

Pasture Patterns Eggs

Policies and FAQ's:

Policy Questions:

Are egg shares refundable? New members may cancel the share within the first month if, for any reason, they are not satisfied. Otherwise, egg shares are not refundable. Shares may be transferred once to another party if for an unexpected reason you are no longer able to receive the share. Please provide us with the name and contact information of the new recipient and the drop site location.

Can I purchase a share in the middle of the season? Yes, if eggs are still available, shares can be started mid-season.

What if egg deliveries are discontinued due to farm related issues? If, for any reason, we are unable to fulfill our deliveries, you will be refunded for the eggs you did not receive.

Egg Share Pick Up Questions:

Where will I find the eggs? It depends on the sight. The cooler will typically be in an easy to find location. If it is not obvious, we will send you information on how to find it at your site.

What happens if I forget or can't pick up my share? We will send an e-mail reminder the day before deliveries are made. If the share is not picked up within the designated time, the site host will determine how long it is appropriate to leave the eggs in the cooler. This will depend on the weather, the hosts' schedule, etc.. The host may call or e-mail a second reminder but is not obligated to do so. Any eggs still remaining in the cooler will be donated to the local food pantry or distributed in some fashion by the host.

What if my egg share is missing or the eggs are cracked? If the share is missing then either we miscounted or another member took too many. Please call or send us an e-mail and we will determine together the best way to compensate. If the eggs are cracked, again, call or e-mail and we will make the necessary arrangements. Fortunately, these problems do not occur often.

Can I receive extra eggs? Yes, if eggs are available. E-mail or call us at least 48 hours before your scheduled delivery and we will include them in the drop off. A check for the additional eggs can be placed in the mail at your earliest convenience.

Please- do not take extra eggs without arranging for them ahead of time. Doing so will inconvenience us and those who came only to find their share missing. Thank you!

Egg Quality Questions:

Are the eggs clean? Yes. Getting clean eggs to you begins with managing the birds in a way to collect clean eggs. We then candle them (check for cracks) and send the eggs through a machine that gently brushes them under a spray of clean warm water and dries them with a fan. As the eggs come out of the machine, we inspect and package each one. The full cartons are put into reusable crates which are placed in a walk-in cooler. There are no chemicals used in this process.

Are the eggs fertile? No, the hens voted to prohibit roosters. Moreover, there is no known difference in nutrition between a fertile and a non-fertile egg.

How old are the eggs I receive? We guarantee eggs for neighborhood delivery to be less than 7 days old. Each carton will have a “pack” date and a “sell by” date. The “pack” date is written as the numerical day of the year. For example, Jan. 11th is written as 011. The “sell by” date is 30 days from the “pack” date and is written in month and day. If refrigerated, eggs will keep at least two months from the day they are packed.

Animal Care Questions

Are the birds “free range”, “cage free”, etc.? Yes. However, these terms only carry loose definitions and standards and therefore can mean different things on different farms. Although some of our facilities are still under construction, our management practice is summarized in the following paragraph:

Because we seasonally pasture the birds, our management changes depending on the time of year. In the warm months, the hens shelter in pens that are moved often (daily or bi-daily) to a fresh area of certified organic pasture.

During the winter, the pasture pens are attached to a passive solar hoop building. The partitions between the pens are removed and the birds can roam freely throughout the structure. In addition, there is a generous outside area for the nicer days.

Do you physically modify the birds? We currently receive our birds from a farmer who specializes in raising certified organic pullets. The chicks are put on a vaccination schedule and the beaks are lightly trimmed before they are 10 days old. The trimming removes only the sharp hooked end point of the beak which becomes a formidable weapon against one another in free range settings. They are still well equipped to forage. The pullets (young hens) are delivered to us at 18 weeks of age.

What do they eat? The hens always have a mix of high quality, certified organic grain and minerals available. We do not withhold feed. Also, during the warm months, they have everything a healthy, organic pasture can provide.