Fairbanks, Alaska—Individuals interested in keeping a laying flock through the winter will benefit from a new DVD released by the Cooperative Extension Service.

Community development agent Mara Bacsujlaky (Botch-uh-locky), who has raised chickens in the Interior for 10 years, describes “Winter Chickens” as “the down and dirty of keeping laying hens through an Alaska winter.” The DVD, which is filmed in Bacsujlaky’s chicken coop near Fairbanks, is a visual illustration of what one can expect and is not intended as a comprehensive how-to guide. It contains information about housing and equipment, feed and costs as well as thoughts about the challenges and benefits of keeping a laying flock through the winter. The DVD is geared to cold and dry conditions in the Interior or northern Alaska.

While home-raised eggs are delicious, keeping winter chickens can get expensive, Bacsujlaky said, especially in areas with high utility costs.

Copies of the DVD may be ordered through Extension for $5 by calling 1-877-520-5211.

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