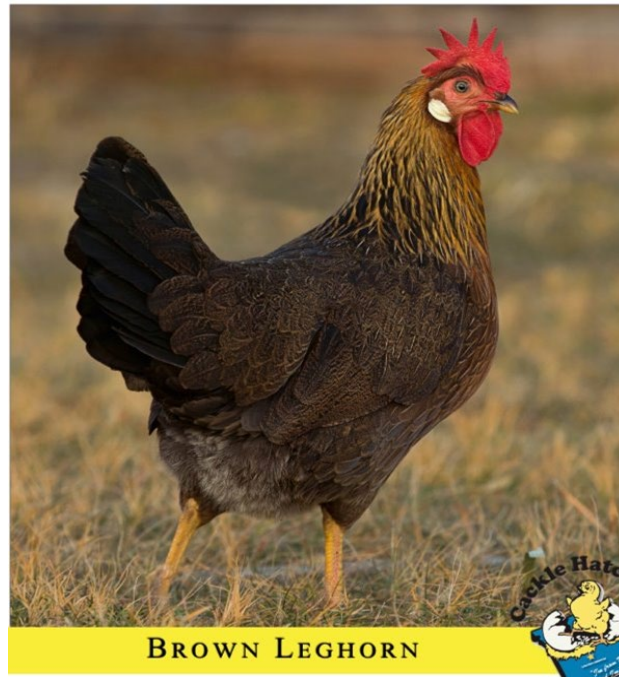




4-H Chick Chain



BROWN LEGHORN

Programs in agriculture and natural resources,
4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences,
and resource development.

University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture,
U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating.
UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

Real. Life. Solutions.



What is the end goal of this project?

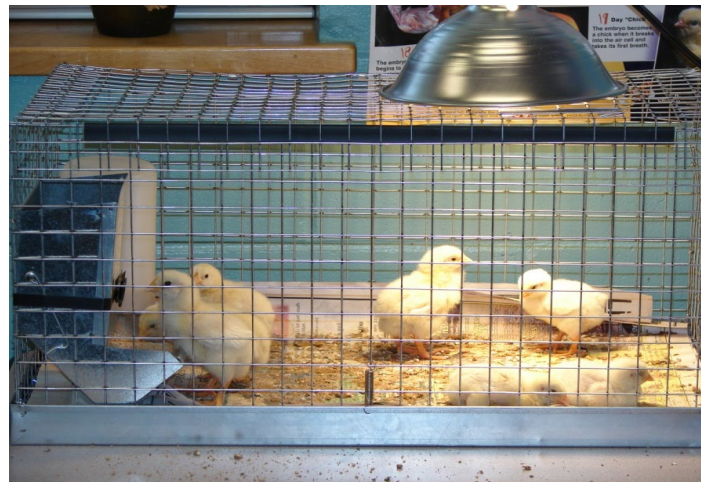
Youth will:

- **Learn responsibility of caring for a livestock project daily**
- **Practice record keeping skills on any events, health issues, or practices used during the span of this project**
 - **Gain understanding of animal husbandry**
 - **Gain knowledge within the poultry field and breed specifics to bring this best birds to the show at the conclusion of this project**



What is a brooder?

- **A pen for chicks that provides protection, heat, feed and water and space to move around.**
 - **Absorbent bedding material is required so the chicks can walk on it and scratch in it. Wood shavings, paper towels, shredded newspaper work great!**
- **A heat lamp provides the chicks light and warmth.**



Helpful tips for setting up a brooder

- If you choose to use shavings for bedding, make sure to choose pine shavings instead of cedar. Cedar shavings are toxic to chickens and can cause respiratory problems.
- Heat sources are essential for baby chicks to thrive. You can use a heat lamp or a heating plate (if they're in a well lit area).



Keep your brooder CLEAN!!

- **Change out daily**
 - **Bedding**
 - **Water**
 - **Food**





What should the chicks be fed ?

- **A pre-mixed commercial chick starter. This may be purchased at a local feed store. Pet stores usually do not sell this type of feed. Grit is not necessary at this age.**
- **DO NOT feed “scratch feed” or ground corn because the chicks require more protein, vitamins and minerals than are in these feeds.**





How often can I handle my chickens?

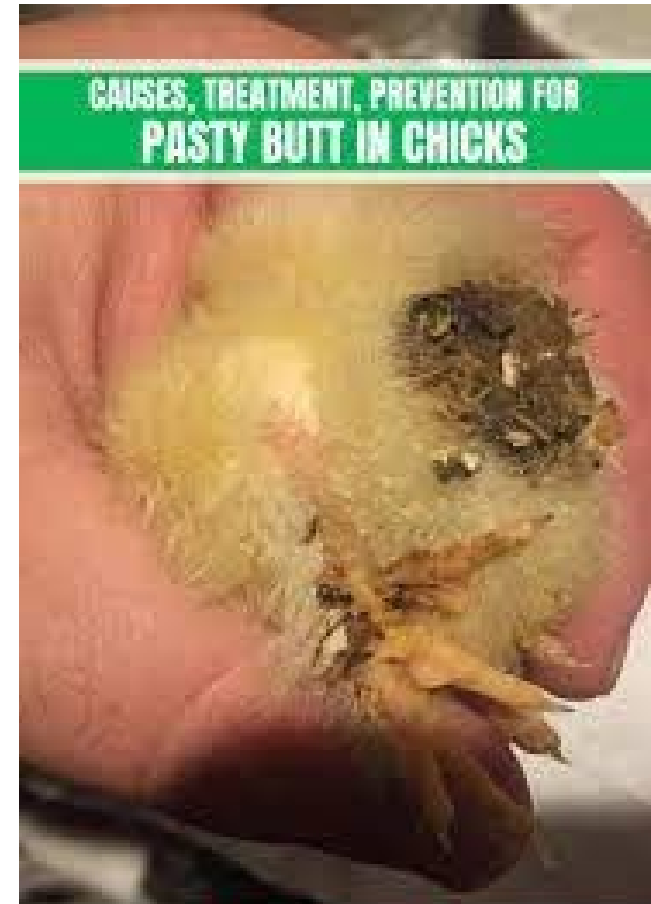
- **For the first few weeks, it is important to handle the chicks in short periods of time but you can do this several times a day.**
- **Chicks are very fragile and are still developing their bones so it is important to handle them gently.**





What is pasty butt ?

- Condition where droppings stick to the chicks vent
- Preventing excretion of waste
- Mainly in baby chicks, can spread to adult birds
- Indication of illness
- Caused from stress
- Change of environment, handling, moving, too cold, too hot



CAUSES, TREATMENT, PREVENTION FOR
PASTY BUTT IN CHICKS



How do we prevent pasty butt ?

- Clean, dry environment
 - Minimize stress
- Brooder ready, temperature warm, do not handle too much in beginning
 - Feed a complete starter-grower feed
 - Wait until 18 weeks to feed “treats”
 - Probiotics in water
- Probiotics not needed if feeding starter-grower feed
- Contact Extension office or veterinarian is suspicious of coccidiosis





How do treat pasty butt ?

- Examine Vent
- Keep vent clean by gentle wiping
 - Warm washcloth, or under warm water
 - If dried, use a wet cotton swab
 - Make sure it is dry!!
 - Practice biosecurity





When will my chickens start laying eggs?

- **Brown Leghorn pullets usually start laying their eggs between 18-20 weeks of age.**
- **Before they start laying eggs, they will be called pullets or “pre-teen” chickens. Once they are laying, they will be called hens.**
- **Eggs will not be fertilized (able to be incubated) unless you have a rooster.**





When should I move my chicks out of a brooder?

- **Too big for heat stand / lamp**
 - **Jumping out of brooder**
 - **Becoming too crowded**
- **More chicken litter than clean area**
- **Pecking order becoming noticeable**





Types of Coops



Homemade Coops





What is Avian Influenza?

- **Avian Influenza is a highly contagious viral disease of birds.**
- **It is a serious threat to commercial and backyard poultry owners.**
- **There are two different groups of this virus**
 - **LPAI (low pathogenic) - less severe and only cause minor illness but it can mutate into HPAI form.**
 - **HPAI (high pathogenic) - spreads rapidly through a flock and has a very high mortality rate. Typically kills 95-100% of the flock within a few days.**



Avian Influenza: Continued

- **Avian Influenza can be spread by migratory birds, primarily waterfowl. As these birds migrate north and south, they spread this diseases in their feces and through respiratory secretions.**
- **Clothes, shoes, shared equipment, and vehicles can pick this virus up and transmit. The disease does not just magically appear.**
- **There is currently no treatment or cure for infected birds.**



Avian Influenza Symptoms:

- **Unfortunately, in the beginning, AI symptoms may look like symptoms of other respiratory diseases. However, an extreme and sudden increase in mortality is a good indication you may be dealing with more than a normal respiratory infection.**



How can I prevent Avian Influenza?

BIOSECURITY PRACTICES!!!!

1. ISOLATE BIRDS

1. SANITATION

1. TRAFFIC FLOW



ISOLATE BIRDS

- **Post “No Visitors” or “Restricted Area” signs at road entrances.**
- **Do not visit other individuals who have backyard poultry or commercial poultry flocks.**
- **Minimize or eliminate contact with other poultry at swap meets, fairs, chicken auctions, etc.**
- **Prevent wild birds (especially waterfowl) from coming in contact with your birds.**
- **Keep the grass cut, and remove possible shelter and food sources to discourage animals from coming near your birds.**
- **Treat any dead wild bird as if were infectious, and dispose of it quickly. Wash your hands after disposal**



SANITATION

- **Mud, dirt, manure, or any organic material should be removed from boots before disinfecting them. This will ensure adequate contact time with disinfectant.**
 - **Clean and disinfect all equipment entering and leaving the property. Use plastic or metal poultry containers, not wood. Wood is hard to disinfect.**
 - **Properly dispose of used bedding material and dead birds.**



TRAFFIC FLOW

- **Limit and minimize the traffic flow near your birds. Avoid visiting other backyard poultry pens, swap meets, chicken auctions, livestock sales, etc. Avoid moving equipment from place to place. If this is unavoidable, make sure it is cleaned and disinfected before it leaves and before it returns.**
- **If you have multiple-age birds, always work from youngest to oldest to lessen the risk to younger birds.**
- **As much as possible, keep everyone away from your birds except the caretakers.**
- **Dedicate footwear and clothing to be worn only near the chickens, or use clean, protective plastic boots, disposable hair nets, and disposable coveralls when working your birds.**
- **Ask any visitors if they have recently been around other poultry. If so, do not let them near your birds.**
- **Properly manage mortality disposal in a timely manner.**



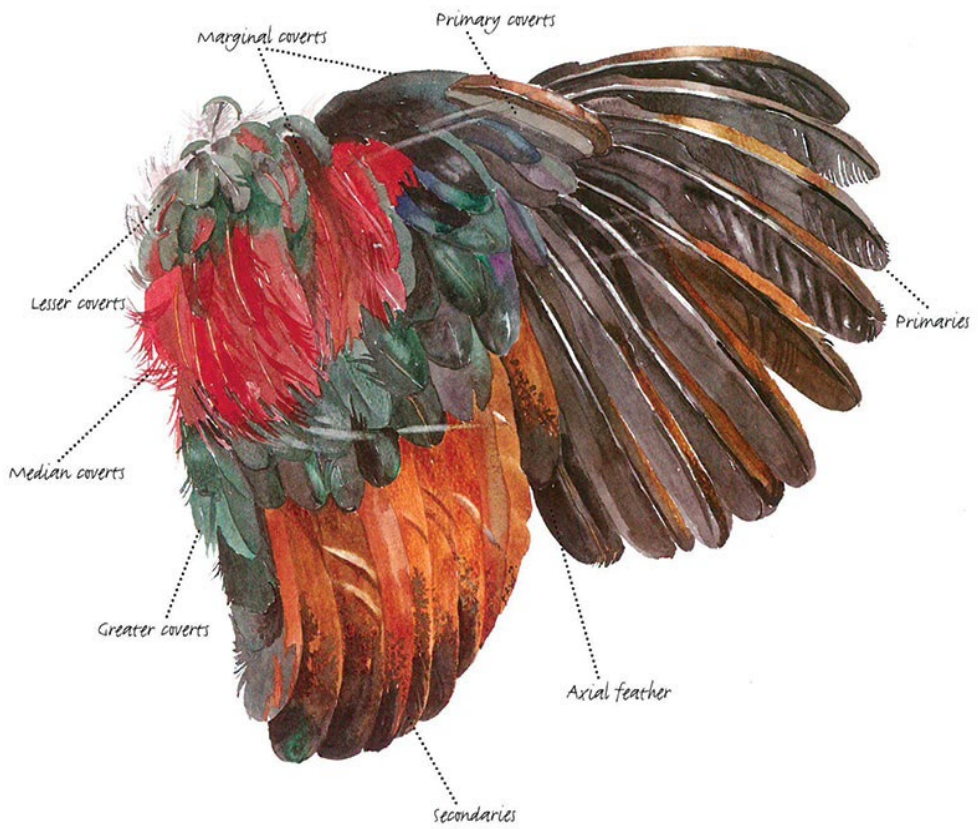
Choosing your top 3 pullets

- 300 large, white eggs/ yr = good layers!
- Dual-purpose
- Muscling considered
- Hens need to be feminine
- Leg structure
- Feathers



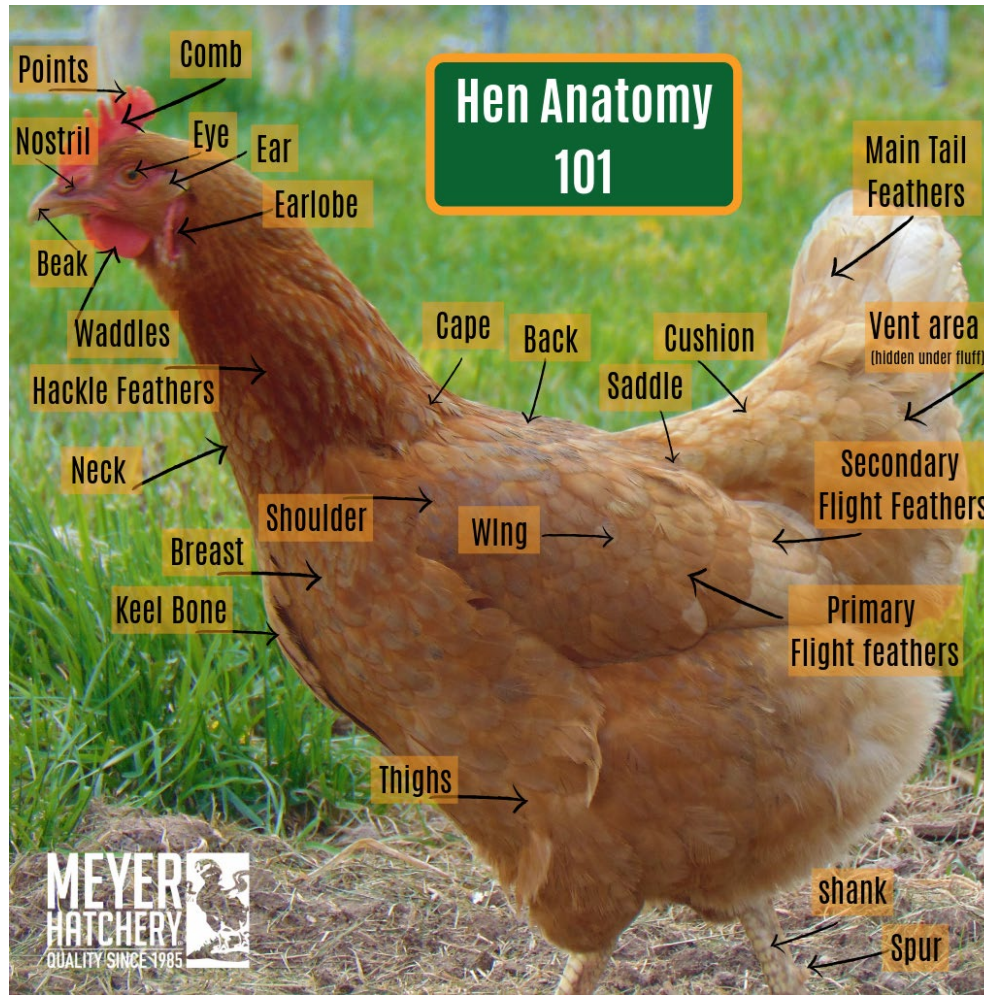
Choosing your top 3 pullets

Parts of a wing





Choosing your top 3 pullets





Please join the REMIND

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Happy Raising!

