

- March 24, 2016 -

Birds on the Move: Mobile Housing for Poultry on Pasture



Photo courtesy of Deck Family Farm

Presented by: Homer Walden
(Sunnyside Farm)

Terrell “Spence” Spencer
(Across the Creek Farm)

Christine Deck
(Deck Family Farm)

Hosted by:
Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT)

Introductions

Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT) is a national nonprofit organization that promotes humane farming and advocates for the safe production of meat, milk, and eggs. FACT helps consumers make humane and healthy choices.

FACT's **Fund-a-Farmer Project** awards grants and facilitates peer-to-peer farmer education to increase the number of animals that are raised humanely in this country.



Our Presenters



Homer Walden – Sunnyside Farm

- Dover, PA
- 2013 Fund-a-Farmer grant recipient



Christine Deck – Deck Family Farm

- Junction City, OR
- 2012 Fund-a-Farmer grant recipient



Terrell “Spence” Spencer – Across the Creek Farm

- West Fork, AR
- 2014 Fund-a-Farmer grant recipient

Sunnyside Farm

Homer Walden







TRACTOR
SUPPLY CO.
PREMIUM
PINE SHAVINGS

































Google

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SUNNYSIDE FARM

Want to learn more?

Join us for a Pen Building Workshop!

April 16 8AM-4PM

www.sunnysidefarmpa.com/product/pen-workshop/

Deck Family Farm Pastured Poultry Program

~ Certified Organic Layers

~Roasters (Broilers)

~Heritage Turkeys

Who is Deck Family Farm



Why choose to raise pastured Poultry?





Pasture Raised Layers

Pro's & Con's of Pasture Raised Layers



PRO'S

- Hens and eggs stay clean
- Reduced feed costs
- Parasite control
- Enjoyable to work with

CON'S

- Predation
- Winter season set stock
- Need to move frequently
 - ❖ Manure disbursement
 - ❖ Damaging pasture
- Seasonality of production

A family friendly endeavor



Collecting & washing eggs 2008

Constructing the layer trailers



Cost: \$4,000 to \$5,000
Time to build: 80 hours
Predicted life: 7-10 years

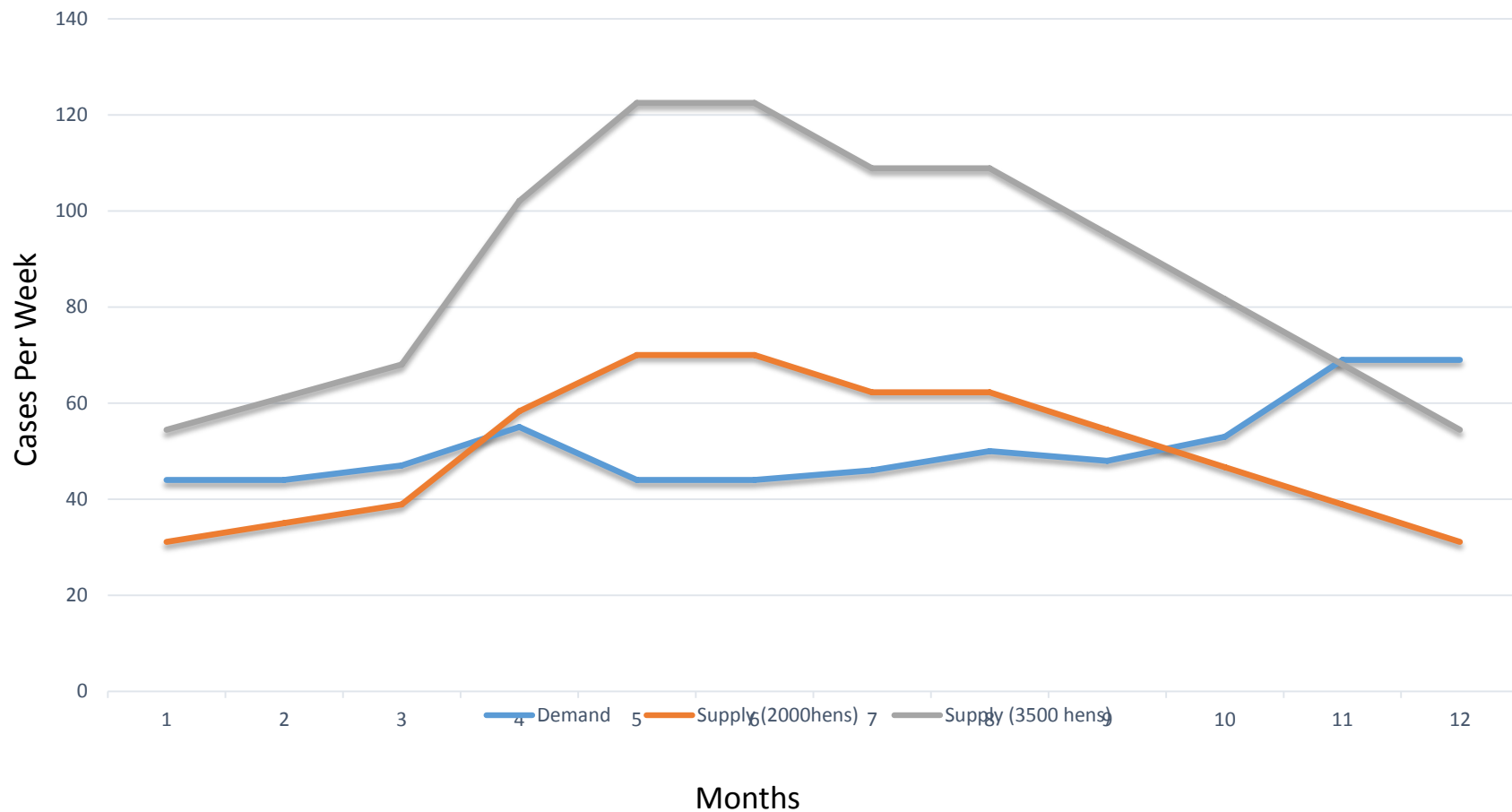
Introducing pullets to their trailer



Moving the hens to Spring pasture



Deck Egg Flow Supply & Demand



Today's (2016) Pasture Raised Layer Program

Flock size: 2,000-3,000 birds

Cull at 24-36 months

Heritage roasters 8 and 15%



Farm tour: folks love pasture raised hens



Pasture Raised Broilers



Salatin Style 10x10's (2010)

Beginning in the brooder



Training chicks to water



Chick predation



Skunks
Owls
Hawks
Racoons
House-cats



Early model of open houses (2008)



PRO's

- Cheap to build

CONS:

- Flimsy
- Blows in high winds

Salatin style 10X10's (2010)



PRO's

- Cheap to build
- Better manure distribution

CONS:

- Confinement style

Moving 10X10's take some finesse.



New Model of chick houses



RJ Ewing

Fund a Farmer FACT Grant recipient

PRO's

- Relatively inexpensive
- Does not blow away
- Not confinement style

Quonset Style Houses (2012)



PRO's

- Birds are free to move
- Better ventilation, air flow and temp. control
- Birds engage in more natural behaviors
- Need to move less often

CONS

- Open to predation
- Concentrated manure in houses
- More difficult to catch at harvest

Food, water, shade...





Which is better?

Pasture Raised Turkeys



How our turkeys populated the neighborhood



Containing Turkeys: attempt #1



Containing Turkeys: attempt #2



Clipping wings is a better approach to keeping heritage birds at home.

Photo Courtesy of High Tail Farms



Deck Family Farm Farmers Market Booth
Eugene, Oregon

Pastured Poultry Broiler Housing Across the Creek Farm, LLC Terrell Spencer





Brooder Housing











Layer Eggmobile



Please type your questions in the chat bar!



Photo courtesy of Across the Creek Farm

Contact Information

Homer Walden

Sunnyside Farm

(410) 336-9735

www.sunnysidefarmpa.com/

Christine Deck

Deck Family Farm

(541) 998-4697

deckfamilyfarm@gmail.com

www.deckfamilyfarm.com/

Terrell “Spence” Spencer

Across the Creek Farm

acrossthecreekfarm@gmail.com

www.acrossthecreekfarm.com/

FACT & the Fund-a-Farmer Project

Larissa McKenna, Associate Director

(773) 525-4952

lmckenna@foodanimalconcerns.org

www.fundafarmer.org