



Poultry Ponderings

A QUATERLY NEWSLETTER SUMMARIZING POULTRY RELATED WORK AT UC

New Flock at the UC Davis Pasture Poultry Farm

Maurice Pitesky and Myrna Cadena
UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine

In late April, the UC Davis Pastured Poultry Farm received 184 day-old chicks donated by a commercial poultry genetics company. The farm focuses on research, innovation and outreach related to non-conventional free-range and pastured poultry production. To that point the 184 chicks will be part of a organic poultry industry funded nutrition study that will investigate the use of black soldier fly larvae (BSFL) as a methionine feed supplement for organic layers (see [Poultry Ponderings Edition 10](#) for more information on the project which is being supported by the Organic Poultry Industries, Methionine Task Force). BSFL could potentially offer a supplemental source of organic methionine which is an essential amino acid to organic poultry which is important for poultry health and production.

The UC Davis Pastured Poultry Farm has faculty and students in multiple departments with a focus on Engineering, Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science. From an engineering perspective new smaller coops are being designed in order to optimize production, biosecurity, welfare, ergonomics and cost (see [Poultry Ponderings Edition 9](#) for more information on the chicken coops). In addition to these types of research and innovation projects, the student-run farm also focuses on education and outreach. For example, the farm encourages leadership and provides hands-on training by allowing student interns to do the majority of the husbandry, veterinary work and design and construction. The education and training is not limited to UC Davis students, the farm is also working on extending workshops and tours of the farm to other poultry stakeholders (ie. small and large-scale free-range and pastured poultry producers, 4-H and Beginning Farmers Students at the Center for Land-Based Learning students). If interested in learning more about the farm and attending future workshops, keep an eye out for future events at our [UCCE Poultry](#) website! For weekly updates check out the farm's [Facebook](#) page.



Special points of interest:

- Participate in the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine – UCCE Backyard Poultry Survey today! More information on page 3.
- Backyard poultry owners (chickens, turkeys, squabs and waterfowl of less than 1,000 birds in the flock) can submit up to 2 birds to the CAHFS lab for necropsy for \$20 (shipping not included).



Inside this issue:

Learning Practical Biosecurity at Picnic Day	2
CA Backyard Poultry Survey	3
Getting Ready to Hatch...	3
Trivia	4
Find an Expert Flowchart	4
2017-18 Eggercise Book	4

Learning Practical Biosecurity at Picnic Day

Alejandra Figueroa, Theodore Derksen and Rodrigo Gallardo
UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine

With the city of Davis abuzz for Picnic Day on April 22nd, a new sound found its way to the veterinary school campus; the peeping of ducklings, broiler chicks, and guinea fowl chicks. The UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine Poultry Medicine Program, held a display showcasing the importance of backyard poultry biosecurity and giving information about resources offered by UCD School of Veterinary Medicine and the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory.

The display promoted practical biosecurity such as the use of “dedicated shoes” when working around small backyard flocks and not taking those shoes anywhere else. The backyard poultry biosecurity attire was compared with the clothing used for biosecurity purposes in the commercial poultry industry, which included coveralls, boot covers, gloves, and hair nets. However, the main attraction of the display were the three individual brooders containing White Crested ducklings, broiler chicks, and guinea fowl chicks. Each bird species was housed individually. Part of the discussion with poultry owners was to avoid housing their birds in ways that might place them at close contact with wild waterfowl and potential disease specifically to avoid the occurrence of Avian Influenza or Newcastle disease. Other practical methods and tips in biosecurity were shared with the visitors using our displays.

The public was welcome to handle the young birds in order to establish a conversation on biosecurity and best practices. After this they used the provided hand sanitizer. One of the ideas of this strategy was to promote hand-washing/sanitizer after working with backyard poultry to prevent the spread of disease to other flocks and humans.

As the number of backyard poultry owners grow and a general interest in poultry increases, the university will be available to provide educational materials and resources to owners. Doing so can help contribute to the overall well-being of backyard, commercial poultry and humans.



California Backyard Poultry Survey

Myrna Cadena and Maurice Pitesky

UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine

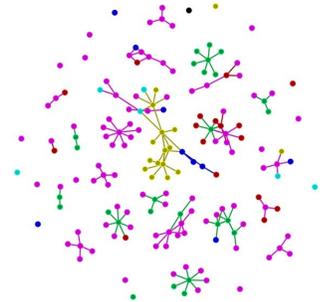
The UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine and UC Davis Vet Med Cooperative Extension are conducting a research study consisting of a voluntary survey designed specifically for backyard poultry owners in California.

Goal: Our goal is to better understand how backyard poultry enthusiasts communicate with each other in California and to design and execute effective and efficient backyard poultry outreach programs. To do this, we are sending out a short survey to help us understand the “structure” of backyard poultry network (example of a network on the right). This information will be crucial in the event of a poultry disease outbreak such as avian influenza. For example, if we know what counties have a large number of poultry coming in and out then we can be strategic on where to allocate outreach resources (ie. help us determine where to hold biosecurity workshops). Furthermore, the information will allow us to plan custom workshops depending on the county’s needs.

*****Please note we are a university not a regulatory agency and therefore our focus is on outreach and education and not regulation and enforcement.*****

If you would like to learn more about and participate in this voluntary survey/study, please visit http://ucanr.edu/sites/poultry/CA_Backyard_Poultry_Survey/ and complete the survey by **June 1st, 2017**.

Dr. Maurice Pitesky and his lab staff appreciate your cooperation and trust. If you have any questions/comments, please contact the Maurice Pitesky at mepitesky@ucdavis.edu or Myrna Cadena at mmcadena@ucdavis.edu.



Example of a network with anonymous “dots” representing individuals with links that represent relationships.

Getting Ready to Hatch...

American Association of Avian Pathologists (AAAP) Meeting

July 21 to 25, 2017

Indianapolis, Indiana

For more information, please visit <https://www.aaap.info/>

Poultry Science Association Meeting

July 17 to 20, 2017

Orlando, Florida

For more information, please visit <http://www.poultryscience.org/psa17/>

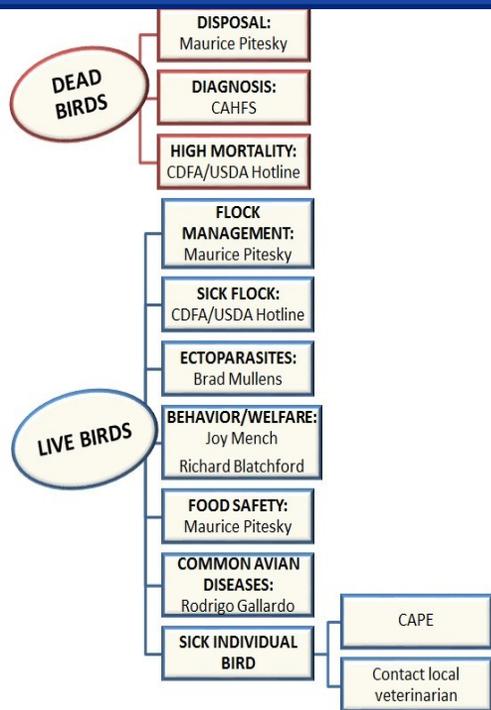
What is the #1 cause of bird mortalities in urban areas?



Last Quarters Trivia:

When a hen lays an egg what is the English word (verb) that describes the sharp broken noise?

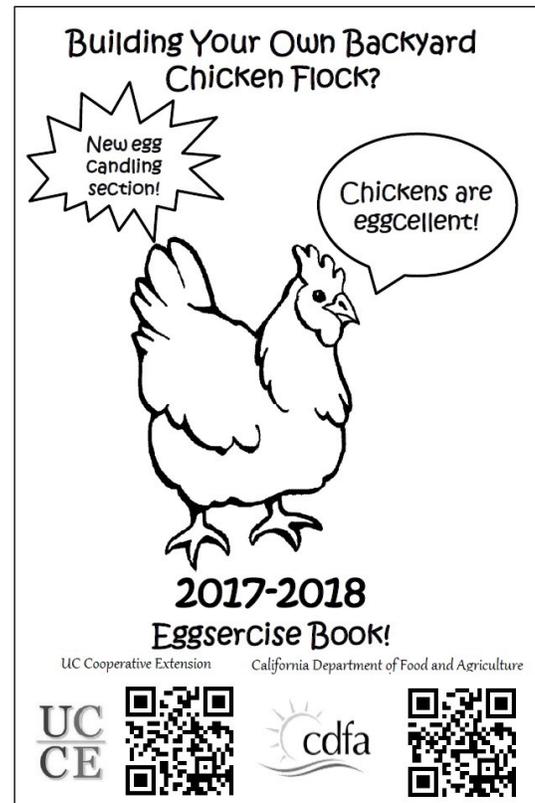
Answer: Cluck



REMEMBER WHO TO CALL IF YOU HAVE POULTRY QUESTIONS

The web address for the this flow chart along with individual contact information is at:

<http://ucanr.edu/sites/poultry/>



2017-2018 Eggercise Book is now available at <http://ucanr.edu/sites/poultry/files/260435.pdf> !

Useful information on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza can be found at :

http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/Avian_Influenza.html