



Popular Farming® Series - Turkeys™

Celebrating America's Favorite Farm Animals with Turkeys

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Touting Turkeys

Don't wait for Thanksgiving to indulge in the flavor, décor and entertainment that turkeys have to offer. These stately birds can serve as year-round fare and fun on your farm.

Ditch the bland bird in your grocer's freezer for an intense, mouthwatering experience that was grown for you by you. Not in it for the meat or just need other outlets for marketing? Heritage turkeys have gorgeous feathers that reach markets from decorating to fly-tying, and their eggs are great for baking and cooking. "Different varieties have been developed to fit different purposes, including production characteristics (such as how large they grow or how they perform in certain geographical locations) and for specific color patterns to show off the bird's beauty."—Carol Ekarius

The Popular Farming Series: Turkeys has everything you need to know to start raising turkeys or to embark on a new adventure with your flock. With beautiful photos and in-depth articles, Turkeys is a must for any poultry enthusiast's or small farmer's reference shelf. **What You'll Find**

The Popular Farming® Series is a collection of magabooks™ that covers farming topics of interest to small farmers today. The series provides valuable information to those who already have a small farm as well as those who are pondering the big move to the country. As an all-encompassing guide to raising turkeys, you'll find helpful and interesting information about all aspects of turkey varieties, hatching, daily chores, protection from predators, and even advice on how to select the bird that's right for your farm. "If you intend to keep the birds extensively on pasture, the Bourbon Red has proved itself worthy for this purpose. Research carried out at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University of Blacksburg (Virginia Tech) in association with the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy found that heritage turkeys are better suited to free-range production than industrial, commercial birds." —Janice Houghton-Wallace **Bird-brained**

Turkeys oftentimes get the short end of the stick when it comes time to credit their intelligence. One myth goes so far as to claim that "turkeys are so stupid that when it rains they look up, open their mouths and drown." Heritage turkeys—the closest domesticated cousin to the wild varieties—are quick to learn from experience as well as their surroundings, which can make simple chores like catching birds more difficult since they recognize your goal and adapt their methods to be ever-more elusive. That's not all they're quick at either! The birds can run and fly and are constantly aware of what's going on around them. "According to turkey fans, these vocal, social birds have plenty of personality, too. The heritage varieties are very curious and attentive—much more so than the commercial birds." —Cherie Langlois **Get How-to Advice On:** protecting your birds with proper fencing and safeguardsdetailed plans for building shelters recognizing sick birds as well as treating and preventing illness in your flock with advice from a veterinarian starting a turkey-based business to profit from your hard work

"A turkey business is not for everyone, but an increased demand for locally produced food, increased interest in pasture-raised poultry and growing knowledge of the importance of preserving and using heritage turkeys on smaller farms provides a lot of opportunity for hobby farmers who are interested in turning their ambitions into a viable business." —Matt John

Find out how to care for your flock, hatch your own poults and raise turkeys naturally, plus much more in Turkeys. **A Gobbling Good Time**

Raising turkeys doesn't have to be all work; there's plenty of room for play, too. Trot your turkey to a 4-H competition, county fair or other poultry show to flaunt its feathered facade.Participate in a turkey-calling competition. Enter a foot race with your bird in tow.Start a collection, such as vintage calls, figurines, dishes, prints or toys.Discover the many ways to enjoy all things turkey—from the barnyard to the house and everywhere in between! There's a lot to know about gobblers, and Popular Farming's Turkeys is loaded with information from turkey terminology to breeder resources and associations to hatcheries and turkey supply houses—it's an essential resource for anyone interested in raising these unique fowl.

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Turkey Time: The History of Domesticated and Wild Turkeys

Turkeys were a part of the North American landscape long before settlers arrived. Follow their journey from the wild to the barnyard.

By Sue Weaver

Variety Is the Spice of Life

There may be only one breed when it comes to turkeys, but there are plenty of varieties to choose from for your farm's needs.

By Carol Ekarius

Select Smart

Are you raising birds for your table or for profit? Want to harvest feathers for the craft and décor market? Arm yourself with the knowledge of selecting not only the right variety for your needs, but also healthy turkeys.

By Janice Houghton-Wallace

Bird-brained Behaviors Think you know all there is to know about turkeys? Think again! Learn the surprising differences and similarities between wild, heritage and commercial turkeys. **By Cherie Langlois** **Hatch a Plan** Hatching your own eggs can save you money and headache. Get the techniques and tools that will ensure success. Download our Incubation Chart to track your progress! **By David Bland** **Seeking Sanctuary** Whether you give your turkeys the freedom to roam outdoors or keep them indoors, a good shelter is essential to their safety and well-being. **By Stephanie Staton** **The Turkey Trot: Daily Chores** Keeping up with the daily rigor of farm life can seem overwhelming. Get organized with this simple list of daily turkey tasks. **By Cherie Langlois** **Security Matters** Turkeys are naturally inquisitive and can draw unwanted attention from predators. Keep your birds safe with a few security measures. **By Eugene Fytche** **Tip-top Turkeys** You've invested time, energy and money in your flock. Don't let illness or disease undermine your efforts. **By Dianne Hellwig, PhD, DVM** **Profitable Poults** Starting a turkey business can be both exciting and daunting. Minimize the risk and maximize the reward with these tips. **By Matt John** **All-natural Turkey Raising** Discover the alternatives to conventional turkey-rearing with these all-natural methods. **By Cherie Langlois** **Totally Turkey** Uncover a hidden world of fowl fun with turkey memorabilia, festivals and more. **By Sue Weaver** **Turkey Delight** Don't hold out for the holidays to put turkey on your dinner menu with these simple and delicious recipes. **By Stephanie Staton** **Glossary Resources** Everything from breeders to coops and supplies to help you add turkeys to your menagerie.

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