

Best 5 Birds To Grow For Survival

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Every single day the average American throws away 1/3 of all food coming into the home. To make matters worse, commercial farms routinely destroy livestock and drive food prices up even more with additives that endanger your health. If you think food is expensive now, you are sure to be in a worse situation when SHTF and food production stops altogether.

Since meat and eggs serve a prime part of many diets, learning how to raise and propagate these 5 farm birds can make it easier to get through any food shortage that comes your way.

1. Chickens



Cost - You need less than 10.00 a month to feed each chicken. It will cost about 500.00 to build a coop and obtain suitable chicks or young hens, plus one rooster.

Housing Requirements - Most people build a chicken coop where chickens can live and lay their eggs without falling prey to hawks and other native predators. If you are only planning to keep two or three hens and a rooster, it may be possible to let them live right in your home.

That said, be prepared to start training the birds from when they are chicks to live in this type of environment. Chickens are very smart, and you will find them enjoyable to own as pets and egg layers.

Food - With the exception of avocados, chickens can eat just about anything. You can use commercial egg layer pellets combined with chopped oyster shells for added calcium. Table scraps and free ranging will also give hens a wider range of nutrients that will contribute to increased egg production.

Advantages - Chickens are legal to keep in most areas, and tend to be easy to keep. Extra eggs and meat can also be sold provided you have required licenses and appropriate area for raising chickens. Since the organic egg market is a booming industry, you can make a good bit of money on this market.

Disadvantages - Roosters can be very noisy, and some neighbors may not like the odor that comes from the chicken coop. Since chickens love to eat insects, they can get poisoned by insects that have been in contact with insecticide.

2. Geese



Cost - Food costs less than 5.00 a month per goose or gander. You can start with just 3 birds, two females and one male in order to build up a flock.

Housing Requirements - Since mature geese have relatively few predators, they can live outdoors in warmer climates. You can make a coop for them, but it will require a good bit of space. For best results, provide a lake for swimming and suitable cover for hatching.

Food - Geese eat grass, grain, and corn.

Advantages - Since geese are technically water fowl, they are not susceptible to diseases commonly found in other farm animals. They also get fairly large, and produce a good bit of meat in a short period of time. Geese are also very territorial and can act as farm sentries and guards.

Disadvantages - Geese can be very aggressive towards other animals.

3. Ducks



Cost - It will cost about 500.00 to build a duck house and brooder. While a pond or pool of water is not required, it will help with overall management.

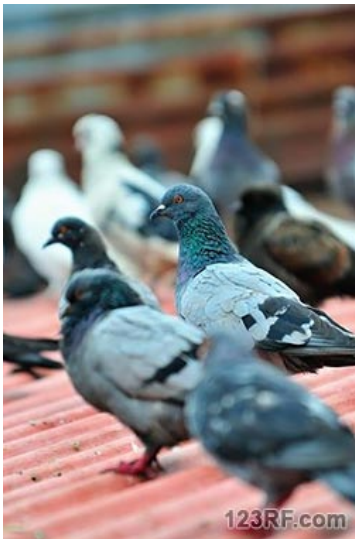
Housing Requirements - It usually requires a duck house and fencing if you are going to collect eggs.

Food - You need seeds, grain, and insects to feed the ducks. If you are going to allow ducks to free range, make sure insects in the area are not consuming insecticides.

Advantages - Ducks tend to be hearty in all kinds of weather and produce eggs and meat fairly quickly. Since many people prefer duck eggs, they can be the foundation of a good organic farm business. Even though ducks are smaller than geese, they are also very territorial and will act as property sentries.

Disadvantages - Ducks can be smelly and noisy, similar to chickens. Male ducks are very aggressive, and all but one must be slaughtered each year in order to preserve flock coherence.

4. Pigeons



Cost - It costs less than 1.00 a month to feed each pigeon. A suitable coop may cost over 1000, unless you have an attic and suitable window for them to fly in and out of.

Housing Requirements - Pigeons prefer to live high off the ground, and need to be able to fly if they are going to grow properly. An upstairs room covered with straw or wood shavings will make an ideal living space.

Since pigeons are easy to train, you can let them out for a few short flights each day, and then call them in before they become targeted by predators.

Food - Pigeons eat grains, berries, and seeds. You can also buy pigeon feed that will supply all required nutrients.

Advantages - Pigeons are fairly small, and live comfortably in flocks. They also reproduce quickly and can be used for meat faster than other birds.

Disadvantages - Pigeon living quarters must be cleaned on a daily basis in order to control odor and disease.

5. Turkeys



Cost - You need almost 10.00 a day to feed a turkey. Young turkeys, or poults also require heating lamps and carefully controlled brooders. It will cost about 750.00 to house turkeys and protect them from local predators.

Housing Requirements - Even though turkeys are similar to chickens in housing needs, they are larger birds that require more space.

In addition, turkey poults require more care in the sense they can be drowned by everything from a deep water dish to rain coming from the sky.

Food - Feed them seeds, nuts, worms, grains, insects, small lizards. Commercial turkey feed can be used to supply all required nutrients.

Advantages - Once they grow past the poult size, turkeys tend to be fairly self sufficient. They can forage for themselves easily, and will keep good control of the insect population.

Disadvantages - You will need to buy heritage turkeys if you plan to have a sustainable flock. Unfortunately, more modern strains are unable to reproduce without artificial insemination.

Once you taste fresh eggs or meat from organically raised animals, you will never want to go back to commercially grown products. Therefore, as you consider how to feed yourself after SHTF, it is important to consider raising farm birds.

Aside from being a perfect source of inexpensive food during bad times, you can make money on your flocks and build up a barter network for all your current needs.



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