The Journey to Sustainability Begins with Education
CHICKENS 101
INTRODUCTORY COURSE

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Objectives of this Workshop

- Information and resources for backyard chicken husbandry in urban & rural settings
- Science-based information on chicken biosecurity
- Support for sustainable, local foods production
- Information on local zoning for backyard chickens
WORKSHOP OUTLINE

✓ Overview of the Basics
✓ Local Regulations
✓ Biology
  Anatomy / Breeds / Development
✓ Nutrition
✓ Housing and Predator Control
✓ Health and Biosecurity
✓ Wrap-Up
OVERVIEW: BENEFITS OF CHICKENS

• Nutritious food for family consumption
• Sustainable local foodsheds
• Pet therapy
• Entertaining to watch
• Fertilizer production
• Bug terminator
• Agrobiodiversity conservation
• Biology & food education
• Promote friendly neighbors w/ egg share
• Bridge urban and rural communities
OVERVIEW: BREEDS
Chicken Anatomy
OVERVIEW:

DEVELOPMENT

- Egg inside Hen: The egg develops inside the hen.
- Egg in Nest: The hen lays the egg.
- Hen Roosting:
  - The hen roosts on the egg, keeping it warm.
- Chick Breaking Out:
  - The chick becomes dry and fluffy.
  - The chick, wet and weak, breaks out of the egg.
- Chicken:
  - The hen develops into an adult chicken.
- Baby Chick:
  - Egg: shell, albumen, yolk, chalaza, egg cell.
OVERVIEW: HEALTH

- Cold
- Humidity
- Bacteria
- Viruses
- Protozoa
- Loud Noises
- Beak Trimming
- Parasites
- Mold & Mycotoxins
- Poor Ventilation
- Bacteria
- Viruses
- Protozoa
- Loud Noises
- Parasites
- Heat
- Cold
- Dust
- Vaccination
- Rough Handling
- NH$_3$/H$_2$S

- Poor Sanitation
- Weighing
- Molting
- Pecking Order
- Feed Restriction
- Crowding
- Dirty Water
- Poor Litter Quality
- Nutritional Deficiencies
OVERVIEW: BIOSECURITY

Don’t Mess With Me!
Can I have chickens where I live?

Where do I buy chickens and supplies?

Where do I get follow-up information?
SO WHICH CAME FIRST: 
THE CHICKEN OR THE EGG?

See the July 14, 2010 news report at
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/38238685/ns/technology_and_science-science/t/which-came-first-chicken-or-egg/
THE BASICS: GETTING STARTED

Laws and Regulations

- Be aware of your city ordinances before planning a backyard flock.
- If chickens are legal, there may be restrictions and/or requirements that must be followed, such as:
  + number of hens
  + rarely are roosters permitted due to noise
  + size of coop
  + distance of coop to residences
Zoning Ordinances

- Zoning Ordinance information for any city
  + Minicode Corporation website [http://www.municode.com/](http://www.municode.com/)
  + Free database access

- Zoning Ordinances in Sarasota County, FL
  + County: allowed in Open Use category (OUA, OUR, OUE) with limitations and in the RE category by special exception
  + Municipalities: permitted in cities of Sarasota, North Port (only w/ AG zoning), and Venice (only restriction = chickens and other domestic fowl are not allowed to run or be at large within the city).
**City of Sarasota, FL - Ordinance 11-4955**

- Successfully petitioned by Sarasota **C.L.U.C.K** (Citizens Lobbying for Urban Chicken Keeping)
- Final approval on February 7, 2011
- Ordinance summary
  - 3 year trial basis
  - 4 hens/household; no roosters
  - use of mobile chicken coops in backyards with property setbacks from property line required
  - chickens may be let out during the day with fence enclosed backyards, but required to be securely contained within the coop during non-daylight hours.
  - commercial eggs or poultry sales not allowed
What are your options if your zoning does not allow backyard chickens?

Be aware that citizen groups in cities across the U.S. have begun to promote keeping city flocks

- a step towards self-sufficiency through the backyard production of eggs
- a compatible partner to a backyard garden through pest control and the production of fertilizer
- a cut down on kitchen scraps by feeding to the flock
- education for children on where food comes from
- desire for some to enjoy aspects of "country living" despite their urban environment
Sarasota County

- C.L.U.C.K (Citizens Lobbying for Urban Chicken Keeping) has been formed to push a measure allowing urban chickens
  + Take the ‘Are You Ready for Backyard Chickens’ test
  + Contact Info: [http://sarasotacluck.blogspot.com/](http://sarasotacluck.blogspot.com/)
THE BASICS: GETTING STARTED

Backyard Chicken Sources

 Local Chicken Breeders
- FL Poultry Breeders Directory
  http://floridapoultrybd.weebly.com/
- American Livestock Breeds Conservancy

 Mail Order Companies
  - e.g., Murray McMurray Hatchery

 Local Supply Stores
  e.g., Tractor Supply
THE BASICS: GETTING STARTED

Backyard Chickens Supplies Stores

- Feed & Seed Stores
- Pet Supply Stores
- Country Supply Stores
- Craig’s List
WHY DID THE CHICKEN CROSS THE ROAD?
“Go ahead. If you make it across, they’ll be telling your story for years.”
What are the reasons for your actions?