

# Start your Free range Chicken farm easily

Free range chicken are chicken that feed outdoors during the day. Because of the capital and energy that needs to be invested into the free range and organic farming, the products sell for top dollar.

Free range chicken fall under these classes; egg producing chickens, meat producing chickens, chickens that are reared for both eggs and meat, and chickens that are raised to supply other farmers and hobbyists.

## Benefits

The birds are not limited to a single food source because they are able to forage outdoor. The flock will act as natural form of pest control. The chickens naturally fertilize the foraging area. They cost less to feed. Their meat is often leaner and their eggs often taste better and have bright yellow yoke.

There is less overcrowding which reduces risk of disease spread. The startup cost is low. There is no need to supply grid to the birds. The market for is fast growing and products sell for a premium.

## Drawbacks

They require a fairly large area to forage on and take longer to reach market readiness especially those reared for meat. The birds may damage crops and gardens and are easy prey for predators.

Also, when left to their own devices, chickens will feed indiscriminately which may deplete food sources. Whilst large broiler houses are not necessary, chicken coops and runs are required for roosting and safety. It is essential to protect

the chickens in the winter time and provide feed.

## **Tips for starting**

The selected area should be well drained and open to allow the chicken to forage at a rate of 1m sq a bird at least. There needs to be space to construct a shelter to protect the chickens from predators and elements. Clean, fresh and cold water supply needs to be available. In winter, lighting should be provided for at least 10 hours everyday. Depending on the quality of the natural forage, supplementary feed may need to be purchased. Select correct breed that suits your production purpose.