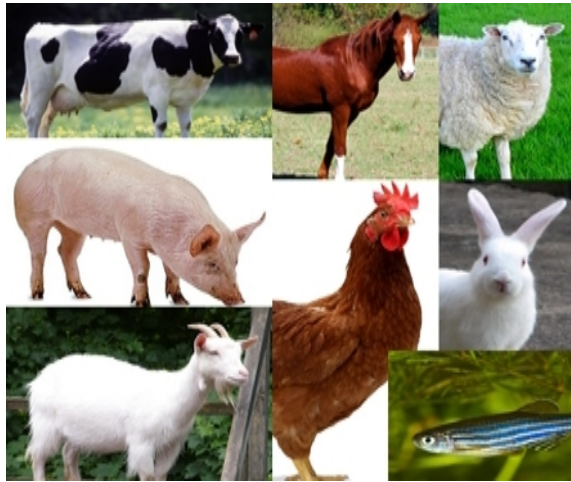


## Chapter XII

### Realizing Our Goals

At last, we are there. We have our homestead stocked with the things we want to raise or just have to enjoy. We have expanded our markets to the point that we are actually turning people away because we are selling out yearly. Often, our webpage has recorded more orders than we have stock to fulfill and we need to plan on expanding next year. Even the Guinea Fowl we have been raising just to act as watchdogs and to keep snakes out of our future have been getting calls. Our garden is now covering almost a full half acre and we are marketing more produce than we ever thought possible. Fran Farmer and the kids are pretty much in charge there with Frank only coming in to lend a hand with the heavy lifting.

Our workload has increased to the point we had to take on a hired man. Even though son Phil Farmer is a stout young man of 15 years now and has taken over



the care of the rabbits and pigs and daughter Fay at 13 is in charge of the turkeys, guineas and is #2 in the garden with mom, the farm needed one more full time worker, so the Farmer family found and hired Felipe to fill this bill and use Felipe's wife Phylicia to help out on those days that an extra hand is needed, such as butchering day. Fran and Fay are also in charge of milking the family milk cow.

In addition, Felipe and Phylcia Farr are competent enough in handling things on the Farmer farm that the Farmer family can now take a day off on a slow day or even go on vacation in the off season since the Farris can take care of things in their absence.

The Farmer homestead has increased in size substantially in the seven years they have been on their 20 acres and their herds show the change.

Today, the Farmers grown 600 Cornish Cross broiler chickens per year, 100 for themselves and 500 for sale. Our poultry is kept in the brooder for from 3 to 4 weeks. The Cornish Cross chickens are butchered at 8 weeks. When the chicks are put on



pasture at three weeks, they go into the pasture broiler tractors. Each tractor is 10' X 12' and will hold 75 chickens.



They maintain a laying flock of 100 mixed Black Astrolop, Barred Rock, Cream Legbar and Araucana hens

and enough roosters to keep the hens happy.

Their ducks include 50 Khaki Campbell layers and 450 Pekin meat ducks. In addition to this, they raise 110 broad breast white turkeys for meat annually and keep a small flock of Guinea Fowl for watch dogs and because the family so much just enjoys having them around. They sell any of the keets that happen to be hatched and reared in the year after keeping enough to replenish their own stocks.

For rabbits, they maintain 4 New Zealand White does and two bucks along with 2 California does with one buck. At all times, we breed our does in pairs in case we lose one or she won't accept her litter, perhaps the second one will. This means that each kindle will have two litters of an average of 9 kits each. With rabbits, they kindle 31 days after breeding and are weaned at six weeks at which times the does are bred back. They are butchered at 10 weeks. Does need to be replaced each year to two years and the bucks at two years, so we must pick the best out of our kindles for replacements.

For cattle, they maintain 11 of whatever beef breeds they have at the time with their calves and an additional yearling 11 beeves to be butchered in the fall. Occasionally, if their orders out do what they can supply, they will buy the odd yearling to fill that order come fall.



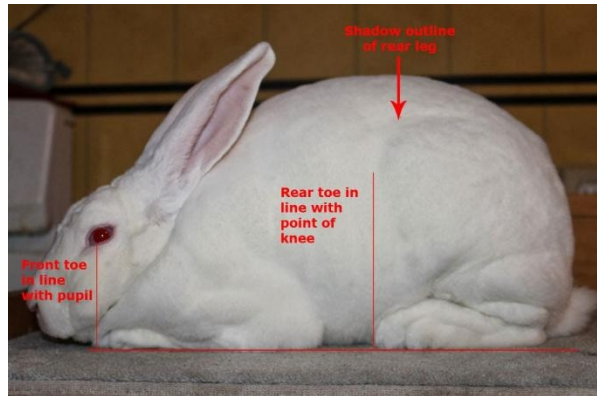
Pig Field Shelter

On the five acres designated as pig pasture, they raise 30 pigs annually for meat.

As one might suspect, scheduling can be a total nightmare if allowed to run itself. To help out in this situation, the Farmer family has built an annual calendar that they strive to adhere to as closely as possible. That calendar is illustrated on pages 16-19 below...

Since we have three sets of two does each, our rabbits are labeled A, B and C and each kindling is labeled by number.

Timing is as follows, from breeding to kindling is 31 days. From kindling to weaning is 6 weeks and from weaning to harvest is 4

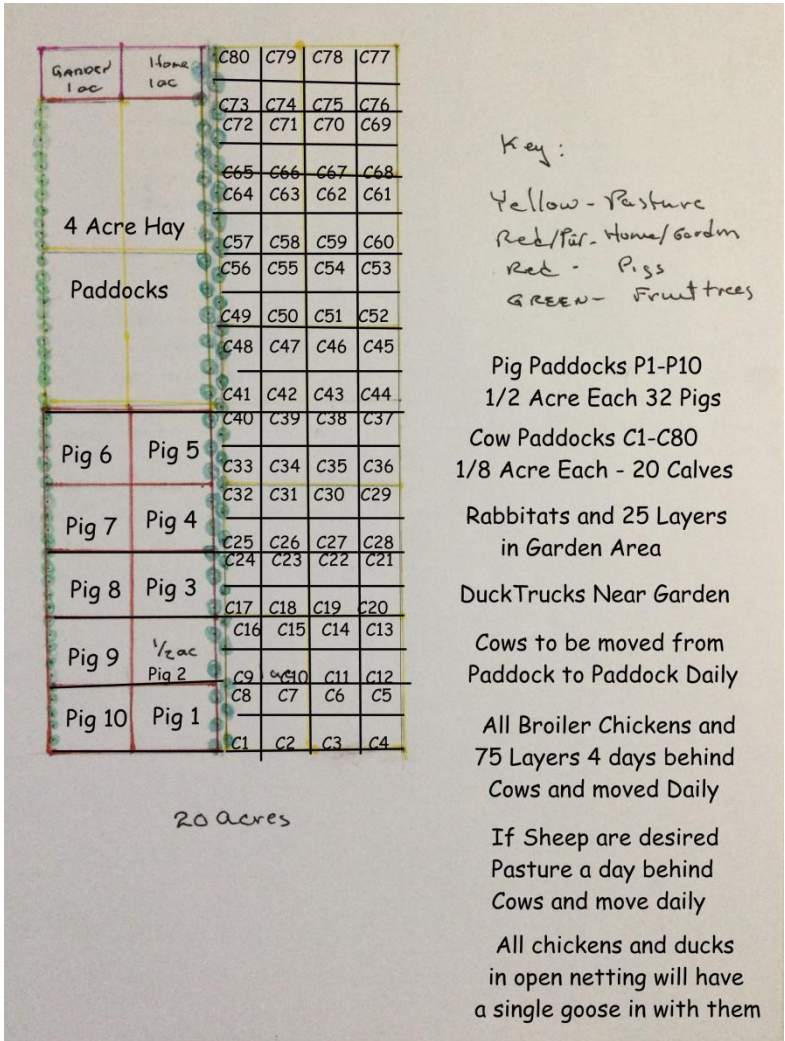


weeks. We have arbitrarily chosen two week intervals to begin our breeding cycles. When it is weaning time, the litter goes to their own growout Rabbitat where they will remain until they achieve harvest age of 10 weeks. There can be several litters in the growout Rabbitat at any given time and there is no need to separate by gender at this time as they are not sexually mature prior to harvest time. Further, we want to keep our 3 best young does and 2 best young bucks each year for replacements for our breeding stock.

Our poultry will all remain in the brooders at least 3 weeks before they are put out on pasture. The broilers will all go to the chicken tractors and remain there until their 56<sup>th</sup> day when they will be harvested. The layers will go to their eggmobiles or chickshaws at 3 weeks and will begin laying

at 4 months or so. The layers will lay for two years, so we harvest and replace 50 layers per year.

Our Pekin meat ducks go from the brooder to their Ducktrucks at 3 weeks where they remain for another 4 weeks. They will be harvested at 49 days. The Khaki Cambell layers go to their Ducktrucks at 3 wks and will remain in service as long as they are laying which with this breed is often several years.





The secret to the Permaculture farming method is the frequent rotation of our grazers from paddock to paddock. Remember this about cattle... they are not DESIGNED to eat corn! Yet, they are fed corn for two reasons, because it's cheap and because it has a lot of calories in it that puts on weight rapidly... both very advantageous properties when trying to grow the largest possible animal in the shortest possible time... and don't care who or what we hurt or destroy in the meantime! Placing these animals in a concrete floored feed lot and piling the corn in front of them is a terrible thing to do to them and to the environment.

A predominantly corn diet in a cow will cause diseases like eColi and Mad Cow Disease. This has been proven by testing at our Land Grant Universities. It has also been proven that removing these cows so



afflicted and placing them on pasture WITHOUT the supplemental corn ration will CURE these ailments naturally! Why, then, does our USDA continue to treat this as the preferred way to rear cattle? The answer is simple... The big 4 that we talked about earlier WANT IT this way... and those 4 corporations put over 80% of the meat products into our stores. They FUND the reports that USDA sees and, lastly, they buy the congressmen who make the laws!

Environmentally, their feedlots generate millions of TONS of waste annually... each cow generates over 50 pounds of this waste daily and have to wade around in it all day long. These lots transfer this waste to holding ponds where it has

the effect of leaking into our waterways and generating a stink that can be smelled for miles because there is no carbon/nitrogen balance possible.

In our permaculture system, the compost we amend our pasture soils with balance the carbon and the nitrogen so there is no odor and there is no nitrogen escape because it is adequately locked up into the carbon in the compost. This allows us to actually IMPROVE our pasture soils while we are grazing them.

With this system, we will start with a 1/8 acre paddock for our calves. We will add 10 calves each spring to the 10



yearlings left from last year's herd. As these grow through the summer and into fall, we may have to increase their paddock size as their needs grow, but the largest we contemplate, when we have the market

to support it, is 30 head on pasture at any one time and at this time, I would contemplate and these would be pasture in paddocks not to exceed 1/2 acre. Remember, they are moved EVERY day at the same time. If you get them used to this, they will be waiting at the gate for you at their moving time.

I have not discussed the production of sheep in this treatise strictly because of personal bias. I do not like working with sheep! The major problem with them is their non discrimination predilection to simply DIE when they take the notion, with no advance notice nor any other factor entering into the equation. Further, it seems that everyone I

have ever known who raises them has a batch of bummer lambs they are bottle feeding each spring because the ewe abandoned them for one reason or another... or simply for NO reason... they just did it.

If a person wanted them on his homestead, one sheep per family member will provide all the meat a family will need. As far as pasture, they would be put on the same 1/8 acre paddock as our calves, but they will follow the calves by two days. In the prior illustration, it is shown that our calves are rotated from paddock C1 through paddock C80 on a daily basis. The sheep will follow the calves by two days, so the day the calves are on paddock C7, the sheep would be on paddock C5.



Introducing our 3<sup>rd</sup> crop into this mix... our chickens will be 4 days behind the calves and two days behind the sheep. On the day spoken of above, our chickens would be on paddock C3. This is very important. Here, the chickens do a tremendous work for our pasture in addition to the natural fertilization they provide... they scratch at the dung piles left behind by the calves, and will be finding and eating all the fly eggs that will start hatching therein today, 4 days after it was put down!

The illustrations below show the order of succession of the paddocks for our rotational growing plan. First, we show where the three groups are in relationship to one another... first the calves, then, two days later, the sheep (ugh!), if you want them, and, finally, the chickens.



C9 Cows on Thurs Sheep on Sat	C10 Cows on Fri Sheep Today	C11 Cows on Sat	C12 Cows Today
C8 Cows on Wed Sheep on Fri Chickens Today	C7 Cows on Tue Sheep on Thur Chickens on Sat	C6 Cows on Mon Sheep on Wed Chickens on Fri	C5 Cows on Sun Sheep on Tue Chickens on Thur
C1 Cows on Wed Sheep on Fri Chickens on Sun	C2 Cows on Thur Sheep on Sat Chickens on Mon	C3 Cows on Fri Sheep on Sun Chickens on Tue	C4 Cows on Sat Sheep on Mon Chickens on Wed

## Rotational Grazing Plan for Successional Farming

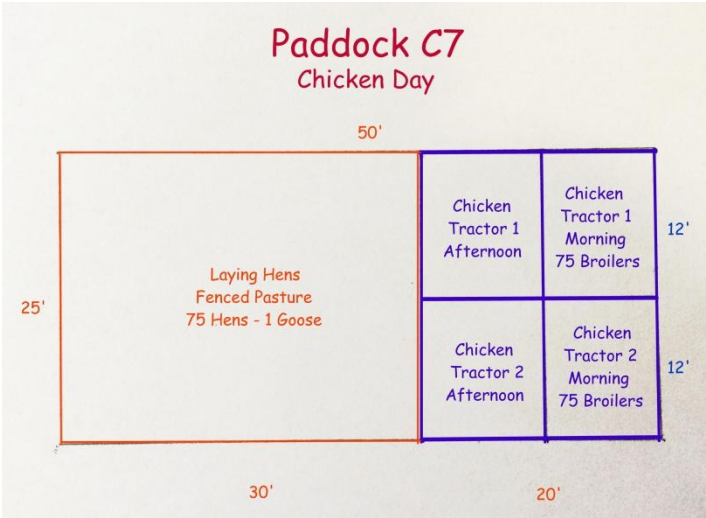
Sheep are two days behind cows and chickens are two days behind sheep

Next, we look at a week beginning with the cows in C12 and showing where the others are on that day.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Cows C12 Sheep C10 Chicken C8	Cows C13 Sheep C11 Chicken C9	Cows C14 Sheep C12 Chicken C10	Cows C15 Sheep C13 Chicken C11	Cows C16 Sheep C14 Chicken C12	Cows C17 Sheep C15 Chicken C13	Cows C18 Sheep C16 Chicken C14
Showing where stock is on any given day of this week						

Finally, we show a breakdown of a paddock on a day the chickens are in residence. The area within the blue lines are the broilers housed in their 10'X12" Chicken Tractors. These two tractors are moved in the morning and at mid-day within the same paddock. It may help to sprinkle a short handful of their grain on the cowpies left there to cause them to begin their foraging at these target points. The chickens' job here is not only the elimination of the fly eggs and larva, but the spreading of the pile in the act of scratching through them for their food.

Also in that paddock we fence off the area outside of the area where the chicken tractors will cover and 75 laying hens, with one guard goose, will be allowed to run free inside the pen created by the use of Premier 1 Poultry Netting. There will be a Chickshaw/Eggmobile with them outfitted with externally accessed nesting boxes. We will be expecting more than 50 eggs per day from this crew, so it is essential that the eggs be gathered at least daily.



Some are probably wondering why we are not showing the ducks nor the turkeys in this schematic. There is a reason for excluding them from this area. They will be housed in their own ducktrucks and turkey trotters near the house and the Rabbitat houses. These birds do not scratch in searching for their food, so would not be a help to this activity. There is plenty of pasture for them closer to the front buildings, away from most of this activity.



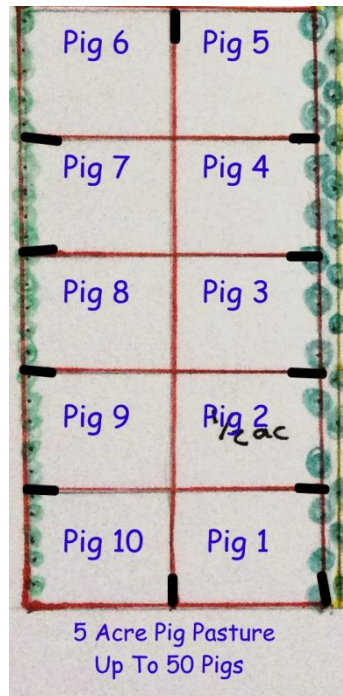
This activity has the further asset of providing up to 25% of the chicken's food daily, although we keep their food available to them as much as they want it. This is a savings that really serves to help our bottom line of profitability!



The above structure and layout is used for ducks and turkeys as well.

For our pigs, our operation is different only in the size of the paddock and the length of time they are left on that paddock. Here we will use a half acre paddock, creating 10 such on the 5 acres allotted to the pigs. Instead of netting, we will use a two-strand electric fence with a solar charger keeping it hot at all times.

When using electric fencing with swine, there are some things that need to be done differently than with other livestock. First, pigs eyes are very low to the ground and they must see the wire for it to be effective. Therefore,



the lower wire must be within 8" of the ground and the upper wire never more than 24" off the ground. With a cow, its difficult to get it too high and with a pig, it's difficult to get it too low! This will mean some more careful weed control along our fenceline to keep the weeds from grounding our electric wires.

A close look at the above diagram of our pig pasture will show some heavy black lines... this indicates a wooden gate used for access and egress from each paddock by the pigs. We only need one and just move it with each move of the pigs to the spot of their next access point to the adjacent paddock. This gate need not be large. A 12' X 3' gate will suffice.



The reason for this gate is that the pigs will not pass where an electric wire had been. They will not pass that point even though they can no longer see the wire because they know they don't see well and they don't ever really trust us. With the wooden gate, they have been up against it and it is substantial enough to see, so they know when it goes away and will easily pass where it was into the next paddock. Pigs are intelligent, if untrusting, so learn quickly that electric fences HURT and wooden fences do not.

Our stay time in each paddock is determined by the pigs themselves with 7 days being minimum stay and 12 days being the maximum stay allowed. On moving to a new

paddock we place a thousand pounds of feed in their feeder. When that feeder is empty, it is time to move.

The move is very simple... Let's say we are moving from paddock 3 to paddock 4. First, understand the centerline wire runs the full length of the pig pasture and stays in place. The same is true of the electric fence on both the right side and the left side of the pasture. All we have to do is move the gate from it's position between paddocks 3 and 4 to the same position between paddocks 4 and 5. The pigs will immediately move into the new feed, but not far... they will be too busy enjoying the fresh feed. While they are doing this, we move the wire that was between paddock 2 and paddock 3 and place it on the line between paddock 4 and paddock 5. Move the feeder and refill it, move the waterer and start the water back into that and we are done moving. Please understand, the electric wire in the area of the gate runs completely to the inner wire but is behind the gate from the pig's viewpoint. To them, they do not see that portion of the wire and it has no effect on them.

We are now going to look at a series of paddocks used over the past 5 weeks or so. This land was naught but blackberry canes and rough brush and grass when this evolution began... see for ourselves what it has become...



Our current paddock... where we just moved onto today

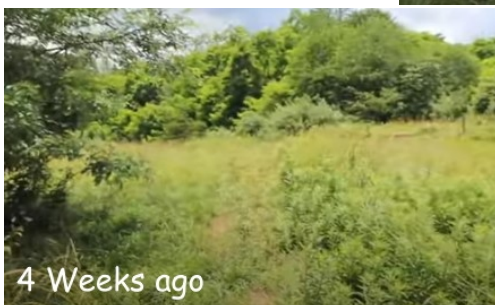


The paddock we just vacated today... notice the water spot from where we drained our waterer.



The week prior and notice how the grass is already coming back strongly

Just three weeks and it looks like it's never been touched, does it not? The regenerative power of naturally fertilized ground is amazing, is it not?



Four weeks prior, there were 50 pigs on this half acre paddock. No manual seeding was done after they were moved.

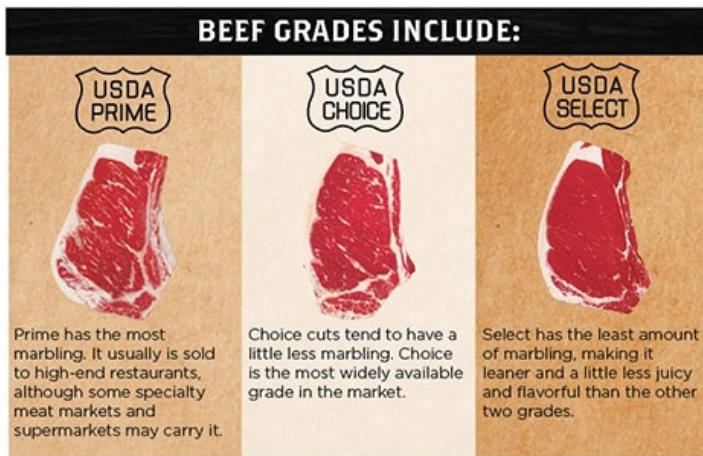
A mere month after moving the pigs off this paddock, it is as if they were never there... and there is another 6 weeks before they return!



On the cycle we are using, we will feed on all ten paddocks twice to three times each year. My recommendation would be to alternate annually with the cattle paddocks and the hay

paddocks. This will keep our rotational status intact and keep our pastures in prime condition.

As soon as the grass stops growing in the fall, the heavy beef animals and all of the pigs will be harvested. By this time, our beeves will average near 1200 lbs and our pigs from 350 to 450 pounds per animal. This yield will provide us with beef sides weighing in at around 300 pounds and pork sides at over 125 pounds each.



Remember, this is not USDA Select (the lowest of the three grades recognized by the USDA) which is generally what you can buy in a supermarket... what we have is gourmet, grass fed and grass finished totally pasture raised purely organic beef and pork that has never seen an artificial or man made chemical in it's life!! There simply is no better available anywhere at any price!

The following pages show the calendar for our 6<sup>th</sup> year. We are productive, have met our gross income goals and are driving toward our final goals...

1 Rab breed A-1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Rab Breed B-1	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Rab Breed C-1	30	31		January		

February			1 Rab Kindie A-1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Pig P-1 Arr 10 Pig	11
12	13	14	15 Rab Kindie B-2	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March			1 Rab Kindie C-1	2	3 25 Pigs to Pasture	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Yearling Beef to Past - 10	11 Beef Calves to Past - 10
12	13 5 Pigs to Barn	14 Rab Wean A-1 Rab Breed A-2	15	16	17 Inspect Hives	18
19	20	21	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Rab Wean B-1 Rab Breed B-2	29	30	31

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Chi L-1 Arr 150 Br 100 Lay	11 Rab Harv A-1	12 Rab Wean C-1 Rab Breed C-2	13 Rab Kindle A-2	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Rab Harv B-1	26	27 Rab Kindle B-2	28
29	30			April		

May		1 Chi Past L-1 Turk T-1 Arr 110 Turkey	2 Duck D-1 Arr 130 Pek 50 Kha	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Rab Harv C-1	12
13	14 Rab Kindle C-2	15 Chi L-2 Arr 150 Broiler	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Turk Past T-1	23 Duck D-1 Pasture	24 Duck D-2 Arr 130 Pek	25 Rab Wean A-2 Rab Breed A-3	26
27	28	29	30	31		

		June			1	2
3	4	5 Chi L-1 Harv	6 Chi L-2 Past	7	8 Rab Wean B-2 Rab Breed B-3	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Chi L-3 Arr 150 Broiler	19 Duck Harv D-1 130 Pekin	20 Chi L-3 Arr 130 Broiler Duck Past D-2	21	22 Rab Harv A-2	23
24	25 Rab Wean C-2 Rab Breed C-3 Rab Kindle A-3	26 Duck D-3 Arr 130 Pekin	27	28	29 Inspect Hives	30

1	2	3	4	5	6 Rab Harv B-2	7 Rab Kindle B-3
8	9	10 Chi Harv L-2	11 Chi Past L-3	12	13	14
15	16	17 Duck Harv D-2	18 Duck Past D-3	19	20	21
22	23 Rab Harv C-2	24 Chi L-4 Arr 150 Broiler	25 Rab Kindle C-3	26	27	28
29	30	31	July			

August			1	2 Chi Lay Arr 50	3	4
5	6 Rab Wean A-3	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Chi Harv L-3	14 Duck Harv D-3	15 Chi Past L-4	16	17	18 Rab Wean B-3 Rab Breed B-4
19	20	21	22	23 Chi Past Lay	24 Pig Harv 20	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

30	31	September				1
2	3 Rab Harv A-3	4	5 Rab Wean C-3 Rab Breed C-4	6 Rab Kindle A-4	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Rab Harv B-3	15
16	17 Rab Wean A-4 Rab Breed A-5	18 Rab Kindle B-4 Chi Harv L-4	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29



October		1	2	3 Rab Harv C-3	4	5
6 Rab Kindie C-4	7	8	9	10	11 Beef Harv 5	12
13	14 Rab Harv A-4	15	16	17	18 Rab Kindie A-5	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Rab Wean B-4 Rab Breed B-5	31 Pig Harv 20		

November					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Turk Harv T-1 110 Turkey	16
17	18 Rab Wean C-4 Rab Breed C-5	19	20	21	22 Rab Wean A-5 Rab Breed A-6	23
24	25	26	27 Rab Harv B-4	28	29	30 Rab Kindie B-5

1	2	3	4	5 Chi Harv Stew 50	6 Chi Pullets on-line	7
8	9	10	11 Rab Wean B-5 Rab Breed B-6	12	13 Beef Harv 5	14
15	16 Rab Harv C-4	17	18 Rab Kindie C-5	19	20 Rab Harv A-5	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	December			

### Year's Production From Calendar Above

Product	Raised	Kept	Sold	Avg \$	Total \$
Rabbit	260	25	235	21	5000
Chicken	600	100	500	30	15000
Duck	450	50	400	21	8400
Turkey	110	10	100	48	4800
Pigs	32	2	30	2000	60000
Beef	11	1	10	5000	50000
Stew Chick	50	12	38	20	800
Total:	<u>1513</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>1313</u>		<u>144000</u>
Chick Eggs	1300	100	1200	5	6000
Duck Eggs	1250	50	1200	7	8400
Honey	<u>1000</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>900</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>3600</u>
Total:	<u>2550</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>2400</u>		<u>11600</u>
Total:					<u><u>162000</u></u>

As can be seen in this table, at a meagre 30% retention of gross income plus the addition of the vegetable products we sell, our net income is in the \$50,000 annual range. Since we are fully debt free now, all of our meat products are provided for us and 70% of our vegetable products and we live the frugal lifestyle, we are very comfortable, indeed.

Of course, this is a guideline and is intended as nothing more, but this is entirely doable with the method outlined. We will need to devote hours and hours to study. Nothing comes to us without effort, regardless of what the government might try to tell you. Remember, in this scenario, government is not your friend, but is the enemy all too many times. USDA is under the control of the "Big 4" who do not want our competition!

That which was once a “Patriotic Duty”, raising our own food, is now, somehow, anarchistic... go figure...

## Uncle Sam Expects You To Keep Hens and Raise Chickens



### Two Hens in the Back Yard for Each Person in the House Will Keep a Family In Fresh Eggs

**E**VEN the smallest back yard has room for a flock large enough to supply the house with eggs. The cost of maintaining such a flock is small. Table and kitchen waste provide much of the feed for the hens. They require little attention—only a few minutes a day.

An interested child, old enough to take a little responsibility, can care for a few fowls as well as a grown person.

Every back yard in the United States should contribute its share to a bumper crop of poultry and eggs in 1918.

**In Time of Peace a Profitable Recreation  
In Time of War a Patriotic Duty**

*For information about methods of Back-Yard Poultry Keeping suited to your location and conditions, write*

An actual ad from 100 years ago...