

Production

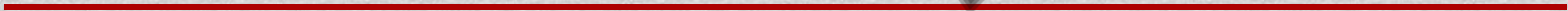
Management

Small Flock Production Management

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What is Production Management

- “The planning and control of processes to ensure that they move smoothly at the required level.”
- Key words – ‘**PLANNING**’ and ‘**CONTROL**’



Choose Your Outcome

- What will these birds be used for?
 - Meat – shorter lifespan, higher feed needs
 - Eggs – longer lifespan, higher feed needs
 - Show – longer lifespan, lower feed needs
 - Multi-purpose – varies!



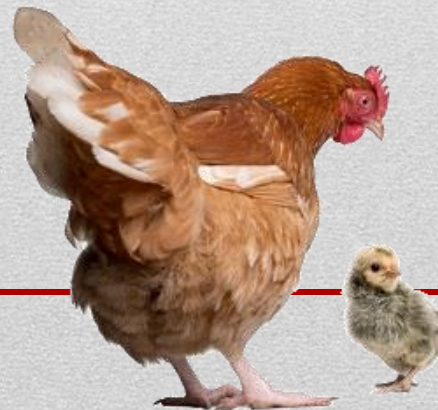
Breeds

- Meat
 - Fast-growing broad-breasted birds
- Eggs
 - Slower growing, begin laying 4-6 months of age
- Show
 - Over 400 breeds are recognized; over 1000 shows a year in the US alone
- Multi-Purpose
 - Most backyard breeds can be used for meat, eggs, and show!



Bird Source

- Adults
 - Friends, shows, live bird markets, Craigslist, shelters
 - Pros: Already producing, finished brooding
 - Cons: Unknown history/disease status
- Chicks
 - Mail-order, feed store, friends, home hatch
 - Pros: Less likely to have disease
 - Cons: More investment



Housing

Three (to Four) Parts of a Happy Coop



- Inside/Roost
 - Outside/Range
 - Feed and Water
 - Nest Box
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Housing

- **Inside/Roost**
 - Protection from predators
 - Protection from environment
 - Appropriate area to sleep
 - Density: 10 inches of perch per bird



Housing

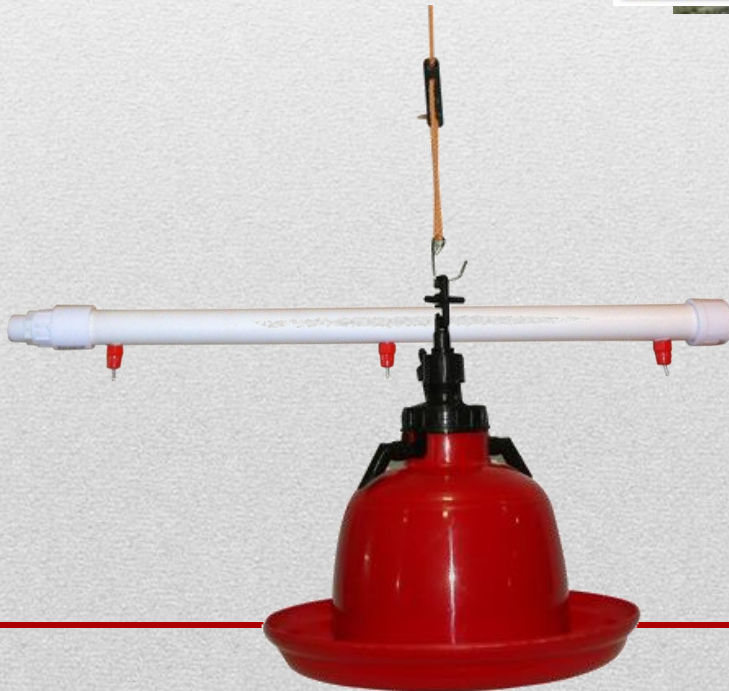
- **Outside/Range**
 - Enclosure
 - Enrichment
 - Safety



Size based on flock size, breed, and sex of birds

Housing

- **Feeder**
 - Pan
 - Bucket/Trough
 - Treadle/Chook



- **Waterer**
 - Nipple
 - Pan
 - Bell

Housing

- **Nest Boxes**
 - 1 nest box for every 4 hens
 - Shavings or straw
 - CLEAN CLEAN
CLEAN



Feed

- Starter
- Grower
- Finisher
- Layer
- Maintenance
- Crumble vrs Pellet vrs ‘snacks’
 - Food sources like onions can change flavor of the eggs, while feeding meat is a good way to spread disease
- Oyster Shell/Calcium source
 - Not just for eggs – also for bones!



Bedding

- Dry, drained, and clean!
- Straw, shavings
(avoid hardwoods), rice hulls
- Clean weekly



- **What is Ammonia?**
 - NH_3 – common and made by decay of organic materials
 - Causes burns in eyes and on feet
 - Harmful to humans!
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Lighting



- **Meat – 12-14 hours**
- **Eggs – 14-16 hours**



*Incandescent are better than
fluorescent bulbs*

Timers are your friend!

Biosecurity

Keep you, your chickens, and your friends safe

- How to keep your birds from getting YOU sick
 - Wash your hands
 - Use different shoes
 - Wash eggs
 - Clean coop is clean food!



Vaccination

- Is it worth it?

YES... sort-of



Marek's Disease



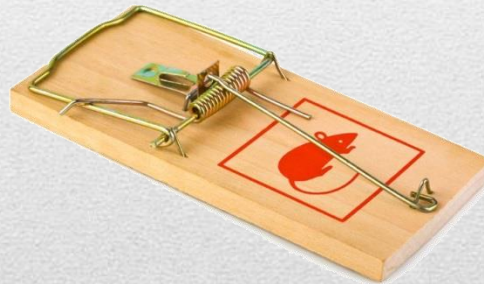
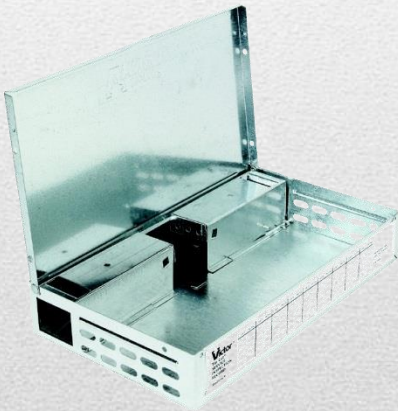
Worming and Delousing

- De-lousing powder
- De-wormer
 - Ivermectin
- Environmental changes
 - Full clean-out, painting perches with mineral oil/kerosene, diatomaceous earth



Rodent and Pest Control

- Methods available
 - Traps, poison



- Prevent by keeping feed off ground, eggs collected regularly
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What to do if...?

- High mortality
 - Send for necropsy, call Davis





Questions?
