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Best Practices for Pastured Poultry Health, Production and Profit



Photo courtesy of APPPA

Presented by:

Mike Badger

**American Pastured Poultry
Producers Association (APPPA)**

Hosted by:

**Food Animal Concerns Trust
(FACT)**

Introductions



Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT) is a national nonprofit organization that advocates for the safe and humane production of meat, milk, and eggs.



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Humane Farming Program Director

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FACT's services for livestock and poultry farmers include:

- **Fund-a-Farmer Grants** – deadline is December 4!
- **Conference scholarships**
- **Free webinars**
- **Networking and learning opportunities**

Our Presenter



Mike Badger

- Director of the American Pastured Poultry Producers Association (APPPA)
- Owns and operates Badger's Millside Farm in Hughesville, Pennsylvania

Suggested Practices for Pastured Poultry Health, Production, and Profit

Mike Badger

About Mike Badger

- American Pastured Poultry Producers Association–Director/Publisher
 - apppa.org
- Pastured Poultry Talk Podcast
 - pasturedpoultrytalk.com
- Badger’s Millside Farm (RTL pullets, processing equipment, etc).
 - millsidefarm.com



What are pastured poultry best practices?

- Principled production
- Leverage natural poultry behaviors
- Key ideas that enable success
- Allow for creativity and on-farm problem solving

- Experiences that yield consistent results

A close-up photograph showing a person's hand in a blue denim sleeve reaching down towards a fluffy yellow chick in a grassy field. The chick is standing on the grass, and another chick is partially visible in the bottom right corner. The background is filled with green grass.

Pastured Poultry

A Better Way Forward

Pastured Poultry Foundation

- Continuously moves to fresh grass (pasture)
 - Enables a healthy chicken
 - nutritionally dense
 - Builds soil health
- Seasonally appropriate
- Different than:
 - Organic
 - Free range
- Pastured is always “cage free”



Brooder Management

- Clean, dry, warm
 - Avoid piling, coccidiosis, necrotic enteritis, ascites
- Provide ventilation without drafts
 - In all weather conditions and avoid
 - Reduce ammonia
- Low stocking density
- Separate species
- Clean out brooder for turkeys and after disease



Pasture Management Practices

- Provide species appropriate shelters
 - Protect from weather and predators
 - Make flock movement possible
- Avoid static runs and continuous grazing
- Protect the flock from predators
- Winter housing for layer and breeder flocks



General Management Practices

- All in / All out flock rotation
- Use fresh water sources
- Raise birds with full beaks
- Understand HPAI risk
 - apppa.org resources:
 - “Fostering Health: The Pastured Poultry Approach to Dealing with Avian Influenza”
 - “Holistic Approach to Pastured Poultry Biosecurity”

Feeding and Watering Practices

- Feed nutritionally balanced ration
- Offer grit to all poultry at all times
 - Poultry do not find all the grit they need from the pasture
 - Grit and oyster shell are different!
- Maximize feeder space
- Offer fresh, cool water
 - Water to feed consumption (2:1 at 80 degrees F)



Troubleshooting

- Keep Records
 - Mortality
 - Feed consumption
 - Dressed weights
 - Daily egg production
 - Age at first lay
- Take pictures of unusual events, disease, mortality
- Do a necropsy on mortalities
- MAKE TIME TO OBSERVE

Slaughter Practices

- Withdraw feed
- Crate birds at night
- Practice Humane Slaughter
- Leverage PL 90-492



Pastured Poultry Health Kit – First Response

- See the previous slides on brooder, pasture, feed management
- Apple Cider Vinegar
 - 1 oz to a gallon water for preventative
 - 2 oz to a gallon water for acute
- Garlic tincture (natural antibiotic)
 - Soak 1 minced clove in 5 gal water for 24 hours; then offer to birds
- Vitamin E oil
 - Immune system booster
 - Place oil on top of drinking water surface – it floats on water

A Touch of Marketing

- You don't sell chicken, eggs, or turkey
- Who will buy?
- Build lists

Acknowledgements

- In addition to my own experiences raising and processing poultry, my mentors include:
 - APPPA community of producers; specifically, my local influences: Jeff Mattocks and Eli Reif

Questions & Answers

Please type your Q's!

- APPPA Membership - \$60 / year
 - Network, collaborate, and troubleshoot with Peers
 - Subscription to Grit (including recent back issues)
 - Self managed directory listing



APPPA

American Pastured Poultry
Producers Association

www.apppa.org



Connect with



Upcoming webinars

November 1: Fund-a-Farmer Grant Info Session

November 8: 100% Grass-fed Dairy Production

January 10: How to Plan, Promote & Host a Pasture Walk

February 20: Managed Grazing for Healthy Soils

Register at foodanimalconcernstrust.org/webinars/

Fund-a-Farmer Grants

Pasture & Certification Grants of up to \$2,500 for farmers who raise pigs, broiler chickens, laying hens, turkeys, sheep, dairy cows, or beef cattle.

Apply online at foodanimalconcernstrust.org/grants/

Applications due by December 4, 2017!