

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Division of Agricultural Development
Agricultural Development & Diversification Program (ADD)
Grant Project Final Report

Contract Number: **18041**

Grant Project Title: **Establishing a Wisconsin Hatchery to Produce and Sell Organically Raised Pastured Poultry Chicks**

Amount of Funding Awarded: \$6000

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Please use the following questions as a guide for writing your grant project final report. In your final report, please answer each question as it relates to your grant project.

1) What did you want to accomplish with the grant?

The goal of this project has been to establish the first Wisconsin-based hatchery to produce organically raised chicks specifically bred for a pasture-based poultry production system. The problems addressed included: being able to produce a chicken less prone to the heart attack and leg problems commonly seen in the standard Cornish Cross meat chicken and establishing a local source for Western Wisconsin poultry producers to obtain quality chicks. The breed we selected for this project was the Corndel Cross developed by Timothy Shell of Mt. Solon, Virginia.



2) What steps did you take to reach your goal?

Our project had 4 main objectives:

- a. **Objective 1:** Purchase 100 Improved Corndel Cross chicks in 2003 from Timothy Shell in Mt. Solon, VA. After 8-10 weeks, 30 of the peak performers (27 hens, 3 roosters) will be selected as breeding stock for the 2004 season.

Steps to Reach Goal:

- a. Our initial plan was to purchase 100 Corndel Cross chicks from Timothy Shell and to identify the 30 peak performers for use as a breeder flock. Shortly after we began this project, we discovered Mr. Shell and his family would be relocating to China by the end of the year. As we would be one of the few producers in this country with Corndel breeding stock, we decided to keep as many chickens as we could for our breeder flock. At this time, we know of only 2-3 other producers who have flocks of Corndel Cross breeders.
- b. Our 102 chicks were shipped from Virginia on 7/29/03. They arrived at the Eau Claire, WI postal station approximately 10:30 p.m. 7/30/03 and were settled in brooder by 12:30 p.m. 7/31/03. As chicks were handled during brooder placement, it was noted that their body style seemed different than the regular Cornish Cross i.e. larger rib cage. They were also observed to be a lot more active in the brooder than the Cornish Cross. One chick was dead in the box. One chick died 8/5/03.

- c. On 8/18/03, at 20 days of age, the chicks were moved to the pasture pen with the help of our two young boys Sasha and Ilya.



- d. The chickens were raised on pasture in a portable pen that was moved at least daily. The pen was surrounded by a portable electric fence. During their time on pasture, we experienced a significant drought that severely reduced the amount of grasses and clovers available for the chickens to eat.



- e. We noted a significant amount of feather picking among the flock during the month of September. In consulting with Timothy Shell and Jeff Mattocks of the Fertrell Corporation, the possibilities for this included lice, overcrowding and/or boredom. At Jeff's recommendation, we treated the birds organically for lice although we did not see any visual signs of them. This treatment did not appear to make a difference which lead us to believe this may have been an issue of overcrowding and/or boredom due to lack of pasture to eat because of the drought.



- f. We lost 1 rooster on September 22 for no apparent reason. It did not appear die from any obvious disease or heart attack.
- g. On September 29th, we took 34 birds to a federally inspected processing plant. Dressed weights averaged 3.33 pounds at 9 weeks. Although we were somewhat disappointed with the low weights, these chickens were purposely culled for small size. In addition, we believe the drought may have impacted the processed weights. Going out another 1-3 weeks before processing would have been another option to improve weights. This likely would have been the best option after consulting with Tim Shell as he expects this breed to have an even longer grow out when raised using this “day range” model with the moveable fencing as the birds exercise more.
- h. We kept 53 hens and 12 roosters to winter over for our breeder flock. One hen was lost to what we think was a hawk attack. In September, one hen and one rooster looked as though they slipped a tendon as they were limping. These were butchered. When the weather turned below zero, we lost a few more chickens. In December and January, a few chickens appeared sick and some died. We will address this further in the winter housing section. We went into the hatching phase with 46 hens and 10 roosters.
- i. Winter housing in Fall 2003: On 10/27/03 the chickens were moved into their winter housing (see additional discussion in the “What did not work” section).





j. Our hens laid their first eggs on January 14th at 24 weeks of age. As of March 15th, the hens were producing as many as 32 eggs per day. Some of their eggs were sold as table eggs for \$2.75/dozen.

k. Incubator/Brooder: The incubator and hatcher were set up on a large table in the furnace room of our basement. We added a sink to that room in January. This proved invaluable for keeping the incubator and hatcher water reservoirs filled as well as for cleaning both units. We enclosed a 16' x 24' area in one of our outbuildings to make a separate more rodent-proof area for our brooder. A propane connection was installed to accommodate a propane brooder hood. Given the relatively small number of chicks we had in the brooder at any one time (i.e. 100-120), we did not install a propane brooder.



Objective 2: Track all costs associated with the brooding and raising of the 100 Corndel Cross chicks. (See attachment titled: Corndel Expenses)

- a. Our financial data has been entered into the Quicken program over the course of this project.
- b. During the project, we consulted with Don Schuster, Project Economist for the Center for Integrated Agriculture Systems at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and with our CPA Dan Borreson as planned. We also began working with Carl Rainey of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture to develop a business plan.
- c. One of the questions raised by this objective is whether brooding can be profitable or not. If not, what factors need to be improved to make it profitable. At this point, it appears that raising chicks does have some potential to be a profitable enterprise.

Financially, when examining costs we will assign the chicks a value of \$1.00 each.

We grew out 366 chicks to processing and an additional 75 were saved out as our 2005 breeder flock. Not including losses, that would be a total of 441.

The four producers who assisted us in our study received a total of 322 chicks. These farmers were given their chicks at no cost in exchange for project participation.

Throughout the course of this project, we were contacted by numerous small poultry producers from all over the country requesting chicks. As we did not have any data upon which to base chick production, we decided to only provide chicks to farmers who wanted relatively small numbers of chicks and who could pick them up at our farm. We charged \$1.00 a piece for those chicks. Sales were as follows:

Chick Customer	Date	#	Extra Chicks	Cost/Income
Phill Arnold		10	2	\$10.00
Jim & Mary Olsen		60	2	\$60.00
Mike & Vicki Brenna	7/22/04	50	3	\$50.00
Jim & Mary Olsen	7/04/04	30		\$30.00
John Pavelski	9/29/04	55		\$55.00
			TOTAL	\$205.00

The total number of chicks raised for our use, our project participants and for on-farm sales was therefore: 968 (441 + 322 + 205). At \$1.00 per chick, this would potentially be \$968.00.

Significant capital expenses offset this income. For example, our incubator, hatcher and other incubation supplies cost \$1387.18. In addition, winter housing and supplies totaled: \$1830.91. Bedding for the winter housing far exceeded our expected cost at: \$250.11.

After working with these chicks for a year, it is our impression that it is only worthwhile to try to maintain a breeder flock of chickens that are relatively rare such as these Corndel Crosses. With the fairly cheap cost of standard Cornish Cross chicks, it would not be worth the capital costs and significant amount of winter labor to raise something so common and inexpensive.

Other less tangible factors to consider include the fact that raising our own chicks makes our farm more sustainable, it provides a great educational tool for customers and their children and we believe we were able to raise a very tasty, healthy chicken that had significant benefits over the industry standard Cornish Cross.

Things that may improve our profitability would include increasing the size of our breeder flock so we could raise more chicks at once and/or have the ability to fill larger local orders. Raising more at once would increase profitability by reducing our labor costs. Raising smaller flocks meant taking care of fewer chickens for a longer period of time thus significantly increasing our labor.

Objective 3: Provide Wisconsin pastured poultry producers with a local/regional source for chicks.

- a. Tim Shell sent out an e-mail to his customers prior to leaving the country. In it, he stated that he would no longer be hatching the Corndel Cross chicks or Pastured Peepers but that we and 2 other farmers would have some of his stock. As a result, we received calls and e-mails from people all over the country who wanted these chicks. Since our main goal for this year was to hatch chicks for us and our producer partners, we did not sell any chicks to anyone outside Wisconsin. The few chicks we did have to spare were sold to 3 different farmers within the state. We have kept a list of all those customers who contacted us from out of state.
- b. On February 21, we gave a presentation at the MN Sustainable Agriculture Conference. As a result, we had one couple from the Turtle Lake area purchase 10 of our chicks. They told others about our grant at a pasture walk they attended this spring. From that contact, another couple contacted us and they purchased chicks from us in July. All of these chicks were picked up at our farm at a cost of \$1.00/chick.

Objective 4: The health and grow-out of Wisconsin produced pastured poultry chicks grown organically will be evaluated by established Wisconsin producers during 2004. These will include small producers (i.e. 300-999 chickens or less), medium producers (i.e. 1000-3999 chickens) and large producers (i.e. over 4000 chickens). Data reporting will occur every two weeks and will include: mortality rate, feed consumption, grazing level, and incidence of heart attack and leg problems. Dressed weights will also be recorded. These results will be compared to producers data for conventional chicks raised on pasture during the 2003 season.

- a. We have not yet completed this objective as 2 of our producers (Hansen's and Jenny Dubiel) have only recently received their chicks.
- b. Mel and Shawn Seuffer – Eau Claire, WI (Small Producers) – Received 85 chicks from us on April 27th. They felt the eating texture of the Corndels was “chewier” as compared to Cornish cross chickens.
- c. Jenny Dubiel – Osseo, WI (Small Producer) Jenny picked up her chicks on August 27.
- d. Randy and Lynn Anderson – Arkansaw, WI (Medium Producer). The Andersons picked up 87 chicks on June 9th. Their chicks were raised in portable pasture pens at the same time as they raised approximately 500 Cornish Cross chickens. One of their observations was that the Corndels ate more grass and less grain as compared to the Cornish.
- e. Mike and Debra Hansen – Milladore, WI (Large Producer) We delivered 70 chicks to the Hansen's on August 14th. These chicks hatched from August 10-12.

- What worked?

- The small producers we worked with have really liked raising the Corndel Cross chickens. One family from the Tomah area purchased 63 chicks from us on May 12th and then returned again for another batch of chicks later in the season.
- Our Sportsman's incubator and hatcher combination worked very well. We also have a small Styrofoam incubator that we tried using last year. There has been no comparison between these incubators. The Sportsman's has been outstanding. We purchased clear doors for both the incubator and hatcher. These worked very well to visually monitor the hatches without having to open the doors and change the temperature and humidity unnecessarily.
- Raising our own chicks has made us more self-sufficient. We feel it has significantly reduced the amount of stress experienced by our chicks as they have had no shipping stress. We can also tell our customers that we have raised their birds from the beginning including their parents. Some of our customers have brought their children over to see the chicks hatch and/or in the brooder. We believe that this has been a great educational tool for people who normally would not encounter baby chicks. In addition, it has been a great learning experience for our two young boys Sasha (9) and Ilya (5).



- During early spring when we did not have a full incubator, we hatched chicks out for some of our Amish neighbors from eggs produced from their own flocks. This had shown us that there may be another niche market for custom hatching chicks for other farmers.
- The Corndel chickens have been very aggressive grazers. We have noted that when let out of their pen in the morning, some of the chickens will forgo grain in favor of grass which we have never seen in the Cornish Cross chicken. One of our producers noted a significant difference in the amount of grass consumed by the Corndels in a moveable pasture pen as compared to the Cornish with the Corndels consuming significantly more grass. With the research showing grass fed beef etc. being healthier than grain fed, it seems that this may also translate into positive health benefits for the Corndels. This would of course need to be researched more objectively before making any claims such as this.

- When we took our first batch of chickens to our processor, he commented on how yellow their skin looked. He felt that this was an indicator of higher Omega 3's from their increased grazing behavior. We have made some preliminary attempts to see if we could get this tested objectively perhaps through UW-Madison.



- The Corndel chickens did have very few health problems making them enjoyable to raise. Over the course of the summer, we raised over 350 Corndel cross chickens here on our farm. During that time, we lost only 9 of ours in the brooder and only 5 once they were turned out on pasture. Only one or two of those that died on pasture appeared to have heart attacks (i.e. were found flipped over). One of the deaths was accidental as a hen got caught in some chicken wire around an apple tree.
- Corndel vs Cornish: Over the past four years, we have raised chickens on pasture. For our first two years, we raised Cornish Cross exclusively. Last summer we began our experience with the Corndel

Cross. This summer, we raised over 400 Corndel Cross chickens. Toward the end of the 2004 season, we did purchase 100 Cornish chicks.

Based upon our experiences, we have noted a number of differences between the Corndel Cross and the standard Cornish Cross. The Corndel has been much more of a pleasure to raise. These birds are far more active than the Cornish. They tend to act more “chicken like”. For example, they appear to scratch more around their feeders and roost more than the Cornish. The increased scratching seems to result in less wasted feed.

The Corndels tend to be more aggressive grazers. One of our participating producers raised their birds in moveable pens only (no portable fencing). At the same time as they were raising the Corndels, they were also growing out a flock of approximately 500 Cornish Cross chickens. They noted that when they moved the pens, it was obvious that the Corndels consistently ate more grass than the Cornish. When we took our Corndels to our processor, he commented that their skin was very yellow which was likely an indicator of higher Omega 3’s which could be attributed to eating more grass. Although we have not to date had this tested objectively, we would like to pursue having this done.

The Corndels also remain very clean throughout their longer grow out. We think this is due to the Cornish getting heavy and lazy and not moving much. Less movement means they spend more time sitting in manure despite the fact that their pen and fencing is moved just as often as with the Corndel. Subjectively, there also seems to be a difference in the manure quality. The manure footprint left under the pens after they are moved in the morning seems to dissipate into the soil much faster for the Corndel than the Cornish.

The biggest drawback to the Cornish is it’s mortality from heart attack and leg problems. At the end of the summer we did purchase 100 Cornish. We lost 8 altogether with 4 of those mortalities coming close to butcher time due to failed legs and one heart attack. By comparison, we rarely lost a Corndel once put out on pasture.

The major drawback to the Corndel is its longer grow out. It took us approximately 11-13 weeks to reach an average 4 week dressed weight compared to 8 weeks for the Cornish. In addition, dressed weights had a wider range for the Corndel as compared to the Cornish.

We have found that the Corndel appears to be a perfect chicken to fill a niche with the smaller family producer who is tired of the health problems frequently seen with the Cornish. The variability in processing weights also seems to help them fill orders for a small but diverse customer base who may want littler chickens to feed single people and/or couples as well as bigger birds to feed larger families.

- What did not work?

Hatcher: One of the things we learned early on was that chicks could fall out of the hatcher trays. The floor was a slippery metal and we were concerned about causing leg problems in the chicks. To solve the problem of chicks falling out, I used some of the cardboard barriers from my canning jars to keep them from falling over. Unfortunately, one chick got it’s neck stuck in one of the openings and hung itself. After that, we solved the problem by bending over these cardboard openings such that chicks could not get stuck there. We also covered the floor of the hatcher with either rubber shelf liner or paper towels.

Winter Housing: We spent a lot of time researching winter housing for our flock. We decided to erect a 14 x 24 hoophouse that was 6 feet high in the center. Rationale for this housing included:

- Structure had the potential for multiuse
- Chickens could add fertility to our garden area through deep bedding
- During nice winter weather, the chickens will have access to a large fenced in area providing them with more space as well as continuing to improve our soil fertility

- We have a neighbor who is Amish who has built his own greenhouse and who could assist us in building construction

The chickens were moved in on 10/27/03. Our electrician installed an exhaust fan connected to a humidistat. Deep bedding was placed in the hoop house and was added to on a regular basis. Despite the fan and ventilation, we experienced significant moisture problems at times. This was particularly problematic when we have received large amounts of wet snow. At those times, moisture built up on the cover within the hoop house and “rained” into the building despite our best efforts to use a shammy cloth to remove the excess water. In December, two hens died during a severe below zero cold spell. In January, one hen died and another appeared sick. Jeff Mattocks of Fertrell Corporation was consulted. He felt the illness may have been due to the straw bedding not being absorbent enough and suggested we switch to wood shavings. We did not have any sick chickens after making this change. However, we spent significantly more than anticipated on bedding (at least \$250) since the chickens have been in the hoop house. We had budgeted \$45.

- What would you do differently?
 - Schedule the hatching of chicks we will use and then provide our customers with the remaining available dates to choose from.
 - Different winter housing for the breeder flock
 - Target smaller producers for our customer base
 - Institute better record keeping practices. Now that we have a better handle on the variables to track – particularly with hatching – this should be easier

3) What were you able to accomplish?

We accomplished many things with this grant. Our major accomplishment has been to establish a small hatchery in Western Wisconsin that provides a unique breed of chicken that comes from parent stock who were raised on certified organic feed. Having a different breed of chicken will allow small producers to set themselves apart from other farmers who are raising the standard Cornish Cross. Thus, we are creating a niche market both for ourselves and other area farmers. We have also started to build a small customer base of satisfied customers who have been sharing their success stories with the Cornish cross chicken with other local farmers.

Another thing we have been able to demonstrate is that despite winter housing challenges, it is possible to raise a healthy flock of breeder chickens through a Wisconsin winter.

4) What challenges did you face?

One of the challenges we faced was working within the schedules of our larger producers. These farmers normally deal with flocks of 500 or more chicks. With the relatively small size of our breeder flock, we could only try to produce 80-100 chicks for them at a time. As they had such large orders, they were subject to the availability of chicks from their commercial hatcheries. All producers were contacted during the winter/spring and gave us tentative dates as to when they would need their chicks. Both the medium and large producer ended up needing to change their dates. Our medium producer contacted us with a date that gave us only 18 days lead time. As it takes 21 days to hatch chicken eggs, we could only provide them with chicks from eggs that were in the incubator at that time. We had projected out how many eggs we would need to save/incubate for each of these producers but could not stay with our schedule once theirs changed. Thus, we were not able to provide them with the 100 chicks as originally projected. A similar situation occurred with our large producer. The other challenge faced in working with producers raising Cornish simultaneously was that the Cornish need at least another week or two to grow out. Thus, they were not sure

whether it was better to start with the Corndels and add their Cornish two weeks later or to process the Corndels at the same 8 week point as the Cornish or to go another 2 weeks out with them. Processing at 8 weeks would mean smaller dressed weights on the Corndels, going longer would mean either an additional trip to the processor or setting up for on-farm processing twice.

Another challenge we faced was trying to hatch out chicks for ourselves around everyone else's schedule. Two of our producers wanted their chicks early. We kept the first batch of chicks hatched for ourselves but then were not able to hatch out another group for our own use until 6 weeks later. With our other two producers wanting chicks toward the end of the season, we had to take hatches closer together than would have been ideal for our farm schedule. The schedule we ended up with for our own chicks meant that we always had multiple batches of chickens of various ages needing feed and care. Each group needed their own pen thus were putting in a lot more labor in caring for these birds than would have been ideal.

Other challenges we faced were maintaining regular contact with our producers and maintaining accurate and complete records. Both of these tasks proved vary difficult with everyone's busy summer farming schedules.

5) What do you plan to do in the future as a result of this project?

One of our projects this summer was to build a barn with two lean-to's. One lean-to was designed to be the new winter housing for our next breeder flock. Our hope is to significantly reduce the humidity and moisture problems we faced with the hoop house through the use of window ventilation, and fan and higher ceilings.

During the winter, we will devote planning time to making sure the hatches we plan for our family and farm will be better spaced so as to decrease our work time and increase it's efficiency.

One of our dressed Corndel chickens was given to Julie Bloor who is a food buyer from St. Paul, Minnesota. Julie really liked the taste and texture of these birds. Considering that Julie has tried a wide range of pasture-raised chickens, we felt that this was quite a compliment to the Corndel Cross breed. Having something different from the standard Cornish Cross chickens will set us and our chick customers apart in the pastured poultry market. During the coming year, we plan to work with Julie to develop a taste profile for our chicken.

Given our experiences from this year, we will target our hatches and marketing to smaller producers.

6) How should the agricultural industry or the State of Wisconsin use the results from your grant project?

The results of our project can be used to demonstrate to the Wisconsin agricultural industry that there are successful niche markets that can be filled by the small family farmer. One of the significant advantages of raising chickens is that it is a relatively safe endeavor for children to participate in. During the course of the past year, our two young boys have taken an active role in caring for the chicks and chickens. They have delighted at watching the chicks hatch in our incubator and have a strong sense of where their food comes from. Hopefully, these children will play an active role in promoting the ag industry in our great state as they are our future. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity!!



Date eggs placed in Incubator	# Eggs Set	Date to hatcher (18 days)	At 18 days: # Not fully developed	At 18 days: # Not fertile	# Eggs Broken in Incubator	At 18 days: # eggs placed in hatcher	# eggs Hatched	% Hatched # hatched/#set	Who Received chicks	Date moved to brooder	Mortality in brooder	Date moved to Pasture	Mortality on Pasture	Processing #/Date	Average Processed Weight
3/29/04	135	4/16/04	8	15	0	112	77	57%	Us	4/23/04	1 died on 4/23, 2 on 4/29 = 74 live	5/18 – 61 5/31 – 104 total	1 Rooster on 6/30	7/7/04 – Took 95. Kept 15 (3 roosters, 12 hens) for next breeders	
4/05/04	128	4/23/04				115	99 (1 died in hatcher)	77%	85 to Mel & Shawn Scheufer on 4/27/04 13 were kept by us						
4/12/04	42 – Styrofoam incubator	4/30/04	6	3		33				5/3/04 – 10					
4/19/04	96	5/7/04			7	78	63	66%							
4/26/04		5/14/04													
5/10/04	121	5/28/04					75 (including 2 runts)	62%				6/29/04 74 (plus 4 Auraconas)	7/26 – Lost 1 rooster – lying on its side		
5/17/04	132	6/04/04	6	21	1	104	90 – 3 died – 1 poor to start, 1 not feathered, 1 nice	68%	6/09/04 87 chicks to Randy Anderson						
5/25/04		6/12/04													
6/02/04		6/19/04					87			6/22/04	1 died 6/24/04 (86)				

Date eggs placed in Incubator	# Eggs Set	Date to hatcher (18 days)	At 18 days: # Not fully developed	At 18 days: # Not fertile	# Eggs Broken in Incubator	At 18 days: # eggs	# eggs Hatched	% Hatched # hatched/#s	Who Received chicks	Date moved to brooder	Mortality in brooder	Date moved to Pasture	Mortality on Pasture	Processing #/Date	Average Processed Weight
6/07/04	144	6/25/04		15			102	71%		6/29-30/04	1 died 7/2 plus 3 additional deaths = 98				
6/19/04	140	7/7/04	6	13	4	117	89 6 died in hatcher	64%			7/8 lost 1 (think it was last to hatch) 7/10 lost 1 that had bad leg = 2 7/31 lost 3 – crushed when barrier fell over	8/01/04 Many missing feathers			
6/29/04	144	7/17/04	5	23	3	113	92 – 1 in bad shape (died 7/23)	64%		7/20-23/04		8/22/04 - 90			
7/21/04	118	8/09/04	5	14	0	99	70	59%	8/14/04 70 Chicks to Hansens	8/12/04					
8/3/04	154	8/21/04	3	36	1	114	85	55%	Chicks for Jenny	8/25/04 – 55 chicks to brooder					
8/17/04	115	9/03/04	17	42		56	56	49%	9/15/04 55 Chicks to John Pavelski		9/13 - 1 died in brooder				

Chick Deaths:

5/08/04 – 1 chick died
6/22/04 – Lost 1 - 2 wk old (about) gray chick
6/24/04 – 1 chick died
6/26/04 – 1 chick died (not from most recent batch)
6/28/04 – 1 chick died
7/02/04 – 1 chick died – new batch
7/17/04 – 1 died in brooder – butt picked on
7/18/04 – 1 older chick died in brooder
8/06/04 – 1 chick with funny neck died
9/13/04 – 1 of John's chicks died

Pasture Deaths:

6/30/04 – 1 Rooster near butcher weight died (noted lethargic late yesterday)
8/11/04 – Lost 1 from last batch put on pasture – Large hen – found upsidedown ? heart attack
8/16/04 – 1 dead sickly rooster from most recent to pasture
8/20/04 – 1 dead rooster flipped over from oldest group (heavy frost overnight)
9/01/04 – 1 hen dead from orchard group – got caught in chicken wire around tree

To pasture as of 7/18 = 140

Chicks Sold from the Farm @ \$1.00:

5/12/04 Sold 60 (plus 3 extras) to the Olsons of the Sparta area = \$60.00
5/17/04 Sold 10 (plus 2 extras) to a couple from the Spooner area = \$10.00
May – 10 chicks to Lena
May – 28 to Chester and Sara
Mike & Vicki Brenna –
John Pavelski \$55.00

Observations from Producers:

6/29/04 – Randy Anderson – lost 4-5 chicks diarrhea. Seem to dig more in the litter.
8/19/04 – Mel & Shawn – “texture chewier”

Leg Problems: 1 limping in May ? slipped tendon

Heart Attacks:

New Breeder flock:

8/31/04 – added 8 hens
9/14/04 – added 2 – 1 came out on 9/15 – bloody bottom

Stewing Hens

9/05/04 42 hens + 7 roosters = 49