

Extension Notes

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Family & Consumer Sciences

Russell County Extension Office

Things to Consider If You Want To Produce Your Own Eggs



Source: Jacquie Jacob, Extension Poultry Project Manager

Backyard chicken flocks are popular in all areas of Kentucky. If you want to have a successful flock and produce your own eggs, preparation and education are essential.

Not everyone is suited for keeping a poultry flock. Make sure you check that your local city and county ordinances allow backyard flocks. Some ordinances require a minimum amount of land, and some subdivisions even have their own rules.

Remember, chickens require daily care.

You must feed them, provide clean water and collect eggs every day. It is a good opportunity to teach children responsibility, but make sure they can fit it into their daily routine and that you supervise them. Keep in mind that chickens can get sick and very few veterinarians will provide care for them.

Anyone handling chickens needs to make sure to wash their hands before and after caring for them. Also, don't bring chickens into the house and don't use your kitchen sink to wash equipment associated with your flock.

Chickens make noise. While it's true only roosters crow, hens are not always quiet and they can make a lot of noise to let everyone know they just laid an egg.

Keep in mind that chickens eat a lot. You probably can't produce eggs cheaper than you can buy them in the store, but you'll have the satisfaction of knowing from where they came. Hens use about 60% of the feed they consume; they excrete the rest as manure.

Make sure you have a plan for what you'll do with all the manure your flock produces. You could compost the manure to produce a valuable, odor-free fertilizer for your garden.

To complicate things, chickens stop producing eggs at some point and they live longer than that window, sometimes a lot longer. You need to have a plan for what you'll do with hens once they stop producing eggs. If you keep them because they are pets, you'll have to be willing to continue paying for food while they are no longer earning their keep.

Another thing to consider is that chickens can destroy gardens. Chickens scratch when they forage and if you let the hens run free, you may need to put a fence around your garden to prevent them from damaging your plants.

As for housing your flock, you'll need a chicken house that provides shelter from the weather, nest boxes where your hens will lay eggs and perches for hens to roost at night.

Housing needs to be easy to clean out and provide protection from predators. You'll need to have an open run for hens to get into the open air. It's important to keep your chicken house clean and dry to prevent odor and flies. Manage any bedding well to prevent rodents from making your chicken house their home.

It can be difficult to obtain ready-to-lay pullets, so you'll probably need to raise your

hens from chicks. You can buy online and have them shipped to your home, but some hatcheries require a minimum purchase of 25 chicks for safe shipping. You can also buy chicks and local farm stores, but

Kentucky state regulations require a minimum purchase of six chicks. If you only want three, you could go in with a friend or neighbor to meet the minimum requirement. You will need to provide chicks with a heat source, such as a heat lamp, for the first six weeks.

For more information on small or backyard poultry flocks, contact the Russell County Extension Office. You may also visit <https://afs.ca.uky.edu/poultry/poultry-publications>.

Meetings and Announcements

Russell County Bee Keepers Meeting – June 6, 6:00 PM at the Russell County Extension Office

Russell County Fair Floral Hall categories and rules, for Open Class and 4-H classes, are available at the Russell County Extension Office, or may be viewed online at russell.ca.uky.edu on the Agriculture and Natural Resources page. Floral Hall entries will be accepted June 4, 8:00 AM – Noon at the fairgrounds.

Russell County Farmers' Market will be opening soon! The Russell County Farmers' Market will be located in the parking lot of the Russell County Extension Office, S. Highway 127 in Russell Springs, across from the Mighty Dollar Store.

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Kentucky Department of Agriculture
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KENTUCKY LIVESTOCK AND GRAIN MARKET REPORT

KENTUCKY DAILY GRAIN PRICES - bids for next day	WEEKLY FEED INGREDIENT PRICE - bids for next day
	Wholesale prices, \$ per ton - Owensboro Grain KY
Corn #2 Yellow - Louisville (\$3.67-\$3.69); Pennyryle (\$3.71-\$3.76)	Soybean Meal 48% sol 293.60
Soybeans #1 Y - Louisville (\$7.68-\$8.06); Pennyryle (\$8.06-\$8.16)	Soybean Hulls 120.00
Wheat #2 SRW - Louisville (\$4.03); Pennyryle (\$4.23-\$4.43)	

Russell County Stockyards - May 8, 2019

Cattle weighed at time of sale.

Cattle Receipts: 1265 • Last Week: 696 • Last Year: 804

Compared to last week: Feeder steers steady to 3.00 higher and heifers calves 2.00-4.00 higher. Slaughter cows and Slaughter bulls steady. 07 Replacement cattle, 38 slaughter cattle, 1213 feeder cattle. Slaughter cows made up 3 percent of the offering, slaughter bulls 1 percent, replacement cows 0 percent, and feeders 96 percent. The feeder supply included 59 percent steers, 34 percent heifers, and 8 percent bulls. Near 44 percent of the run weighed over 600 lbs.

Feeder Steers		Medium and Large 1 - 2	
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range
2	252-252	252	160.00
16	289-289	289	200.00
12	312-322	319	173.00-177.00
27	352-366	365	161.00-173.50
55	425-434	433	157.00-175.00
2	402-402	402	182.00
34	454-481	462	164.00-170.50
37	500-540	523	152.00-166.50
27	505-505	505	167.00
20	557-596	585	153.00-158.00
28	606-642	623	145.00-155.00
1	655-655	655	133.00
2	745-745	745	135.00
39	707-707	707	146.00
1	775-775	775	123.00
65	803-803	803	132.50
175	853-875	861	130.75-133.60
54	972-972	972	122.50

Groups of 20 head:	
27 head	505 lbs 167.00 blk
38 head	434 lbs 167.25 blk
24 head	366 lbs 173.50 blk
113 head	853 lbs 130.75 100 blk/7 red/6 chxb
54 head	972 lbs 122.50 48 blk/3 chxb/3 red
62 head	875 lbs 133.60 blk
65 head	803 lbs 132.50 56 blk/5 chxb/4 red
39 head	707 lbs 146.00 blk

Feeder Heifers		Medium and Large 1 - 2	
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range
2	240-240	240	150.00
21	250-290	268	155.00-165.00
3	310-342	321	140.00
34	350-392	375	135.00-145.50
24	355-355	355	153.00
37	410-448	434	125.00-145.00
28	424-424	424	145.00
22	455-495	477	125.00-138.00
39	500-548	527	125.50-138.00
39	518-518	518	140.00
7	568-585	577	121.00-126.50
13	560-560	560	134.50
19	600-632	615	111.00-129.50
36	752-752	752	125.50
13	911-930	912	106.50-109.00

Slaughter Cows		Breaker 70-80% Lean	
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range
10	980-1385	1186	47.00-59.50
1	1340-1340	1340	61.00
1	1520-1520	1520	63.00
6	1080-1235	1151	44.00-57.00
1	1240-1240	1240	30.00
1	665-665	665	36.00
5	870-1190	1027	34.00-48.00
3	890-1045	983	46.00-54.50

Groups of 20 head:
 36 head 752 lbs 125.50 bbwf
 Source: USDA-Kentucky Dept of Ag Market News, Louisville, KY • Mike Bell, Market Reporter, 502-782-4139
 24 Hour Toll Free Market News Report 1-800-327-6568 • www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SV_LS168.txt
 This report reflects prices of the majority of cattle with a USDA grade, weight and sex on this sale date. This report does not represent all animals at the sale on that date.

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