

Small Poultry Flocks

Dr. Mickey A. Latour
Purdue University

1. Why get into pasture poultry?

- To earn some additional income
- To teach their children responsibility (management, husbandry, money)
- Opportunities-niche markets
- Natural or Organic?

2. Processing

- What are the regulations?
 - Federal, State, Exempt???

3. Determine the end point or what is the ultimate goal for raising these birds?

- First, check local and community codes
- Meat birds
- Layers
- 4H and show only
- Combination of the above

4. Location, Location, Location

- Be aware of codes and restrictions
- Size will be determined by bird numbers
- Consider drainage, accessibility to electric and water
- Fencing, weather needs
- Consider bird death disposal
- Litter choices
- Feed formulation is simple and can be provided to all producers.

Poultry

- Benefits of Pasture Poultry.
 - There are some health claims.
 - Apparently there are some claims of added texture to the birds.

▪ Are there feed savings with pasture poultry?

- No, in general birds in wide open spaces tend to expend more energy, so they consume nearly 2X as much feed per pound of gain.

Poultry

- How much can you earn?
 - If you do not saturate the market, the profit margins are good.

Poultry

- What is the cost to get started?
 - Depends on a number of factors (land, facilities, pens/designs, etc.)

- What about processing the bird?
 - Most would choose to have the bird processed and this has implications, i.e., inspection.
 - Can be done by an individual and at their home, but encourage them to look at Meat and Poultry Regulations at BOAH, see handouts.

(<http://www.in.gov/boah/>)

- **Poultry Slaughter and Processing Exemptions**
- Poultry exemption criteria fit into one of seven categories. Only one exemption category is allowed per year.
 - Acts and regulations (381.10) do not apply to:
 - 1. Retail dealer (Regulation 381.10.a.1)**
 - Cut up products from **inspected poultry** done under sanitary conditions
 - Sell only to consumers in the store: [household or HRI]
 - No processing, cut up only (done on premise where sales occur)
 - At least 75% of total sales to households
 - Cannot sell to distributors or retail markets or wholesalers

2. Personal use (Regulation 381.10a.3)

Slaughtering own birds for own use in his household/employees

Full processing, cutting, boning allowed

3. Custom slaughtering (Regulation 381.10.a.4)

- for return of poultry to owners for their exclusive use
- labeling required: (name, address and Exempt P.L. 90-492)
- no limit to number slaughtered
- cannot buy or sell other poultry products
- product does not have to be marked "not for sale"

(4.) Slaughtering own birds under custom exempt <20,000 birds

- Producer/grower (Regulation 381.10.a.5)
- Slaughter / process poultry raised on own farm
- Labeled Exempted-P.L.90-492
- Cannot buy other poultry
- Can pass through exempted birds from other exempt operators, but cannot use for further processing of those birds
- Full processing of own birds, boning, cutting
- Can sell to consumers, HRI and retail markets

(5.) Slaughtering birds directly to household consumers <20,00 birds

- Producer of other person (Regulation 381.10.a.6)
- Sales limited to households and HRI
- No other buying or selling of poultry; pass thru of other exempted birds only (no other type of pass through exempted product)
- Cannot sell to retail markets
- Labeled Exempted-P.L. 90-492

(6.) Small business or enterprise (Regulation 381.10.a.7)

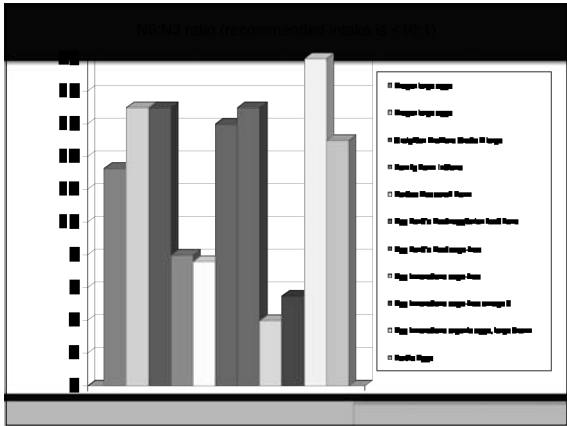
- Cannot process (slaughter and cut up only)
- Limit: 20,000 birds or 5,000 turkeys calendar year
- Must be fully labeled
- Can handle other product (ie- Federally insp. Product)
- Can sell to any buyer

(7.) Very Small Producer (Regulation 381.10.c)

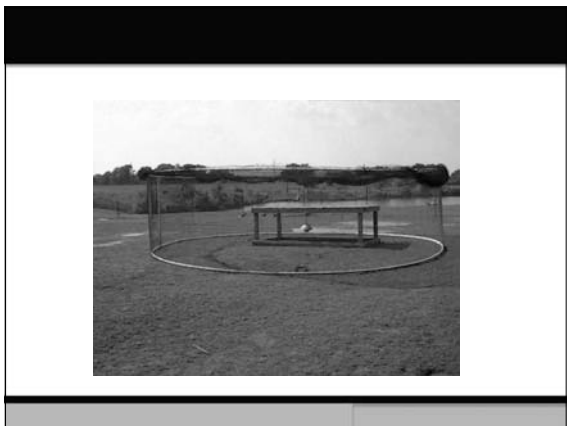
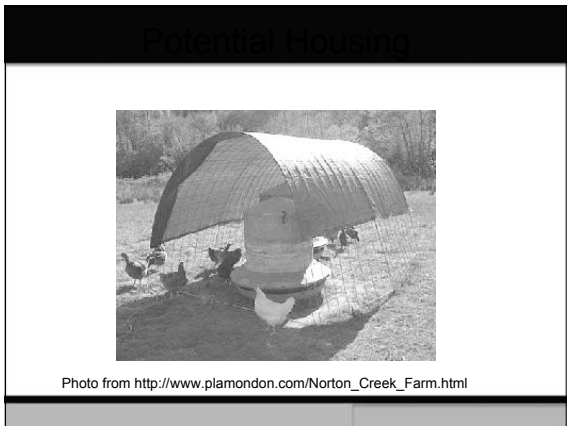
- Provisions for slaughtering own birds if<1000/yr directly to consumer not exceeding 750lbs
- Also allows for live poultry mart at retail store with birds processed to consumer's instructions
- No sales to HRI
- Still need local health department sanction

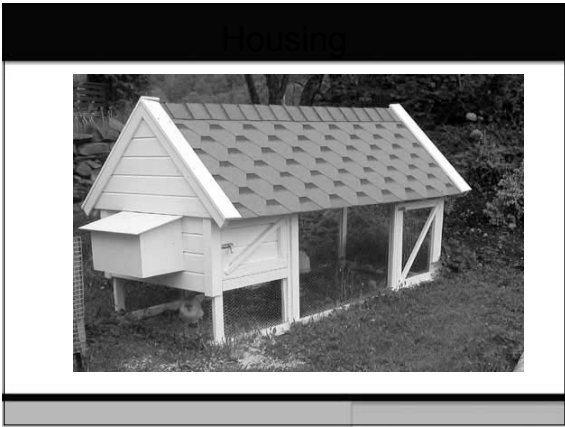
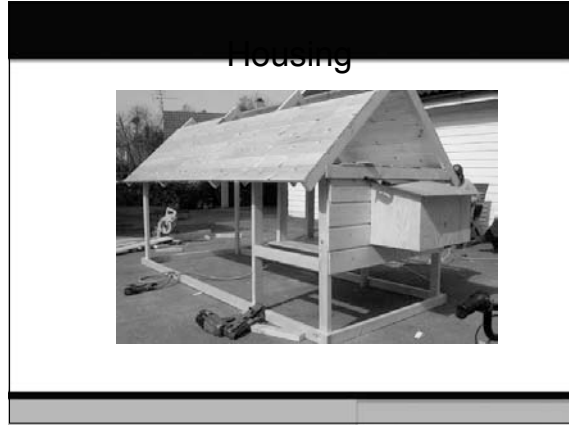
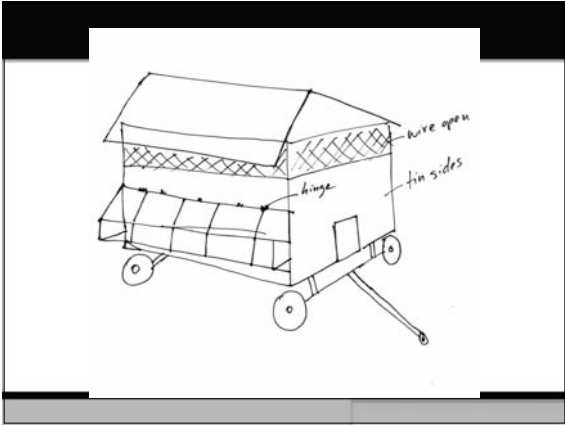


Egg Comparisons



- Pasture Pens
- Chicken Tractor
- Free Range
- Day Range





- Processing the bird
- Nutrition for the bird
- General husbandry
- Regulations
- Establishment of an Avian Influenza plan