

CHICKENS IN THE BACKYARD

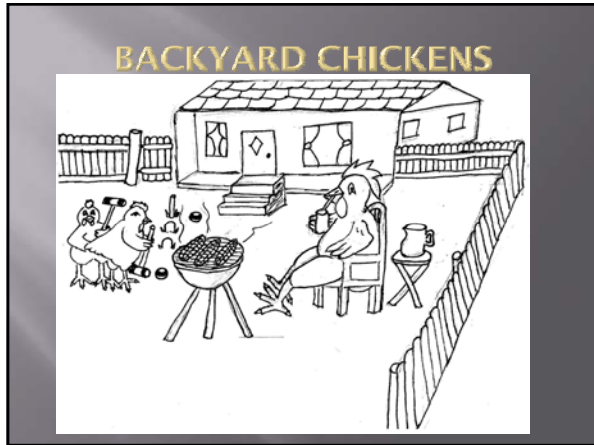
POULTRY HEALTH AND BIO-SECURITY

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AREAS COVERED

- ▣ Start Healthy - Stay Healthy
 - BABY CHICKS AND BROODING
 - MATURE BIRDS
- ▣ Poultry Health and Biosecurity
- ▣ Feeding the Small Flock
- ▣ Maintaining Production
- ▣ Predator and Rodent Control
- ▣ Fly and Nuisance Control
- ▣ Containing Birds in Appropriate Areas
- ▣ Disposal of Dead Birds



SOURCES OF POULTRY

- ▣ Day Old Poultry
 - Feed Stores
 - Mail Order Hatcheries
 - Pick Up at Hatchery
 - **ADVANTAGES:**
 - Less Likely to Have any pathogens
 - Wider Selection of breeds and varieties
 - **DISADVANTAGES:**
 - Takes longer to reach production age (20-24 wks)
 - May be sexing errors of day-olds

HATCHERIES AND CHICK STORES

May pick up birds at the hatchery

Chicks are available at various farm supply stores

Chicks may be obtained via mail order.

Important to get chicks as soon after hatching as possible.

BROODING DAY-OLD POULTRY

- ▣ Provide 95 degree temperature for 1st week
- ▣ Chick behavior reflects proper temperature, birds should be evenly distributed under lamp
- ▣ May use heat lamp and adjust temp. by height
- ▣ Provide fresh feed and water
- ▣ Keep chicks free of drafts
- ▣ Provide fresh, clean bedding
- ▣ Reduce temperature weekly until 75 degrees
- ▣ After about 8 weeks the birds may be moved to outdoor facilities, weather permitting

FACILITIES FOR DAY OLD POULTRY



May be existing equipment or home constructed.

Items often used are stock tanks, wading pools, large cardboard boxes, and similar structures

Or maybe simply constructed from wood.

Each chick brooded needs about 1 sq.ft.

A place to suspend the heat lamp with the ability to raise it to adjust temperatures

EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO BROOD CHICKS

FEEDERS AND WATERERS



SIMPLE BROODER



CARE OF BIRDS FROM 8 WEEKS TO AGE OF LAY

- ▣ After chicks have developed feathers and no longer need supplemental heat.
- ▣ Provide a minimum of 3 sq. ft. growing area.
- ▣ Keep feed and clean water available.
- ▣ Remove any males (sexing errors).

SOURCES OF MATURE POULTRY

- ▣ POULTRY AUCTIONS
- ▣ SWAP MEETS
- ▣ DIRECTLY FROM FARMS

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF MATURE BIRDS

- ▣ **ADVANTAGES**
 - Lower mortality
 - Immediate production
 - Wide selection of breeds and varieties
- ▣ **DISADVANTAGES**
 - More expensive start up
 - Higher risk of introducing parasites or disease organisms to the facilities or flock

AUCTIONS AND SWAPMEETS



Many different breeds and varieties are available. Most of the hens are in or near production.

It is easy to determine the sex of the birds.

SWAPMEETS



YOU CAN GET EVERYTHING AT A SWAP MEET



EVEN THIS!



Even though the birds may appear healthy, they may be sources of organisms that your existing birds have no or little resistance to.

If mature birds are desired, all the birds should be from the same source. Do not mix birds from differing sources.

Take precautions when visiting auctions and/or swap meets, to avoid contaminating your birds and /or facilities.

POULTRY HEALTH AND BIOSECURITY

EXTERNAL PARASITES

Lice and mites

INTERNAL PARASITES

Worms

RESPIRATORY DISEASES

CRD, Newcastle Disease, Avian Influenza

PREDATORS

Any animal that likes a chicken dinner

EXTERNAL PARASITES



RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS



- ❑ Probably the most common ailment of chickens
- ❑ Many diseases have respiratory distress as their major symptom
- ❑ Antibiotic treatments are available
- ❑ Consult veterinarian or feed store

BIO-SECURITY

As the name indicates, it is the protection of birds and facilities from biological agents that can harm your animals



EDUCATION MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE USDA AND CAN BE OBTAINED THROUGH THE MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

BIOSECURITY MEASURES FOR THE SMALL POULTRY FLOCK

- ❑ Keep facilities clean and dry.
- ❑ Use dedicated clothing and shoes.
- ❑ Do not visit other poultry premises.
- ❑ Use extreme caution when attending auctions, swap meets and/or poultry shows.
- ❑ Do not borrow or loan equipment without thorough cleaning and sanitation.

BIOSECURITY FOR THE BIRDS

- ❑ If adding birds to the flock becomes necessary, they should be quarantined from healthy birds for at least 30 days.
- ❑ If birds are taken away to shows, etc. - they should be quarantined on return.
- ❑ Care for sick or quarantined birds LAST! Disinfect shoes before being around healthy birds.

SANITIZERS AND CLEANING

- ❑ Simple household bleach is an acceptable sanitizer.
- ❑ Equipment should be free from organic matter before sanitizing. Household detergents are fine.
- ❑ You are the best defense your birds have in protecting their health.

FEEDING THE SMALL FLOCK



Complete Rations are Available for all types Poultry

- Prepared feeds are available at most farm supply stores. These complete rations supply the nutritional needs of the birds.
- Mature hens will consume about 1/4 lb. per day.
- Scratch grains are often used in backyard flocks, but do not supply all of the nutritional needs of the birds



MAINTAINING PRODUCTION

- ❑ Do not let birds run out of feed or water
- ❑ Keep predators and pets out of poultry pen
- ❑ Provide a minimum of 14 hours of light per day



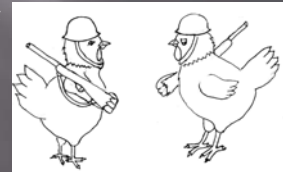
Predator Control

YOU ARE NOT THE ONLY ONE THAT ENJOYS BACKYARD POULTRY PRODUCTION



Protecting your flock

- ❑ Tightly constructed coops and pens
- ❑ Overhead protection from birds of prey
- ❑ Pens should have wire buried to prevent varmints from digging into enclosure
- ❑ Put birds up at night



RODENT CONTROL

UNWANTED GUESTS WILL FIND YOUR POULTRY FACILITIES



Rodents :

1. Waste and spoil feed
2. Spread Diseases and Parasites
3. Are just plain Gross



Measures to Reduce Rodent Infestations

- ❑ Keep feed in a tightly covered container
- ❑ Keep feeders and water containers clean
- ❑ Do not feed chickens table scraps
- ❑ Practice good general sanitation

Fly and Nuisance Control



Flies and odors may cause problems with your neighbors.



SANITATION AND FLY CONTROL

- ❑ Do not allow manure to accumulate
- ❑ Keep coop and run area as clean and dry as possible
- ❑ Do not feed chickens table scraps
- ❑ Practice good rodent control practices

KEEPING CHICKENS WHERE THEY BELONG

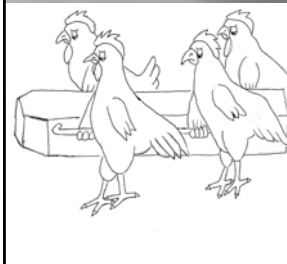


Primary feathers are clipped on one wing only. This is painless, and must be done yearly.



Only one of the wings is clipped, so that birds are unbalanced and cannot fly well.

DISPOSAL OF DEAD BIRDS



- ❑ BURIAL
 - If only one or two birds
- ❑ LAND FILL
 - Triple wrap and place in garbage
- ❑ COMPOSTING
 - Household compost bin 160 degrees, predators
- ❑ INCINERATION
 - Vet Clinic, expensive

SUMMARY

- ❑ Backyard Poultry Flocks are becoming more popular
- ❑ Problems will occur, but can be dealt with
- ❑ Proper biosecurity is necessary
- ❑ Help is available
- ❑ Enjoy your experience

QUESTIONS????

