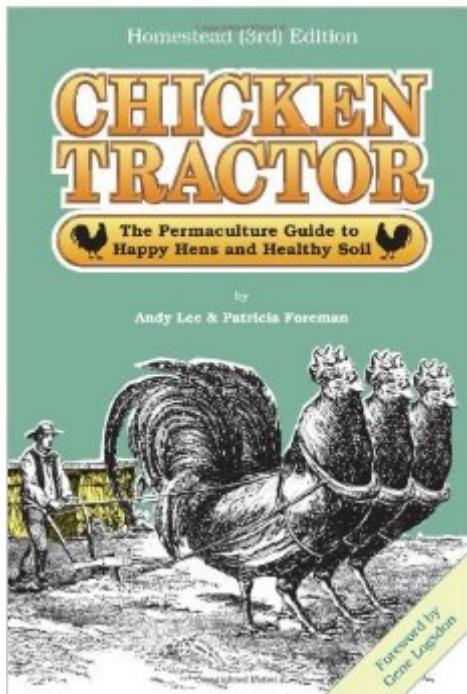


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# Chicken Tractor: The Permaculture Guide To Happy Hens And Healthy Soil, Homestead (3rd) Edition



## **Synopsis**

Chicken Tractor The Homestead (3rd) Edition This is the book that tells you how to integrate small flocks of poultry in with family food production. There is a back to the land movement happening across the world, and it's happening in backyards and on small parcels of land. Chicken tractor systems have become so popular that the term chicken tractor; is a household word. This is the definitive book that leads the way. Learn how you can: Raise homestead flocks for eggs, meat and money. Use chickens to create super-rich soils that enable hyper-productive gardens. Easily, step-by-step, process poultry at home. Build custom chicken tractors for your homestead. Make a straw bale coop for your flock. Understand how to select, buy and raise the best chickens for your goals. Chicken Tractor is a revolutionary, practical, hands-on book that has helped tens of thousands of gardeners create better gardens. It has changed the lives of millions of chickens all across the planet.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Chicken Tractor: The permaculture guide to happy hens and healthy soil by Andy Lee and Patricia Foreman, ISBN 978-0-9843382-0-7 Published by Good Earth Publications, for book purchase: [www.GoodEarthPublications.com](http://www.GoodEarthPublications.com)--Reviewed by Craig Soderberg The current reality of chemically contaminated foods are making homegrown food incredibly valuable. This is why the practice of raising a few chickens in the backyard is becoming more and more popular. Chickens also serve as mobile, stealth, non-toxic pestciders, herbiciders, and slugciders in your yard and garden while

keeping tons of biomass (kitchen waste and yard waste) out of land fills - biomass that can be turned into compost for your garden. This book also shows how easy and profitable it can be to your growing season. Their stick figure drawings throughout the book are fun to read as well. The authors above have also written two other related books: City Chicks and Day Range Poultry. City Chicks is written for the urban backyard hobbyist with only a few hens (25 or less) and no roosters. This book, Chicken Tractor, is intended to help farmers manage flocks of 25-100 birds. Day Range Poultry is intended to help farmers raising thousands of birds using electric poultry net fencing as the primary flock protection from predators. So how did the concept of chicken tractors start? The authors state that this concept started in 1990 when they were helping to start Intervale Community Farm in Burlington, Vermont. The first chicken tractor they built was not for eggs or meat. It was built for the primary purpose of improving the fertility of the sandy soil in a flood plain. Chickens tractors solve some of the problems associated with completely free range chickens.

I read this book before reading Salatin's Pastured Poultry Profits; Lee's book is much better and honest. I have also read publications by the American Pastured Poultry Association, Harvey Ussrey's excellent book, and I keep pastured (day range) hens (egg layers) which have taught me a whole lot more than any of the book ever did. One of the most troubling things about the whole pastured poultry project, to me, is that it is basically an enormous fraud...in my mind as big of a fraud as the CAFOs and big industrial AG that the authors rail against. As any Biologist, Zoologist, or even practical farmer knows, CHICKENS DO NOT RECEIVE ANY SIGNIFICANT FEED VALUE FROM GRASS. They are essentially graminivorous birds. They lack symbiotic microbes that allow animals like ruminants (cows, sheep, goats, bison, deer), camelids, equids (horses, mules, donkeys, zebras), and even Geese to break down cellulose and synthesize essential amino acids from plants like perennial grasses and clovers. Chickens' nutritional needs are very similar to our own, in fact, so basically whatever you are feeding your chicken is something you could yourself eat without all the wasted calories of the feed-to-meat or eggs conversion process. As Andy Lee admits, chickens raised on pasture eat nearly DOUBLE the grain ration (in pounds) to reach the same slaughter weight. This makes sense because they waste calories walking around, regulating body temperature, and it takes ranged birds about 3-4 weeks longer to reach market weights (usually around 6 pounds). A commercial broiler is slaughtered around 8 weeks. A ranged is usually around 12. Hens are a different animals (almost). Hens start laying well around 6 months.

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