



## Duck & Gosling Care

- 1** Feed and water the waterfowl at once upon arrival.
- 2** Starter feed of at least 20% protein is needed for the first three weeks. Do not use layer feed; it contains too much calcium. The first choice is non-medicated feed. If that is not available, you may use medicated feed. Medicated feed harming waterfowl is an “old wives’ tale” that is very persistent. Adult waterfowl may have trouble eating mash; it is better to feed them crumble or pellets. If you are only feeding them whole or cracked grain, they will not get enough daily protein. We recommend using NatureServe® Duck Starter/Grower and NatureServe Duck Pellets that contain essential oils, prebiotics, and probiotics.
- 3** Forage is excellent for waterfowl but it replaces very little of the nutrients waterfowl need. Make sure access to feed is always available.
- 4** Waterfowl can be messy with their water. Make a wire floor underneath their waterer to reduce mess.
- 5** Ducks and geese do not need constant bathing water. To reduce the mess, only provide bathing water once or twice a week.
- 6** The best age for processing ducks is 7-12-weeks of age when all their feathers are mature, and there are no pinfeathers. Goslings are usually marketed in the fall months at 24-30-weeks of age.