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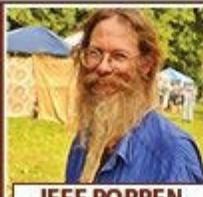
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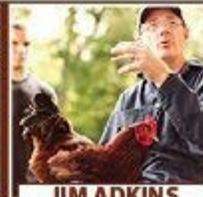
PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Friday March 11th, 2016
9:30 AM-4:30 PM
Full-day, intensive workshops
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JEFF POPPEN
The Principles of
Bodydynamics



JIM ADKINS
Backyard Chickens &
Beyond



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TAKE A LOOK AT THE FULL SCHEDULE!

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE			
DATE	TIME	TOPIC	INSTRUCTOR
FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2016	9:30 AM - 4:30 PM	Pre-Conference Workshops	Various
	9:30 AM	Introduction to the Conference	Organic Growers School
	10:00 AM	Bodydynamics: The Principles of Bodydynamics	Jeff Poppen
	10:30 AM	Backyard Chickens & Beyond	Jim Adkins
	11:00 AM	10 Medicinal Herbs to Know & Grow	Patricia Kyritsi Howell
	11:30 AM	Permaculture: Designing a Sustainable Future	Various
	12:00 PM	Lunch	Organic Growers School
	1:00 PM	Homesteading: Living the Dream	Various
	1:30 PM	Alternative Energy: Powering Your Home	Various
	2:00 PM	Farming: From Seed to Harvest	Various
	2:30 PM	Livestock: Raising Healthy Animals	Various
	3:00 PM	Primitive Skills: Living the Simple Life	Various
SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2016	8:00 AM	Breakfast	Organic Growers School
	8:30 AM	Introduction to the Conference	Organic Growers School
	9:00 AM	Permaculture: Designing a Sustainable Future	Various
	9:30 AM	Homesteading: Living the Dream	Various
	10:00 AM	Alternative Energy: Powering Your Home	Various
	10:30 AM	Farming: From Seed to Harvest	Various
	11:00 AM	Livestock: Raising Healthy Animals	Various
	11:30 AM	Primitive Skills: Living the Simple Life	Various
	12:00 PM	Lunch	Organic Growers School
	1:00 PM	Permaculture: Designing a Sustainable Future	Various
	1:30 PM	Homesteading: Living the Dream	Various
	2:00 PM	Alternative Energy: Powering Your Home	Various
SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2016	8:00 AM	Breakfast	Organic Growers School
	8:30 AM	Introduction to the Conference	Organic Growers School
	9:00 AM	Permaculture: Designing a Sustainable Future	Various
	9:30 AM	Homesteading: Living the Dream	Various
	10:00 AM	Alternative Energy: Powering Your Home	Various
	10:30 AM	Farming: From Seed to Harvest	Various
	11:00 AM	Livestock: Raising Healthy Animals	Various
	11:30 AM	Primitive Skills: Living the Simple Life	Various
	12:00 PM	Lunch	Organic Growers School
	1:00 PM	Permaculture: Designing a Sustainable Future	Various
	1:30 PM	Homesteading: Living the Dream	Various
	2:00 PM	Alternative Energy: Powering Your Home	Various

Ask Lee: Seven Compassionate Options for "Spent" Laying Hens



QUESTION: How does one deal with laying hens once they are "spent"? I am Buddhist and killing them is not an option for me.

Dear Buddhist,
Thanks for your question. Contemplating the complexities of life is one of religion's bailiwicks. And yet, despite our sincerity, there still doesn't seem to be a rule-book for every situation in life. Something we do know is that Buddhism is practiced in numerous countries, by about 500 million people worldwide, which represents 7% of the world's population. And thanks to world-wide travel, vast communication, and great access to multi-cultural ideas, we know that Buddhism is practiced differently in different regions. In many

of these regions, like Thailand, Sri Lanka, Japan, China, and India, the Buddhists are land-based, farming-based, or fishing-based peoples.

And as farmers we are often dealing with the cycles of life and death—the seasons, different types of growing situations, the vicissitudes of weather, etc. For those of us who are integrating animals into our farming systems, the question becomes: how do we consciously and compassionately deal with the cycle of life and death? One of the joys and challenges of being a farmer is being up close and personal with those questions on a daily basis.

Here are some suggestions about what to do with chickens that are past laying productivity. Hopefully these answers honor both the life cycle of farming and the desire for not contributing to suffering of another.

1. Keep the chickens until they die natural deaths. If you only have a few birds, you can let them live out their days scratching around your yard/farm. When they're not producing eggs, they need minimal food, which for 3 seasons of the year they can find themselves if left to forage outside. A handful of grain now and again will supplement their diets and keep them on the tame side. In the winter, especially in snow and ice cover, there will need to be food provided. If you have a much larger flock, this solution is likely untenable unless there is a large area for them to roam and you don't mind them scratching up your land, as chickens can be hard on pasture cover.
2. Offer them to a farm sanctuary. There are such things as farm sanctuaries, where compassion-minded folks take in animals that otherwise would be sent to slaughter. These farms however incur significant expenses, as one can imagine, having to procure feed, provide shelter, and incur labor expenses. If you plan to bring your farm animals to a shelter, please support the shelter financially so they are able to keep doing what they're doing.
3. Give away your chickens to people in need.....

[Four More Ideas - READ MORE!](#)

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