

CHICKEN TENDER TIMES

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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 been going on:

What a crazy winter it has been so far. It's been very mild weather, then it slowly started to get colder with one snowy day. Now we are in the 60s-70s and had to hunker in the basement last night due to tornado warnings! No one/nothing was hurt, and we've only suffered a few broken branches. We are very happy to have had all the birds in the winter coop and all the supplies and tractors stored for the winter. We are trying something new and experimental for the birds for their winter feed. Because our girls love to forage, they miss out on the fresh growth during the winter. We've seen examples of sprouting fodder but didn't have the time or knowledge to try it before. After much researching and searching for grain, we setup a barley sprout stack system out of 5-gallon buckets that should allow them some fresh grown feed each day. The fully self-contained system allows water to be recycled for several days to water the sprouts and rotation of the buckets over 5 days ensuring that there's always some fresh sprouts to toss out to the girls. They seem to love it, and the sprouts we've given them so far have disappeared quickly! We are also slowly feeding them the pumpkins from this fall. If you have any pumpkins that you would like to get rid of, let us know (as long as they aren't too smushy). We are also looking to make a special tractor for the egg-layers this coming spring. Right now, they live in 2 separate chicken tractors, but we'd like to consolidate them into one large egg-mobile with an open floor and permanent wheels. However, this will require a much larger frame. If you know someone with an old horse trailer or flat-bed trailer that has damage to the floor, we would love to take a look at it. It won't do them much good, but we can make (40) buckeye hens and (1) sweet turkey very happy. We hope you have a wonderful Christmas, and we truly are thankful for each and every one of you ❤️



WE HAVE EGGS!

Just because it's cold doesn't mean our girls stop laying! If you need eggs, we are the place to be. Place your order on our farm store, and check out our sweatshirts while you're there:

[Paradigm Pastures](#)

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?



The hive wraps are on and just in time! Right after getting them wrapped and weighed down, we had our first overnight freeze. We've also had some windy and chilly weather, though there haven't been any significant snow days. Once those hit, though, they should be fine for a while. There is on-again/off-again warm weather that could indicate an early spring. If so, then they will be good for food, but a longer winter would require spring feedings of 2:1 sugar syrup until there is enough growth for plants to have pollen and nectar available for them.



WELCOME TO THE MIX!

We added a new mouser-in-training to the mix! This little kitten was a stray at the landfill, but now he's in training as a house mouser. He has a long way to go, but so far, he's holding his own with the other pets. Because our kids are fans of the manga series Berserk, his name is Guts...yep, you read that right!

