.
  5. In addition to having larger bodies and heads, males often stand up taller and puff out their chests, while females appear a bit smaller.
  6. Males also tend to have thicker legs and feet than females.
- However, visual inspection requires expertise and a keen eye for detail, as the differences can be quite subtle.





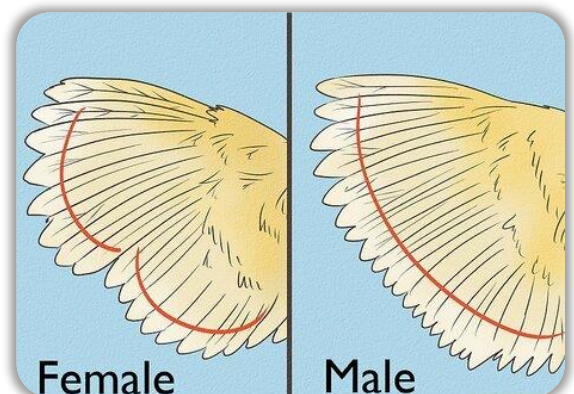
## 2. Vent Sexing:

- Vent sexing involves examining the genitalia area of the chick to determine its gender.
- This method requires skill and precision, as the sexer gently everts the cloaca to observe the shape and structure of the genital organs.
- Male and female chicks possess distinct characteristics in this region, such as the presence of a **small, rounded genital tubercle in males** and a **slit-like structure in females**.
- Hold the chick in your hand and apply light pressure to its abdomen until the chick defecates. Look into the now clear anal vent. If you see a bump, then the chick is likely male. No bump indicates a female.



## 3. Wing feather sexing:

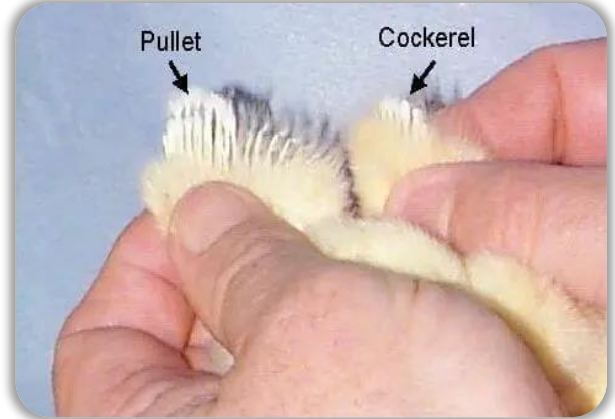
- Feather sexing relies on the development of specific feathers that differ between male and female chicks.
- Certain breeds exhibit feather patterns that can be sexed accurately.





- To view the wing feathers, grasp the chick firmly in one hand. Use your other hand to extend the wing out until the feathers are somewhat separated and visible.

- A **male (cockerel) chick** will have wing feathers of roughly the **same length**.



- A **female (pullet) chick** will have wing feathers featuring **two varied lengths**.
- You can perform wing feather sexing 1 to 2 days after hatching and usually get accurate results.

#### 4. Genetic Testing:

- Advancements in genetic testing have revolutionized chick sexing.
- DNA analysis allows for highly accurate determination of a chick's gender, often as early as the embryonic stage.
- This method involves collecting a tiny sample of tissue or blood from the chick and analysing **specific genetic markers** that differentiate males from females.
- While genetic testing is highly accurate, it is typically more expensive and time-consuming compared to other methods.



