

Top 3 Chicken Myths **BUSTED!**

Myth 1. Chickens Carry Diseases Communicable to Humans.

Fact: the truth is that small flocks have literally no risk of avian flu transmission to humans. The 2006 Grain Report states: *“When it comes to bird flu, diverse small-scale poultry is the solution, not the problem.”*

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) states on their website:

“There is no need at present to remove a (family) flock of chickens because of concerns regarding avian flu.”

Avian flu has been in the press as a concern to commercial poultry production where birds are raised in monster-size flocks confined in over-crowded environments and fed the cheapest food possible. This causes high stress and compromised immune systems in the birds. Any sign of disease, including a sneeze, could result in a huge number of birds getting sick, and this puts at risk a large amount of profit. As many experts have stated publicly, the solution to avian flu is in small-scale poultry.

Myth 2. Chickens are too Noisy.

Fact: laying hens — at their loudest — have about the same decibel level as human conversation (60 to 70 decibels). Hens are so quiet that there have been cases of family flocks being kept for years without the next door neighbors knowing it.

To some, noise is a concern with roosters and their pre-dawn heralding of sunrises. Many urban codes ban roosters or only allow them to be kept with special permits. The noise level of a rooster’s crow is about the same as a barking dog, 90 decibels. But there are ways to keep roosters quiet throughout the night. Many folks regard crowing as a pleasant sound.

Myth 3. Waste and Odor.

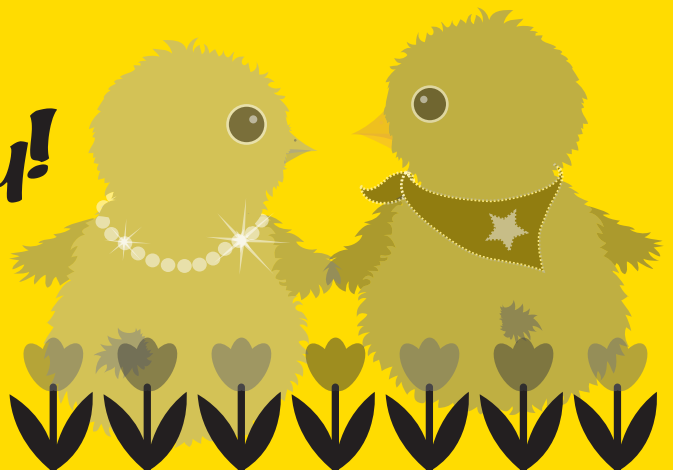
Fact: a 40 pound dog generates more solid waste than 10 chickens. To be more specific, one 40 pound dog generates about $\frac{3}{4}$ pounds (.75 pounds) of poo every day. Ten chickens generate about two-thirds pounds (.66 pounds) daily poop.

The advantage to chicken manure is that it can be used as valuable, high-nitrogen fertilizer. Unlike dog or cat poop, chicken manure can be combined with yard and leaf waste to create compost. Just as valuable, about 40% of the chicken manure is organic matter which is necessary for building fertile, healthy top soil.

Chicken manure is so valuable that there is a product called Cockadoodle Doo®. What Cockadoodle Doo is made of? You guessed it; dried chicken manure. A 20 pound bag sells for \$15.00. That’s 76 cents a pound for chicken manure! Lets take the stakes even higher. Where does most commercial fertilizer come from? Think oil. Can chickens’ services and products help us decrease our dependence on oil? Yes, in many ways and on many levels.

View full article, posted at: <http://blog.mcmurrayhatchery.com>

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