



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/etc



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 *Consolidated 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



0 - 6	400
6 - 12	950
12 - 18/19	1320
Adult ⁶	1700
Adult ⁹	1900



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

Min Cage Floor Space (cm ²)	
All Litter	All Wire / Slats
	250 (30 sq. in.)
	700 (109 sq. in.)
	850 (132 sq. in.)
	950 (147 sq. in.)

- Advantages
 - Chickens free to move, roosting, laying in nests, etc.)
 - Chickens protected from the elements



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



"e" behaviour.

unlight.



Organic System

- Birds at organic farms
- Birds at organic farms
- Birds at organic farms



on organic

Organic Poultry
Columbia – 2005

		Number of Farms**
		48
Broilers	123021	20
Turkeys	1166	3

*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?