

“Mad City Chickens.”

Tarazod Films, (2009). Running time: 78minutes.

Introduction.

0’00” Introduction

2’00” The beginnings of the backyard chicken craze in the US. Discussions with owner of pet shop and the editor of ‘Backyard Poultry’ magazine. Description of the first chicken owners’ seminar/workshop – 200 people attended. “The Urban Chicken is coming to roost.”

7’00” Chicken Underground. The legalities (or not) of keeping chickens in your backyard in the US.

10’15” Chickens are significant creatures – they are everywhere around the world:

- Mexico: everybody has chickens at home
- Gambia – culture is to give important guests a chicken when they visit. This can make people rich, as they can sell the chicken for something else.
- France – old woman who became the shape of her chickens that she kept. (!!)
- Sri Lanka – everybody has them as pets.
- US – As people moved from rural areas to cities, they brought their chickens with them.

15’00” After World War II, people stopped keeping chickens, but now there is a desire to bring them back to the city, e.g. Seattle now allows 3 chickens per backyard. Review of the introduction of the new chicken by-law in Madison, USA, to allow 4 per household. Then other cities seem to be following suit.

19’00” Elizabeth and Drew begin to keep chickens. Story of McMurray chicken hatchery and of a couple who order a few chickens for their backyard.

23’00” How chickens are raised at McMurray hatchery; how they hatch, how they are sexed and how they get shipped to customers.

28’00” Arrival of chickens at Elizabeth and Drew’s.

31’00” Two weeks later.....

32’30” Piano playing chicken...!

34’00” “City Chicken 101”; basics of keeping chickens – feed, coop, etc.

42’00” Chicken stories – chickens steering a rattle snake away from the farmer.

45’00” Eggs. What makes the yolks of organic backyard eggs a better colour? Pastured chicken eggs have as much as 2/3 less cholesterol than ‘factory’ eggs. Also have more vitamin A, E and Omega-3 fats, and other nutrients than commercial eggs.

49'00" 'Bird Flu'. Problems caused by intensive poultry production, such as epidemics of disease because of 'industrialised' production processes.

56'00" Chicken art.

1'00'00" 'Raising Big Tiny' – portrait of chicken in town hall.

1'01'30" Giant Chicken (story, silliness!)

1'03'00" Back to Elizabeth and Drew – now survived for one year.

1'09'00" 'The Future'; there is likely to be more city chickens and connections with nature in urban settings.

1'12'00" credits / end filler

1'14'30" end