



Backyard Poultry OVERVIEW

SPN-USA is passionate about encouraging everyone to have a backyard flock of poultry! Millions of backyard enthusiasts, small farmers and urban families have a few hens in the yard. And the interest continues to grow.

The *Sustainable Poultry Network USA* is here to serve you. We do “*chicken talks*” all over North America and around the world! These talks can be 30 minutes or all day long!

If you are interested in hosting a Backyard Poultry gathering, please contact us, jim@sphusa.com

Our **Backyard Poultry Intensive Workshop** includes the following:

Sessions 1 and 2 – Identifying Standard Bred & Heritage Poultry

There is a lot of misunderstanding of what exactly is a heritage chicken and even a heritage turkey. In the opening sessions of this workshop, you will learn how to truly identify a heritage bird as described in the Standard of perfection published by the American Poultry Association. It is critical that you understand the differences of industrialized poultry verses standard bred poultry. You will learn how to properly chose your birds and learn of the best place to purchase your sustainable flock of poultry.

Session 3 – Facilities, Feed, Forage & the Backyard

What about facilities for your newly acquired standard bred, heritage poultry; and all this talk about pastured poultry? How much space do I need? In this session you learn about permanent structures verse mobile units. And how many birds can you raise on your property. Should you use organic or natural feed? Or maybe just the “good old” Purina feed? These details will all be covered in this session.

Session 4 – Selecting & Culling your Flock for Production

This is the “hands on” part of the workshop. You will learn the “Hogan Selection Principles” of selecting birds for meat production and rate of growth. You will learn how to assess your current flock of layers to see who is in production and who is not. Everyone will have the opportunity to learn how to properly handle fowls and learn the essential selection process for keeping the best birds to improve production in your flock. This session will also include a tour of the model farm that is hosting the workshop.

Session 5 – Basic Poultry Health Management & Disease Control

This session could be titled, “Disease Prevention” – you will learn the basics of poultry management that encourages proactive care to keep your poultry healthy. In this session you will learn the basics sanitation that includes cleaning, removal of droppings,

removal of unhealthy birds, protection from carriers of diseases and even quarantining new stock. You'll also learn about the special challenges that you may face with your flock .These principles will apply to any size of flocks.

Session 6 – Opportunities for Breeding, Preservation, Exhibition & Marketing

Breeding poultry is a lost art! Very few people across North America are breeding for preservation. As a result, the historical, heirloom breeds of poultry are declining quickly. In this session you will be introduced to the essentials of breeding your favorite poultry. Learn about exhibiting and judging poultry. What about processing and selling your birds? You will learn some of the secrets to marketing and opportunities to network with other like minded farmers. Our goal is to prepare you with the necessary information and skills to succeed and maybe even make a profit through your backyard flock of poultry.

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