



# Keeping Small Poultry Flocks – The Ups and Downs from a One Health Perspective

Gigi Wing Lin, DVM, Diplomate ACPV

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## Examples of commercial poultry flocks:



Regulated under quota system

Genetic selection

Single source

Single age

Single purpose

Stringent biosecurity

All-in-all-out

Fixed marketing age

Stringent biosecurity

Precise nutrition

# What is Considered Backyard/Small Poultry Flocks?





# The Rationale for Keeping Small Poultry Flocks

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- Food sources
- Gardening “partners”
- Pets
- Income
- Shows (4-H)



Companionship  
Connection  
Entertainment  
Therapy



# Food Sources & Economics



# Zoonotic Diseases & Food Safety

## Some examples of zoonotic diseases in small flock poultry:

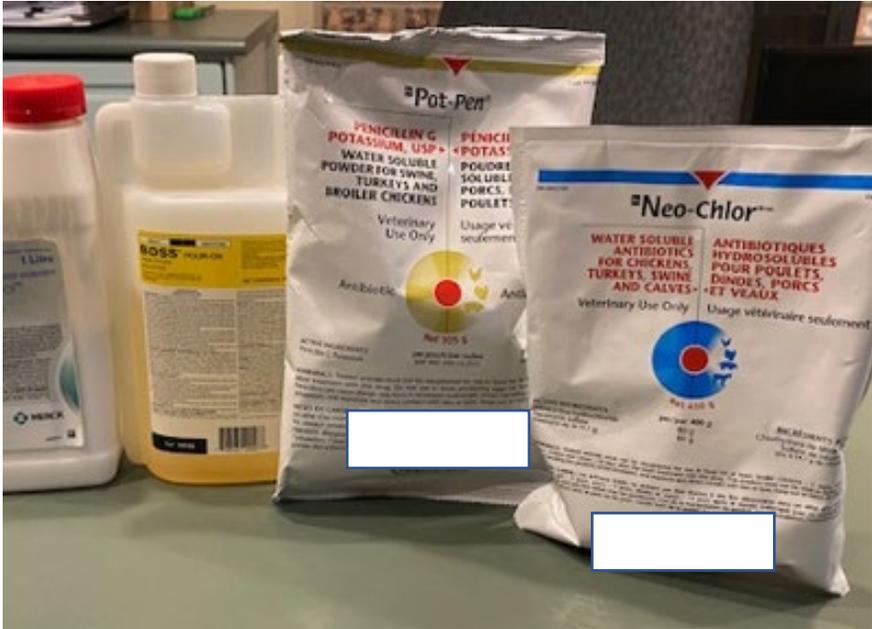
Bacteria: *Salmonella enteritidis*, *Campylobacter spp.* *Listeria monocytogenes*.

Viruses: Avian influenza, Newcastle disease

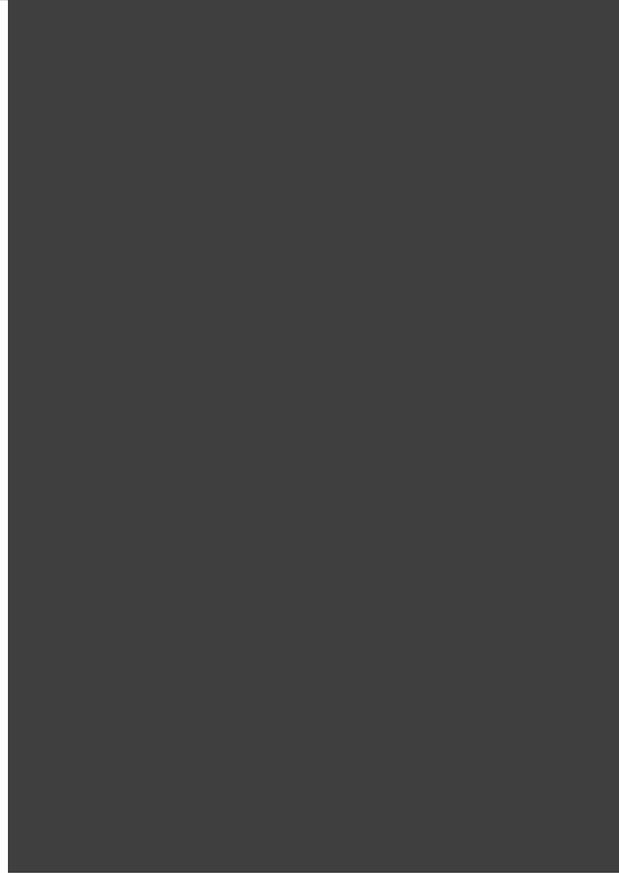
Parasites: Cryptosporidia

Fungus: *Microsporium gallinae*





# Food Safety & Drug Residue



# Learning Opportunities

# Practical Guidelines for On-Farm Euthanasia of Poultry



2nd Edition - Published in 2016



Some of the lessons can be tough...



# What about the unwanted roosters?



**Roosters**  
Kamloops | 19/10/2022

[Please Contact](#)

okay3 cream brabanter (I had these eggs shipped in from Ontario) 4.5 months old 1 Swedish flower hen rooster ( had eggs shipped in from Ontario) 4.5 months old 2 leghorn cross 3.5 months FREE



**Gentle quiet rooster**  
Nanaimo | 22/10/2022

[Please Contact](#)

Bonus: his point-of-lay sister. FREE! Meet at Gabriola ferry or delivery can be arranged.



**Free Rooster Silkie cross Lavender Orpington**  
Kamloops | 15/10/2022

[Please Contact](#)

Beautiful rooster and he has a pretty cool personality. Unfortunately he is not getting along with my Silkie rooster and he needs a new home. He is about 6 months old. Free.



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The traumatic experience from sudden death...

↑ A layer hen diagnosed with cystic oviduct and ovarian adenocarcinoma.



# Do we have enough veterinary support?

- Poultry vs. avian medicine
- Vet shortage
- Economics
- Government programs
- WeCAHN, CAHSS, etc



## From the birds' perspective

- Shelter
- Predator & Pest
- Diseases
- Nutrition
- Timely humane euthanasia



# The canary in the coal mine

Surveillance &  
early disease  
detection



<https://www.forbes.com/sites/kionasmith/2019/12/31/the-canary-in-the-coal-mine-isnt-ancient-history/?sh=6a5369a43931>



# How do we maximize the benefits and minimize the risks?

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Requires more collaboration among all stakeholders

- Human psychological well-being
- Promote human and poultry health/welfare
- Prevent diseases

# List of References

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Thank You!

[gigiwinglin@gmail.com](mailto:gigiwinglin@gmail.com)