



### **Topics**

- Selection of Chickens (5-13)
- Housing & Equipment (14-29)
  - Winter considerations (17-29)
- Starting Chicks (30-35)
- Poultry Nutrition Basics (36-46)
- Pasturing Poultry (47-59)
- General Poultry Health (60-70)
- Layers and Eggs (71-78)
- Meat Birds (79-82)

### Benefits to raising chickens







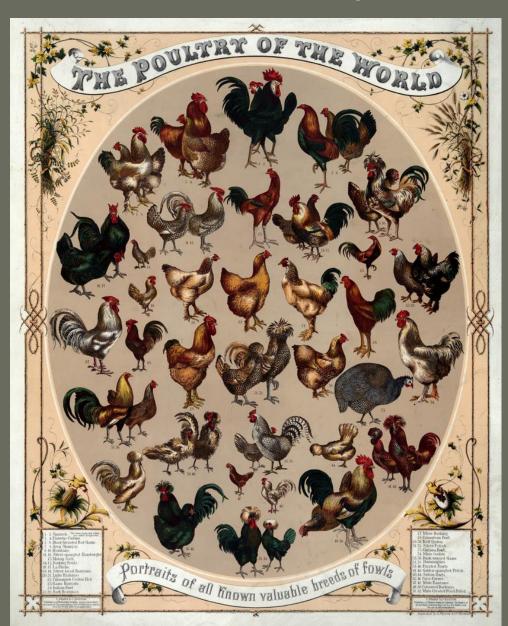
Pleasure

### Selecting the Right Chicken for You





### SO Many Where To Start



 American Poultry Association

About 55 Breeds of Standard
Chickens
About 65 Breeds of Bantam
Chickens

Many other breeds that are not recognized

# Selecting A Breed: What type of chicken do you want?

Layer type



Meat type



**Dual Purpose** 



Ornamental



### What size ???

Standard Chickens vs Bantam Chickens



Both chickens are 2 year old hens top is a standard dark Cornish bottom is a bantam dark Cornish

Note: all standard chickens have a bantam but not all bantams have a standard

### What Color?









### What Pattern?

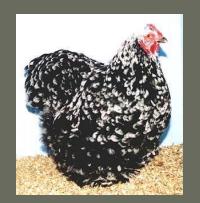






Barred

Mottled





### Any "Funky LooK?"





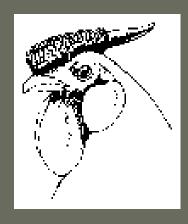
### What Type of Comb?



Single



Pea



Rose



Cushion





### Sources of Birds

- Hatcheries
  - Large quantities
  - Sell day olds
  - Breed type may be lacking
- Breeders
  - Breed type better
  - May be able to buy smaller quantities and older birds
  - Cost more
- Swaps, auctions, etc.
  - Inexpensive,
  - Purchase mature birds
  - Health could be an issue

### Housing & Equipment



### Housing

#### **Key Factors:**

Clean and dry

- Adequately ventilated and draft free
- Provides the proper space
- Provides protection

Chicken Types	Requirements Square Feet
Layer type Pullets	1.5
Layer type Adults	2
Broiler type	2-3

### Equipment

**Feeding System** 

Watering System

Laying/Breeding/Ornamentals

Nest Boxes – 1sq. ft/ 4 layers

Roost – 8"/ bird

Supplemental light – 14-16 hrs.

Brooding/ Chicks
Supplemental Heat — 250 watt bulb/ 50 chicks
Brooder Guard

(Məəkə) Ydə	Water Space (in)	Feed Space (in)
0-4	. <mark>2</mark> 5	1
4-8	. <u>5</u>	2
8-16	1	3
16÷	1	4)





### The Birds

#### Health

- Get rid of parasites (internal and external)
- May want to consider culling unthrifty,
   "free boarders"

### Age of birds

- Plan ahead so you don't have late chicks
- Very old birds may have more problems

### OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

#### Feed

- Balanced ration should be good
- Extra cracked corn or scratch grain
  - Adds extra energy for heat
  - Don't overdo it

#### Water

- Very important
- Typically drink twice as much as feed (by weight)
- Need heaters or multiple trips each day



### WATERERS

Rubber pans (if not using heater)

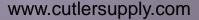


### WATERERS

- Rubber pans (if not using heater)
- Heater methods
  - Base heaters
  - Light bulb over top
  - Submersible heater









### LITTER

- Deep litter is good (6-12 inches is good)
  - Start it before cold sets in
  - Insulates floor
  - May compost some
- Need to keep it dry
  - Keeps diseases down
  - Decreases ammonia production
  - Hard-packed litter loses advantages
  - Damp and cold are not a good combination



#### GOOD

#### NOT SO GOOD



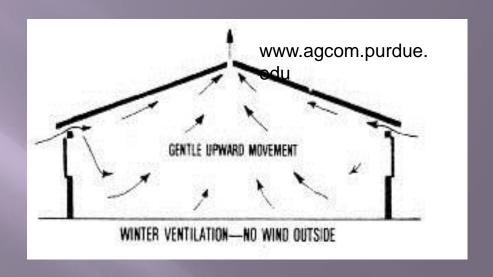
### INSULATION

- Good for summer and winter
- Walls and ceiling if possible
- Inaccessible to birds
  - Cover it with plastic, plywood, etc.
  - Make it something they won't eat

### VENTILATION

#### Balancing act

- Keep heat in
- Move gases out
  - Water vapor
  - Ammonia from waste
  - CO2



#### Natural ventilation

- Warm air rises so vents on top allow air out
- Cooler fresh air enters through inlets
- Need temperature difference (or wind) to make it work

### VENTILATION

#### ■ In extreme cold

- Don't want draft blowing on birds
  - Baffle in front of inlet
  - May want to put cloth in front of inlet
- Don't want to lose too much heat

### HEAT

- Using bird's body heat is easiest
- Have a few thousand hens and this won't be a problem!!
- Try to confine birds to a small area
  - Covered roost area
    - "Community nest" situation
    - Insulate this
    - Rodents may be a problem
    - May need to clean fairly often
- Use a heater

### ADDITIONAL HEAT

- Most important is to keep it safe
  - Keep birds from contacting it
  - Keep litter from contacting it
  - Try to limit dust buildup
  - Watch out for exhaust gases



### MORE ON ADDITIONAL HEAT

- Lights (i.e., heat lamps)will affect egg production
- Doesn't need to be "toasty" warm



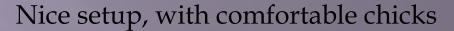
- Balancing act with ventilation again
- May have to give up optimal conditions to keep birds warm

## Starting Chicks



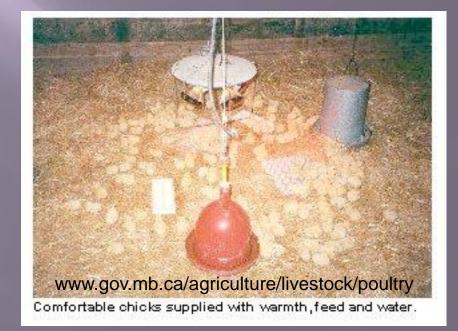
Probably more than necessary











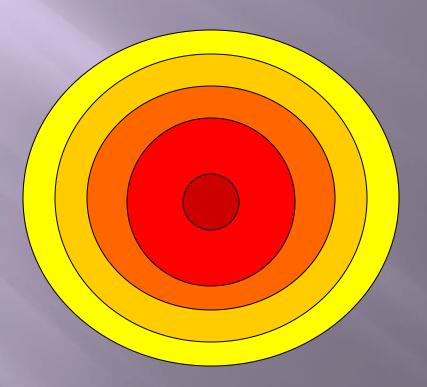
### **L**IGHTS

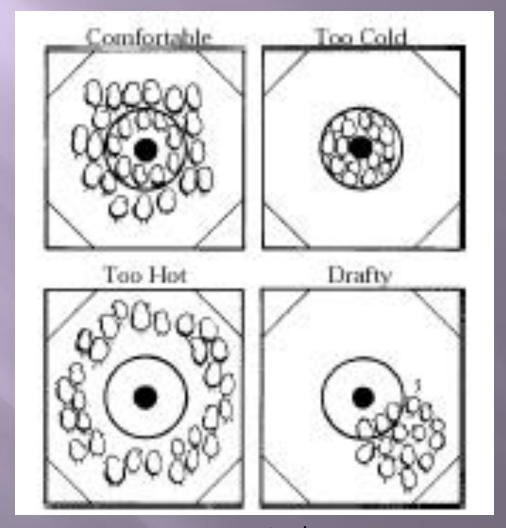
- 24 hours per day of light is okay
- Some will use 23 L:1 D
- Lights don't need to be very bright
- Can get by with natural light
  - May take longer to reach market weight



- Temperature
  - Maybe slightly cooler than other chicks
    - Start at 90° and decrease 5° per week
  - Temperature gradient is best
  - No drafts

### TEMPERATURE GRADIENT





eesc.orst.edu

### **Poultry Nutrition**



## What do they Need?

- Factors that affect nutritional need
  - Breed and Strain
  - Age
  - Sex
  - Rate of Growth & Production
  - Health
  - Environment

## Feeding

- Keys to poultry diets
  - Amino Acid balance is more important than % protein



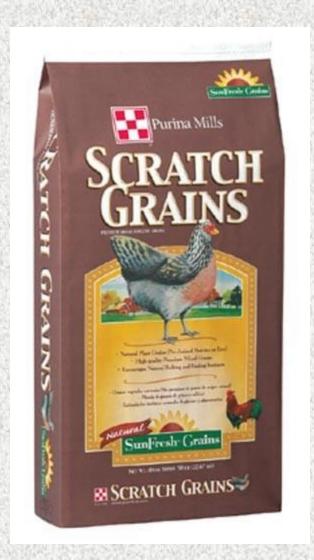
 Feed is balanced on energy needs of the birds in Kcal ME/ lb

 Water is very important, there is a direct relationship between water and food consumption.

### Forms of Feed

- Mix & Grinds
- Crumble
- Pellet





### **Commercial Rations**

- Each Company Brand has their own program.
- Basics
  - Starter or Starter Grower
    - Chicken Starter 18-22% Protein
    - Game Bird Starter 24-28%Protien
  - Grower/ Finisher
    - Usually 18-22%
  - Layer
    - 15-20%

#### NET WEIGHT SHOWN ON BAG and/or INVOICE



TAKE TIME



OBSERVE LABEL
DIRECTIONS

### Purina® Game Bird® STARTENA BMD 50



#### MEDICATED

#### Starting Ration For Pheasants

Increase Rate Of Gain And Improved Feed Efficiency.

Caution: Use Only As Directed On Reverse Side.

Active Drug Ingredients:

Bacitracin Methylene Disalicylate ...... 50.0g/t

#### **GUARANTEED ANALYSIS**

Crude protein (Min)	30.0000%
Lysine (Min)	
Methionine (Min)	.5000%
Crude fat (Min)	
Crude fiber (Max)	6.5000%
Calcium (Ca) (Min)	1.0000%
Calcium (Ca) (Max)	1.5000%
Phosphorus (P) (Min)	. 0.5000%
Salt (NaCl) (Min)	
Salt (NaCl) (Max)	

#### INGREDIENTS:

Plant protein products, processed grain by-products, grain products, animal protein products, dicalcium phosphate, monocalcium phosphate, calcium caroonate, animal fat preserved with ethoxyquin, salt, methionine supplement, choline chloride, thiamine, biotin, ascorbic acid, riboflavin supplement, pyridoxine hydrochloride, calcium pantothenate, niacin supplement, vitamin E supplement, soybean oil, menadione dimethylpyrimidinol bisulfite. (source of vitamin K), vitamin B-12 supplement, vitamin a supplement, folic acid, I-lysine, vitamin D3 supplement, manganous oxide, zinc oxide, copper sulfate, calcium iodate, sodium selenite.

#### RUMINANT MEAT AND BONE MEAL FREE 06AK G 5422-

042731100199111

(Continued – See Reverse Side)
PURINA MILLS, LLC P.O. Box 66812
St. Louis, MO 63166–6812
E1 CODE: 0005400

## Mixing your own feeds

- There are many different ways to mix feeds or have your own feed made
  - Concentrates and Mineral/Vitamin Mixes are important in mixing the home ration

## Examples

#### Various Poultry Feed Formulations & Nutrient Content Using Prince Poultry Concentrate

	18%	17%	16%	15%	14%			
Poultry Concentrate	725	650	575	500	450			
Corn	1275	1350	1425	1500	1550			
NUTRIENT CONTENT*								
Crude Protein (min) %	18	17	16	15	14			
Lysine (min) %	0.95	0.89	0.80	0.73	0.68			
Methionine (min) %	0.45	0.43	0.40	0.37	0.35			
Crude Fat (min) %	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.3			
Crude Fiber (max) %	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.2			
Calcium %	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.7	1.6			
Phosphorus %	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.60	0.56			
Salt %	0.52	0.47	0.41	0.36	0.32			
Selenium (ppm)	0.435	0.39	0.345	0.30	0.27			

\*Nutrient values are based upon generally accepted values.

Actual nutrient content will vary with actual content of various ingredients used.

Various Poultry Feed Formulations & Nutrient Content Using Prince Poultry Base Mix

	21% Chick Starter	18% Chick Starter	17% Layer	16% Layer	23% Broiler Starter	20% Broiler Grower	18% Broiler Finisher
Base Mix	75	60	50	50	75	65	60
SMB 48	675	560	505	455	720	630	525
Com	1230	1360	1250	1335	1145	1290	1400
Calcium Carbonate	15	15	189	154	4	9	9
Salt	5	5	6	6	6	6	6
Fishmeal					50		
NUTRIENT CO	NTENT*						
Crude Protein (min) %	21	19	17	16	23	20	18
Lysine (min) %	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.3	1.1	0.9
Methionine (min) %	0.5	0.45	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5
Crude Fat (min) %	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.7
Crude Fiber (min) %	2.2	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.2
Calcium %	1.2	1.0	4.2	3.5	1.2	1.0	0.9
Phosphorus %	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.7
Salt %	0.24	0.24	0.29	0.29	0.30	0.30	0.29
Selenium (ppm)	0.30	0.24	0.20	0.20	0.30	0.26	0.24

lutrient values are based upon generally accepted values. Actual nutrient content will vary with actual content of various ingredients use

Source: Prince Feeds

### The Extras

- **Grit** basically stone (mostly a granite product) added to the feed to aid in the grinding of feed in the gizzard
- **Scratch** a mixture of grains, corn, wheat, milo, etc. These mixes are large particles and have a medium to coarse grind
- **Calcium** can be added to layer diets, added larger particle size, typically in the form of oyster shells, limestone

### The Extras

### Table Scraps:

- Used as a treat and not a replacement of regular poultry feeds
- Typically leaf and green is a good rule of thumb
- Meat scraps can be feed in small amounts
- Caution on spices and salt, could have negative impact on production

### The Extras

### Medicated vs. Non-Medicated feeds

- Dependant on markets
- Usually only a coccidiostat and feed with the starter rations.



# **Pasturing Poultry**



# Common Systems

The "Chicken Tractor" Method

Day Range System

Other Systems



# "Chicken Tractor" Method

- Movable pen system
  - Common for meat bird production
  - Floorless pens that are moved once or twice daily



# **Day Range**

- Semi-permanent housing
- Fenced in area "Yard"
- Moved weekly or biweekly
- Common for both layers and meat type birds



# Other methods

Yarding/Ranging

Free Ranging

"All Over"



# Poultry and Forage Utilization

Who is the best forager?

Geese – are the only ones that gain a majority of their diet from pasture

Turkeys/Ducks/Chickens – there are reports that chickens can receive 30% of their diet from pasture,

however this number is actually believed to be less than 10%

## **Poultry Pastures**

Pastures should remain short 3"- 4"

Good mixture of legumes and grasses

Tolerant to traffic

Sod vs. bunch grass

### Pasture Mixes

- Not many recommendations
  - Cornell University 1940
    - Kentucky Bluegrass
    - Canada Bluegrass
    - Rough-stalked Meadow Grass
    - Timothy
    - Rye Grass
    - White Clover

# **Pasture Mixes**

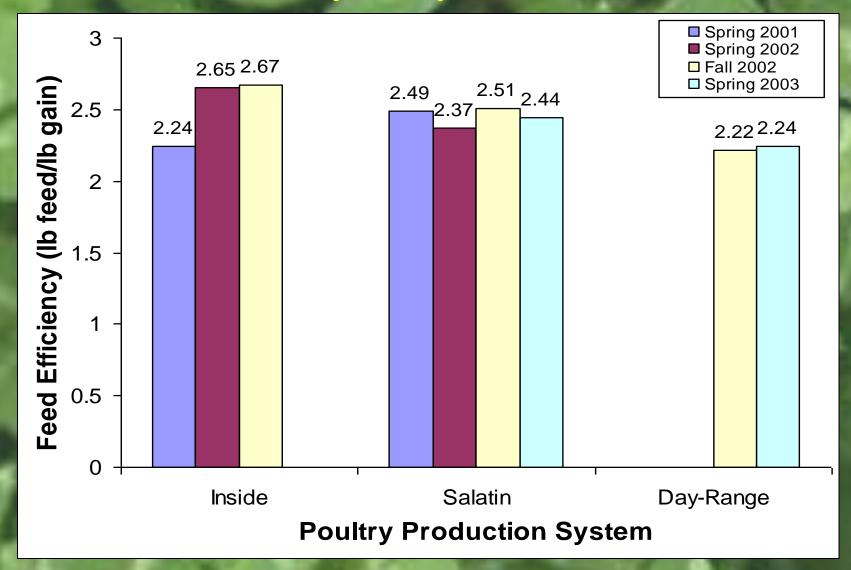
- Common reports of small grain such as oats and rye
- Alfalfa
- Birds Foot Trefoil
- From many accounts diversification is very important

## Can I save feed \$ on Pasture?

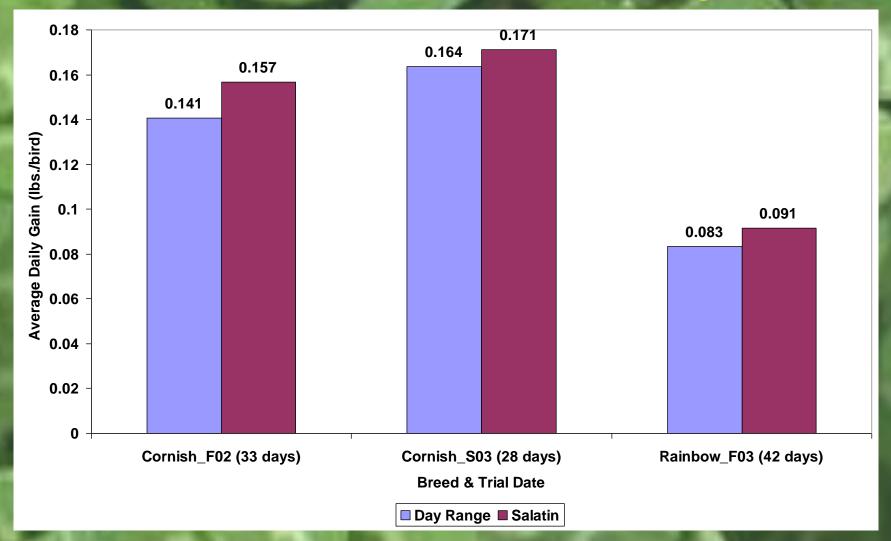
- Study from Truman State University
  - Feed Efficiency of Pasture Poultry Systems

    Michael Siepel, et.al.
  - Undergraduate Project
  - Looked at weight gain and feed efficiencies in three production systems

### **Feed Efficiency: Comparison Across Trials**



### Comparison of Average Daily Gain: Cornish-Rock vs. Rainbow Free Range



Note: ADG evaluated for the entire period the Cornish were on pasture and for the comparable 6 week period that the Rainbow were on pasture

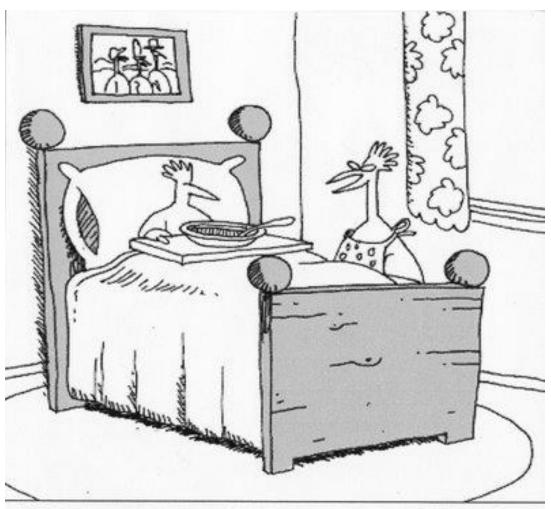
# Is it profitable?

Annual gross and net returns per bird from pastured poultry, 1997 and 1998, four farms

	Farm A		Farm B		Farm C		Farm D	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
Gross return	\$6.70	\$8.47	<b>\$6.38</b>	\$3.80	\$12.00	\$5.61	\$9.36	\$7.05
Net return	\$3.81	\$3.64	-\$0.05	-\$2.82	\$2.39	\$1.33	<b>\$</b> 7.05	\$4.08
# Birds sold	2,898	2,100	633	420	1,110	2,174	700	986

Source: CIAS Research Brief #57 - Raising Poultry on Pasture

## General Poultry Health



"Quit complaining. For one thing, chicken soup is good for a cold. For another, it's nobody we know."

### Concerns about disease

bird to human

#### Salmonellosis

 Salmonella enteritidis or SE can be contracted by eating undercooked eggs or contamination from raw meat. The disease in very rare occasions can occur though fecal contamination.

### Influenza

 In other countries there have been reports of Influenza infecting people from birds. In the US we have had the specific subtype of the virus that affects humans

### Histoplasmosis

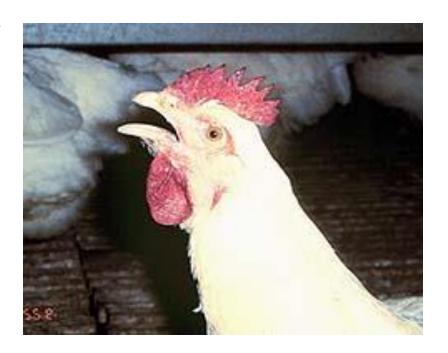
 Respiratory disease in humans caused by a soil fungus, can grow in buildup or in piles of old poultry manure and pigeon droppings.

### Respiratory Diseases

# There are many causes and is very common

### Signs:

- Coughing
- Sneezing
- Discharge from the eyes and nostrils



### Respiratory Diseases

#### Causes:

- Viruses
- Bacteria
- Parasites (such as the gapeworm)
- High ammonia levels

## **Respiratory Diseases**

- Vectors:
  - Other Chickens
  - Rodents
  - Manure
  - Dust



### Non-Respiratory Diseases

- Merek's Disease
  - Chickens 12-25 weeks old
  - Mereks is a type of avian cancer that affects the nervous system, causes lameness and paralysis
  - Mereks is a virus spread in the air on dust and dander
  - No treatment, vaccine is available

### Non-Respiratory Diseases

- Egg Drop Syndrome
  - Affects chickens,
  - Causes thin to no shelled eggs, and reduced egg production
  - Transmitted through the chick.
  - No treatment, molting of the flock to restore egg production

### Non-Respiratory Diseases

### Pullorum

- Chickens and turkeys
- Death of chicks at 5-7 days old. Droopiness, weakness, pasted vent with white diarrhea
- Transmitted through the egg.
- Diseased birds are to be eradicated by law

### Other Concerns

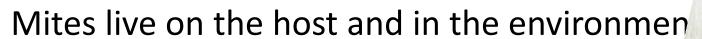
Mites

**Size:** 1 millimeter in diameter

Color: Dark Reddish Black

### **Egg Color & Location:**

White to off-white along the feather shaft



- Decreased Food Intake
- Decreased Egg Production
- Decreased Weight Gain
- Increased Susceptibility to Other Disease



Other Concerns

Lice

Size: 2-3 millimeters long

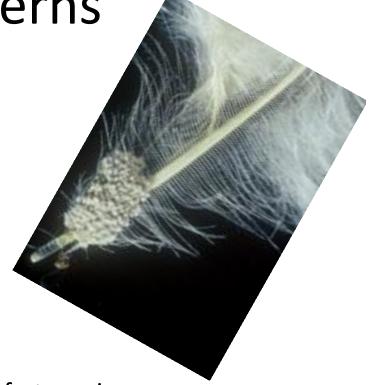
**Color:** Light Brown

#### **Egg Color & Location:**

White and at the base of the feather

Lice only live on the host, and appear to be fast moving.

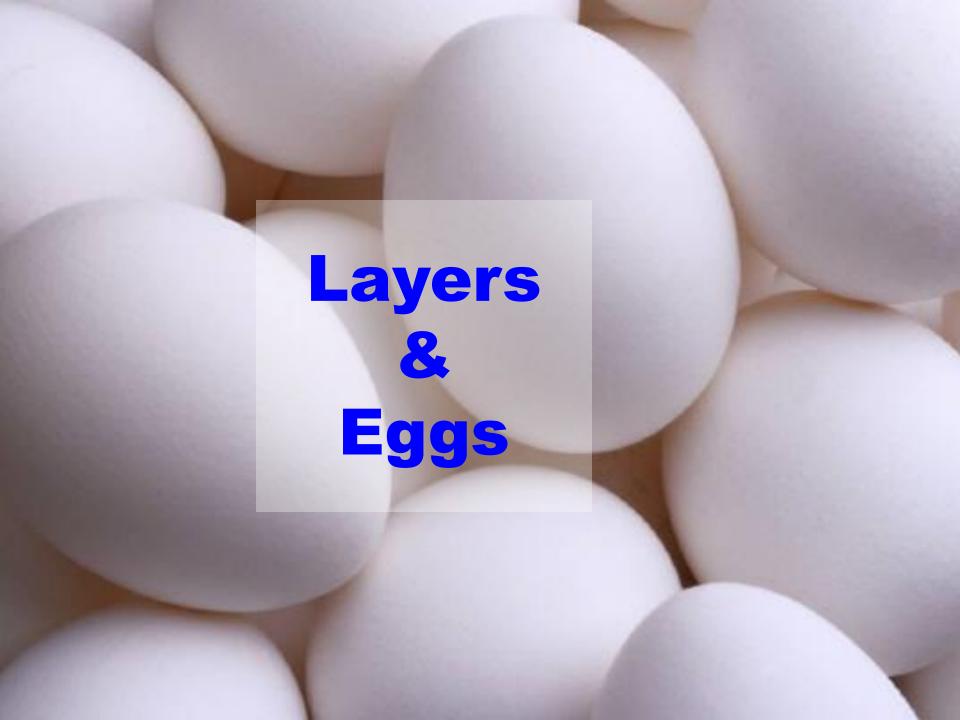
- Decreased Food Intake
- Decreased Egg Production
- Decreased Weight Gain
- Increased Susceptibility to Other Diseases





### Six Steps To Biosecurity

- 1. Keep Your Distance
- 2. Keep It Clean
- 3. Don't Haul Disease Home
- 4. Don't Borrow Disease
- 5. Be Informed
- 6. Report Sick Birds



## Special Considerations: Layers

Color



#### Size & Shape



## The Laying Hen

- Smaller Framed
- Angular in appearance
- Want her to be healthy and vigorous

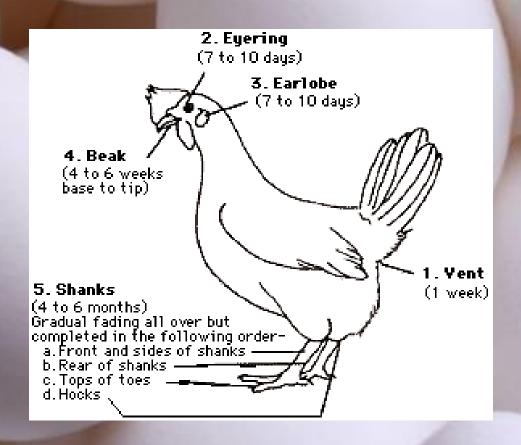


#### Hen in Production

- In Production
  - Comb and Wattles
    - Large
    - Bright red
    - Waxy
  - Pubic Bones are flexible
  - Vent large and moist
  - Abdomen full and pliable

- Out of Production
  - Comb and wattles
    - Small
    - Pale
    - Shriveled
  - Pubic bones are ridged and close together
  - Vent is small and dry

## Pigment Bleaching

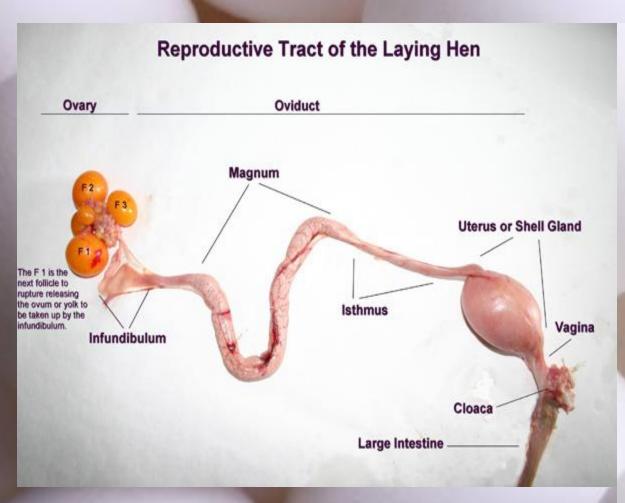


## Lighting

- Long day breeders
  - min length of time needed to be effective is 13 hours and after 17 no benefit with 16 hours being the best.

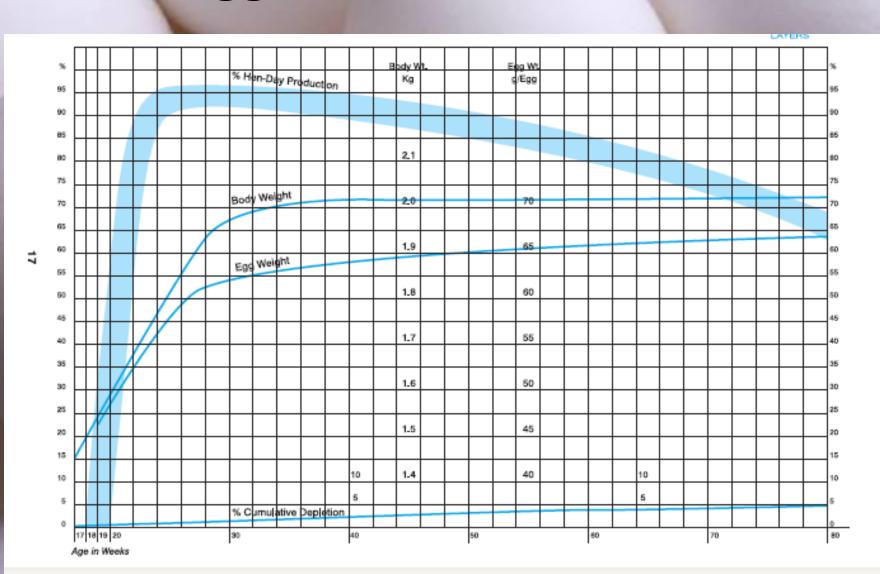
Light intensity of 1 foot-candle

### **Egg Production**



- Infundibulim Picks up the yolk after it is released (fertilization)
   15 min
- Magnum thick thin albumen and chalaza 3 hours
- Isthmus adds the membrane layers 1 1/4 hours
- Uterus- adds the shell 21 hours
- Holding area until the egg passes

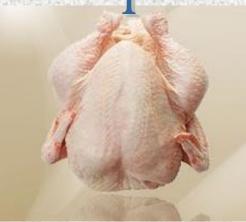
## **Egg Production Chart**

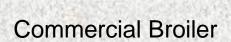




#### **Special Considerations: Meat birds**

Shape of Carcass



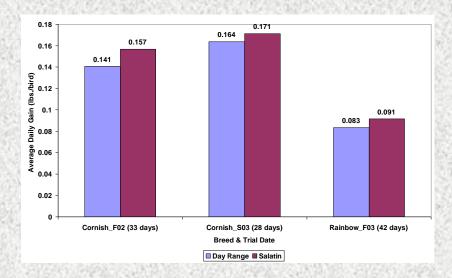




Dual Purpose Breeds

## Taste & Texture

# Growth Rate



## Sale Of Poultry Products

	Poultry Requi	rements	
(ıaım-ıaıseu cince	ens, uuons, geese, <mark>guinea hens</mark> , so	juab, turkeys)	
	Less than 1000 birds per year		
d from the producer's premises	Sold at a farmers market	Sold to retail establishments	
Is are healthy ducer can slaughter and sell birds ithout inspection or a license ducer maintains custody of irds until sold Is can only be sold directly to the consumer Is are labeled "not inspected," ave the name and address of roducer, and net weight	All birds must be slaughtered and processed at a meat licensed facility Birds are labeled "not inspected," and have the name and address of producer, and net weight A mobile retail food license is required to sell birds at farmers markets, and local ordinances may also apply	Birds are processed at a licensed meat establishment Bird-by-bird inspection is required Birds are fully labeled In addition, the producer must be registered as a meat distributor	
	More than 1000 birds per year		
d from the producer's premises	Sold at a farmers market	Sold to retail establishments	
I-by-bird inspection required at a late or USDA licensed facility is are fully labeled ducer must have a retail food stablishment license	Same requirements as at left Local ordinances may apply at farmers markets	Same requirements as at left In addition, the producer must be registered as a meat distributor	

## **Determining Your Price**

Α	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н	ALC: N				113.13	ries.	Section 1		2 13
ЛM	PLE BREAKEVEN	CALCUL!	TOR	POULTRY	Y			31								
	by Adam Hady - Richland	County UWE	X					32	Fixed Cost							
								33	Annual building cost					\$4.17	50	
Exper	nses							34	Annual equipment cost					\$1.67	20	
	D		# 1.1-1-		D-II			35	7 umdar oquipmont ooot					<b>V1.01</b>	20	
	Purchase cost	price per bird \$0.00			Dollars \$0.00			36	T-4-1 Fb 1 C4					@E 00	70	
	Chick/poult/duckling cost	\$0.00	12 \$0.00		\$0.00				Total Fixed Cost					\$5.83	70	
	Shipping Cost Arrival cost	\$0.00	Φ0.00		\$0.00			37			min /day	Wage	Days			
	Anivar cost	φυ.υυ			φ0.00			38	Estimated Labor	0.34	5	\$0.00	49	\$0.00	\$0.00	
								39								
	Feed cost	Amt./ bird	Unit	Price	Unit	Dollars/bird	Dollars total	40								
	Starter	0.25	lbs	\$27.00	\$/cwt	\$0.07	\$0.81	41				T-4-1 C4		000.44	E005 04	
	Grower finisher	22.50	lbs	\$23.00	\$/cwt	\$5.18						Total Cost		\$22.11	\$265.31	-
	Pasture	0.02	0.25	\$0.00	\$/acre	\$0.00		42								
	Mixing/ milling cost		lbs	\$0.00	\$/cwt	\$0.00	\$0.00	43	Estimated	Live wt of th	vt of the Bird (lbs) 8.2					
								44						lb	bird	
	Total feed cost					\$5.24	\$62.91	45			Bros	keven Sale	nricol	\$4.28		
											Died	keveli Jale	pricer	ψ4.Z0	924.31	
	Bird costs		# of Unite	Price /unit				46								
	death loss	10%	# Of Offics	1 fice /unit				47 Inc	come							
	bedding	0.17	2	\$6.20		\$1.03	\$12.40	48								
	Medication		_	******		\$0.00	\$0.00	49		pounds	per bird					
	other supply cost					\$0.00	\$0.00	50	Birds Sold	61.992	11					
	fuel/ transportation					\$7.50	\$90.00	51	Asking Price	\$5.00	\$28.00					
	electrical cost					\$2.50	\$30.00					<b> </b>				
	processing cost					\$0.00	\$0.00	52	Gross Income	\$309.96	\$302.40					
								53	Net Profit	\$44.65	\$37.09					
	Total Bird cost					\$11.03	\$132.40	54								

#### Poultry Resources

- UWEX Poultry Educational Resources: http://www.uwex.edu/ces/animalscience/poultry/resources.cfm
- Richland County UWEX Poultry: <a href="http://Richland.uwex.edu/ag/Poultrylinks.html">http://Richland.uwex.edu/ag/Poultrylinks.html</a>
- Guide to Raising Healthy Chickens (A3858-01): <u>learningstore.uwex.edu</u>
- Producing Poultry on Pasture (A3908-03): <u>learningstore.uwex.edu</u>
- Pasture Poultry Ark (A3908-02): <u>learningstore.uwex.edu</u>
- University of Kentucky Small and Backyard Flocks: www.ca.uky.edu/smallflocks/
- North Carolina Extension Small Flock Management Resources:
   <a href="http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/poulsci/tech manuals/small flock resources.">http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/poulsci/tech manuals/small flock resources.</a>
   <a href="http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/poulsci/tech manuals/small flock resources.">http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/poulsci/tech manuals/small flock resources.</a>
- Mad City Chickens: <a href="http://www.madcitychickens.com/">http://www.madcitychickens.com/</a>
- Urban Chickens: <a href="http://urbanchickens.org/">http://urbanchickens.org/</a>

