

**Kylie
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Pastured Chickens

Pastured chickens are grown outside where it eats some grass. Chickens put manure in the grass. The manure fertilizes the grass so it will grow better next year. The outside air is fresh and clean with lots of sunshine. Chickens don't need any antibiotics (medicine). Chickens grown on small farms don't have to be debeaked.

You order the chicks through the mail and than you have to pick them up at the post office. You brood chicks inside and you move the chicks outside in a pen when there about 2-3 weeks old. The pen must be moved every day to assure the chickens are eating fresh grass. Chickens also need fresh water every day. Without these steps the chickens would die from improper feedings. When the chickens are about 7-8 weeks old they are ready to be butchered.

Chickens that are raised on small farms aren't usually sold in grocery stores. Pastured chickens that are grown on small farms are usually in the country. People come to the farmers house/farm to buy some pastured poultry, or it is eaten by the farmer's family and friends.

Processing the chickens is a great task. First you must catch the chicken, once caught you move it to the processing area. This is where the chickens are killed. Once the chickens are dead you scald them in hot water, pluck off there feathers and cut of there head and feet and pull out the guts. Your final steps are to weigh them and chill them in cold water. Lastly they are ready to be bagged and put into the freezer.

In pastured poultry, chickens are processed close to or on the farm where they were raised. Chickens cannot be transported long distances due to the stress that they can get.

Many activities are involved in raising chickens. They are fun to watch and chase. Chickens that are sold benefit local farmers. Less fuel is used because no transporting is required. The finished chickens are cleaner because they were processed carefully by hand. Pastured chickens are tastier and healthier because of the way they are raised and fed. Pastured poultry is better for the land and water.