

Poultry

Poultry Industry In B.C.

Statistics

- 2nd largest agriculture industry in B.C.
- Sales of more than \$400 million/year.
- Over 550 farmers directly employ over 4500 people in B.C.
- Along with Dairy, poultry contributes over \$200 million in taxes to federal and provincial government.

Types of Poultry Farms

- 1. Layers
- 2. Broilers
- 3. Broiler/Breeders
- 4. Turkeys/Ducks/Quail/



Intro Video

Farmers Care Video

Layers

- Layers are grown to lay eggs for consumption by the general public.
- In BC:
 - 130 Registered Producers
 - 2.4 Million Birds
 - 64 Million Dozen Eggs
 - Contributes \$95 Million to Provincial Economy
 - 76% of Producers are in Fraser Valley
 - Average farm has 18,600 birds (some over 30,000)

BCEMB

- Farmers with more than 99 birds must obtain quota from the BC Egg Marketing board (BCEMB) in order to sell their eggs.
- These producers must legally follow the Consolidαted
 Order to produce eggs according to provincial and federal
 legislation.
- Registered Producers also follow the Recommended Code of Practice, which provides the best quality of humane care to the hen.

Flock Management Systems

- Conventional Cage System (88%)
- Free Run, Free Range, Organic (12%)

Conventional Caged System



Conventional Caged System

Advantages:

- Birds and eggs are kept clean (manure falls through cage)
- All basic needs supplied for bird at all times (food, water, fresh air)
- Birds protected from predators and disease (ie: Avian flu)
- Birds stay in good health (low vet bills, high quality eggs)

Free Run System

- Birds are allowed to wander freely in an enclosed barn.
- This is usually done with meat birds, but is becoming more common for layers as well.
- Disadvantages:
 - Egg collecting is more difficult.
 - Fewer birds in same area of barn space.
 - Birds become more stressed (lay fewer eggs).
 - Sanitation.

Free Run System



Free Range System

- Birds are given freedom to wander outside as they wish.
- Disadvantages:
 - Birds exposed to predators and disease.
 - More space needed per bird.
 - Sanitation.

Free Range System

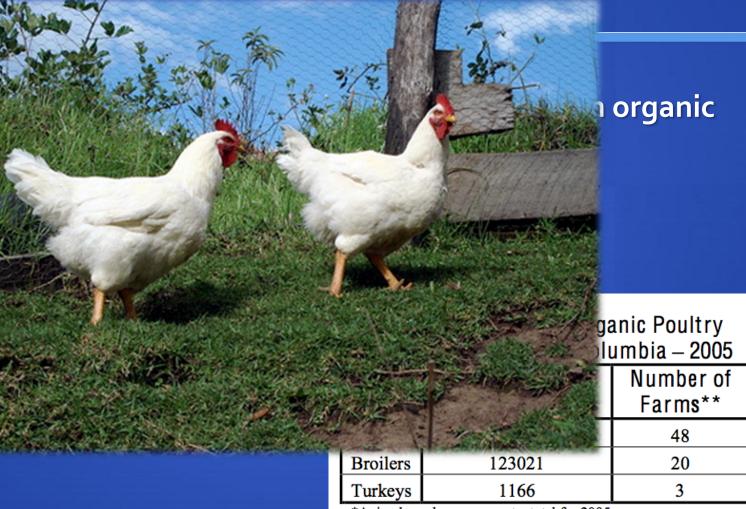


Organic System

Birdsfarms

Birds

Birds



^{*}Animal numbers represent a total for 2005

^{**}Farm numbers indicate the number of farms known to be raising the species indicated. Farms raising more than one species of poultry may be included in multiple categories.

Chicken Varieties

- Leghorn Most common
- Rhode Island Red
- Araucana (what we have)





Production Cycle

- Chicks purchased at 2 4 weeks old.
- Pullets start to lay between 18 21 weeks.
- Depending on breed, lay between 180 and 300 eggs per year.
- Chickens will molt (stop laying) for 8 12 weeks.
- 2nd year of production is not as good: fewer eggs, lower quality.
- Chickens are usually slaughtered after one year and replaced.
 Meat used in soup, Chinese food, etc.)

Activity

- Write a paragraph (approx half a page) describing what you think is the best system of raising laying chickens.
 - Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this system.
 - What are your main goals with this system.
 - What are your secondary goals with this system.
 - How important is your chicken's well-being to you?