

February 10, 2016

Got Chickens?

By Heidi Napier

UCCE Master Gardener of El Dorado County

Do you have chickens in your back yard? Do you want chickens in your back yard? We can help you. The UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County are putting on a workshop on back yard chickens on Feb. 27 at the gym at the Shingle Springs Rancheria, 5168 Honpie Road, Placerville, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch and a light breakfast are included -- all for \$25.

The classes will be taught by poultry specialists from University of California, Davis. You will learn about housing, nutrition, behavior, health, safe egg handling and predator exclusion. Back yard chickens are becoming more and more popular for good reasons. The eggs taste much better than store-bought eggs because they are so much fresher -- your friends and neighbors will love you for sharing your surplus eggs with them.

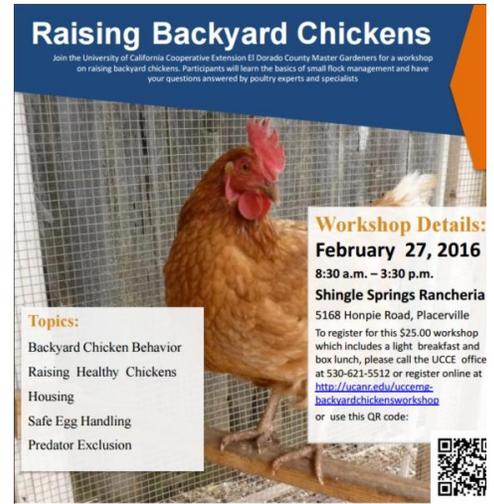
Some hens actually make good pets because they are docile. They are fun to watch, and they make soothing noises, except for the roosters, who like to crow each morning starting at about 4 a.m. For that reason, we don't recommend keeping roosters unless you are far enough from your neighbors that they won't hear your rooster. Most towns and neighborhoods that permit chickens don't allow roosters.

Please register in advance for this workshop; registration deadline is February 23, 2016. For more information and to register, go to: <http://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=17099>

Today, Wednesday February 10th, Master Gardener Mike Pavlik teaches a free class on Backyard Veggies. Topics include garden site location, design, raised bed options, container gardening and other methods that will allow anyone to have a vegetable garden in a small backyard setting. Class is from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Cameron Park Community Center, 2502 Country Club Drive in Cameron Park.

Join Master Gardener Barry Wold on the second Saturday every month at the Sherwood Demonstration Garden, Vegetable Garden, for hands-on demonstrations on gardening through the seasons. Barry explains winter gardening with many options of plants, thinning and pest control needs. Get your questions answered. Weather permitting, class is Saturday, February 13 from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Sherwood Demonstration Garden, Folsom Lake College El Dorado Center, 6699 Campus Drive in Placerville.

UCCE Master Gardeners are available to answer home gardening questions Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to noon, by calling (530) 621-5512. Walk-ins are welcome at our office, located at 311 Fair Lane in Placerville. For more information about our public education classes and activities, go to our UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County website at <http://ucanr.edu/edmg>. Sign up to receive our online notices and e-newsletter at <http://ucanr.edu/mgenews/>. You can also find us on Facebook.



Raising Backyard Chickens
Join the University of California Cooperative Extension El Dorado County Master Gardeners for a workshop on raising backyard chickens. Participants will learn the basics of small flock management and have your questions answered by poultry experts and specialists.

Workshop Details:
February 27, 2016
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Shingle Springs Rancheria
5168 Honpie Road, Placerville

Topics:
Backyard Chicken Behavior
Raising Healthy Chickens
Housing
Safe Egg Handling
Predator Exclusion

To register for this \$25.00 workshop which includes a light breakfast and box lunch, please call the UCCE office at 530-621-5512 or register online at <http://ucanr.edu/ucce/backyardchickensworkshop> or use this QR code:

