

01/12/14 TAPRN Net Topic - Chickens

On 01/12/14 TAPRN Net, our topic of the evening was raising/keeping chickens. Thanks to all our check-ins for the comments, suggestions, and advice mentioned below.

Whether in normal times or in an emergency situation, chickens are multi-taskers – eggs/meat are a good source of food and manure is a good source of fertilizer for your gardens. We mostly talked about layers, but remember there are also meat chickens.

The following varieties were mentioned for the best layers:

Leghorn, Orpington – smaller eggs

White Rock, Red Rock

Production: Layers will typically give you one egg per day, sometimes two. Due to the longer sunlight hours, they tend to provide more eggs during the Summer. You can have a light in the coop during the Winter to help increase Winter production. And after they stop producing eggs (about 1 ½ years), you can always have chicken soup.

Food/Water: Always having fresh water for them is very important. FYI – they drink a pretty good amount. They like cooler water, so one suggestion was to put ice cubes in their water during the Summer. Typically a layer will go thru about ¼lb of feed per day. Someone mentioned he buys a 50lb bag about every two weeks or so for his ten chickens.

Varmints: Keep in mind you need to protect your chickens. You don't want varmints killing your investment. If you decide to go the free range route, having a good warning device like a donkey, guinea hens, or bantam chickens was mentioned – also good for overall security for your property. If you decide to keep the chickens in an enclosed area, having netting over the top (the type used for fruit trees) works well for keeping out hawks. Also, if you bury your hard cloth/chicken wire/etc about 18 inches below the ground surface, that can help keep fox, dogs, raccoons, weasel, etc out.

Introducing new flocks with the current flock: One suggestion for keeping tabs on which ones are your newer and which ones are your older flocks was alternating the varieties. Someone mentioned they switch back and forth between the Red Rocks and the White Rocks. That way, it's easy to identify.

Egg Storage Without Refrigeration: One suggestion was use sodium silicate solution aka water glass. Follow directions on bottle. Do not wash eggs before placing in mixture. Eggs will store several months in covered bucket. Any eggs that are not floating are still good. For more info, please search internet.

If you're interested in listening or checking into TAPRN Net, please see Net schedule -

<http://www.amrron.com/nets-regional-national/taprn-regional-net/>

Long Live the Republic,

Delta-04

States checking in –

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| VA – 2 | NY – 1 | AL – 1 | PA – 1 |
| IN – 1 | GA – 1 | OH – 1 | KY – 3 |