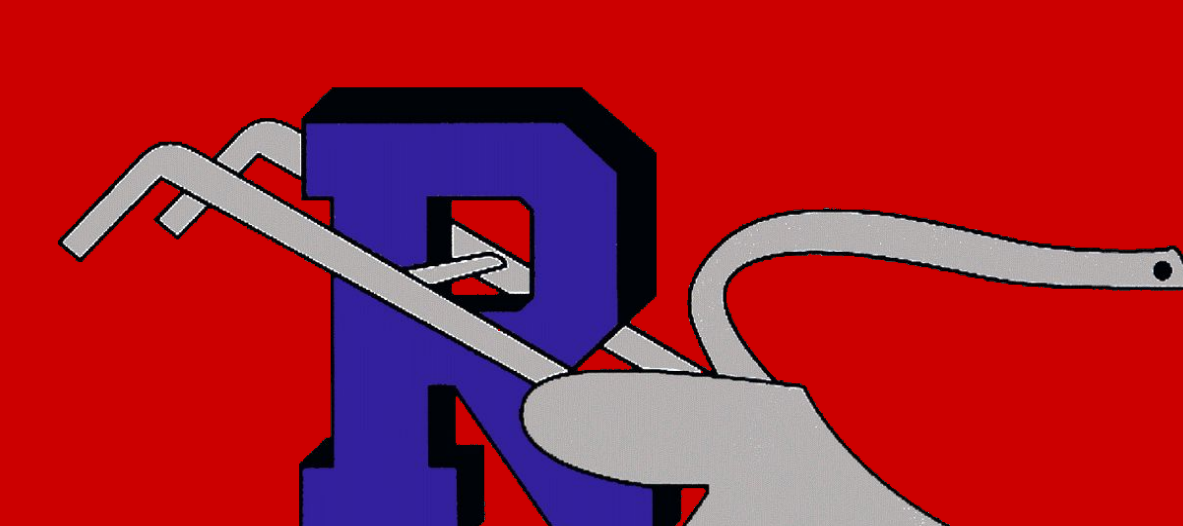


# Effects of Amount of Floor Space on Chicks Weight Gain

M. Sáenz, K. Ornelas, L. Valdez



## ABSTRACT

The purpose of the experiment was to see if the amount of brooder floor space would affect the chickens weight gain. The experiment was done by using 2 brooders with either 6 or 4 chicks in each, a digital scale was used to measure the chicks weight, and the data was recorded on a data sheet. The chicks were placed in brooders, one brooder having more chicks than the other. The chicks in both brooders were weighed, and the results were recorded. The chicks were weighed every other week, for four weeks. The brooder with 6 chicks weighed more than the brooder with 4 chicks.

## INTRODUCTION

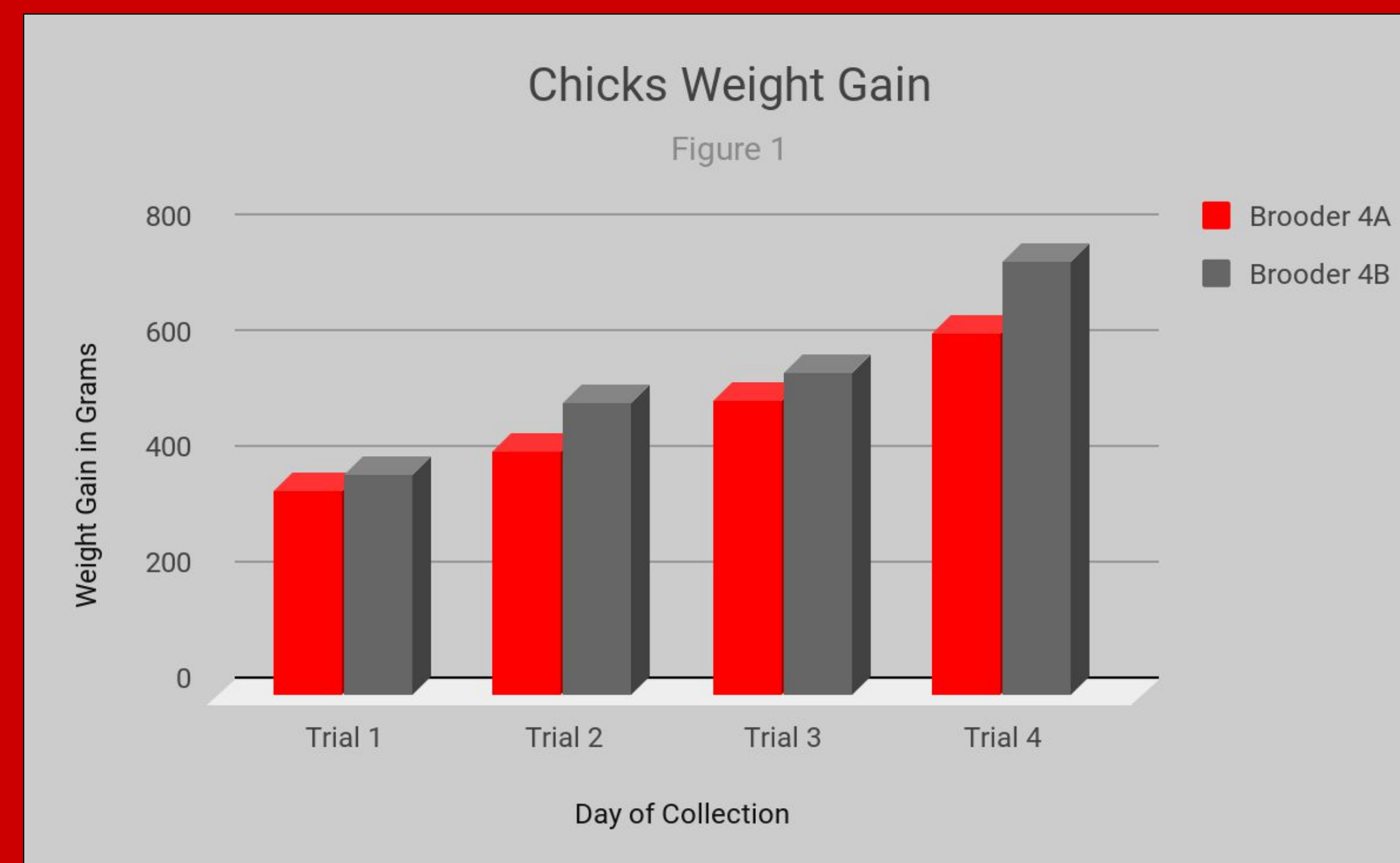
According to Dr. James Hermes, chicks are small when hatched but grow quite rapidly, therefore the chicks will need space to grow (Hermes, 2009). Brooder requirements that chicks need to survive include water, food, protection, and a heat source to keep warm (Hermes, 2009). Chicks need to have a enough space to be able to eat and drink all at the same time. Chicks that are fed crumbles or pellets may eat more feed and grow at a faster rate (Fischer, 1983). For example, broiler chicks can reach up to five pounds in six weeks, so the chicks need space to grow (Hermes, 2009). The growth of the chickens can be affected by the amount of space available in the brooder. When raising chicks to lay eggs there must be room to make sure the chicks do not become stunted in size (Fischer, 1983). As the chickens gain weight daily the amount of space available will decrease. Therefore, if the amount of brooder floor space is related to the weight gain of the chicks, then the chicks in the brooder with more chicks will have least amount of weight gain.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

In the experiment there were two different brooders, one brooder had 6 chickens and in the other there were 4 chickens. In each brooder there was a heat lamp, food and water. There were wood shavings on the floor of the brooder so the chicks don't injure their legs. The type of brooder that were used were a wooden brooder. The type of chicks that were used for the project were new hampshire. The chicks were measured on a digital kitchen scale.

## RESULTS

In the hypothesis we said that the brooder with more chicks would weigh more, our hypothesis was correct. In the data chart it shows that the brooder 4A weighed less than brooder 4B in each trial. In trial 4 the weight had a big amount of difference in weight gain. In the first three trials the weights were similar between the two brooders 4A and 4B, while in trial 4 brooder 4B weighed a lot more than brooder 4A.



## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, if the amount of brooder space is related to the weight gain of the chicks, then the chicks in the brooder with more chicks will have less weight gain. The hypothesis was incorrect because the brooder with 6 chicks had more weight gain then the brooder with 4 chicks.

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- Hermes, J. (2009, July 9). Brooding and rearing baby chicks. Retrieved From <http://www.thepoultrysite.com/articles/1462/brooding-and-rearing-baby-chicks/>

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## TEKS

SCIENCE: 7.2A,C,E, 7.4A, 7.10A,B,C; ELA: 7.14, 7.17, 7.24, 7.23(A)(C)(D); MATH 7.1, 7.4, 7.6, 7.12; SOCIAL STUDIES 7.21B,C; AVID: 7-WRI.A4, 7-WRI.A7, 7-READ.BI, 7-RED.B4, 7-REA.B5, 7-COMM.A2, 7-COMM.A4,7COMM. A8; AG: 130.7(c)4(A), 130.7(c)7(A), 130.7 (c)10(A, B). ELA: 7.14, 7.14(A), 7.14(B), 7.14(C), 7.14(D), 7.10(A), (B), and (C)