

# **RAISING YOUR HOME CHICKEN FLOCK**



# WHAT IS A PROJECT AREA?

- Where you are interested
- Welcome to the Poultry Project: AKA Chick Chain
- What's your goal?
  - Become proficient in knowing how chickens from the egg to the table.
  - Get involved in embryology, poultry judging, growing and managing a small flock of chickens and chicken barbecue programs.



# WORDS TO KNOW

- **Expenses**: Anything that costs you money, anything that could have cost you money, even if you got it for free
- **Receipts**: Anything you get money for: eggs sold, birds sold
- **Pullets**: a young hen under 1 year old
- **Culled/ Culling**: getting rid of one of the birds
- **Layers**: a bird that is laying eggs. ***The bird to bring to the show.***



# TYPES OF CHICKS

## WHITE BARRED ROCKS- 6LBS



- Hens: 6 lbs
- Males: 9 ½ lbs

## RHODE ISLAND REDS



- Hens: 6 ½ lbs
- Males: 8 ½ lbs

## BLACK SEX LINKS



- Hens: 5 ½ lbs
- Males: 8 ½ lbs

# **WILL I GET ANY MALES/ ROOSTERS?**

- No....hopefully!
- Accidents happen by our poultry company.

# BEFORE ARRIVAL

- Prepare a place free of draft and predators
- Adequate space is necessary. ( Age in weeks:
  - 0-6 wks=25 sq. ft.
  - 7-17 wks= 45 sq. ft.
  - 18+ wks= 60 sq. ft.
- Cover the floor with 3 inches of bedding
- A heat source prior to placing the chicks so the bedding is not cold

# SHOULD I MIX THE CHICKS WITH THE ONES I HAVE?

- NO, please don't.
- Chicks need more care in the beginning
- Mixing breeds could result in lower survival



**POP QUIZ!**



# **HOW MUCH SPACE IS REQUIRED FOR CHICKS 7-17 WEEKS?**

- A.) 25 sq. ft.
- B.) 45 sq. ft.
- C.) 60 sq. ft.
- D.) 35 sq. ft.

# **HOW MUCH BEDDING IS ENOUGH FOR THE CHICKS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL?**

- A.) 4 inches
- B.) 3 inches
- C.) 1 inch
- D.) ½ inch

# HEAT SOURCE

- A heat lamp with a 60-100 watt bulb
- An infrared lamp with 250 watt
- Lamp should be 18 inches off the bedding.
- An ideal temperature is 90-95°F .



# HEAT SOURCE

- If chicks bunch under the heat source they are too cold. Lower the light.
- If chicks stay away from the source they are too hot. Raise the light.
- Temperature should be reduced 5°F each week until week 5.



# FOOD FOR THOUGHT?

- Should newspaper used as a bedding?

- NO!!!
- Sprayed legs
- No cedar shavings
- Peat moss can be dusty
- Pine shavings are good



**POP QUIZ!**



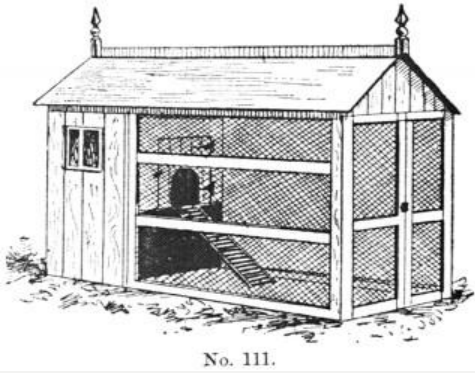
# HOW MUCH SHOULD THE TEMPERATURE BE REDUCED BY EACH WEEK?

- A.) 2°F
- B.) 10°F
- C.) 5°F
- D.) 15°F

# WHAT IS THE DESIRED TEMPERATURE SUPPLIED BY THE HEAT SOURCE?

- A.) 80° - 85°F
- B.) 70° - 75°F
- C.) 90° - 95°F
- D.) 60° - 65°F





# HOUSING



- Protection from weather, predators, injury, and theft
- Locate the building in a well drained area
- Need access to water and electricity
- Comfort of the birds is important
- Housing should be tight, and well ventilated
- Permanent or temporary housing can be used

# HOW DO I PROTECT MY CHICKENS FROM PREDATORS?

- Placing your chicken house or coop on blocks (1ft) discourage snakes, skunks, rats from living under it
- Keep holes and sidings free of holes
- Mesh holes should be smaller than 1 inch
- Make sure fences are tall enough
  - Keeps predators who can jump away
- Give them a place to hide

**POP QUIZ!**





# WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING LIST THE REQUIREMENTS FOR HOUSING?

- A.) Protection from weather, predators
- B.) Well drained and ventilated
- C.) Access to water and electricity
- D.) All of the above



# FEEDING

- **About 70% of the cost of feed raising chickens**
- **50-10 lb. bags are more costly to the farmer**
- **6 required nutrients: water, carbohydrates, fat, protein, vitamins, & minerals**
- **Laying hens will eat about  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. of feed each day.**
- **Do not feed scratch grain; it can cause chickens to pick at feathers, and can cause less egg production.**

# FEEDING



- Different feeds for different desires: starter, grower, finisher, & layer
- Different types for different birds: pullet, layer, broiler
- Birds need grit in their diet to help with digestion
- Chicks absorb the yolk, which provides nutrients for the first three days
- Feed consumption decreases as temperature rises above 86°F.

**POP QUIZ!**



# **OF THE MONEY YOU WILL SPEND ON THE CHICKS, WHAT PERCENT WILL BE SPENT ON FEED?**

- A.) 70%
- B.) 50%
- C.) 20%
- D.) 90%

# HOW MUCH FEED WILL EACH LAYING HEN EAT DAILY?

- A.)  $\frac{1}{2}$  the hens body weight per day
- B.)  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. per day
- C.)  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. per day
- D.)  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb. per day





# WATERERS (DRINKERS)

- Chicks need fresh clean water
- Make sure waterer cannot tip over
- A five gallon waterer will accommodate up to 75 hens



# WATERERS (DRINKERS)

- Allow 2-3 inches of drinker space per bird
- Wet bedding can cause feet problems, and also provide climates for bacteria such as *E. coli* and *Salmonella*
- Ventilation is important for dry bedding



**POP QUIZ!**



# HOW MANY TOTAL HENS WILL A 5 GALLON WATERER SERVE?

- A.) 100 hens
- B.) 85 hens
- C.) 75 hens
- D.) 90 hens

# HOW MUCH DRINKING SPACE SHOULD THERE BE FOR EACH BIRD?

- A.) Wingspan width for each bird
- B.) 4-5 inches for each bird
- C.) 2-3 inches for each bird
- D.) 6 inches for each bird





# DISEASES

- Birds can become infected with intestinal parasites called coccidia; it is the most common cause of death in birds.
- Coccidiostat is typically added to the diets of chickens raised on the ground.
- Lymphoid Leukosis is a tumor-causing disease caused by a retrovirus.
- Visceral Marek's disease is a tumor on the liver and other organs; it causes paralysis.
- Gray eye disease shrinks the iris and turns the birds eye gray resulting in blindness.



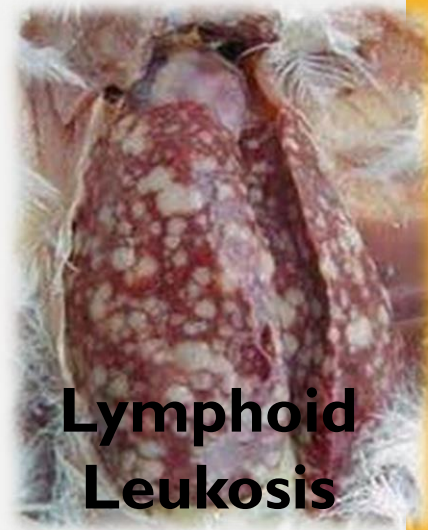


# DISEASES

- External parasites should be checked once a week for signs.
- Internal parasites are worms found in the digestive and respiratory tract.
- Internal parasites are contracted through eating insects which carry the worm eggs, and the bird ingests the insect.



**Coccidia**



**Lymphoid  
Leukosis**



**Visceral Marek's**

**POP QUIZ!**



# WHERE ARE INTERNAL PARASITES FOUND?

- A.) In the digestive and respiratory tract
- B.) Buried in the feathers near the skin
- C.) On the underside of their paws
- D.) All of the above

# WHICH DISEASE IS THE MOST COMMON DEATH IN BIRDS?

- A.) Coccidia
- B.) Lymphoid Leukosis
- C.) Visceral Marek's
- D.) Gray Eye

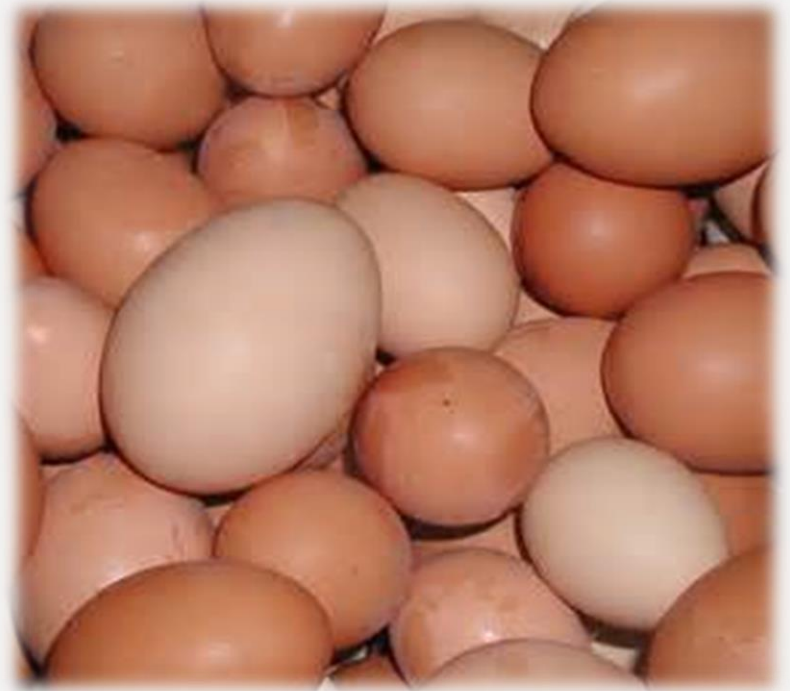
# EGGS

- Eggs are laid at the same temperature as the hen at 105 to 107°F.
- An egg shell has about 8,000 pores.
- As the egg cools, air is pulled into the egg through the pores.



# EGGS

- Eggs should be collected each day to ensure cleaner eggs.
- Eggs should be dry prior to being placed in the refrigerator and stored at or below 45°F.



**POP QUIZ!**



# **TRUE OR FALSE: EGGS SHOULD BE DRIED BEFORE PLACING IN THE REFRIGERATOR.**

- A.) True
- B.) False



# HOW MANY PORES ARE LOCATED ON AN EGG?

- A.) 100,000 pores
- B.) 80,000 pores
- C.) 8,000 pores
- D.) 20,000 pores



# EGG PRODUCTION

- A rooster is not needed for egg production.
- Egg size increases with the chickens age.
- The hen will start to lay 18-22 week of age.



# EGG PRODUCTION

- The average hen lays 257 eggs per year.
- It takes about 23-25 hours for the hen to produce an egg.
- Production is best in the summer.



# **FINAL POP QUIZ!**




# **TRUE OR FALSE: EGG SIZE DECREASES AS THE CHICKENS AGE.**

- A.) True
- B.) False

# WHEN IS THE BEST TIME FOR PRODUCTION?

- A.) Summer
- B.) Winter
- C.) Fall
- D.) Spring



# **OVERTON COUNTY 4-H RECORD BOOK**

**HOW TO USE IT**

# PAGES

1. Instructions
2. Expenses and Receipts
3. Pullet Growing Financial Statement
4. Mortality Record
5. Daily Egg Record





**WHAT NOW?**

# WHEN WILL MISS NICOLE CONTACT ME?

- Have everyone sign up for REMIND
- Before you receive the chickens
- The month to 2 months before the show
- When we start our poultry judging team
- Any other poultry project information

*If you do not hear from Miss Nicole, please call the extension office to make sure you are getting the updates.*

- August Poultry Show and Sale
  - Arrive early
  - Wash your birds
  - Be ready to wait
  - No money given out unless everyone follows the rules of the contract, prizes money awarded later
- Practice at the fair show
  - July 14-23, 2016
  - Fair books arrive in May to Extension Office
  - Lots of money to be awarded their



## THE SHOW

## Animal Science 4-H

HOME    FACULTY & STAFF ▾    UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM    GRADUATE PROGRAM ▾    RESEARCH ▾    EXTENSION ▾    4-H ▾    ALUMNI & FRIENDS    PUBLICATIONS

UT Institute of Agriculture > Animal Science > Animal Science 4-H > 4-H Poultry, Animal Science



### 4-H Poultry

The Tennessee 4-H Livestock program offers many opportunities for 4-Her's to learn about poultry production. The county-based "Chick Chain" program gives youth the opportunity to get hands on with chickens and learn about animal agriculture. In addition, youth may participate in poultry judging competitions and the 4-H Project Achievement. For more information, browse our webpage or contact your local UT Extension Agent.

### What's Going On

#### Chick Chain Project

Participants in the 4-H Chick Chain receive either 12 or 25 baby chicks in the spring. They are required to house, feed, and care for them properly. Later in the year they bring some of their pullets to the Poultry Show and Sale. These pullets are then judged and auctioned. The remaining pullets are the 4-H member's to keep. Besides prize money and ribbons that are awarded based on the quality of the pullets, 4-H members gain important skills from having the responsibility of caring for their animals.

For more information about the Chick Chain Project, contact your county Extension office.

### Resources and Links

- Tennessee 4-H
- Tennessee FFA
- Tennessee Poultry Producers Association

### 4-H Programs

Beef  
Dairy  
Goat  
Horse  
Poultry  
Sheep  
Swine  
Livestock Educational Contest  
4-H Publications  
4-H Show Archives  
SharePoint Agent Downloads  
Entry Forms & Documents

### Program Contact



**WEBSITES  
THAT END IN  
.EDU**

[Ag.Tennessee.edu/animalscience/4-H/](http://Ag.Tennessee.edu/animalscience/4-H/)

The Local Extension Office



# TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Take Pictures Frequently
- Keep track of everything in your record book
  - IT IS NOT AN OPTION
- Call or E-mail Miss Nicole with questions or updates
- Schedule a farm visit

# WHAT IF ALL MY BIRDS DIE?

- Whether three die or all of them, contact Miss Nicole.
- I repeat, **CONTACT MISS NICOLE.**
- You will **NOT** loose your deposit if you let me know ahead of time.
- If you hear someone else say all their birds die, tell them to contact Miss Nicole.
- Miss Nicole must notify UT **IMMEDIATELY.**

**E-MAIL**  
**NMARRERO@UTK.EDU**

**CALL**  
**931-823-2735**