PENDER COMMUNITY TRANSITION (PCT)

** a cooperative alliance for a brighter future **

*** go to www.pendercommunitytransition.ca for more!**

Poultry Raising Workshop – References (*subject to your own research*)

- PRESENTERS: Zorah Staar (629-3825, cmzs@shaw.ca); Tracy Calvert (**TOUR AT 9914 Spalding Rd, SP, 629-6930),** & Barb Grimmer/Fir Hill Farm (629-3817, 2310 Grimmer Rd)

- BOOKS: ~~e.g.~~ Storey's Guide to Raising Poultry very useful re: conventional methods; also **new suggestion:** The Small-Scale Poultry Flock by Harvey Ussery; plus you can google "raising poultry the natural way" for different approaches (e.g. chicken tractors, lactic fermenters)

- CHICKS (a few): various heritage varieties – call **Kenta Kikuchi** (629-6283, 2235 Port Wash); for a bigger but highly variable supply of chickens & chicks, try www.usedvictoria.com

- CHICKS (12 to 24): **Whitehouse Stables** (250-656-8701, 9774 West Saanich Rd) is a good supplier for standard dual purpose layers (e.g. Red Sussex Cross - $3.75 each) or broilers/meat birds (Cornish Rock Giants - $3.00 each?); plus they have heritage chicks (which cost more $)

- CHICKS (24 or more ordered at a time): **Integrity Sales** (250-544-2072, 2180 Keating X Rd) or www.ansteyhatchery.ca (mail from Saskatchewan, recommended by Whitehouse); or www.rochesterhatchery.com (see catalogue of regular & heritage choices, reliability?)

- FEED & SUPPLIES: **new suggestion** because organic mash feed is expensive plus birds waste it, try non-GMO Top Shelf pellet feed, not mash (from a Duncan grower), available at Red Barn (250-479-8349, 5550 W. Saanich?); organic feed & other supplies available from **Integrity Sales** (544-2072, 2180 Keating X Rd); or **Buckerfields** (a little more expensive?); but all feed is expensive – we need to figure out how to need less of it (e.g. poultry tractors, growing oats to feed Pender chickens, plus cooked kitchen mash, like they used to do here)

- LOCAL EGGS & MEAT: local stands plus **Tracey Calvert** (629-6930, SP), **Fir Hill Farm** (Barb Grimmer - 629-3817, especially for turkey meat); and **Iona Certified Organic Farm** (Ellen Willingham, 629-6700, eggs & meat); Hope Bay Farm (eggs – 250-629-3770, 4316 Clam Bay)

- DUCKS: more susceptible to predators and they poo everywhere, plus you need pond; try Saanich 4-H duck experts Roxanna & Stephen Thompson (250-479-3245, t.family@shaw.ca)

- SOME KEY POINTS to remember re: **coop & pen building**: predators!; Land Use Bylaw re: permitted uses and required setbacks (Islands Trust, apickard@islandstrust.bc.ca); CRD Building Inspection re: building permit if over 10 x 10 feet or other conditions; crowding; two areas (for new birds coming in); rats & pests; flies; smell; compost, cleaning out, re-purposing

- SOME KEY POINTS to remember re: **chicks & poultry raising:** cleanliness, temperature, water, food, diseases; contamination; egg eating; cannibalism; broody hens & hatching

Pender Community Transition has organized this local food skill-building event, with the support of Vancity, the CRD, and our Local Trust Committees. PCT is a cooperative alliance, helping Pender to reduce oil dependency, carbon emissions, and other damage to our Earth, and to transition with resilience through peak oil (the end of "easy" oil), climate change, and other global resource and financial challenges. **Go to www.pendercommunitytransition.ca to find out about our activities!**

Raising Chickens on Pender Island: Tips to get you started onto a resilient way of life

Why Chickens – and will they fit with your lifestyle?

Chickens are ideal for people who live here.
Chickens can be raised anywhere on Pender Island – but in Magic Lake no roosters are allowed.

They can provide high quality protein (eggs and meat),fertilizer (so strong it needs to be composted first), assist with preparing a garden space (scratch up all grass while depositing bits of fertilizer), help with food waste disposal (cooked kitchen scraps), teach children (and adults) about animal care, and they don't take a lot of space. They do require daily care. If you are away a lot, you could share responsibility with a neighbour (and share eggs)

How do I get started?

There are many resources to get people started in poultry:

Your best value will be the free catalogue from the feed store – the supplier of chicks and chicken supplies wants you to succeed, so they are generous with their advice and know what works for their chickens.

Feed stores (Buckerfields on Keating Cross Road has just stocked some poultry books and they are open Sundays), book stores (Tanners has a farm section), the Library, the Internet,Farmers Institutes and poultry clubs
4-H and local producers
Storey Publications: The Chicken Health Handbook by Gail Damerow, Raising Poultry the Modern Way by Leonard Mercia,Raising Your Own Turkeys by Leonard Mercia,Raising the Home Duck Flock by Dave Holderread and Chicken Tractor – The Permaculture Guide to Happy Hens and Healthy Soil by Andy Lee and Pat Forman (Good Earth Publications).

What are the basics? – especially for Pender!!

1. Good **predator proof**, dry housing and a safe place to be during the day. Tight so mink, raccoons and eagles can't get them, and so that rats can't get in to eat their food. Housing needs mesh wire to ensure good ventilation. A dry house means dry droppings, and low ammonia levels. This helps to keep birds healthy – high ammonia and odour levels damage their lungs and make the birds prone to respiratory disease.

2. A balanced diet – formulated for type of bird and its purpose. Egg layers need a high calcium diet, such as a layer pellet or mash (Southridge Farms on Pender sells poultry feed and a grain scratch mix as a treat). Free range layers also eat bugs and grass, and all layers do better with some crushed oyster shell fed separately free-choice (now you know what to do with your oyster shells). Years ago people on Pender grew oats for all their livestock, and chickens were given home grown oats, crushed oyster and clam shells from the beach, and cooked peelings and scraps from the kitchen. Chickens are nibblers so need food and fresh water available all day.

3. Movable coops can double as housing and outside area – and can be moved around to keep them on fresh grass. They are also good to help prepare a garden area.

Ready to get chickens?

You can start with chicks or with point-of-lay hens. For your own use, you don't need more than 4 hens for eggs. For meat, you can get dual purpose chicks or meat birds. In Magic Lake get sexed birds (no roosters).
Buckerfields, Integrity, Borden's have supplies, feed, and you can order chicks for pickup. You can also have chicks mailed to you direct from the hatcheries (yes, they come to the Post Office!!) There are sources of point-of-lay hens – from Saanich (Dave Hamer 250 652-5421 Brentwood Bay has pt of lay ISA browns at the end of March, Meadowbrook Farm nr Prospect Lake 250 479-7166 have Hylines in April)– usually in newspaper but check with Farmers Institute or egg producers for sources of hens. The Nu-to-You,Recycling, notice boards and newspapers (Buy and Sell, Islands Independent) are other sources of equipment. You must have everything in place before you buy your chicks or layer hens. Chick areas should be prepared and the heat lamp on, temperature checked before the chicks arrive.

For more info: Barbara Johnstone Grimmer 250 629-3817 or 3819 firhill@gulfislands.com