



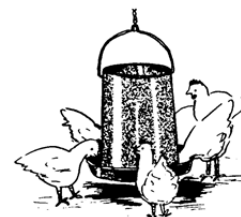
The University of Georgia

Cooperative Extension Service

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BACKYARD FLOCK TIP . . .



MARKETING EGGS FROM THE BACKYARD FLOCK

For many people, having a backyard egg laying flock is enjoyable simply from the satisfaction of raising a few birds and providing a few eggs for the table. Often backyard flocks begin as a 4-H project to teach kids the responsibility of how to care for animals. Caring for and learning animal husbandry skills are important aspects of the project and the benefit of fresh eggs for the family is also a plus.

As often happens, the egg project expands to more production than can be consumed by the family, leading naturally to the thought that perhaps the extra eggs could be sold.

If you want to sell your excess eggs, a few factors need to be considered.

1. In order to sell eggs through a farmers market or flea market, one must first obtain an egg candling certificate from the Georgia Department of Agriculture and must follow posted local operating rules for the market.
2. Eggs sold at the farm for direct-to-consumer marketing must be sold under a candling certificate. On-farm sale of eggs are no longer exempt from state candling regulations as in the past. Having everyone operate under a candling certificate helps to promote food safety and buyer confidence when all sources for retail eggs sales are following candling, grading and cold storage practices.
3. Some 4-Hers may think they have an opportunity to sell their eggs to a local country store. However, eggs cannot be sold to or from any store that sells to the public unless the eggs and the facility from which they were processed meet state and federal inspection standards. Roadside markets located on state or federal highways that cater to transient rather than neighborhood trade also fall under this inspection requirement.

With the many people who enjoy and appreciate the taste of farm-fresh eggs, 4Hers and others with backyard egg operations may find ample opportunities to market their eggs for fun and profit,

PUTTING KNOWLEDGE TO WORK

The University of Georgia and Ft. Valley State College, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and counties of the state cooperating.
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when done so within the appropriate guidelines and regulations to ensure consumer safety and product wholesomeness. Contact the Georgia Department of Agriculture for more information on scheduling a candling certification class for your area.

Information regarding the State of Georgia laws and supporting regulations regarding eggs and poultry processing can be found at the Georgia Department of Agriculture website:
agr.georgia.gov/egg-candling-certification.aspx

A handbook about shell eggs, candling and grading criteria is available on the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) web site:
<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateA&navID=CommodityAreas&leftNav=CommodityAreas&page=PYHomepage&description=Poultry%20and%20Eggs&acct=poultry>



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