



The Small Farm Institute (SFI) is committed to engaging communities, limited-resource, socially disadvantaged, and veteran farmers and ranchers to educate, encourage, promote, improve, and develop economic and land sustainability.



NRCS helps America's farmers, ranchers and forest landowners conserve the nation's soil, water, air and other natural resources. All programs are voluntary and offer science-based solutions that benefit both the landowner and the environment.



Prairie View A&M University Cooperative Extension's mission is to empower and support our clients and their goals through education and technical assistance. Our goal is to ensure a sustainable, profitable, and competitive food and fiber system in the State of Texas by addressing the knowledge gap facing many farmers in areas such as:

- Business Management
- Marketing
- Financial Management
- Labor Management
- Risk Management
- Regulatory Compliance
- Environmental Stewardship
- Land Use Planning
- Water Management
- Conservation Programs
- Crop Production
- Animal Production
- Poultry Production
- Aquaculture
- Fiber Production
- Food Safety
- Food Security
- Food Access
- Food Systems
- Food Policy
- Food Justice
- Food Sovereignty
- Food Resilience
- Food Innovation
- Food Entrepreneurship
- Food Social Enterprise
- Food Community Enterprise
- Food Cooperative Enterprise
- Food Worker Enterprise
- Food Land Enterprise
- Food Water Enterprise
- Food Energy Enterprise
- Food Climate Enterprise
- Food Ecosystem Enterprise
- Food Biodiversity Enterprise
- Food Resilience Enterprise
- Food Security Enterprise
- Food Access Enterprise
- Food Sovereignty Enterprise
- Food Resilience Enterprise
- Food Security Enterprise
- Food Access Enterprise
- Food Sovereignty Enterprise

To learn more about how you can implement an Urban and Rural Food System program in your area, contact your local Extension agent.

Jeremy Peaches
 Jjpeaches@pvamu.edu
 Urban Program Specialist
 (936) 261-5107


The Cooperative Extension Program does not discriminate against anyone regardless of their race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity. Persons who require communication in a language other than English, who require alternative means of communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.), or who has a disability should contact Ms. Belinda Lewis at 936-261-3585 in advance.



Backyard Poultry Start-Up Guide

Topics :

- Avian Management
- Layer Vs. Broiler Production
- Housing Designs
- Health & Nutrition
- Behavior



*In Texas, broilers and eggs are the second-largest agricultural commodity produced in the state.
- Texas Farm Statistics*

Poultry Management

Broiler VS. Layer Production

Broilers or Broiler chickens are birds that are reared solely for the purpose of meat production. Their genes make them grow faster than native chickens and layers. Within few weeks, broilers can grow to attain heavy weights that can cause their vents to protrude out or make them crippled and unable to walk as a result of their excessive weight gain. Broilers' feeds are made to have excess energy to enable them gain weight.

Layers are birds reared for the purpose of egg production. They have genes that make them lay eggs. Layers tend not to gain weight and their feeds composition is made in such a way that it helps them lay eggs without much weight.

Poultry Housing Design

General layout of poultry house

1. Poultry house should be located away from residential and industrial area.
2. It should have proper road facilities.
3. It should have the basic amenities like water and electricity.
4. Poultry house should be located in an elevated area and there should not be any water-logging.
5. It should have proper ventilation.
6. Layout should not allow visitors or outside vehicles near the sheds.
7. The sheds should be so located that the fresh air first passes through the brooder shed, followed by grower and layer sheds. This will prevent the spread of diseases from layer houses to brooder house.
8. There should be a minimum distance of 50-100 feet between chick and grower shed and the distance between grower and layer sheds should be of minimum 100 metre.
9. The egg store room, office room and the feed store room should be located near entrance to minimize the movement of people around the poultry sheds.
10. The disposal pit and sick room should be constructed only at the extreme end of the site.

Poultry Health

10 Tips for Healthy Chickens

1. Provide the correct feed.
2. Provide Clean Water.
3. Provide Vaccines
4. Keep Dry Bedding
5. Observe Droppings.
6. Break up Broody Hens.
7. No Supplemental Light for .
8. Provide Dust Bathing Areas.

