

# Meeting the challenge of Right-to-Farm Chickens

(Producing Good Food for People Should be Legal)

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Annie's Project, New Jersey

Jan 14, 2020

# Web Resources

NJAES, Right-to-Farm

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/FS1253/>

Pasture Poultry Pen

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/soil-profile/pdfs/sp-v24.pdf>

Pasture Poultry and Soil Fertility

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/soil-profile/pdfs/sp-v19.pdf>

Farm-to-Consumer Legal Defense Fund

<https://www.farmtoconsumer.org/>

Farmageddon – a documentary

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SN4\\_H54DETE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SN4_H54DETE)

American Pasture Poultry Producers Association

<https://www.apppa.org/>

# Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet FS1253

## New Jersey's Right to Farm Act - What It Is and How It Works

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/FS1253/>

As New Jersey's population has grown, farmers and neighbors have been brought closer together. Some aspects of this growth are very positive, as farmers are able to cultivate new markets closer to home, and consumers are able to access fresh, locally-produced agricultural products. Other aspects are more challenging, however, as the needs of farm businesses sometimes conflict with new residential and commercial neighbors, as well as municipal and county regulations. To help resolve such issues, the Right to Farm Act (N.J.S.A. 4:1C-1 et seq.) was signed into law in 1983.

Every state in the country has its own version of Right to Farm. In New Jersey, the Right to Farm Act is primarily designed to help address conflicts between farmers, neighbors, and municipalities regarding a farm's practices. Anyone aggrieved by the operation of a commercial farm is required to file a complaint with the County Agriculture Development Board (CADB) prior to filing an action in court. This is what makes New Jersey's Right to Farm Act so strong - commercial farms cannot be taken to court by neighbors and local governments before complaints are heard by either the CADB or State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC). These agencies have special expertise in the agricultural industry and understand the needs of farm operations.


Under the Act, responsible commercial farms that meet the Act's eligibility criteria can receive significant protections from nuisance lawsuits and overly restrictive local regulations. Case law has upheld these protections, while affirming that CADBs and the SADC must exercise discretion when making Right to Farm determinations, so that everyone's interests are considered and public health and safety are protected.

# Farm-to-Consumer Legal Defense Fund

The screenshot shows the website for the Farm-to-Consumer Legal Defense Fund (FTCLDF). The browser address bar shows the URL <https://www.farmtoconsumer.org/>. The website header includes the FTCLDF logo, navigation links (HOME, JOIN, ABOUT US, DONATE, EVENTS, RESOURCES, ACTION ALERTS), and social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and RSS. A tagline reads: "Protecting, defending, and broadening the rights and viability of independent farmers, artisanal food producers, and their consumers." The main content area features two news items. The first is titled "FTCLDF and Member File Raw Butter Lawsuit" and includes a sub-image of a cow with the text "FTCLDF Files Raw Butter Lawsuit!". The second is titled "Unconstitutional New Rule to Affect Small Produce Farmers" and includes a sub-image of various vegetables with the text "ACT NOW: Protect Small-Scale Produce Farmers!". To the right of the news items is a search bar and two prominent green buttons: "DONATE NOW" and "Get FTCLDF's FREE Herdshare Tips with Houston Mountain Ranch" with a "Click Here" link. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows various application icons and a Dell logo.

https://www.farmtoconsumer.org/

CONTACT US SIGN IN JOIN FTCI

 **Farm-to-Consumer Legal Defense Fund™**

Protecting, defending, and broadening the rights and viability of independent farmers, artisanal food producers, and their consumers.

HOME JOIN ABOUT US DONATE EVENTS RESOURCES ACTION ALERTS

Search this website

**FTCLDF Files Raw Butter Lawsuit!**

### FTCLDF and Member File Raw Butter Lawsuit

This week, the Farm-to-Consumer Legal Defense Fund (FTCLDF) and one of its members, Mark McAfee of Organic Pastures Dairy, filed suit against the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Our lawsuit seeks to force...

**ACT NOW: Protect Small-Scale Produce Farmers!**

### Unconstitutional New Rule to Affect Small Produce Farmers

The Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance led a coalition that we were a part of in 2010, which convinced Congress to exempt small, direct-marketing farmers from the new rules under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). But now that the rules are being implemented by the states, the Texas

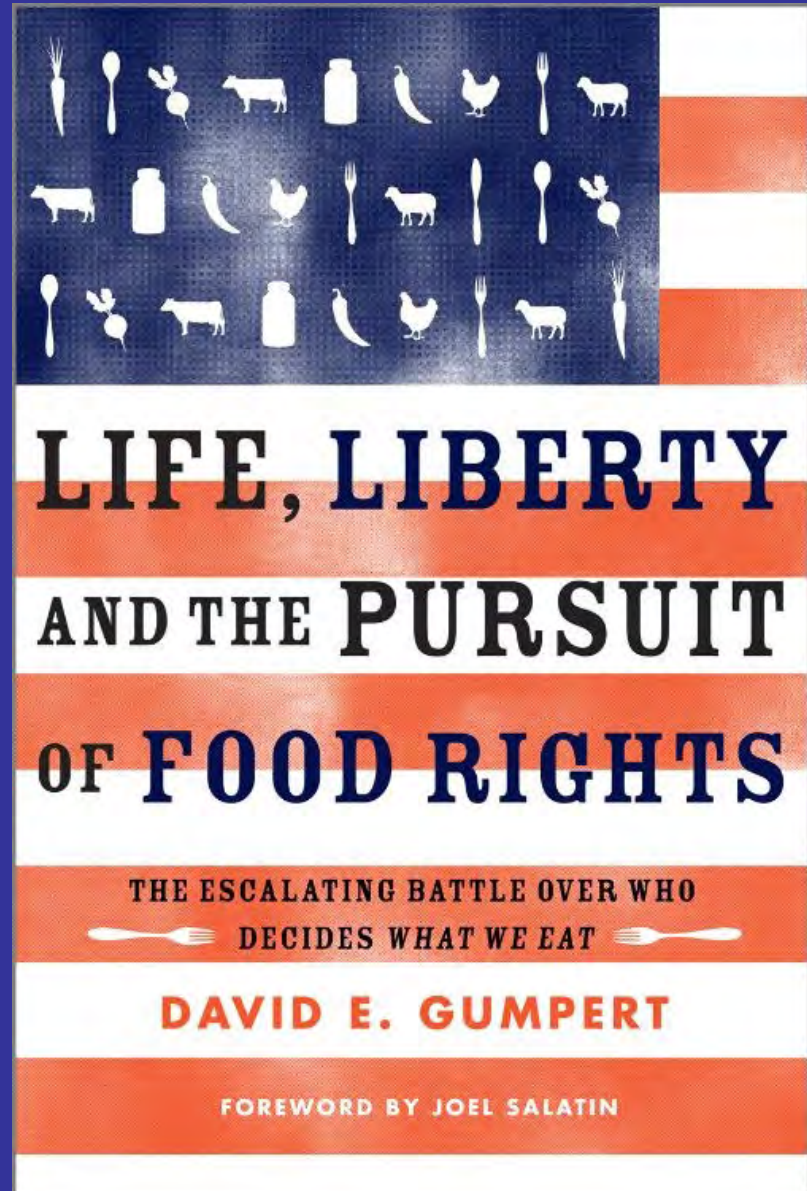
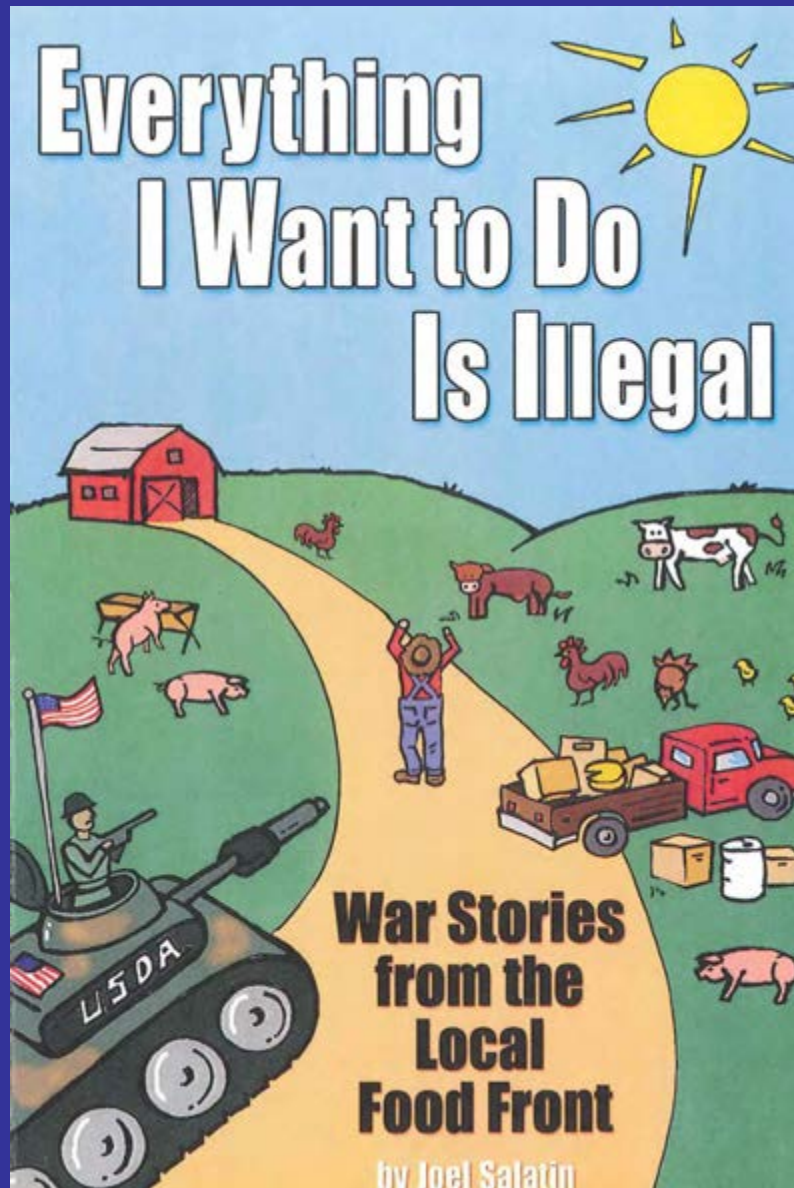
**DONATE NOW**

**Get FTCLDF's FREE Herdshare Tips with Houston Mountain Ranch**  
[Click Here](#)

be here to search

Dell

# Food Rights Movement



# American Pasture Poultry Producers Assoc.

The image shows a screenshot of a web browser displaying the homepage of the American Pastured Poultry Producers Association (APPPA). The browser's address bar shows the URL <https://www.apppa.org/>. The website header includes navigation links: [Find a Farmer](#), [Contact](#), [Conference](#), and [888-662-7772](#). A [Log in](#) button is also present. The main logo features a stylized red chicken on green grass, with the text **APPPA** and **American Pastured Poultry Producers Association** below it. A green navigation bar contains links for [HOME](#), [JOIN](#), [STORE](#), [ABOUT](#), [BUY PASTURE-RAISED](#), [RESOURCES](#), and [MEMBERS](#). The main content area is split into two sections. The left section features a photograph of several brown chickens in a wooden coop, with the text **2020 Professional Pastured Poultry Conference** overlaid. Below the photo is a button that says "Join us in Jacksonville". The right section has a blue background with the text "We Advocate for Your Success" and a paragraph describing the association as a membership-based organization providing education, collaboration, and networking opportunities. Below this text is a large white circular button with the word **JOIN** inside.

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https://www.apppa.org/

Find a Farmer | Contact | Conference | 888-662-7772

Log in

**APPPA**  
American Pastured Poultry Producers Association

[HOME](#) • [JOIN](#) • [STORE](#) • [ABOUT](#) • [BUY PASTURE-RAISED](#) • [RESOURCES](#) • [MEMBERS](#) •

**2020 Professional Pastured Poultry Conference**

Join us in Jacksonville

We Advocate for Your Success

The American Pastured Poultry Producers Association is a membership based organization that provides education, collaboration, and networking opportunities for pastured poultry farmers. Our members cherish transparency, collaboration, and innovation.

**JOIN**

one here to search

# Organic vs Pasture Raised Organic



# Cage vs. Pasture

- Pasture: 2x more Vitamin E
- Pasture: 38% more Vitamin A





# Organic Soy-Free Layer Feed

[www.countrysidenatural.com/home.php](http://www.countrysidenatural.com/home.php)

- Organic **Soy-Free** Layer Feed, 50 lb. With 15% protein, 2% fat, and 7% fiber, our certified soy-free Layer Feed is a complete feed that's supplemented with Thorvin kelp, organic alfalfa, and Fertrell Poultry Nutri-Balancer. It's formulated with additional calcium for egg shell strength and flaxseed to increase the omega-3 content of the eggs. See details for complete ingredient list.

Crude protein, minimum.....	15.00%
Crude fat, minimum.....	2.00%
Crude fiber, maximum.....	7.00%

## INGREDIENTS

Organic **Field Peas**, Organic Wheat, Organic Corn, Organic Oats, Calcium Carbonate, Hydrated Sodium Calcium Aluminosilicate, Organic Flaxseed, Organic Alfalfa Meal, Fish Meal, Dried Organic Kelp, Dicalcium Phosphate, Salt, Sodium Selenite, Vitamin A Supplement, Vitamin D3 Supplement, Vitamin E Supplement, Choline, Menadione Sodium Bisulfite Complex, d-Pantothenic Acid, Niacin, Riboflavin, Pyridoxine Hydrochloride, Thiamine, Vitamin B12 Supplement, Biotin, Folic Acid, Iron Polysaccharide Complex, Manganese Polysaccharide Complex, Zinc Polysaccharide Complex, Copper Polysaccharide Complex, Cobalt Polysaccharide Complex, Yeast Culture, , Dried Lactobacillus Acidophilus Fermentation Product, Bacillus Licheniformis, Bacillus Subtilis, Lactobacillus Lactis, Enterococcus Faecium, (Dried Aspergillus Oryzae Fermentation Extract)

## FEEDING DIRECTIONS

Feed layer ration from 16 weeks of age or first egg throughout the egg production cycle. Provide plenty of fresh water.

Certified organic by  
Global Organic Alliance, Inc.

- Details SKUSKU135Shipping Weight55.00 lbs Price: **\$28.50**

# Fresh Food from Farms



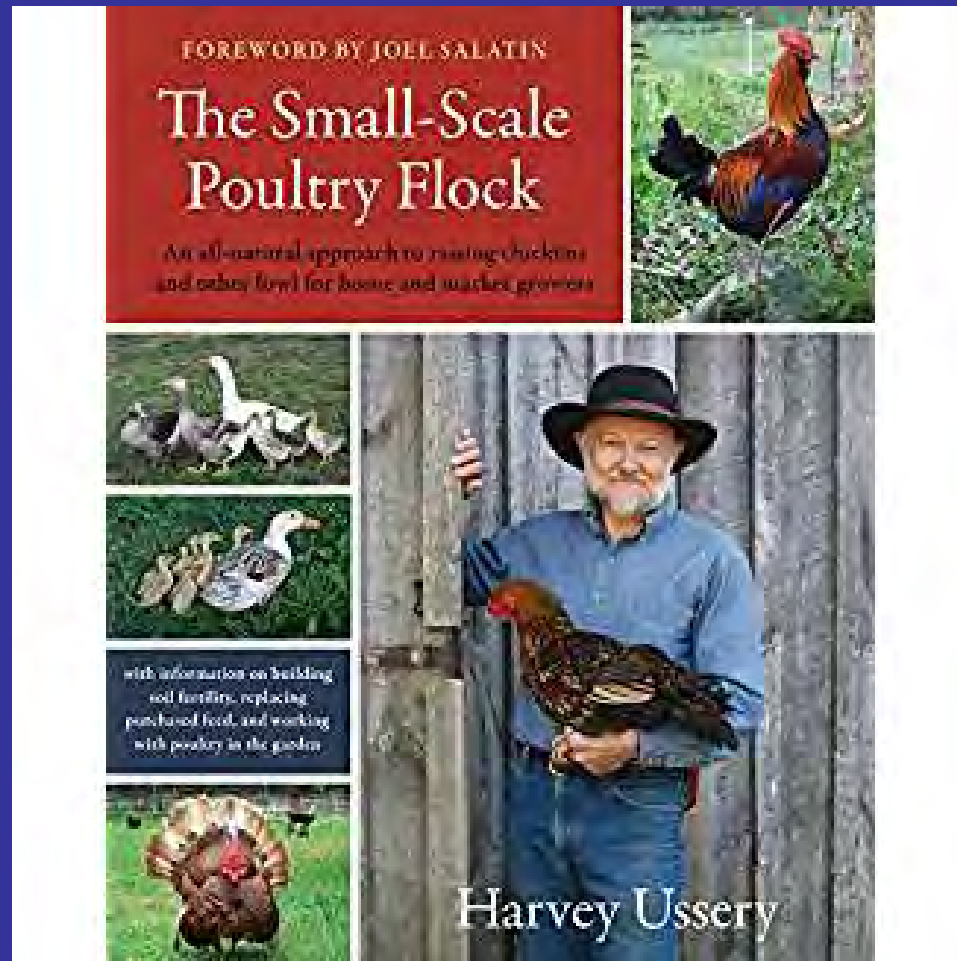
# Watching the chickens, a family's favorite pastime. They call it "hillbilly television."

<http://www.breitbart.com/california/2018/03/04/hi-tech-meets-hillbilly-tv-silicon-valley-dwellers-flock-raise-backyard-chickens/>

The folks who live and work in Silicon Valley are looking for a way to disconnect from their hi-tech day jobs by coming home to what is becoming a trend in this upscale part of California: backyard chickens.



# Chicken Books



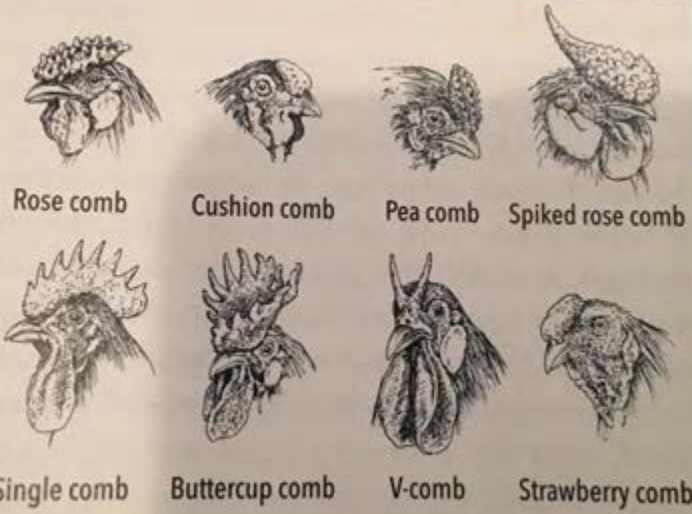
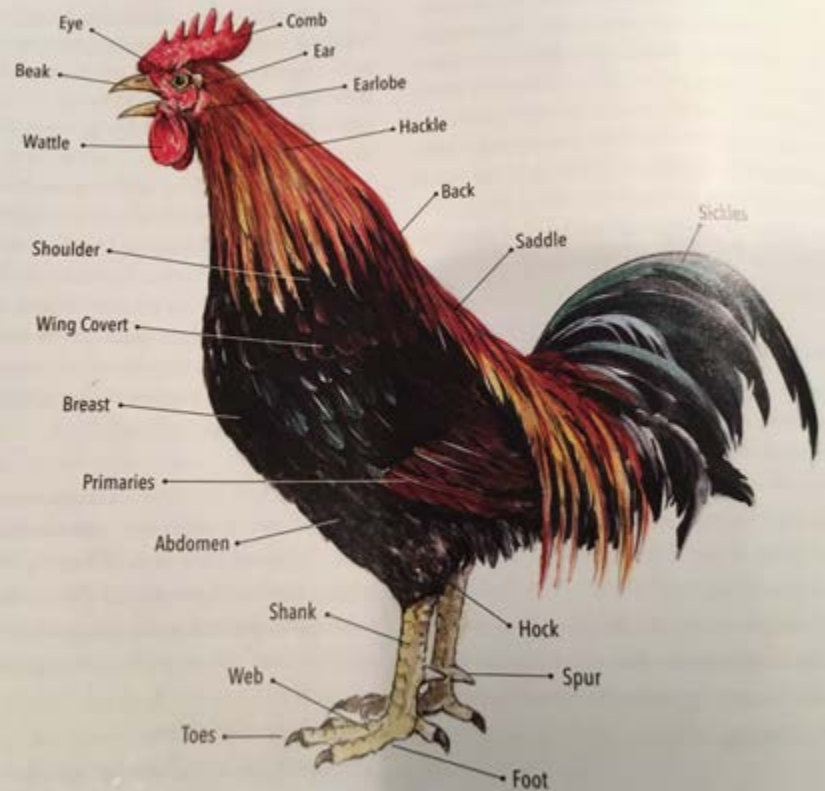
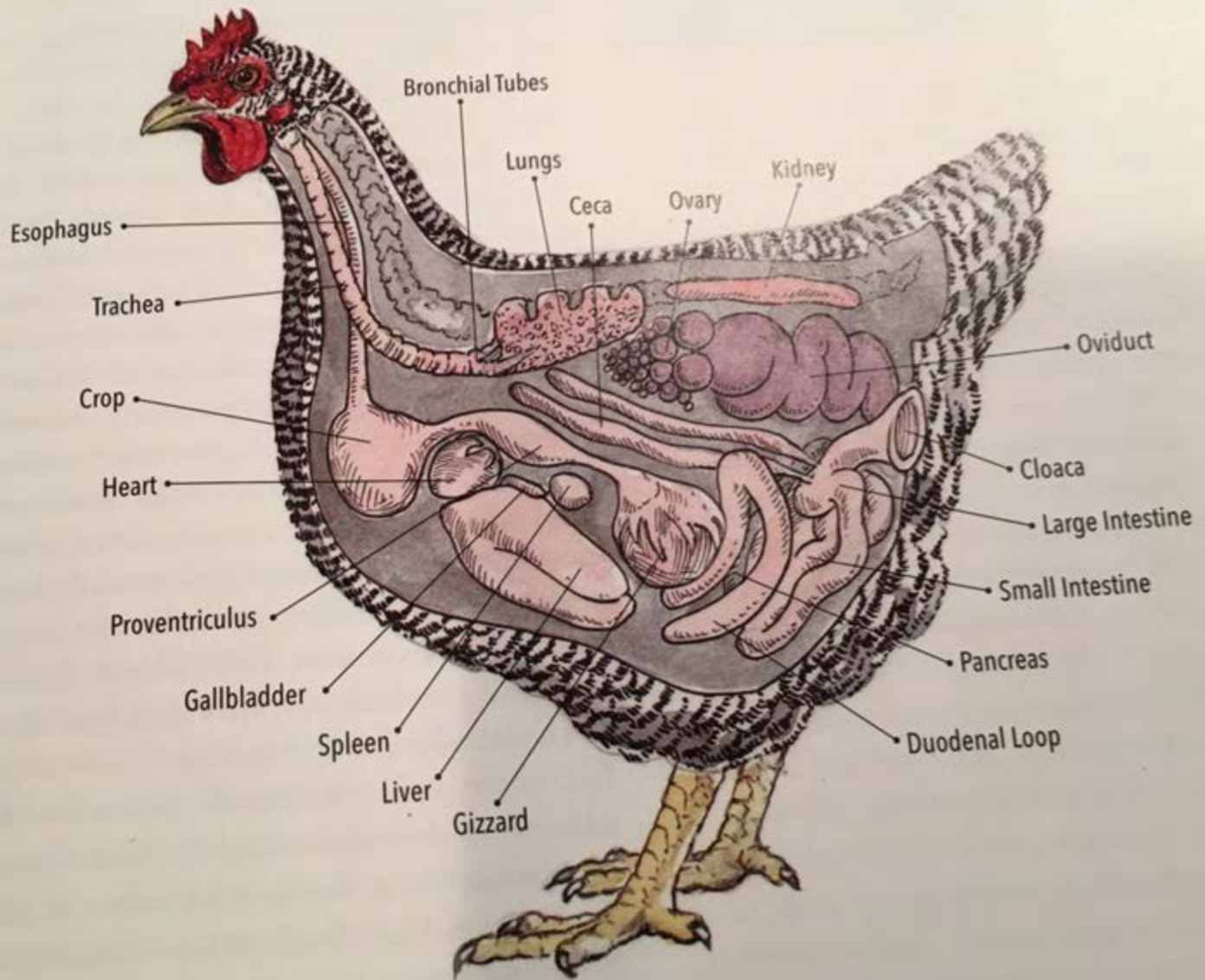


Fig. 4.1 Comb styles illustrated.







**Fig. 5.1** Just-hatched chicks have the remaining contents from the egg yolk on reserve, so they can be sent through the mail before they begin to eat and drink.

# Eggs





# Salmonella outbreak tied to backyard poultry infects 52 people, CDC

[sayshttps://www.foxbusiness.com/features/salmonella-outbreak-tied-to-backyard-poultry-infects-52-people-cdc-says](https://www.foxbusiness.com/features/salmonella-outbreak-tied-to-backyard-poultry-infects-52-people-cdc-says)

**“A multi-state salmonella outbreak tied to having contact with backyard poultry has made dozens of people sick, officials said.”**



# Keep Clean & Safe

Always wash your hands with soap immediately after touching backyard chickens

Designate one pair of shoes to wear when taking care of the birds and then never wear them inside.

Don't let children under age 5, adults over 65 and people with weakened immune systems touch the poultry.

Don't kiss or snuggle backyard poultry or let them touch your face.

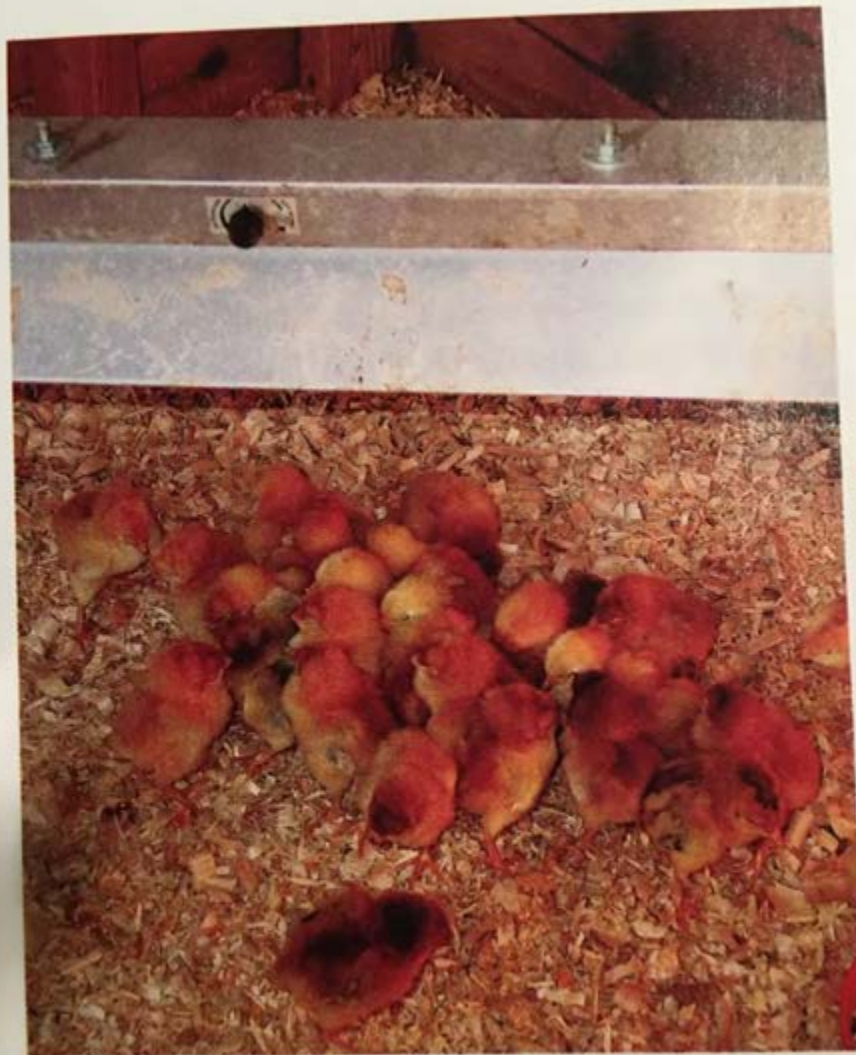
Only clean your backyard poultry equipment, like cages and feed, outdoors.

# Amanda with Baby Chick

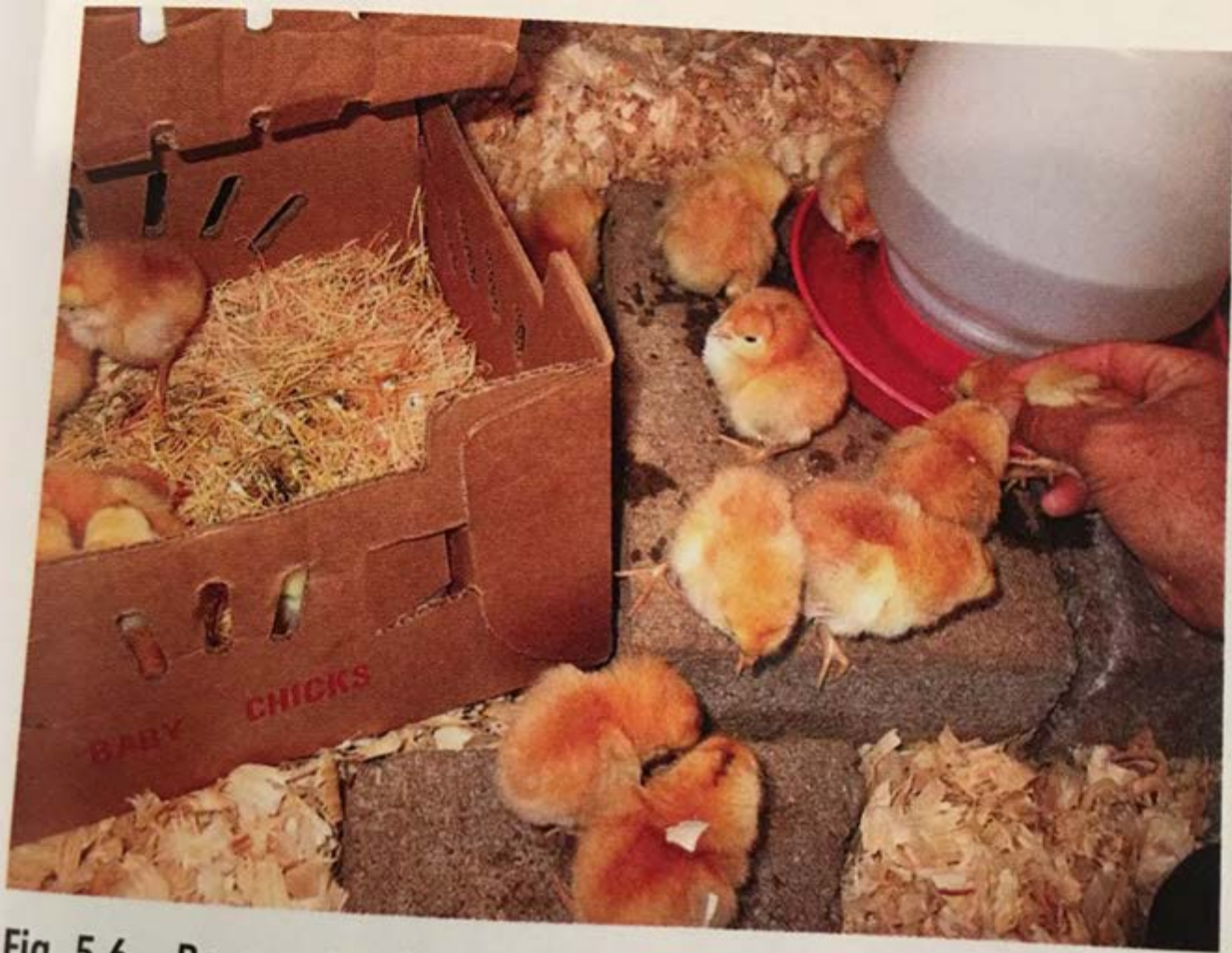


# Baby Chickens Under Heat Lamp



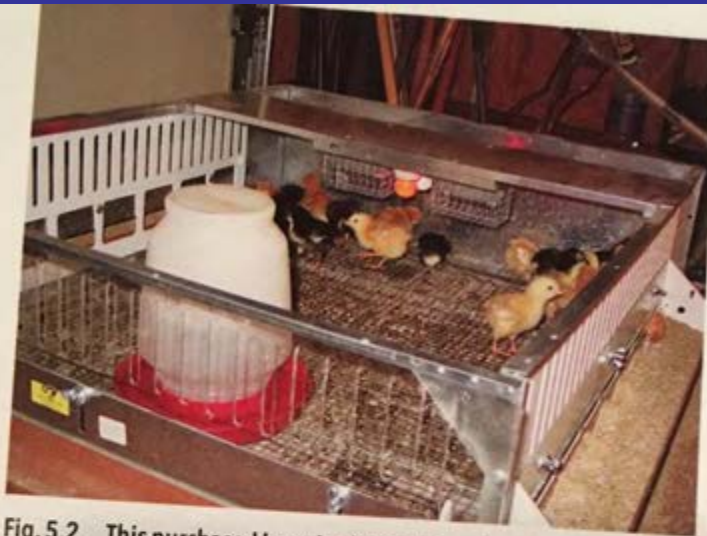


**Fig. 5.7** These chicks are huddling together to keep warm. Time to dial up the heating element.



**Fig. 5.6** Be sure to give the chicks a drink of water right away, to help them over the stress of their trip through the mail.

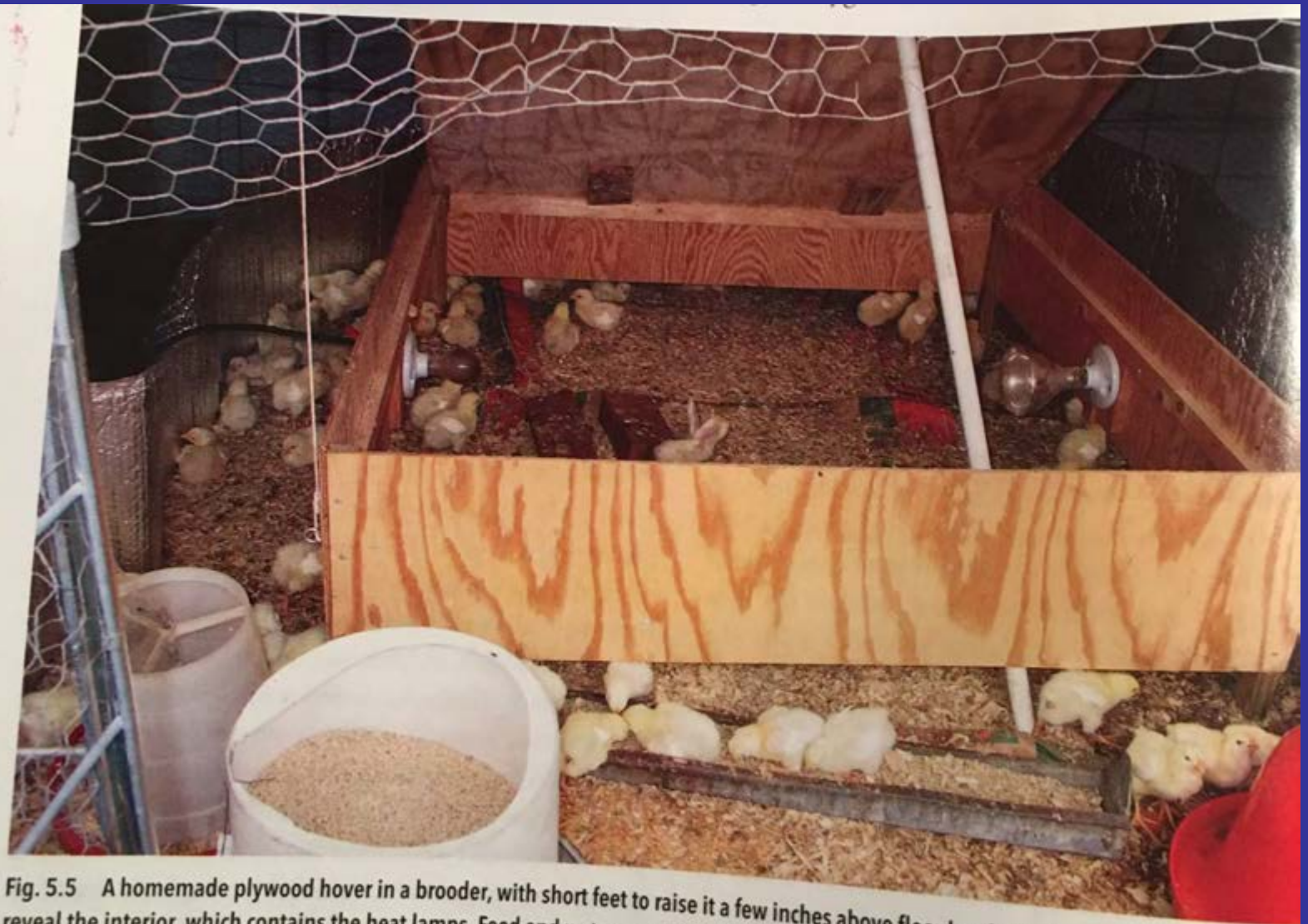
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**Fig. 5.2** This purchased brooder for small batches of chicks includes its own heat source, feeders that reduce waste, and a clean-out tray.



**Fig. 5.3** This brooder is a corner of a horse stall, set off with straw bales, topped with a heavy wire mesh gate. Heat is supplied by a 250-watt lamp.



**Fig. 5.5** A homemade plywood hover in a brooder, with short feet to raise it a few inches above floor level. It's shown here with its top open to reveal the interior, which contains the heat lamps. Feed and water are outside the hover, and chicks self-regulate for temperature.





**Fig. 5.9** Pasting up requires immediate first aid—but it is also telling us something is wrong, either with management of the brooder or with feeding.

## STARTING THE FLOCK



Fig. 5.10 I like to offer live feeds to brooder chicks from day one. Here, three-week-old Freedom Ranger chicks enjoy dandelions, crucifers, and grass clumps, with soil attached—plus crushed hard-boiled egg and soldier grubs. Note that, with these foods available, they are ignoring the feed in the feeder, prepared with such effort and expense by yours truly.

# Chickens Outside - 3 Weeks



# Winter Housing



**Fig. 6.9** Caroline Cooper of British Columbia assembles this hoop house for her flock in winter, setting it up near her house to make caring for them easier, and takes it apart for storage the rest of the year. It is made from 2-by-6 lumber as foundation, with attached 20-foot-long PVC pipes and plastic vapor barrier sheeting. PHOTO BY CAROLINE COOPER

# All Season Chicken Tractor



# Possible Reasons Your Hens Are Not Laying

[http://www.hobbyfarms.com/laying-hens-six-reasons-](http://www.hobbyfarms.com/laying-hens-six-reasons-not/?utm_source=SilverpopMailing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=HF_NL_2017_11_28%20(1)&&spMailingID=32224207&spUserID=MjMzMjY0ODUwNTI0S0&spJobID=1181559718&spReportId=MTE4MTU1OTcxOAS2)

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Age

Molting

Change in daylight

Nutrition

Stress

Egg Predation

# Backyard=Ultimate Local Artisan Eggs

## Chicken Tractor



Confinement =  
Yellow Egg Yolk



Pasture = Orange Egg Yolk

# Move Pasture Pen





# Move Coop



# Coop & Pasture Together



# Door to Pasture Pen



# Feeders



# Feed and Water



# Chicken Feeder



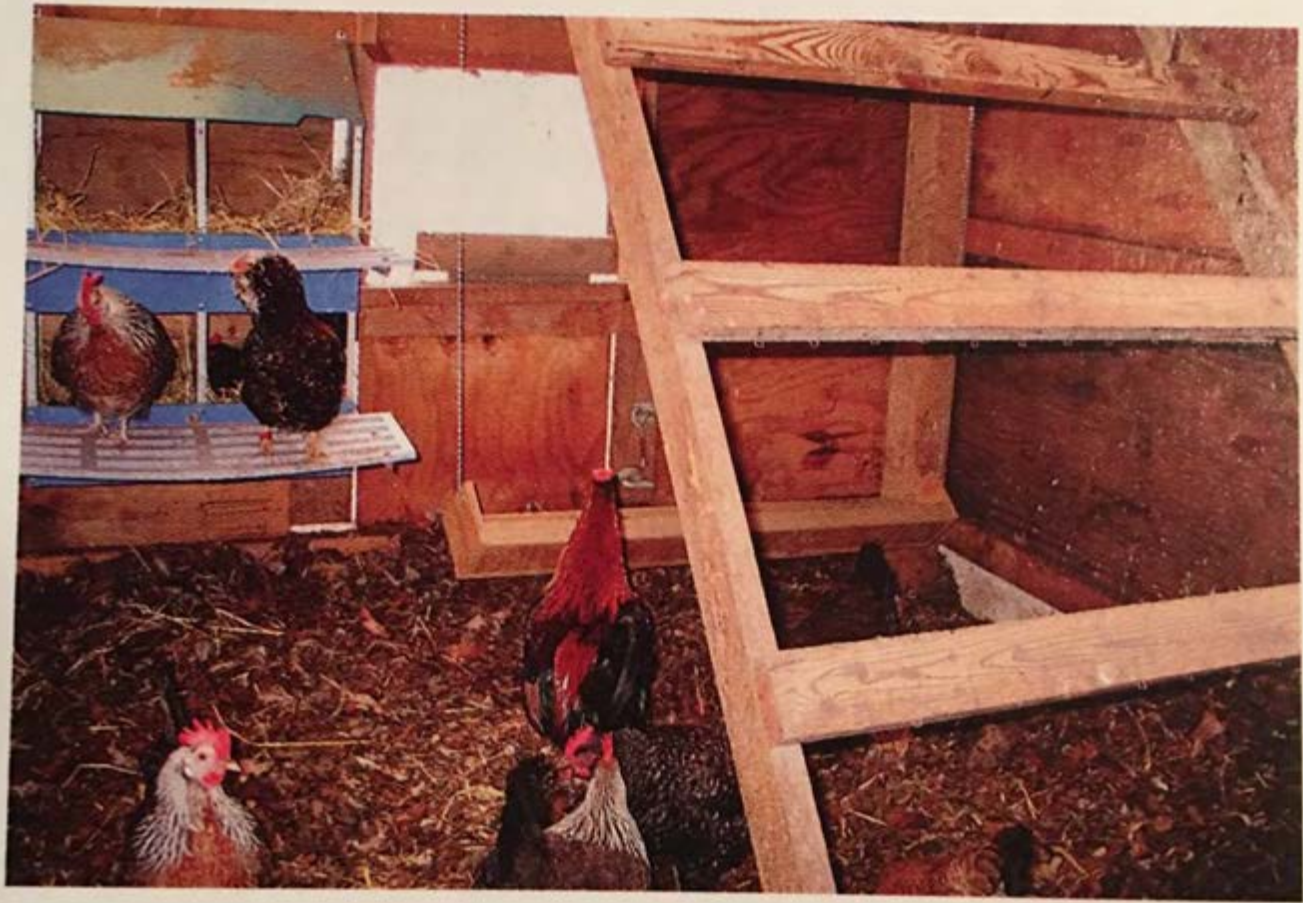
# Cover Feed & Water



# Nest Box





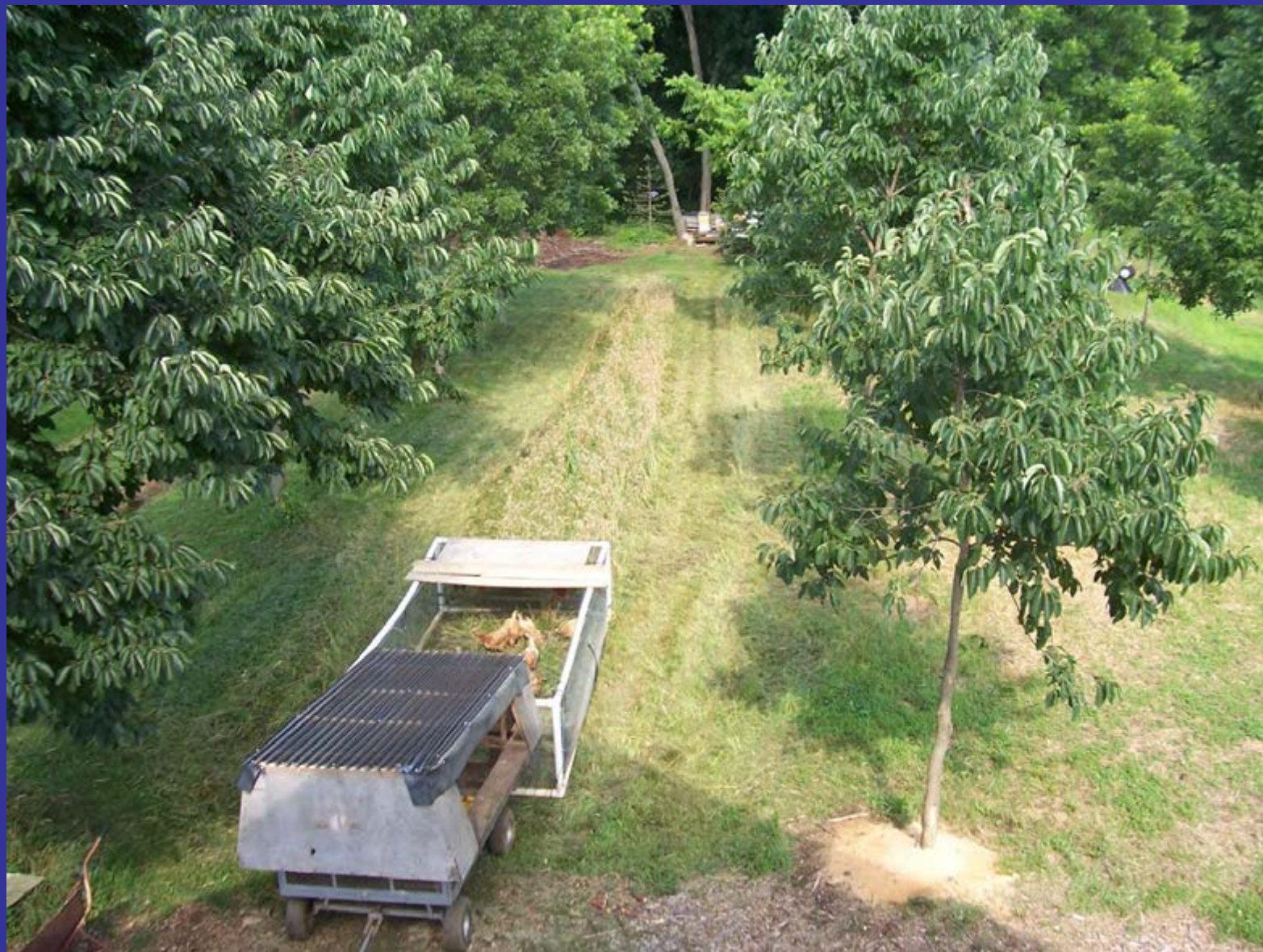


**Fig. 6.10** Accessories in my henhouse include nestboxes mounted on the wall, hanging feeder, and roosts—plus one of the most important “accessories” of all, deep litter.

# Roast



# Pasture Chickens & Tree Crops



# Eat Your Vegetables!

- Greens chickens like: Cabbage family, Wheat/rye grass, clover, Chickweed, Thistle, Galinsoga



# Organic Farm in England



# Lawns as Potential Farmland

**35 million acres of lawn in USA**

**880,542 acres of turfgrass – 18% of land area - in New Jersey**

**665,675 acres of single family home owner turf in New Jersey**

**0.70 acres lot size, 0.32 acres in turf**

**Average homeowner spends \$506/year on turf maintenance**

**About \$1 billion statewide**

# Counting Eggs & To Wash or Not to Wash

- [http://www.backyardpoultrymag.com/egg-egg-washing-storage/?fb\\_action\\_ids=682115388571850&fb\\_action\\_types=og.comments](http://www.backyardpoultrymag.com/egg-egg-washing-storage/?fb_action_ids=682115388571850&fb_action_types=og.comments)



# Free Range vs Pasture (May 2006)



- Feed consumption dropped 11% when chickens were returned to pasture



# Feed to Egg Conversion



- 0.3156 lbs feed/hen/day (143 grams)
- Ave egg weight = 0.165 lbs or 75 grams
- Ave laying rate, eggs/day = 0.80 to 0.50

# Egg Economics

- Organic Feed \$30/bag 50 lbs
- 0.32 lbs feed/hen/day or \$0.19/hen/day
- \$6.00 doz. = \$0.50/egg
  
- 80% lay returns  $\$0.40 - 0.19 = \$0.16$
- 50% lay returns  $\$0.25 - 0.19 = \$0.06$

# Feed Conversion – Lay Rate 80%

- Feed intake = 143 grams/hen/day (0.3156 lbs/hen/day)
- Egg size = 75 grams
- Lay rate = 80%
- NPK content feed = 2.66% N, 0.6% P, 0.84%K
- NPK content egg = 1.92% N, 0.21% P, 0.12%K
- NPK content bird = 2.8% N, 0.31% P, 0.20%K
  
- NPK intake (g/hen/day)= 3.80 N, 0.85 P, 1.20 K
  
- NPK diverted to 60 gram of egg (g) = 1.152 N, 0.126 P, 0.072 K
  
- NPK diverted to manure (g) = 2.648 N, 0.724 P, 1.128 K
  
- NPK diverted to manure (% of feed) N= 70%; P= 85%; K= 94%
  
- NPK in 2000 lbs feed = 53.2 lbs N, 12 lbs P, 16.8 lbs K
  
- NPK in 50 lbs feed = 1.33 lbs N, 0.3 lbs P, 0.42 lbs K

# Early Spring Greening After Fall Chicken Grazing



# Chicken Tractor



# Predator Protection Needed







Photo credit: The Family Cow, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania











# Mow Small Grains

## Chicken Harvest



# Bugs as Feed



# Pasture Walk



# Confinement vs. Pasture





# Pasture Poultry- Polyface Farm





# Pasture Beef - Polyface Farm



# Pasture Walk





# Summary

- **Produce foods of exceptional quality**
- **Direct market to people who appreciate quality**
- **Pasture is key to quality**
- **Build community relationships**
- **Be good land steward**

**I DREAM OF A BETTER WORLD  
WHERE CHICKENS CAN CROSS  
THE ROAD WITHOUT HAVING  
THEIR MOTIVES QUESTIONED**

# Gateway to Family Cow

