

Unity



Gardens

Urban Chickens

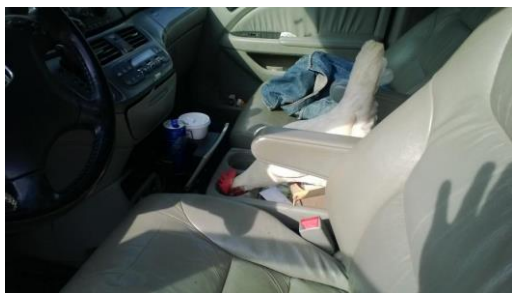
Why Raise Chickens

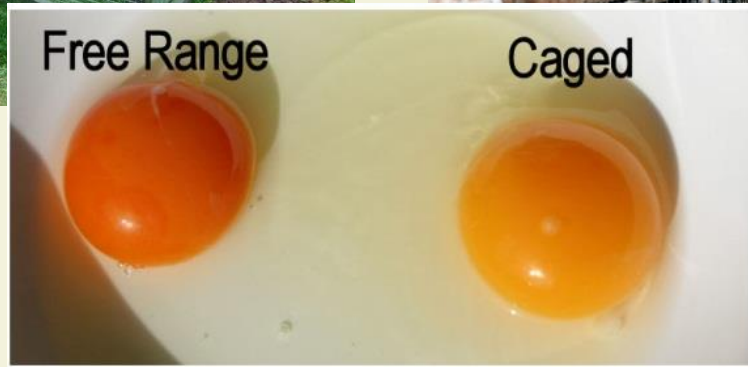
- Easy and inexpensive to maintain (when compared to most other pets)
- Eggs that are fresh, great-tasting & nutritious
- Chemical-free bug and weed control
- Manufacture the worlds best fertilizer
- Fun & friendly pets with personality





Help With The Chores





Its About Where Your
Eggs Come From



Follow Local laws & ordinances



Where to get Chickens

- Local Feed Stores often carry a variety chicks around Spring time.
- Order online
- Purchase from local farmer
- Hatch chicks from eggs - HomeMade Chicken Incubators
- Careful when hatching eggs because there is no way to tell if they are roosters or hens.



Matthys Farm Market

Getting Ready For Your Chicks



- A red heat light will keep the chicks warm.
- Keep at 90 to 100 degrees
- Tip: If the chicks all gather under the lamp it is not warm enough.
- Make sure light is secure.

Brooder Boxes



Deep enough so chicks cannot fly out.
Easy to clean

Feeding Chicks



- Clean water, Baby Chick Feed



Getting Ready For Outside

- Once Chicks start to feather out it is time to start getting them ready for outside.



Chicken Coop

- Once feathered out you'll want to move your chickens into a chickens coop!
- Rule of thumb is about 2-3 square feet per chicken inside the henhouse and 4-5 sq/ft per chicken in an outside run.
- Remember Chickens do fly !



- Your Coop Needs Good Ventilation
- Protection from the wind



Waterer

Feeder

Bedding



Wood Shavings

Leaves

Sand

Hay

Shredded Newspaper

Sawdust



Removable trays are good for
small coops

Dirt Floor with wire fence
buried



Unity
Gardens



Water in the Winter

- Heated water dish
- Tractor Supply
- Rural King
- Pet Store



Keep Your Chickens Safe



Owl

<http://www.freestockpictures.com>



Raccoon



Hawk



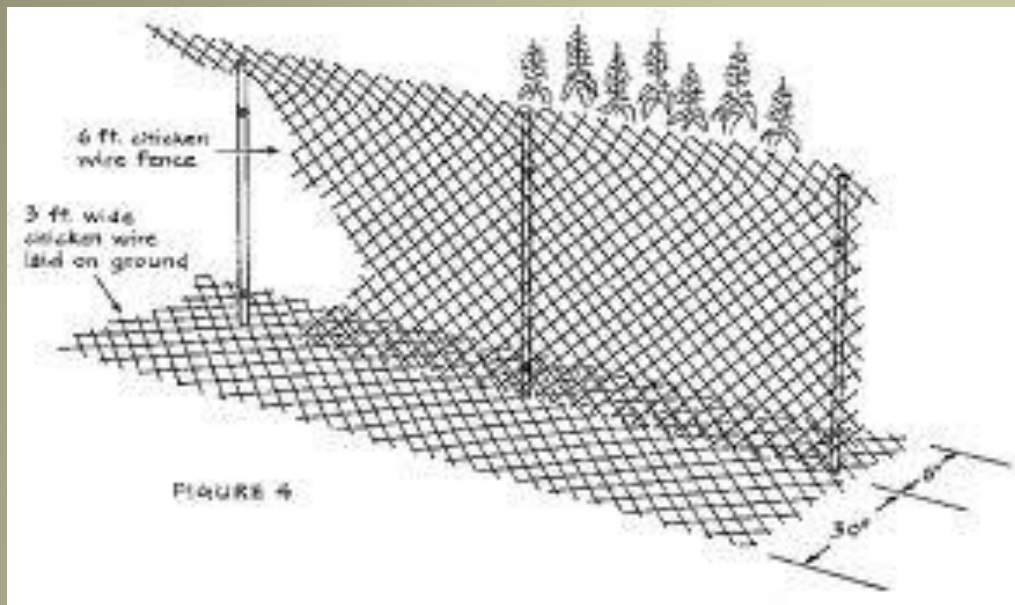
Possum



Fox



Coyote



Chickens Need A Place To Roost



And To Lay



Feeding Your Chickens

- Chicken Layer Feed
- 10% Cracked Corn as a treat
- Treats – Table Scraps, Cracked Corn, Worms, Bread.

Chickens Need Fresh Clean Water



A group of brown chickens are foraging in a grassy field. The chickens are scattered across the frame, with some in the foreground and others in the background. The grass is green and appears to be a mix of different types. The chickens are mostly brown with some darker feathers on their wings and tails. One rooster is prominent in the center foreground, facing left. It has a red comb and wattle. To its left is a hen, and to its right is another hen. In the background, there are several more chickens, some partially obscured. The overall scene is a natural, outdoor setting.

Foraging

Chickens need to forage for their overall health, Bugs, worms, plants, and small stones.

Chickens can destroy a garden in a short time

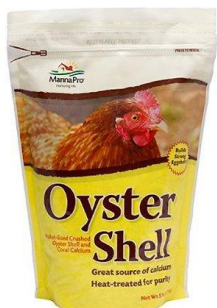
Grit

Chickens need grit to digest their food if they do not free range you will need to supplement them.



Calcium

Laying Hens need lots of Calcium. You can supplement with eggshells or crushed oysters
Wash & Dry Eggshells





- **Keep it Simple**
- **Clean water , Clean Coop , Food**
- **Keep this in mind and you too can have**

**Happy
Chickens**

Handling Chickens

NO PARKING



**Always use proper hand washing
After Handling Chickens
Or Working in Coop**



**How to handle
Your Chickens**

• [Handling Chickens](#)



Picking Your Chickens

Pets

Egg Layers

Poultry



Egg Size
Egg Color
Chicken Size

Winter Hardy

Docile

Gentle



Some Good Picks

Ameraucana

Size: Medium (6-7 lbs)

Purpose: Egg-laying

Eggs: Med/Blue

Docile

Winter Hardy



Some Good Picks



Brahma

Size: 8lbs plus

Purpose: Dual

Eggs: Med / Brown

Docile / Gentle

Winter Hardy



Some Good Picks

New Hampshire Red

Size: 7 to 8lbs
Purpose: Dual
Eggs: Large / Brown
Docile / Gentle
Winter Hardy



Black Jersey Giant

Size: 8lbs plus
Purpose: Dual
Eggs: X -Large / Brown
Docile / Easy Going
Winter Hardy



Barred Plymouth Rock

Barred Plymouth Rock

Size: 7 to 8 lbs


Purpose: Dual

Eggs: Large / Brown

Docile / Smart Plucky

Winter Hardy



A group of brown chickens, including several hens and one rooster, are standing in a lush green grassy field. The chickens have reddish-brown feathers and prominent red combs. The background is filled with tall green grass and some small white flowers.

Most chickens lay eggs on an almost daily basis.

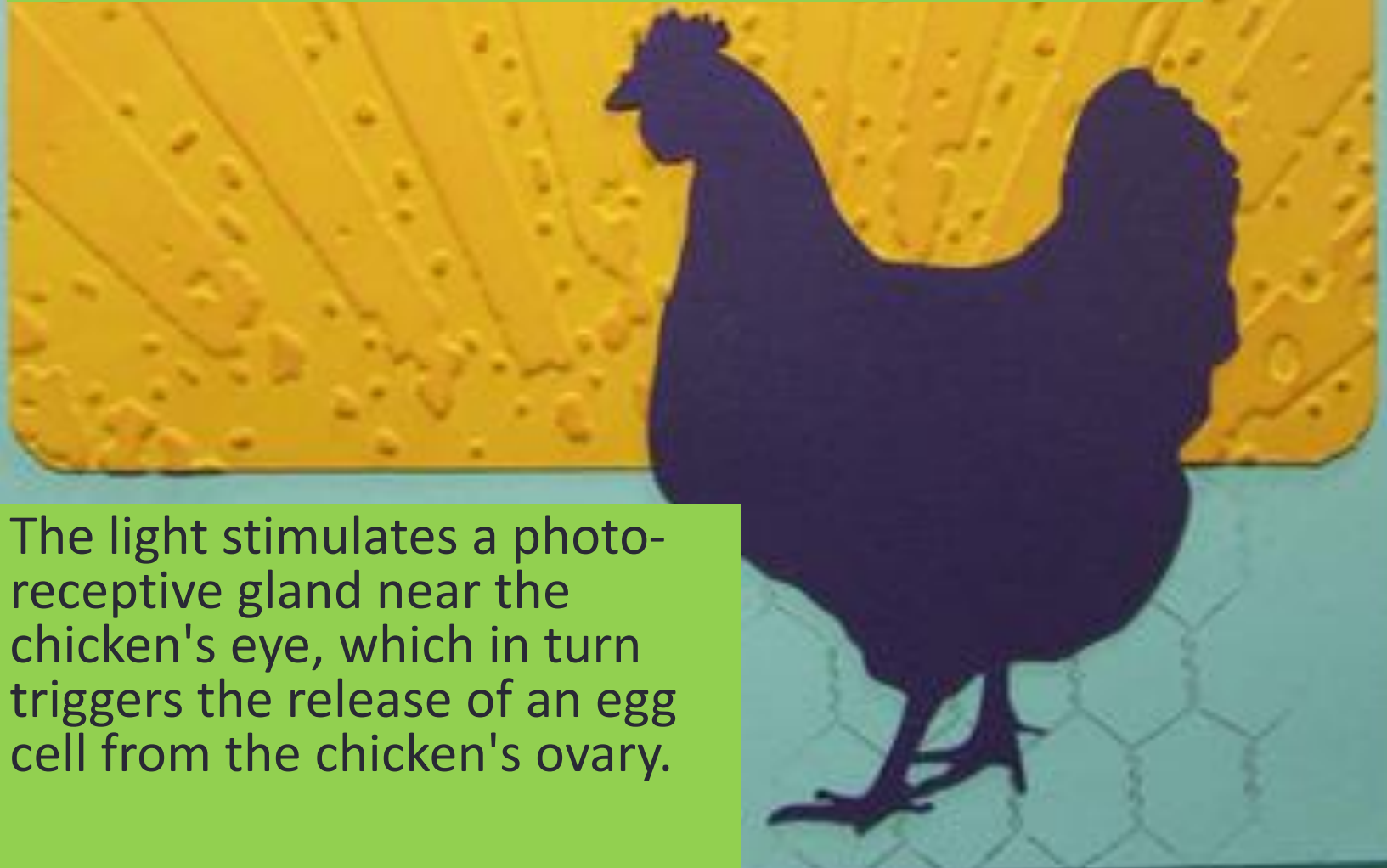
- A hen is capable of producing an egg every 25 hours.

Eggs are produced and laid regardless of whether the hen has been mated and the eggs are fertile or not.



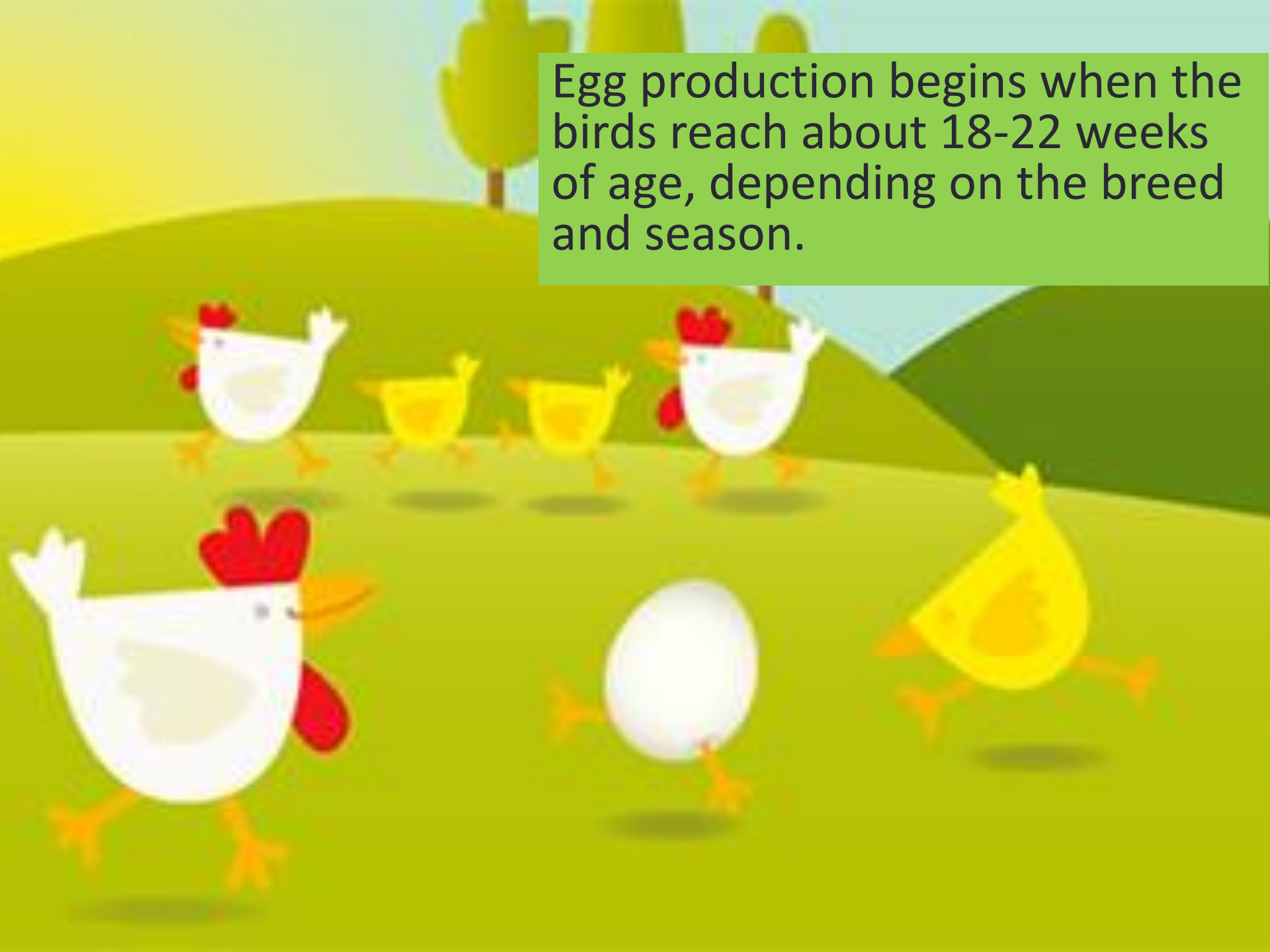
A hen is capable of laying approximately 270 eggs per year.

The egg laying process for a chicken begins in its eye. Chickens lay eggs only after receiving a light cue, either from natural sunlight entering a coop or artificial light



The light stimulates a photo-receptive gland near the chicken's eye, which in turn triggers the release of an egg cell from the chicken's ovary.

Egg production begins when the birds reach about 18-22 weeks of age, depending on the breed and season.





Production rises sharply and reaches a peak of about 90%, 6-8 weeks later.
Production gradually declines to about 65% after 12 months of laying

Laying Facts

Egg production can be affected by such factors as:

Feed consumption (quality and quantity)

Water intake,

Intensity and duration of light received,

Parasite infestation

Disease

Numerous management

Environmental factors.



Molting

Molting is the shedding and renewal of feathers

Molting is a difficult time for birds, since it involves hormonal fluctuations and increased energy requirements.

Eliminate stress during this time

A chicken loses feathers from various sections of its body in a definite pattern. The order is: head; neck; feather tracks of the breast, thighs and back; wing and tail.

Decreasing day-length is the normal trigger for molting. Stresses caused by temporary feed or water shortage, partial or premature molt

- Chicken Poop makes great fertilizer
- Mix in compost pile or garden soil
- Mix about 2 cups in 5gal bucket of water let sit overnight and put on garden



- **Food to Keep Away From Your Chickens**
- 1. Raw potatoes and potato sprouts. Raw potatoes are hard for chickens to digest while the green parts of potatoes and the sprouts are toxic.
- 2. Rotten food. If the food is moldy, stinky, and gross, don't feed it to your chickens!
- 3. Raw peanuts and dried beans. (Dried beans are safe if they're cooked first.)
- 4. Chocolate. Seems like MANY animals should stay away from chocolate...which is okay with me. I don't want to share my chocolate with them anyway!
- 5. Junk food. Yes, your chickens can eat it but it's not the most healthy. Will it kill them? Probably not. They might love it, but is it good for them? No more than it is for us.

6. Some garden plant leaves such as eggplant, peppers, tomatoes and potatoes (usually chickens tend to stay away from these plants on their own).

7. Tobacco and Alcohol. No partying out on the town with your birds! They can't take it. And nicotine is poisonous.

8. Avocados. These can be fatal for your chickens.

9. Some types of flower seeds such as sweet peas, morning glories and angel's trumpet.

10. Raw meat. Chickens can eat meat (even chicken), but don't feed it to them raw because of risk of disease.

Your chicken's taste buds can be quite broad, but learning what's good and not good for your chicken to eat will help keep them safe and healthy. An easy way to keep track of many of the chicken feeding no-no's is to think: If it's not healthy for me, it's not healthy for my chicken.

