A Presentation by Liqin Cao
Vice President of United Poultry Concerns
Backyard Chicken Keeping
Is It an Ethical Alternative to Factory Farming?
Modern Chicken House in Delaware

Photo by David Harp
Inside of “Battery” Hen Shed

Photo by ITamar K.
Weaver Brothers Egg Farm in Versailles, Ohio

Photo by Mercy For Animals
Advertising Photo from Black Eagle Farm Website
Reality of Black Eagle Farm Hens in “Free-range, Organic” Facility in Virginia
So... Is backyard chicken keeping an ethical alternative to factory farming?
Henny Penny Rooster

Photo courtesy of Chicken Run Rescue
The Ugly Face of Small Animal Farming

Photo by Jake Stangel for Bloomberg Businessweek

"I've spent the WHOLE day processing these f***ers. First I hung them in the bathroom, cut off their heads, and bled them (they were freshly killed)." ~Novella Carpenter, Ghost Town Farm Blog
Where do backyard chicken-keepers get their chickens?
From Industrial Hatchery to Backyard
The “Breeding” Flocks
When hens and roosters are no longer wanted by the hatchery, they are destroyed – just like a factory farm.
Industrial Hatchery
Chicks in a Shipping Box

Photo courtesy of The Animals Voice
Rooster, Hen and Chicks
Photo by Davida G. Breier
What happens to the male chicks?
Male chicks on a conveyor belt, heading toward their death. Perhaps to a grinding machine. Perhaps into a garbage bag to suffocate to death.
Discarded Rooster Chicks

Photo courtesy of The Animals Voice
Male Chicks are Used as Packing Material

Cock-a-doodle-doo!!!

I was afraid of this. One of our chicks is actually a rooster!

What?! Can we return it for a refund?

Meanwhile, at the Chicken Factory...

Male Chicks

Danger
Sharp Edges

Grade B
Chicken Feed

Grade B
Chicken Feed
“The question of what to do with Hanz — and other roosters like him — is an unforeseen byproduct of the growth of backyard chicken flocks.”

Hanz the Rooster at the Montgomery County Maryland Humane Society

Photo by Ricky Carioti, The Washington Post
Rooster Leading Hens Across Bridge

Photo by Auke Van der Weide
What happens to the hens when their egg productivity declines?
A Bloody Lesson for Backyard Chicken Enthusiasts
“I raised chickens, and worried that I wouldn’t be able to kill them, but by the time they were mature, I couldn’t wait to kill them.”

“Meat birds are not like hens. Their brains have been bred right out of them, they’re really nasty and stupid. And every other critter for miles around was coming after them. I lost one to a raccoon, one to a fox, one to an owl—all in the course of a week. In the end I couldn’t wait to do the deed, because otherwise, somebody else was going to get the meat.”

- Michael Pollan
THE OTHER CO.

WE'RE COMPLETELY SELF-SUFFICIENT IN OUR HOME...

WE GROW ALL OUR OWN FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.

WE USE RAINWATER FOR COOKING AND BATHING.

WE HAVE SOLAR PANELS PROVIDING ELECTRICITY FOR HEAT AND LIGHTING.

HENRIETTA PROVIDES US WITH EGGS AND WHEN SHE STOPS LAYING, WE'LL EAT HER.

PICKING UP ANOTHER DOZEN EGGS, HENRIETTA?
Don’t Keep Chickens, If:

• All you want chickens for is their eggs.
  • You are unable to provide a clean, comfortable and predator-proof home for your chickens.
  • You cannot commit to taking good care of your chickens for their whole life.

Do not buy chickens from a hatchery or through mail order. Do not “breed.”
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UPC Chicken House and Enclosed Yard

UPC Sanctuary photo by Davida G. Breier
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Mary Britton Clouse and Bert Clouse of Chicken Run Rescue

Photo by Dorothy Grinolds, ThreeDogPhotography.com
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For more information, visit

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