



Suffolk County Farm Fertile Egg Fact Sheet

How to care for eggs after pick up:

Store eggs at room temperature in a safe location until placed in the incubator. Do not hold on to them longer than 1-3 days before setting them. There is no need to wash the eggs before incubation, and washing will actually decrease the hatch rate.

Chick return policy:

- The Suffolk County Farm and Education Center takes back any chicks that you hatch. You can keep the chicks for as long or short as you wish, but **all chicks must be returned to the farm** by the third week in June. Unwanted chickens will NEVER be accepted after this date.
- Please do NOT give chicks out to students. If students and their families are interested in raising chickens **they must** contact the Suffolk County Farm. The Suffolk County Farm wants to ensure that chicks are being placed with educated families who understand the long-term commitment and care for these animals. The Suffolk County Farm and Education Center will **not** take chicks back from families when they are no longer wanted or if they turn out to be roosters. **All chicks must be returned to the farm.**
- Chicks can be returned Monday through Friday between 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM **by appointment ONLY.** You must schedule a return date and time by calling emailing scs56@cornell.edu. Chicks will not be accepted without an appointment.
- Chicks must be returned in a disposable box that can be left at the farm. Farm staff will not be able to transfer chicks in order to return boxes to the drop-off person.
- Please return your egg carton when you return the chicks.

About the eggs:

We raise a few different different chicken breeds so each dozen contains a variety of white, brown, and green shelled eggs.

- The **White Eggs** are from a *White Leghorn* mix breed and they will hatch yellow chicks we call “Leggies”. It has been shown that most males will have the light skin gene and most females will have dark legs.
- The **Brown Eggs** are either:
 1. *Black Star* chicks, which are a cross between a *Rhode Island Red* rooster and a *Barred Rock* hen. The female chicks hatch all black and the male chicks hatch black with a white spot on its head.
 2. *Cinnamon Queen*, which are a cross between the *Rhode Island Red* rooster and the *Silver Laced Wyandotte* hen. The female chicks hatch red and the male chicks hatch yellow.
- The **Green Eggs** are:
 1. *Cream Legbar* chicks hatch various shades of brown with females hatching darker in color with defined “chipmunk” stripes, a “V” on its head, and a dark “eyeliner” stripe at eye. The male chicks hatch lighter in color with blurred stripes and a white dot on its head. They have yellow legs.