

# Exploring Poultry as a Farm Enterprise

2015 National Training Workshop - AgrAbility

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# Session Learning Objectives

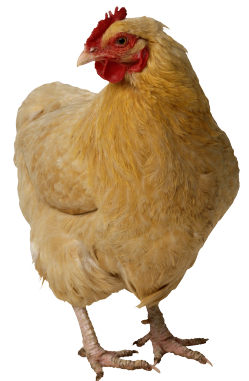
Participants will ...

- learn about poultry production cycles & the physical chores needed for poultry
- become aware of how some poultry chores could be addressed by individuals with limitations
- recognize how a poultry enterprise might be appropriate for individuals with limitations

So, you think you might want to raise poultry.

or

You know someone who might benefit from the information presented.



# Advantages of a poultry enterprise

- small in size & light in weight
- not aggressive
- tasks can be automated
- production cycle of meat poultry is short
- efficient converters of feed to meat or eggs
- a small-scale poultry enterprise can be potentially profitable
- start-up costs are relatively small
- poultry can be raised inside or outside
- there is likely a consistent local demand

# Drawbacks of a Poultry Enterprise

- Time & effort required – daily care
- Some investment for birds/equipment
- Good possibility that rodents will find you
- There will be death loss
- Winter care can be difficult
- Disease is always a threat
- Difficult to mix species
- Noise & odors
- May not be economical
- Mismanagement is common

# Poultry Production Cycles - Meat Birds

Broiler Chickens	6-8 weeks	4.5 to 6.5 lbs
Roaster Chickens	8-10 weeks	7 to 12 lbs
Turkeys	16-20 weeks	12 to 25 lbs
Ducks	7-8 weeks	4 lbs
Geese	15-20 weeks	6 to 12 lbs
Game Birds	15-16 weeks	1 to 3 lbs
Guinea Fowl	8-14 weeks	3 lbs







# Egg Production Cycles

Maturity	Productivity
Chickens are 18-22 weeks of age before they begin to lay eggs	56-72 weeks of egg production (392-504 days)
Guinea Fowl are 17-20 weeks of age before they begin to lay eggs	Sporadic egg production

# Egg Production Cycles

Turkeys are about 28 weeks old when they start to lay eggs (7 months)	80-100 eggs over a 25-week (175 day) laying cycle
Ducks are about 26-28 weeks of age (6-7 months)	160 eggs over 40 weeks (280 days)
Geese are about 28 weeks of age (7 months)	50-60 eggs from spring to fall (270 days)









# **PHYSICAL CHORES FOR GENERAL POULTRY PRODUCTION**



# **PHYSICAL CHORES RELATED TO MEAT BIRD ENTERPRISES**



# **PHYSICAL CHORES RELATED TO EGG BIRD ENTERPRISES**



# How does one address specific chores and tasks? Let's talk.

- Assistive technology
- Automation (feeding, watering, lighting, egg collecting, egg handling & packing, etc.)
- Other people (family members, assistants or employees)

# Other Poultry Enterprising Opportunities

- small scale hatchery
- pullet production
- feather enterprise
  - fly-tying, crafts and fashion
- fertile egg business
  - embryology projects
- bird rental
  - for agritourism, entertainment, educational or insect control purposes