

Farm News from April

The season the birds have all been waiting for. **SPRING!** To an avian, this means time for family planning, lay a few eggs, hatch some babies, teach them about bird life. To the farmer it means collecting the eggs. "But don't they lay eggs all year round?" They can, if given artificial light, 14 hours a day which we don't do. It's the photo-period that determines when to lay eggs. The longer days of spring mean summer is coming; a good time to prepare for the next generation. Our chicken egg production went up from one a week to six per day. Yum! Three egg omelets, Carbonera, cakes, cookies....

The jealous guys in his life (Bronze Breasted and Artisan Gold) are around 40 pounds, good for intimidation but that's about it. The ladies in the little guy's life are twice his size but may be receptive to his advances. We're not sure what the outcome will be but we'll find out soon; there's around 150 turkey eggs in the incubator. 28 days of waiting.



Too bad for our guard goose. We had no idea if she was male or female until she also started laying eggs, and since her only friends are turkey there was no chance of hatching. Goose eggs - delicious !

It is our turkey eggs that receive special attention. Those are the ones we collected and just recently put into the incubator. But there may be problems. Turkeys don't naturally breed anymore;



the toms are too large.

All commercial reproduction is through artificial insemination. In our gang we have one guy that could potentially do the job. He is a Beltsville turkey, all white and weighing around 14 pounds.

We're not the only ones enjoying eggs this season. There were mysterious events happening in the chicken coop. For a while, all we could find were broken shells, licked clean. No idea until one day, the culprit was caught sitting inside the nesting box, normally reserved for only chickens. Fortunately, the thief was not too stressed and the person who solved the mystery escaped unscathed. The dogs didn't realize the potential consequences from their attempt to detain the culprit. Fortunately for all of us, the skunk has now moved on (to the neighbours).

