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

Its About Where Your Eggs Come From

Follow the Law

- Search local chicken laws & ordinances

Where to get Chickens

- Local Feed Stores often carry a variety of day old chicks around Spring
- Order online
- Purchase from local farmer
- Hatch chicks from eggs - HomeMade Chicken Incubators

Caring For Your Chick First 60 Days

- A Young Chick Brooder - Can be as simple as a sturdy cardboard box or a small cage
- Keep at 90 to 100 degrees

- Flooring - Pine shavings work best. You can also use corn cob bedding. Try to stay clear of newspaper since it doesn't absorb well and can be slippery.

Outside time - Section off an area in your yard where the chicks can explore, scratch, etc. Make sure you can catch them when it's time to come in.

Feeding Chicks

- Clean water, Baby Chick Feed

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 !
- Keep local predators in mind and make a safe home for your flock!

- Flooring - Pine shavings work best, removable trays are good for small coops

Chickens Need A Place To Roost

And To Lay

• Your Coop Needs Good Ventilation
• Protection from the wind

Keep the coop clean
Keep the Chickens Happy

Handling Chickens

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

How to handle
Your Chickens

- Handling Chickens

- 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

Chickens Need Fresh Clean Water

Water in the Winter

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

Feeding Your Chickens

- Chicken Layer Feed
- Treats – Table Scraps, Cracked Corn, Worms, Bread.

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

Picking Your Chickens

Pets

Egg Layers

Poultry

Winter Hardy

Docile

Gentle

Egg Size

Egg Color

Chicken Size

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

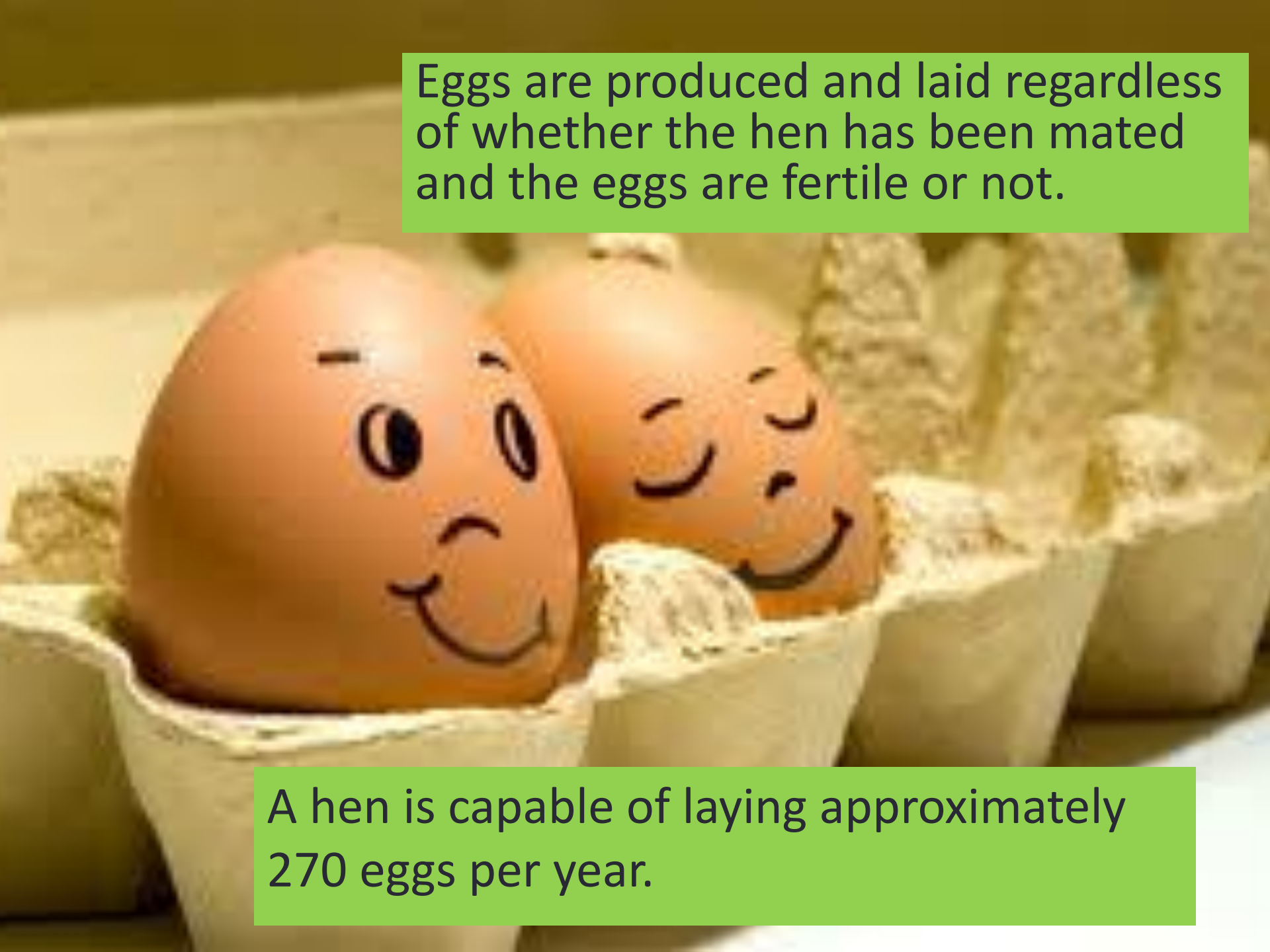
Purpose: Dual

Eggs: Large / Brown

Docile / Smart Plucky

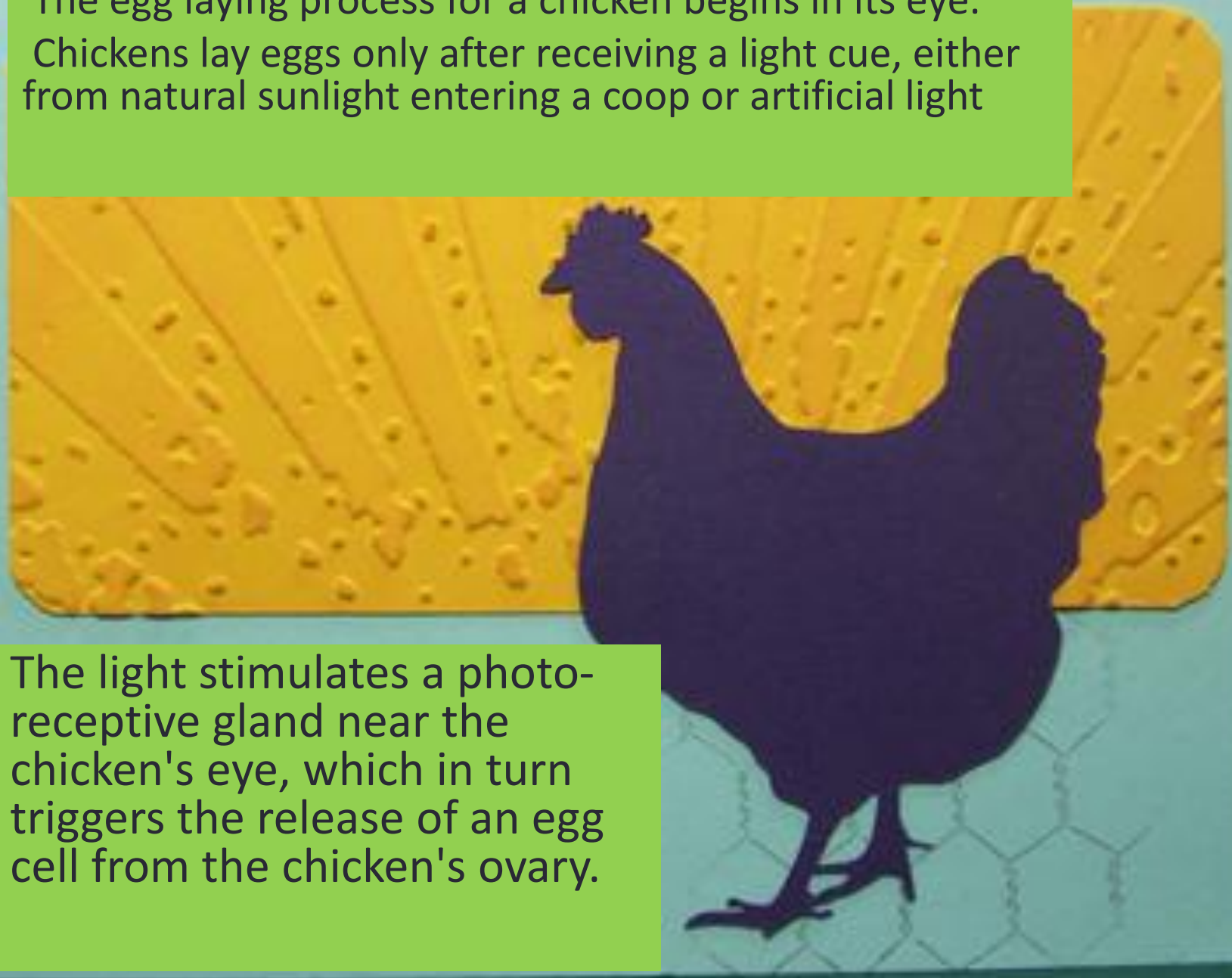
Winter Hardy

Most chickens lay eggs on an almost daily basis.
• A hen is capable of producing an egg every 25 hours.

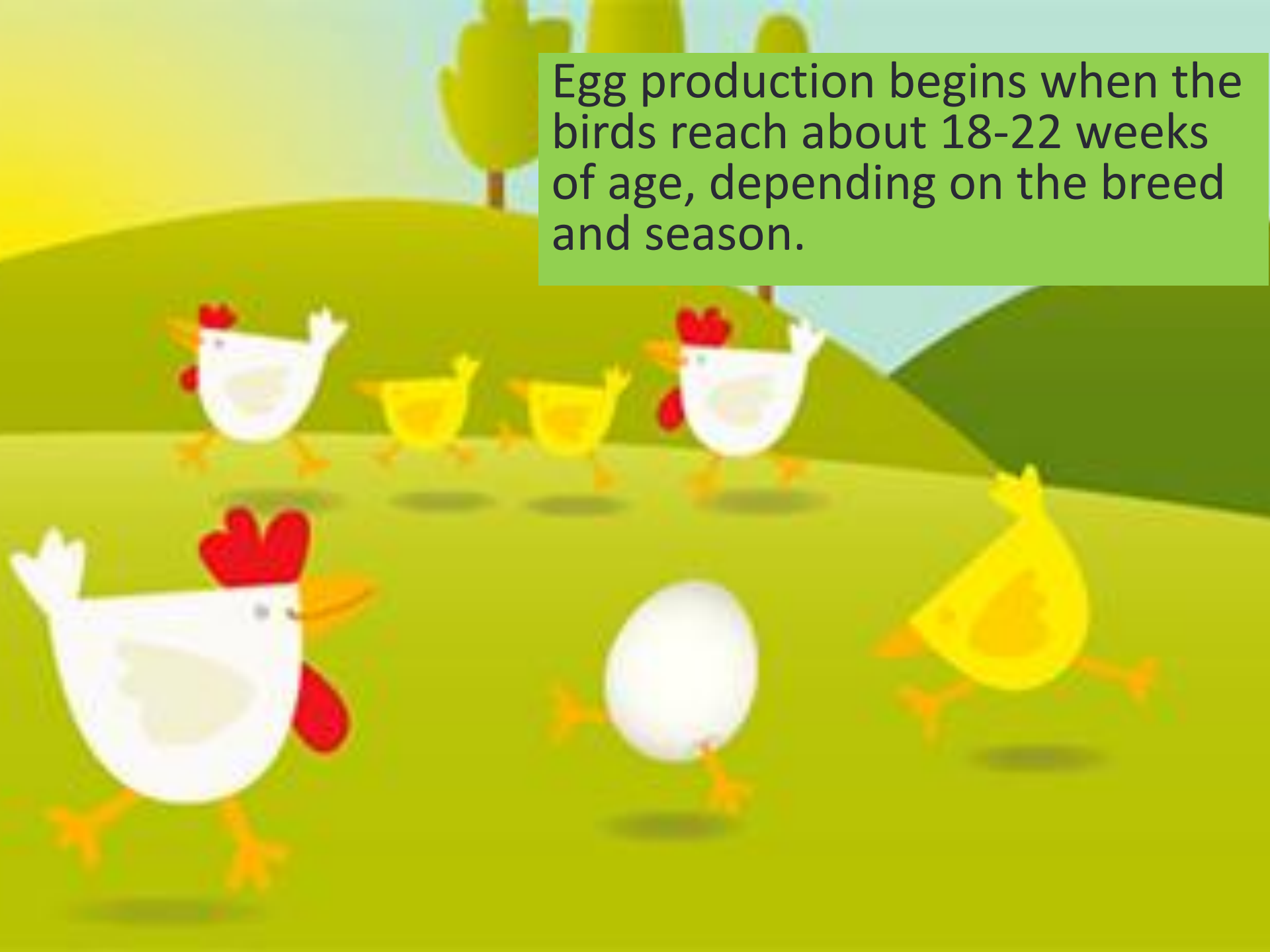

Eggs are produced and laid regardless of whether the hen has been mated and the eggs are fertile or not.
A hen is capable of laying approximately 270 eggs per year.

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,

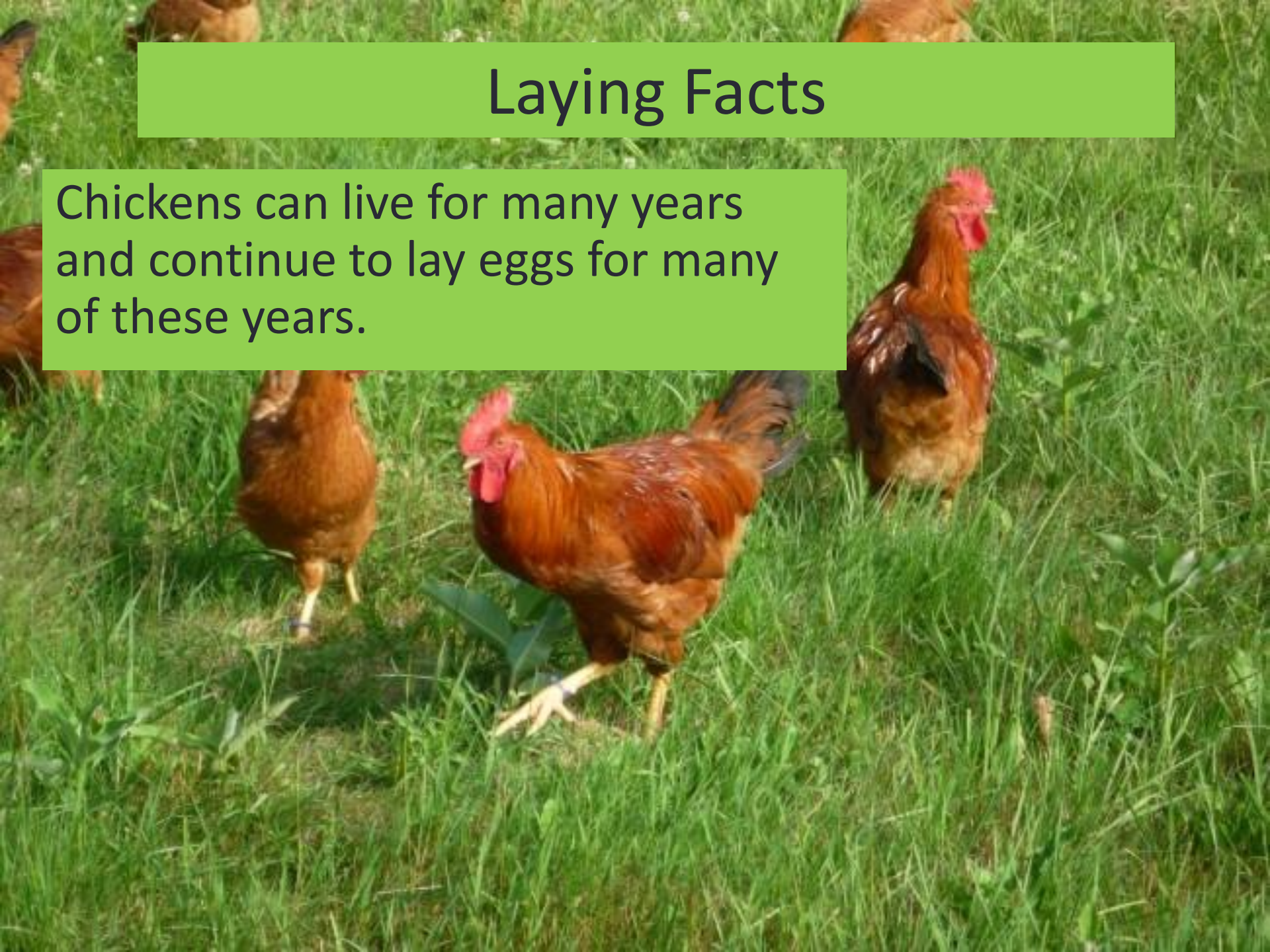
Intensity and duration of light received, parasite infestation

disease

numerous management and environmental factors.

Laying Facts

Chickens can live for many years and continue to lay eggs for many of these years.



Laying Facts

after two or three years many hens significantly decline in productivity . This varies greatly from bird to bird. Good layers will lay for about 50 to 60 weeks and then have a rest period called a molt.

Poorer layers and older hens will molt more often and lay less consistently.

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.

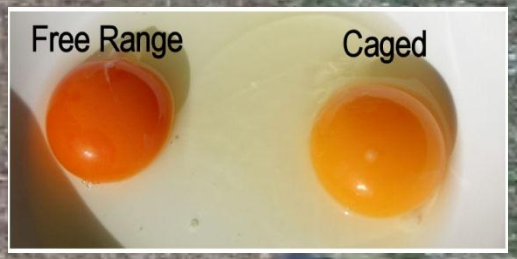
Eliminate stress during this time

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

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

Happy Chickens

Resources

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