

## Re: New pullets

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- *From:* " Jill" <[news@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Fri, 2 May 2008 13:12:40 +0100
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AriesVal wrote:

On Fri, 2 May 2008 12:20:45 +0100, Jill wrote:

AriesVal wrote:

[8 quoted lines suppressed]

They need to range, Black Rocks are free ranging birds. Why are they being confined until they lay? our birds are out ranging from 9 weeks old and would be earlier if our weather was not so bad. You can contain them behind a 4ft electric netting but they can certainly get onto a 5 ft wire fence. They are strong birds. They are not aiming to escape anywhere, just get to more interesting range. The feed should be in the house, so they will come back to feed, come back to shelter, come back at night and come back to lay. They will range around — not away, they will get favourite spots at different times of the day. They do not go off to disappear into the distance but, yes, they do like a good area to range around in.

Thanks so much for replying Jill. The reason behind keeping them in a confined run until they start laying is because when we've had free range hens in the past they've tended to lay their eggs outside of the house and in hidden places!

We have raised hundreds of batches and have never found a problem with them. If the house is well designed and the nestboxes are the right size, in the right place etc then the birds have always just naturally used them. We may get a few start in a corner of a house but they quickly get the drift.

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regards  
Jill Bowis

Domestic Poultry and Waterfowl Solutions

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Herbaceous; Herb and Alpine Nursery  
Seasonal Farm Food  
<http://www.kintaline.co.uk>