Small Scale Poultry Production Education in Alaska

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Denali Dreams Farm
Naturally Raised Brown Eggs

From free range chickens treated with TLC*

No hormones or antibiotics used

* TLC – Tender Loving Care
A renewed interest in home flocks

- Many reasons:
  - food security
  - higher grocery costs
  - smaller carbon footprint
  - desire for locally grown
  - relaxation of urban ordinances

“Chicken Coup”
Chickens are the Alaskan preferred poultry

- Primarily raised for eggs
- To a much lesser extent for meat
- Turkeys, ducks, geese and quail are common
Great need for poultry rearing information

- Cold weather rearing best practices relatively unknown
- Most Alaskan veterinarians will not treat poultry
UAF Cooperative Extension Service responds with…

- Winter Chickens
- Clucko de Mayo
- April Fowl Day
- Chicken University
Chicken University

- Presented as a fun 2 hour workshop
- Goal is to teach sustainable practices
- Addresses high latitude issues
- On and off the electrical grid
Chicken University topics

- Why raise your own flock?
Chicken University topics

- Appropriate Alaskan breeds

Rhode Island Red  Barred Plymouth Rock  New Hampshire Red  Buff Chantecler
Chicken University topics

- Coop design
Chicken University topics

- Chicken biology
Chicken University topics

- Necessary equipment
Chicken University topics

- Incubation
Chicken University topics

- Brooding
  - proper temps
  - appropriate bedding
  - cleanliness
Chicken University topics

- Appropriate nutrition
Chicken University topics

- Extreme cold practices
  - breed selection
  - flat perches
  - proper ventilation
Chicken University topics

- Chicken behavior/psychology
Chicken University topics

- Disease control
  - coccidiosis
  - pests/parasites
  - molting

How long have you had this fear of crossing roads?
Finally... a caveat

- The vast majority of home flocks are fed imported feed
- 100% Alaskan feed sources would improve food security
Contact me...

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