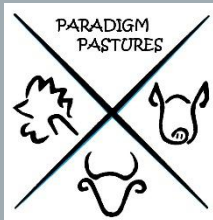


CHICKEN TENDER TIMES

MAY 2025 Iss. 44

Greetings from Paradigm Pastures, and welcome to our monthly newsletter. We have been rocking and rolling in our efforts to practice humane animal husbandry in raising pastured poultry!



WHAT'S THE BUZZ?



The honey from last season has run out! We don't have it on the website anymore, because our supply was so popular that it's gone. The good news is that bees are all over the dandelions and clover that have already bloomed. This is the first source of food for pollinators in the spring, and it helps them get a head start on the upcoming season. Brood is being laid in the honeycomb, and the days are getting warmer. If you see a big ole bumblebee buzzing around, maybe put out a little dish of water so she can rehydrate on her travels.

What's been going on:

**** WE HAVE A MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT!! ****

In case you don't know, we raise Cornish Cross chickens as our meat birds. This is the breed that most people are used to seeing when they buy chicken to cook/eat. They have been specifically bred over the decades with a focus on rapid growth and efficiency. Their ability to gain weight so rapidly means that they are ready for processing at 7-8 weeks old. On the other side of this, they are ALWAYS hungry, and they grow too rapidly for their bodies to properly adapt. This leaves them susceptible to a number of health issues as well as causing them to be extremely vulnerable to heat and cold. Over the past 6 years, we have seen these birds become more and more fragile even while our practices have become more and more refined. This may be due to the poultry industry seeking to optimize rapid growth even more or any other number of environmental issues. For our part, we have minimized the number we put in one area to ensure they have plenty of grass and room to grow. They are moved to fresh grass each day, and we provide as much protection as we can to ensure they are sheltered from inclement or extreme weather. Despite this, we are continuing to see increases in attrition rates, so we decided to change tactics. While we enjoy providing an ideal environment for our animals to ensure they are raised as ethically as possible, we are at the point that we feel we are doing this breed more of a disservice by raising animals that cannot handle the environmental factors in which these animals historically thrived. Therefore, we are going to attempt something different for the time being. We are going to be trying to raise different breeds of meat chickens. Many of these heirloom breeds will be much hardier and less hybridized. However, these breeds are not typically raised by the poultry industry because they take longer to raise. Instead of being ready for processing at 8 weeks, they will likely not be ready until after 12 weeks. This will reduce the number of birds available throughout the year, and it will cause the price to go up per bird because of the increased feed required to get them to processing weight. We understand that the increased price will be a barrier for some of our customers, and we completely understand. Our pre-ordered batch #1 was processed as promised. However, we removed the July processing date until we get the next batch and get a better feel for how well the Freedom Rangers grow on our pasture. If you are down to try out this breed with us, we will be updating everyone on our newsletter and on social media as they grow. We would love to get your input on what you think of the new breeds we will be raising. Updated prices, quantity, and availability will be posted as soon as we have a better idea of what that will look like, and we appreciate all of your patience & support. We love what we do, but we can't, in good conscience, raise birds that are not thriving on our farm. In the meantime, we still have plenty of eggs and would love to hear from you! As always, your support means the world!

