

Buying Chickens from Midsummer Farm

We offer chickens for small farms and backyard flocks in a three basic ways:

- 1) **Chicks** can go to new homes during the months of May and June.
- 2) **Pullets and Cockerels** between 6 and 8 weeks old in June, July, and early August.
- 3) And our **Quartets of Laying Birds** (3 hens and 1 rooster) are available year round.

It is best to order chickens in late February or early March so we can be sure to have exactly what you want, especially if you want specific breeds. And make sure you have a predator-safe place that is appropriate for your chickens' age ready and set up BEFORE you take your birds home. Ask us for advice – we are always thrilled to provide it!

Chicks

Can be purchased from us either from our own breeding/hatching or we can split a shipped order with you.

Our own Midsummer Farm Chicks

Minimum order is 6. Chicks are **straight-run only**. Pure breeds are \$10.00 per chick; mixed breeds are \$8.00 per chick (these prices are subject to change depending on age of chick – price goes up about \$5.00 per chick with each week older). Chicks are raised 100% organically on strictly organic feed. No vaccines. No wormers. Some chicks will be incubator-hatched and raised indoors with humans, others will be hatched by broody hens and raised by hens. Pure breeds available: **Cuckoo Marans, Salmon Faverolle, and Speckled Sussex**. We also will have non-pure-bred Ameraucana green-egg layers. We are a small farm and not all of these breeds will be available at any given time. The best way to select specific breeds is to order in February or as far ahead as possible. Remember we have a small window of opportunity in this area: chicks should all be on the ground by mid-July to be large enough for the winter weather. Chicks do best with lots of outside-time, which means they really are best hatched starting in mid-May. There is a 21 day gestation time, and for pure breeds, a 4-5 week breeding time, which may have to be longer if you want a greater number of chicks. Salmon Faverolles will probably take even longer.

Splitting an order with a Mail-Order Source

To ship chicks, one would need to buy at least 25, and this is too many for a lot of people wanting to start a backyard flock. So, as we usually order a shipment of birds from either breeders or hatcheries, we offer a service to include your order with ours. You can choose all pullets (females) if you want from some sources we use, other smaller breeders will only offer straight-run. We choose the source (sometimes we are ordering from a breeder of a single breed of chicken, sometimes from a hatchery with lots of breeds available) and mailing date/s, but we are open to suggestions. We add a very nominal charge for our time and efforts to the price being charge by the source. We make sure that the chicks we order are day-old – in other words – just hatched and shipped – never been fed non-organic feed. Once they get to us, we start them on organic feed immediately along with our herbal booster of dandelion, nettle, calendula, and slippery elm. Again, the price will go up the longer we hold the chicks for you, \$5 per chick per week. We usually have to order in early March, so please contact us before then so we can include you. We do usually order extra, so if you are too late to get in on the planning stage, we may have birds available in June and July – so feel free to call or email us.

We can also offer advice on helping you choose a breed/s that is right for you.

6-8 Week Old Pullets / Cockerels

Raising chicks is a lot of work. They need tons of food, they muck up their water very quickly, they need sun and exercise and greens, and they also need warmth. And so we also offer older birds who are ready to be outside and not need heat lamps. Pricing varies between \$12 and \$25 per bird depending on what we have available.

Laying Quartets

A group of four birds – one rooster and three hens (between 1 and 2 years old). We pick the birds. Pure-bred groups are \$65; Mixed breed groups are \$35.00. They are, of course, Certified Organic.

We strongly recommend that you sign up for our Organic Poultry Workshop – which is usually offered at least three times during the Spring and Summer. This workshop is perfect for anyone who is new to raising chickens or for anyone who wants to start raising them organically.