



# Home & Garden GAZETTE

*Especially for customers of Black Creek Farm & Feed Supply*

March 2013

## Cluck! Cluck! Tips for Raising Healthy Chickens

**BCFF Has What You Need!**

If you're tired of mushy meat birds store-bought eggs, consider raising your own birds. We hope these tips help, but don't hesitate to ask for advice at the store.



If you buy day-old chicks, you will need a place to keep them warm. Use two lamps for every 50 chicks; one may be fine in the summer months. The lamp should be used 24/7 if starting your birds in March, as the cooler evenings could cause a chill.

Start the chicks at 90 degrees and decrease the temperature 5 degrees for every week of age.

## Healthy Lawns In No Time!

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**\*Lime now!** Rake mossy areas before applying. Dolopril is a great product with minimal dust.

**\*Fertilize** every six-to-eight weeks during growing season-1 pound of nitrogen in a blend per 1000 square feet.

**\*Seed bare spots** with quantity and quality, top-dress with good soil.

NOTE: Be sure you get seed for Pacific Northwest conditions!

**\*Sharpen** your cutting blades. Ask at your hardware store.

BCFF staff is happy to make product recommendations and will calculate how much product you need for your application. Just ask!

Many people start chicks in a round cardboard "circle"-avoiding a container with corners (so they don't pile up and smother each other). The cardboard can be removed after a week when risk of loss is far less.

It's fine to start your chicks on newspaper that is laid on top of shavings for the first few days; this allows you to sprinkle the food on the paper until they know to eat from the feeders.

Then, they are fine on shavings or peat moss alone. Don't clean out the pen, just add more bedding on top as needed.

A waterer and feeders they can't fall into are also important, as well as poultry vitamins you add to their water during those first few weeks.

For feed, use a 22% chick starter. Then ask at BCFF for the recommended amount of feed required at the different stages to accommodate increased demand as they grow.

### **Fresh Eggs At Home!!**

Many people find it easier to get "ready-to-lay" hens, rather than raising hens from chicks.

A good veggie crumble (or GMO-free layer pellets), water, and bedding/shavings make these gals easy backyard producers. They tuck themselves in at dusk, and particularly like to snuggle together on roosting poles at night.

For meat birds and layers, be sure to protect them from predators by buying or building a secure coop. Ask Steve for details on coop construction to keep out. Raccoons and eagles are particularly fond of our feathered friends, so protect your investment.

**BCFF orders chicks and ready-to-lays for regular delivery this time of year. Call Loraine for details.**

Watch our FACEBOOK page for the next Poultry Workshop, featuring a Hi-Pro nutritionist.

*See our Lawn Care article in the March "Valley Living" supplement in the Comox Valley Record.*

## **BCFF SAVINGS**

### **SAVE \$3**

on any Proform Kennel Blend dog food when you bring an empty bag of your current brand.

### **SAVE \$10**

on your purchase of Poultry Products

(not including hens).

Mention this newsletter for your discount at check-out before 4/15.

### **FREE 10-pack of batteries & Freedom from Rats & Mice**

with purchase of The Raticator

Mention newsletter at check-out for discount before 4/15.

### **Save 10%**

on "Multi-Terrain Deer Fencing"

### **NEW PRODUCT**

100 and 250-foot rolls, plus posts.  
(Mention newsletter at check-out by 4/15)

## **BCFF is on Facebook!**

Please visit Black Creek Farm & Feed on Facebook and "Like" us by 4/15 to be eligible for a \$25 gift certificate

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Black-Creek-Farm-Feed-Supply/155978751079890?ref=hl>

We post announcements of special events and "Friend" specials. Please "Share," too!

## FYI...FYI...FYI

Did you know BCFF Delivers? From our door to your barn or home, we deliver feed, bedding, and so much more for just \$10 (Royston to Campbell River).

We also deliver to the islands, so pass the word to friends or family! Call for delivery price!

Black Creek Farm & Feed is a proud sponsor of the Vanier Towheys Varsity Basketball and Comox Valley Athletics. Watch for the van and signs around town!

Ask about financing offered by BCFF for construction projects.

BCFF offers AirMiles. Just show your card to collect!

**Black Creek Farm & Feed ~ 2184 Lalum Road ~ Black Creek, BC V9J 1H6 ~ 7am-5:30pm  
~ 250-337-8922 ~**



*Proudly Serving Our Island Communities For 30 Years!*

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