Birds on the Move: Mobile Housing for Poultry on Pasture

Presented by: Homer Walden
(Sunnyside Farm)

Terrell “Spence” Spencer
(Across the Creek Farm)

Christine Deck
(Deck Family Farm)

Hosted by:
Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT)

Photo courtesy of Deck Family Farm
Introductions

Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT) is a national nonprofit organization that promotes humane farming and advocates for the safe production of meat, milk, and eggs. FACT helps consumers make humane and healthy choices.

FACT’s Fund-a-Farmer Project awards grants and facilitates peer-to-peer farmer education to increase the number of animals that are raised humanely in this country.
Our Presenters

Homer Walden – Sunnyside Farm
- Dover, PA
- 2013 Fund-a-Farmer grant recipient

Christine Deck – Deck Family Farm
- Junction City, OR
- 2012 Fund-a-Farmer grant recipient

Terrell “Spence” Spencer – Across the Creek Farm
- West Fork, AR
- 2014 Fund-a-Farmer grant recipient
Sunnyside Farm
Homer Walden
SUNNYSIDE FARM

Want to learn more?

Join us for a Pen Building Workshop!

April 16 8AM-4PM

www.sunnysidefarmpa.com/product/pen-workshop/
Deck Family Farm Pastured Poultry Program

~ Certified Organic Layers
~ Roasters (Broilers)
~ Heritage Turkeys
Who is Deck Family Farm
Why choose to raise pastured Poultry?
Pasture Raised Layers
Pro’s & Con’s of Pasture Raised Layers

PRO’S

- Hens and eggs stay clean
- Reduced feed costs
- Parasite control
- Enjoyable to work with

CON’S

- Predation
- Winter season set stock
- Need to move frequently
  - Manure disbursement
  - Damaging pasture
- Seasonality of production
A family friendly endeavor

Collecting & washing eggs 2008
Constructing the layer trailers

Cost: $4,000 to $5,000
Time to build: 80 hours
Predicted life: 7-10 years
Introducing pullets to their trailer
Moving the hens to Spring pasture
Todays (2016) Pasture Raised Layer Program

- Flock size: 2,000-3,000 birds
- Cull at 24-36 months
- Heritage roasters 8 and 15%
Farm tour: folks love pasture raised hens
Pasture Raised Broilers
Beginning in the brooder
Training chicks to water
Chick predation

- Skunks
- Owls
- Hawks
- Racoons
- House-cats
Early model of open houses (2008)

PRO’s
• Cheap to build

CONS:
• Flimsy
• Blows in high winds
Salatin style 10X10’s (2010)

PRO’s
• Cheap to build
• Better manure distribution

CONS:
• Confinement style
Moving 10X10’s take some finesse.
New Model of chick houses

PRO’s
• Relatively inexpensive
• Does not blow away
• Not confinement style

RJ Ewing
Fund a Farmer FACT Grant recipient
Quonset Style Houses (2012)

**PRO’s**
- Birds are free to move
- Better ventilation, air flow and temp. control
- Birds engage in more natural behaviors
- Need to move less often

**CONS**
- Open to predation
- Concentrated manure in houses
- More difficult to catch at harvest
Food, water, shade...
Which is better?
Pasture Raised Turkeys
How our turkeys populated the neighborhood
Containing Turkeys: attempt #1
Containing Turkeys: attempt #2

Clipping wings is a better approach to keeping heritage birds at home.

Photo Courtesy of High Tail Farms
Deck Family Farm Farmers Market Booth
Eugene, Oregon
Brooder Housing
Please type your questions in the chat bar!

Photo courtesy of Across the Creek Farm
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<tr>
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**FACT & the Fund-a-Farmer Project**
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