### **Backyard Chickens**

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# Part 1: Raising the Birds

#### Where will the chickens live?

Free range

Permanent coop with yard

Portable, bottomless pens

#### What breed?

Standard/heritage layers

Production layers

Meat bird options

## How many do you need?

Lay rate

Obtaining chicks

## What do you feed them?

Purchased feed

Homegrown feed options

Where do you brood the chicks?

Can you hatch your own eggs?

## Do you want a breeding flock?

Choosing breeders

Flock size

Keeping them healthy and safe.

# **Part 2: Processing Poultry for the Dinner Table**

What do you do to process the birds? Killing	
Scalding	
Plucking	
Evisceration	
Chilling	

# Tips for a Successful Processing Day

Plan the workload

Watch the weather

Remove feed the night before

Keep scalding water at proper temperature

Don't forget the ice

Have good ventilation

Keep your hands away from your mouth

Plan where you will put the offal

What about processing spent hens?

### **Portable Pen Construction**

Supplies: 16 ft hog panels (32: tall)

Chicken wire

Fish/shrimp netting (can order from Major Surplus and Supply)

Chain and quick links

Plywood, 2x3 boards, PVC pipe and connectors

U-bolts, cable U-bolts, wire ties, hose clamps, ½ inch hardware cloth, bungee cords

Trap, heavy weight

½ inch hot or cold rolled steel rod 10" pneumatic or no-flat tires

Feeding (rain gutters)

Low pressure, gravity feed watering system









