

# Chickens

## NUTRITIOUS AND DELICIOUS!

There are many different breeds of chickens. Some are **raised for meat** and others are **raised to produce eggs**. Chicken is a low-fat meat that contains protein, amino acids, niacin, vitamin B6, iron, and zinc.



## WHAT DO CHICKENS EAT?

Chickens are **omnivores**, meaning they eat foods of both plant and animal origin. Creating a feed that best meets the nutritional needs of a chicken is a science.

The colour of a chicken's fat and skin changes with the type of grain chickens eat. Manitoba chicken farmers provide a feed that is high in wheat and soy. These grains cause the chicken skin and fat to be white. Feed containing a high percentage of corn results in chicken skin and fat that is yellow.

## CARING FOR CHICKENS

Chicken farmers take good care of their chickens! Chicken barns today are **well ventilated**. This keeps the air inside the barn at the proper **temperature** and **humidity** for the birds. Chickens raised in Manitoba are **grain fed** and have access to **fresh water** at all times.





## THE SCOOP ON POOP

Chicken manure is a valuable **fertilizer**. After the chickens are shipped to the processing plant, the farmer scrapes the manure out of the barn. The manure is often temporarily stockpiled until an appropriate time when it can be spread on fields to provide nutrients for growing crops.

All meat chickens are free run, meaning they may roam freely throughout the barn.



## FROM THE FARM TO YOUR TABLE

Chicken production starts at the **breeder farm**, where hens lay eggs that have been fertilized by roosters. Then the eggs go to the **hatchery**, where they are sorted and incubated. Shortly after the chicks hatch, they're sent to the **broiler farm**, where they grow to the desired weight of two kilograms before they're sent to the **processing plant** to be processed into meat.