



Big Dutchman®



Automatic chain feeding

for modern poultry production

Automatic chain feeder

A reliable and successful system used the world over for more than 85 years!

Big Dutchman introduced the world's first automatic chain feeding system as early as in 1938. Daily hand-feeding of the flock was very time-consuming, triggering the idea of an automatic feeding system. A new era dawned for the poultry industry. Thanks to its robust and simple construction, this feeding system has proved itself a million times over. The basic concept with feed hopper, drive unit, corner, trough and the CHAMPION feed chain has remained unchanged until today. The

entire system, however, is continuously under review and adapted to today's requirements for modern poultry production as necessary. The Big Dutchman feed chain CHAMPION can be used for any type of production, including breeders, pullets from their first day of life, and laying hens.



First automatic chain feeding system in the USA in 1938

The world's leading feeding system

Until now, Big Dutchman has sold approximately 200,000 km of the feed chain – literally enough to loop it around the planet five times. Increasing sales figures and the fact that the CHAMPION feed chain is delivered to destinations worldwide prove its high quality and exceptional reliability. The Big Dutchman sales teams says: "We would have sold so much more of our chain if it did not have such an impossibly long life! 30 years are really not uncommon." Customers

appreciate this quality, which is why there are no plans to change the material or the design.



Layer breeders



Broiler breeders



Pullet rearing



Laying hens kept on the floor



Laying hens in an aviary system



Laying hens



»Only the original guarantees unsurpassed quality – recognise it easily thanks to the engraving!«



Advantages of the Big Dutchman chain feeding system

- ✓ different conveying speeds of 12, 18 or 36 m/min, depending on the requirements;
- ✓ the chain can be started to animate the birds to eat while the trough is still full, increasing feed intake;
- ✓ any type of feed can be used: meal, pellets or crumbles;
- ✓ the feed is distributed uniformly and reliably, i.e. all birds receive the same quantity and quality of feed, with minimum feed losses;
- ✓ both controlled and ad libitum feeding are possible, depending on the demand;
- ✓ the feed level in the trough can easily be adjusted with the feed level slide;
- ✓ the shape of the trough guarantees sufficient space for all birds: they can eat from both sides without stress;
- ✓ the system can be suspended or installed on legs for floor management;
- ✓ cost-efficient feeding system;
- ✓ simple, thorough cleaning;
- ✓ low labour and maintenance requirements;
- ✓ robust system, long service life.

Important components



Drive unit

- ✓ chain speed: 12, 18 or 36 m/min;
- ✓ motor output: 0.37 / 0.55 / 0.75 / 1.1 / 1.5 or 2.2 kW, depending on the circuit length;
- ✓ one-line or two-line design;
- ✓ simple height adjustment for the standing version.



90° corner

- ✓ through-hardened guide rail;
- ✓ plastic bearing which needs no lubrication;
- ✓ stable housing with removable cover, also available as galvanised version;
- ✓ high functional reliability, minimum wear and tear, easy maintenance.



Trough with feed chain

- ✓ birds can eat from both sides;
- ✓ minimum feed losses;
- ✓ easy to clean and to service;
- ✓ trough coupler is required for a perfectly straight feed line;
- ✓ suspended or standing version.

Trough with feed chain and perch



Regular trough for pullet rearing



Medium trough for barn egg production



Medium trough for barn egg production

Regular trough

The regular trough is low in height, making it easy for the chicks to reach the feed in the trough. For this reason, this trough is mostly used in aviary systems for pullet rearing. A perch of adjustable height prevents feed wastage and soiling of the feed from droppings.

Standing medium trough

The medium trough has a feed-saving lip on both sides. It is used in traditional barn egg production as well as in aviary systems for laying hens. A perch prevents feed wastage and soiling from droppings. At the end of the batch, the standing trough is removed for cleaning and re-assembled afterwards.

Suspended/standing medium trough

The medium trough model is also used for suspended/standing installation. The entire trough line has legs and is additionally suspended so the feeding system can simply be lifted up beneath the ceiling for easy cleaning after the batch.

General planning instructions

Drive unit		MPF 12 m/min		MPF 18 m/min		MPF 36 m/min*1		
Motor output in kW	3-phase	0.37	0.75	0.55	1.1	1.1	1.5	2.2
Max. chain length in m*2	1 line	180	300	180	300	180	200	300
Max. chain length in m*2	2 lines	2x125		2x125				

*1 For 36 m/min drives, Big Dutchman recommends a time control with seconds programme.

*2 The indicated chain length includes four 90° corners. For each additional corner, the maximum chain length must be reduced by 12.50 m.

Type of bird	Stocking density: birds/m ²	Feeding method	No. of birds/ m of trough	cm of trough side/ bird	Feed demand/ bird/day in g
Laying hens, avg. 2 kg	9 - 11	ad libitum	20 - 25	8 - 10	110 - 130
Pullets, avg. 1.5 kg	18 - 20	ad libitum	20 - 25	4.5 - 5	20 - 110

The numbers shown in the table above are average values and may vary depending on the breed and climate.



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