

Raising Chickens: Where Do We Begin?

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Raising Chickens... ...Hawaiian Style



It All Starts...At the Beginning with Chick Quality



Ensuring Chick Quality



- ❖ Source of Chicks
- ❖ Purchase Chicks
- ❖ Hatch Your Own

DECISIONS...DECISIONS...DECISIONS!



Buying Baby Chicks



• Source

- ❖ Free “Gifts”: No Such Thing...
- ❖ Feed Supply Stores
- ❖ Commercial Hatcheries: Breeds
 - ❖ Mail-Order: Murray McMurray; Stromberg
 - ❖ Commercial Stocks: Commercial Breeds



**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF MY FLOCK?
ENJOYMENT OR FOR FOOD?**



Buying Baby Chicks



Breed

- ❖ Number and Color of Eggs
- ❖ Personality/Temperament/Noise

Rhode Island Reds vs.
Araucanas





Let the Buyer Beware!



- ❖ Know Your Source: Reputable
- ❖ NPIP Hatchery: Hens & Environment; Biosecurity
- ❖ Salmonella pullorum (pullorum disease)
- ❖ Salmonella gallinarum (fowl typhoid)
- ❖ Mycoplasma gallisepticum (MG, chronic respiratory disease)
- ❖ Mycoplasma synoviae (MS, infectious synovitis)
- ❖ Salmonella enterica var. enteritidis (SE)
- ❖ Avian influenza (AI, fowl plague)



Let the Buyer Beware!



- ❖ NPIP Participant: Egg-transmitted diseases
- ❖ Vaccination History; Start a Flock Record
- ❖ Hen Flock
- ❖ Vaccination of Chicks: Marek's Disease
- ❖ Shipment Coming: Notification of USPS & Tracking



Arrival Day



- ❖ Brooding Area Ready Prior to Arrival
- ❖ Examine as Remove from Shipping Box
- ❖ Check Belly: Don't Squish Too Hard
- ❖ Dip Beaks Into Water
- ❖ Provide Heat
- ❖ Later Provide Food After Drinking





Other Alternatives... Hatching Eggs



- ❖ Source of Hatching Eggs: NPIP; Reputable
- ❖ Selecting Equipment: Incubator/Hatcher
- ❖ Knowledge of Incubation Procedures
- ❖ Marking Eggs and Candling
- ❖ Temperature: 99-100F (97-102F)
- ❖ Humidity : 50-55% (1-17); 65-75 (19-21)
- ❖ Periodic Egg Turning 3-5/day





Other Alternatives... Older Birds

- ❖ Ready-to-Lay Pullets
 - ❖ Females Ready to Lay
 - ❖ About 16-20 weeks old
- ❖ Mature Laying Hens
 - ❖ Hard to Obtain





Brooding Chicks

- ❖ Warmth
- ❖ Water
- ❖ Feed
- ❖ Draft-free
- ❖ Comfortable



Warmth



- ❖ Brooder Lamp: Caution
- ❖ Red Light: Can't See Blood
- ❖ Center; 20 inches Above Litter/ No Paper
- ❖ Away from Walls
- ❖ Check after 5-10 minutes on Chick Distribution
- ❖ 95F under Lamp; Reduce 5F every week





Listen to the Chicks



Too Hot



Too Cold



Just Right!



Draft



Water

Clean Daily

- ❖ Marbles so No Soaking
- ❖ Water Before Feed
- ❖ Teach to Drink: Dip Beaks



Feed



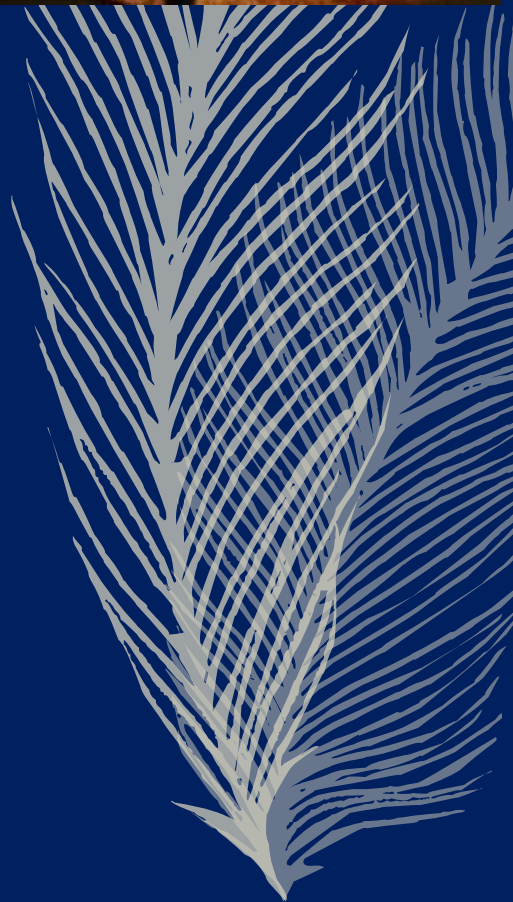
- ❖ Yolk Gone 72 hrs
- ❖ Clean Feed Daily
- ❖ 18% Protein for Growth
- ❖ Easy Access Day 1; Day 2 Regular
- ❖ Show Food



Other Considerations: Floor Substrate



- ❖ Wood Shavings
- ❖ Clean Caked Areas Daily
- ❖ 3-4 in Deep
- ❖ Remove if Wet; Waterers
- ❖ Don't Use Cedar; Treated Wood



Other Considerations



- ❖ Predator-Proof
 - ❖ Rats; Mongoose; Pets
 - ❖ Quiet Area/No Loud, Sudden Sounds
 - ❖ Enough Space; Prevent Overcrowding
 - ❖ Reduce Pecking
 - ❖ Keeping Watch



Watching Over the Flock

- ❖ Eating and Drinking
- ❖ Observe Flock
- ❖ Recording Sickness and Death
- ❖ Looking if Flock is Even Sized
- ❖ Listening for Snicks/Sneezing
- ❖ Keeping an Eye for Pasty Vents
- ❖ Quick Diagnosis
- ❖ Prevention



Watching Over You!





