

Re: When should I expect my first eggs?

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- *From:* Nicholas <njloch@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 27 Oct 2005 22:41:27 -0500
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jewels wrote:

Hi everyone,

Well to give you an update. Foghorn my limping bald leghorn is much better. I think she may have been going through a moult as she has lots of new feathers growing through [and that would explain why my best layer stopped laying!] Her limp is barely noticable and after being segregated from my six new pullets for about 8 days, she has established herself back as top hen but the other hens appear to be happy with her and she with them.

All the new pullets go up into the ark now except one whom we've named 'thicko', but now when I put her on the ramp, she trots up there. I've estimated they are approximately 21 weeks old now but still no eggs.

What is the usual age for hybrids to start laying?

Hello Jewels,

Some of my girls started laying small eggs at about 22 weeks. It was a surprise because the book I bought said they start laying at about 5 to 6 months so I didn't have the nest box ready.

My favorite hen Lucy started laying in my garden under an ornamental gourd plant, some of the gourds looked like brown eggs! Then she started to lay them in a chair in my workshop. I actually got to see an egg drop out of her vent one morning!

One of my hens is just now starting to lay small eggs. But I think it's the hen who has been laying the bad eggs, they are like plastic sacks and for weeks one would be laying in the bottom of the roost every morning. They where all hatched 3/19/05 so I guess there is no set starting date??

Oh, you might want to know that my hens are all Barred Rocks.

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My best layer is a mallard duck. Out of the past 21 days I have gotten 20 wonderful duck eggs! Dewie is very spoiled and gets pampered quite a bit, maybe that's why she is such a good layer. She is even allowed to come into the kitchen in the evening to get her favorite snack, a big juicy nightcrawler.

I started letting her inside so she could relish the treat without having to gulp it for fear a chicken would steal it. However, I fear I have created a monster. I was warned by my x-mother-in-law that I'd end up with a duck hanging out on the back steps. Oh well, the droppings aren't hard to hose off!!

I worry about her because the hens are starting to push her around and our rooster has tried to mount her a couple of times, she even submits to him. I keep telling her that he's not a drake, but like many young girls, she doesn't listen! ;)

God Bless,

Nicholas

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