

Raising Chickens for Eggs or Meat

"I know my chicken. You got to know your chicken." —Cibo Matto

Why keep chickens

- Eggs
- Meat
- Pets

Breed Selection

- Bantam vs. Standard
- Eggs
- Meat
- Dual Purpose
- Purebred vs. Hybrid
- Good starting flock size: 6 birds

Housing considerations

- Site selection
- Fully-enclosed, free-range, or in-between
- Coop design
- Predator control

Obtaining chickens

- Eggs for hatching
- Chicks
- Adult birds

Raising Chicks

- Brooder
- Feeding
- Chick health

Feeding Adult Birds

- Water
- Complete rations
 - mash
 - crumble
 - pellets
- Supplemental feeds
 - chicken scratch
 - cracked corn
 - oyster shell
 - grit

Health

- Basic anatomy
- Sick chicken signs
 - Pale comb
 - Listless
 - Feathers fluffed
 - "Pasted" vent
 - Distended abdomen
- Sick chicken care
 - Isolate
 - Keep warm
 - Easy to reach food and water
- EENT
- Digestive system
- Respiratory system
- Circulatory system
- Reproductive system
- Skeletal system
- Parasites
 - Feather lice
 - Feather mites
 - Leg mites
 - Worms
 - Coccidia
- Infectious disease
 - Pollorum-Typhoid
 - Mareks disease
 - Respiratory disease
- Production or housing related
 - Egg yolk peritonitis
 - Egg bound
 - Bumble foot
 - Feather picking
 - predation
- Age related
 - Cancer
 - Heart disease
- Molting

Handling Demo

Grip legs firmly but gently
Control the wings

RESOURCES

General Info

Feather Site

www.feathersite.com/Poultry/BRKPoultryPage.html

This is the best site for breed photos and links to anything you'd like to know about poultry

The Coop

www.the-coop.org/index.html

Backyard Chicken

www.backyardchickens.com/

Hatcheries (most sell equipment and supplies too)

Murray McMurray Hatchery

Webster City, IA 50595

800-456-3280

www.mcmurrayhatchery.com

My Pet Chicken

501 Westport Ave #311

Norwalk, CT 06851

888-460-1529

www.mypetchicken.com

(will ship orders as small as 3 chicks)

Ideal Poultry Breeding Farms, Inc

PO Box 591

Cameron, TX 76520-0591

254-697-6677

www.ideal-poultry.com

Randall Burkey Company, Inc

117 Industrial Drive

Boerne, TX 78006

800-531-1097

www.randallburkey.com

Stromberg's Chicks and Gamebirds Unlimited

PO Box 400

Pine River, MN 56474

800-720-1134

www.strombergschickens.com

Cackle Hatchery

PO Box 529

Lebanon, MO 65536

417-532-4581

www.cacklehatchery.com

Sand Hill Preservation Center

1878 230th Street

Calamus, IA 52729

563-246-2299

www.sandhillpreservation.com

(heirloom and rare breeds)

Equipment and Supplies Only

Nasco Farm & Ranch

800 558 9595

www.enasco.com/farmandranch

Premier1Supplies

800-282-6631

www.premier1supplies.com/

(especially for electric netting)

Foy's Pet Supplies

877-355-7727

www.foyspigeonsupplies.com/index.html

(Has electronic doorkeeper—automatic coop door)

Verm-X USA

866 942 0042

www.verm-xusa.com/

(Herbal dewormer with no withdrawal time)

Online Auction Sites

www.ebay.com
www.ovabid.com
www.eggbid.com

Breed Information

American Livestock Breed Conservancy
www.albc-usa.org

American Poultry Association
www.amerpoultryassn.com

Publications

Backyard Poultry Magazine (800) 551-5691 www.backyardpoultrymag.com

Storey's Guide to Raising Chickens Gail Damerow

Storey's Illustrated Guide to Poultry Breeds Carol Ekarius

How to Raise Chickens Christine Heinrichs

Barnyard in your Backyard Gail Damerow

Health and Regulatory Information

Fair Isle Animal Clinic
206-463-3607

Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory
253-445-4537
www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts_waddl/avian.aspx

USDA-APHIS
www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_dis_spec/poultry/

King County Extension Livestock program (on hiatus, but has links to resources)
king.wsu.edu/livestock/index.htm

Washington State Dept. of Agriculture Egg Safety
www.agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/Eggs/

Raising Chickens for Meat

Step-by-step Processing Instructions

Video demonstration: www.featherman.net/videodemos.html
Written instructions: www.butcherachicken.blogspot.com

To see Vashon's Whizbang Chicken Plucker in action:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=IY4dTB_38Eg
or go to YouTube.com and search for "vashons chicken plucker"

Pastured Poultry Moveable Cage Plans

http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu/soilmgmt/SusAg_PasturedPoultry.htm