Transcript: How We Raise and Store a Year's Supply of Chicken for a Family of 6 (start to finish)

Video ID: LzNMsC2sASU

Extraction Date: 2025-04-02 06:46:47

**[00:00:00]** [Music]

**[00:00:00]** this video is sponsored by Thrive

**[00:00:03]** [Music]

**[00:00:06]** Market maybe you've seen in some of our

**[00:00:09]** other videos a freezer full of chicken

**[00:00:11]** pasture raised non GMO insanely

**[00:00:14]** delicious Thanksgiving dinner worthy

**[00:00:16]** chicken that would cost us about $5.50 a

**[00:00:19]** pound if we bought it locally the amount

**[00:00:21]** of chicken in that freezer would have

**[00:00:22]** cost us over $1600 and we rais it

**[00:00:25]** ourselves for about $800 less than that

**[00:00:27]** ironically enough as we've said before

**[00:00:29]** we've got about eighth of an acre of

**[00:00:31]** growing space for our garden that's

**[00:00:33]** enough vegetables and berries and

**[00:00:35]** hopefully grapes soon to feed our family

**[00:00:37]** for an entire year and it takes about

**[00:00:39]** exactly that much space for us to raise

**[00:00:41]** a Year's worth of chicken here on our

**[00:00:42]** Homestead and I understand that some of

**[00:00:44]** you are in an HOA and you can't have

**[00:00:46]** chickens and there's other limiting

**[00:00:47]** factors but I'm hoping that by showing

**[00:00:49]** you the simple way that we do this it'll

**[00:00:52]** give you some ideas of how you can do it

**[00:00:53]** for yourself so I want to take you

**[00:00:55]** through the whole process of how we

**[00:00:56]** raised our Broiler chickens this year

**[00:00:58]** quick disclaimer this is the first time

**[00:01:00]** that I've ever tried recording a video

**[00:01:02]** in stages over several months so I guess

**[00:01:05]** we'll see how it goes so first let's go

**[00:01:06]** back to the beginning picking up the

**[00:01:08]** baby chicks and we'll get back to some

**[00:01:10]** of the cost and space details as we go

**[00:01:12]** we're on our way to pick up our Broiler

**[00:01:14]** chicks from the post office we order

**[00:01:16]** them from Meer Hatchery and they come in

**[00:01:18]** the mail and we got to pick them up last

**[00:01:20]** year they were all dead now that's the

**[00:01:23]** only time that's ever happened but I am

**[00:01:25]** a little bit anxious and so I really

**[00:01:27]** hope these chicks will be okay the other

**[00:01:29]** thing is is before we get them back home

**[00:01:31]** to the heat lamps I have to stop and run

**[00:01:33]** a couple errands first and so I've got

**[00:01:35]** the heat cranked up in the back of the

**[00:01:37]** van so we can put them in here and

**[00:01:38]** they'll stay warmer until we can get

**[00:01:40]** them

**[00:01:41]** [Music]

**[00:01:46]** home I had to grab a couple things at

**[00:01:48]** Tractor Supply and while we were there I

**[00:01:50]** ended up buying some ducklings and layer

**[00:01:52]** chicks which I talked more about in

**[00:01:54]** another video so I'm not going to talk

**[00:01:55]** about it here but I just wanted to

**[00:01:57]** mention that because those chicks got

**[00:01:59]** raised in the same pen as our Broiler

**[00:02:02]** chips oh yeah nice and toasty in here

**[00:02:05]** I'll start off with one of my first and

**[00:02:07]** best tips is to not have your Bruder too

**[00:02:10]** warm before I go any further here I got

**[00:02:12]** this Bruder halfway set up in an earlier

**[00:02:14]** video just with the heat lamps and

**[00:02:16]** spreading hail on the floor and I'll

**[00:02:17]** explain more about that stuff in a

**[00:02:19]** second my Bruder is 5T X 10t and it's

**[00:02:21]** built out of patio doors that I got for

**[00:02:23]** free from where I used to work the

**[00:02:25]** original intent was for it to be a seed

**[00:02:27]** starting Greenhouse but we just start

**[00:02:28]** all of our seeds and doors and now this

**[00:02:30]** makes the perfect Bruder this is more

**[00:02:32]** than you would need though a Bruder

**[00:02:33]** could be as simple as a big cardboard

**[00:02:35]** box or just a small area pinned off in

**[00:02:38]** your garage just think simple here I

**[00:02:40]** wish that I had Electric in this

**[00:02:41]** building but I don't and extension cords

**[00:02:44]** work we just really careful about it and

**[00:02:46]** everything and we don't leave it out

**[00:02:47]** here when we're not using it the nice

**[00:02:48]** thing about having this 5x10 Bruder and

**[00:02:51]** dividing it in half for the chicks when

**[00:02:52]** they're little is that I can also just

**[00:02:54]** keep all of the feed edding over here in

**[00:02:57]** this other half and not have to worry

**[00:02:58]** about them getting into it so once

**[00:03:00]** they're a little bigger this hay in here

**[00:03:02]** will work just fine as bedding or straw

**[00:03:04]** or whatever but when they're really

**[00:03:06]** little I like to have some finer stuff

**[00:03:08]** like either sawdust or this shredded

**[00:03:10]** straw so that they're not tripping over

**[00:03:13]** the big pieces of hay and straw I like

**[00:03:15]** to set their feed and water up on bricks

**[00:03:17]** just so that they can get up onto the

**[00:03:19]** bricks and eat from there works a lot

**[00:03:22]** better than them just being down on the

**[00:03:23]** ground so it doesn't like get all the

**[00:03:25]** bedding into it as easily we going to

**[00:03:26]** put their water in there and we add some

**[00:03:28]** apple cider vinegar to their water just

**[00:03:30]** a splash of it and that helps with their

**[00:03:32]** digestion and their

**[00:03:34]** [Music]

**[00:03:35]** [Applause]

**[00:03:42]** immunity all right chicks are an odd

**[00:03:46]** mixture of hardiness and fragility it's

**[00:03:50]** like it's amazing what they can go

**[00:03:51]** through these things were shipped

**[00:03:52]** through the mail and they're doing fine

**[00:03:55]** but then a few missteps you did a few

**[00:03:56]** things wrong and you can have them start

**[00:03:58]** dying really fast so I want to give you

**[00:04:00]** my best tips for keeping these things

**[00:04:05]** alive these here are Rainbow Ranger

**[00:04:07]** chicks they do really really well I

**[00:04:09]** really like them Cornish cross Birds

**[00:04:12]** they grow faster but they're also a lot

**[00:04:14]** harder to take care of one thing you got

**[00:04:15]** to watch out with the corn cross is they

**[00:04:17]** don't eat too much and if they do they

**[00:04:20]** can end up getting heart attacks leg

**[00:04:21]** problems they can die but with these I

**[00:04:23]** don't have to worry about it I can put

**[00:04:24]** as much feet in here as I want and they

**[00:04:25]** won't

**[00:04:27]** overeat once the chicks are settled into

**[00:04:29]** to their Brer they just need a few basic

**[00:04:31]** things fresh water food dry bedding and

**[00:04:34]** warmth under their heat lamps without

**[00:04:35]** drafts then just keep an eye on them and

**[00:04:37]** enjoy them in their little fuzzball

**[00:04:39]** stage because it won't last

**[00:04:42]** long we work really hard to grow our own

**[00:04:44]** food but there's still some things that

**[00:04:46]** we need to get in the grocery store

**[00:04:47]** healthy options can be pretty expensive

**[00:04:49]** so we're always looking for ways to cut

**[00:04:51]** cost without sacrificing quality Thrive

**[00:04:53]** Market is an online membership based

**[00:04:56]** grocery store with guaranteed savings on

**[00:04:58]** every single order I actually saved $26

**[00:05:01]** on just this box of food and if you find

**[00:05:03]** a lower price somewhere else they'll

**[00:05:04]** match it it's summertime right now and

**[00:05:07]** everybody is whipping out all the treats

**[00:05:08]** and snacks and things and I just really

**[00:05:10]** like to have some healthier options for

**[00:05:12]** my kiddos I don't want them to like

**[00:05:14]** completely miss out on some of that fun

**[00:05:17]** but I also want healthier options for

**[00:05:19]** some reason our Kroger does not have

**[00:05:21]** healthy gram crackers and they don't

**[00:05:22]** have healthy marshmallows so Thrive

**[00:05:25]** Market has come to the rescue for us so

**[00:05:27]** many times we even got some gluten-free

**[00:05:29]** graham crackers that are absolutely

**[00:05:31]** delicious if you're looking for

**[00:05:33]** something on a specific diet you can

**[00:05:35]** just use the filter on Thrive Market's

**[00:05:37]** website for like keto gluten-free paleo

**[00:05:40]** dairyfree whatever it is that you need

**[00:05:42]** I'm super excited about these ciete

**[00:05:45]** potato chips they have really really

**[00:05:47]** amazing ingredients for a great price

**[00:05:49]** and they're also fried in avocado oil so

**[00:05:51]** you're not getting all the bad seed oils

**[00:05:53]** and you know us we go through a ton of

**[00:05:55]** collagen we like to add this to our

**[00:05:56]** coffee and tea for lots of protein Cody

**[00:05:58]** puts this in his chocolate milk so I

**[00:06:01]** love getting this on Thrive as well for

**[00:06:03]** the great price right now is a really

**[00:06:05]** great time to join Thrive Market because

**[00:06:07]** not only will you get 30% off your first

**[00:06:09]** order plus a free gift but Thrive Market

**[00:06:12]** is also having their biggest sale of the

**[00:06:14]** summer this week so go to

**[00:06:15]** thrivemarket.com

**[00:06:16]** morean Farmers to start saving today I

**[00:06:19]** will say though that one of the biggest

**[00:06:21]** things to watch for with baby chicks is

**[00:06:23]** for me any ways that I found is that it

**[00:06:26]** doesn't get too hot in the Bruder I've

**[00:06:28]** never had had an issue with chicks dying

**[00:06:31]** or getting sick or anything like that

**[00:06:32]** from being too cold there's a

**[00:06:34]** thermometer on the side here and I saw

**[00:06:36]** the other night I think it got down to

**[00:06:37]** like 40° in here but both of these heat

**[00:06:40]** lamps were on and the chicks were able

**[00:06:41]** to get under that they were totally fine

**[00:06:43]** only a couple days old I have had

**[00:06:46]** problems though when it gets like 80° in

**[00:06:49]** here they will start getting poopy butt

**[00:06:51]** this chick right here has what's called

**[00:06:52]** poopy butt if it's stuck really hard you

**[00:06:54]** need to actually like dip it in warm

**[00:06:56]** water to get it off they'll start

**[00:06:57]** getting sick and dying and stuff and and

**[00:06:59]** so all the stuff you read about it

**[00:07:01]** needing to be like 85 to 90° it's not

**[00:07:04]** that you want their entire space to be

**[00:07:07]** that hot you need a nice hot place like

**[00:07:09]** under the heat lamps or whatever you're

**[00:07:11]** using for the warmth but you also want

**[00:07:13]** some cooler air around them so that's

**[00:07:15]** not just like hot and stuffy everywhere

**[00:07:18]** they're all crowding over there in that

**[00:07:19]** corner because I'm over here they're

**[00:07:20]** trying to get away whatever but one way

**[00:07:22]** to tell if your room is getting too warm

**[00:07:25]** is if they're just getting as far away

**[00:07:27]** from as possible from the heat lamps if

**[00:07:29]** they're just just crowding all over the

**[00:07:30]** edges I'll talk more about feed cost

**[00:07:32]** later but for now their first bag of

**[00:07:34]** feed was an organic chick starter feed

**[00:07:36]** from Tractor Supply it's expensive but I

**[00:07:38]** didn't have time to go to the Amish

**[00:07:39]** community where I get my regular non-GMO

**[00:07:41]** feed the feed that I fed them after that

**[00:07:43]** was a 20% protein starter feed up until

**[00:07:46]** they were about 3 weeks

**[00:07:49]** [Music]

**[00:07:55]** old these chicks are about 3 and 1/2

**[00:07:58]** weeks old now they're still in that like

**[00:08:00]** what I call the teenage pimple face

**[00:08:02]** stage feathers are still coming in and

**[00:08:05]** stuff they're starting about come out of

**[00:08:07]** it especially those Ducks man those are

**[00:08:08]** getting big I haven't really done

**[00:08:10]** anything with them for the last few

**[00:08:11]** weeks they've just been growing eating

**[00:08:14]** the last couple days I stopped using the

**[00:08:15]** heat lamp that's been completely turned

**[00:08:17]** off the last couple days and nights also

**[00:08:19]** the last few days I've been switching

**[00:08:21]** them over to a grower feed so they start

**[00:08:24]** out on a starter feed then they go to a

**[00:08:25]** grower feed starter feed they're on

**[00:08:27]** there for about 3 weeks and then for few

**[00:08:29]** days I'll mix it like half and half and

**[00:08:31]** so they're pretty much over to that

**[00:08:32]** grower feed now and I'm ready to get

**[00:08:35]** these broilers moved out on the pasture

**[00:08:37]** the Ducks are going to stay in here for

**[00:08:38]** now until I get their duck pen ready

**[00:08:40]** that'll be in another video but the

**[00:08:43]** laying hand chickens I think I'm just

**[00:08:44]** going to put them out with the broilers

**[00:08:46]** that way I can just keep feeding them

**[00:08:47]** the same and everything they'll do fine

**[00:08:49]** with them out there this pen here that I

**[00:08:50]** use for the broilers is 9 by 13 which I

**[00:08:54]** think is slightly ironic and I'm sorry I

**[00:08:56]** don't have any plans for it but I will

**[00:08:58]** show you a little bit more about about

**[00:08:59]** it once I get up into the

**[00:09:01]** [Music]

**[00:09:07]** pasture the metal on the outside of this

**[00:09:09]** pen is just corrugated metal 2T wide

**[00:09:12]** it's pretty cheap and it's also very

**[00:09:14]** very light and yes I know that most of

**[00:09:16]** this would come off when it rains but

**[00:09:18]** until then it doesn't look very good so

**[00:09:19]** I wanted to clean it off you can see

**[00:09:21]** here on the sides instead of wood or

**[00:09:23]** something I used 3/4 in EMT like uh

**[00:09:27]** electrical conduit metal stuff bent it

**[00:09:30]** into the shape that I wanted some

**[00:09:32]** aluminum pieces for bracing that came

**[00:09:34]** from the window company that I used to

**[00:09:36]** work for also this was aluminum down

**[00:09:38]** here but if you didn't have access to

**[00:09:40]** that kind of stuff like what I used on

**[00:09:41]** the front was a 1x6 treated decking

**[00:09:45]** board and so that could be used all the

**[00:09:47]** way around the bottom the EMT works

**[00:09:49]** really well because it's not going to

**[00:09:52]** rot eventually it might rust but for now

**[00:09:54]** it's doing great um but it bends easily

**[00:09:57]** and it's also very lightweight this

**[00:09:59]** wheel mechanism here is very simple all

**[00:10:02]** it is is just a shaft sticking out of

**[00:10:04]** the side here and a square piece of

**[00:10:07]** tubing on top of a pipe welded onto a

**[00:10:10]** pipe with the wheel just about 6 in up

**[00:10:12]** from that so that basically when you're

**[00:10:14]** pushing this down it lifts the back end

**[00:10:16]** up and then this pin holds it into place

**[00:10:19]** I used to use the salatin style pens

**[00:10:21]** that are more like 2ft tall and I got

**[00:10:24]** tired of not being able to actually go

**[00:10:26]** inside them if I needed to catch a

**[00:10:27]** chicken or like when we were ready to

**[00:10:29]** take take them to get butchered then I

**[00:10:31]** wasn't able to go in there to catch them

**[00:10:33]** had to work something else out I put

**[00:10:35]** these bars across here to hang their

**[00:10:36]** feed and water from so that when I pick

**[00:10:38]** it up to move it the feeding water comes

**[00:10:40]** right with it that way you don't have to

**[00:10:41]** come in here and pick stuff up move it

**[00:10:43]** out of the way move the pen and then

**[00:10:45]** move the stuff back in here it all comes

**[00:10:47]** with it otherwise everything in here is

**[00:10:49]** completely wide open these are not in

**[00:10:51]** here as perches for Broiler chickens

**[00:10:53]** they don't need perches they don't need

**[00:10:55]** nest boxes so if you were to build

**[00:10:57]** something like this for laying H you

**[00:10:58]** would need that in here it's covered at

**[00:11:00]** the top everywhere and then the sides

**[00:11:02]** are open just in the front half so

**[00:11:04]** they've got plenty of completely covered

**[00:11:07]** space and then the covered space out

**[00:11:09]** here still lets a lot of air flow

**[00:11:11]** through but it keeps them shaded which

**[00:11:13]** is very necessary because usually you're

**[00:11:14]** raising broilers In The Heat Of

**[00:11:17]** Summer also to help with air flow I've

**[00:11:20]** got a vent back here this just to keep

**[00:11:22]** the rain out of it but there's chicken

**[00:11:24]** wire here and then this peak here is not

**[00:11:26]** screwed down completely flat against the

**[00:11:28]** roof so that air can escape from the top

**[00:11:31]** that way that air can keep moving cuz

**[00:11:33]** those chickens will get too hot if they

**[00:11:34]** don't have good air flow in there I'm

**[00:11:36]** starting to need to put more feed in

**[00:11:37]** their feeder every day they're running

**[00:11:39]** out so I'm going to switch to one of

**[00:11:40]** these 30 lb feeders I really love these

**[00:11:42]** I get these metal ones from Tractor

**[00:11:44]** Supply after a while they tend to get

**[00:11:46]** rusty and the little brackets break that

**[00:11:48]** hold it on but I just put a piece of

**[00:11:49]** wire on there and it works fine so I'm

**[00:11:52]** going to put one of these out there and

**[00:11:53]** I'm also going to put a second Drinker

**[00:11:56]** out there because they've also been

**[00:11:57]** running out of water

**[00:12:00]** [Music]

**[00:12:10]** one more thing that needs to be done

**[00:12:11]** before I bring the chicks out here need

**[00:12:13]** to look for any spots where there's like

**[00:12:14]** holes under the edge of the Cee and

**[00:12:17]** cover it up so that the chicks don't get

**[00:12:19]** out so predators don't get in back here

**[00:12:21]** in the back especially I have the back

**[00:12:23]** just a little bit higher up than the

**[00:12:25]** sides so that when I'm pulling it it

**[00:12:27]** doesn't catch on the grass as much and

**[00:12:29]** stuff so I pretty much always have to

**[00:12:30]** put something under the back back

**[00:12:33]** [Music]

**[00:12:40]** [Music]

**[00:12:42]** here move it

**[00:12:44]** [Music]

**[00:12:50]** Cowboy the nice thing about these

**[00:12:52]** Broiler chicks is they're a little fat

**[00:12:54]** and

**[00:12:56]** slow you can already see a difference in

**[00:12:59]** how big these Rangers are versus a Rhode

**[00:13:01]** Island red these Rangers get a lot

**[00:13:03]** bigger a lot faster but still not so big

**[00:13:06]** and fast like the Cornish cross that

**[00:13:08]** they're just totally obese

**[00:13:28]** [Music]

**[00:13:30]** it's so much fun giving these chickens a

**[00:13:33]** good life most of the chicken that you

**[00:13:34]** buy at the grocery store has never seen

**[00:13:37]** actual sunlight they've never been out

**[00:13:39]** on grass they don't get to live a life

**[00:13:41]** like that they live a life on concrete

**[00:13:43]** and just eating grain all day long so

**[00:13:45]** I've got 56 Broiler chicks in here and I

**[00:13:48]** think it's like 16 of the laying hen

**[00:13:50]** chicks in here this pen the size that it

**[00:13:52]** is you could probably do about 75 to 80

**[00:13:55]** chickens in here and I usually don't

**[00:13:56]** have the laying hand chicks in here with

**[00:13:58]** them it just happened that we're raising

**[00:13:59]** them at the same time this year so

**[00:14:01]** usually I'm just doing about 55 to 60 in

**[00:14:03]** here and that's a really good amount of

**[00:14:05]** space I like to give them as much space

**[00:14:07]** as possible and not push it to its limit

**[00:14:09]** but you got to also make it as

**[00:14:11]** economical and as efficient as possible

**[00:14:14]** and this is about the biggest size of

**[00:14:15]** pen that I wanted to move by

**[00:14:18]** hand once they're out on pasture they

**[00:14:21]** kind of just become a daily routine I

**[00:14:23]** move them in the morning while MADD is

**[00:14:24]** being milk here we go chickies

**[00:14:31]** and our 10-year-old gives them feed and

**[00:14:32]** water these things start eating a lot as

**[00:14:34]** they get older besides that though

**[00:14:36]** nothing really happens until they're

**[00:14:38]** about 10 weeks

**[00:14:45]** [Music]

**[00:14:54]** [Music]

**[00:14:55]** old it's finally time kind of well

**[00:14:59]** actually be taking them up tonight and

**[00:15:00]** they'll stay the night up there and then

**[00:15:03]** they'll actually get processed tomorrow

**[00:15:04]** morning then we'll have to pick them up

**[00:15:06]** tomorrow afternoon and then get them in

**[00:15:08]** bags and everything and get them in the

**[00:15:10]** [Music]

**[00:15:14]** freezer these chicken crates here I made

**[00:15:16]** them myself very simple I would say

**[00:15:18]** there is a design flaw with them you

**[00:15:21]** have to open the whole door to get the

**[00:15:23]** chickens in and then sometimes when you

**[00:15:24]** got several of them in there try to fly

**[00:15:27]** out oh darn what would be better is just

**[00:15:30]** a small door on top that would slide

**[00:15:32]** open you stick a chicken in and slide it

**[00:15:34]** back closed but these are really simple

**[00:15:36]** to build sorry I don't have any plans

**[00:15:38]** for them or anything it's just like some

**[00:15:39]** 1x4s and some 2x tws in the corners

**[00:15:43]** plywood on the bottom chicken wire for

**[00:15:45]** the sides and the top I've had these for

**[00:15:47]** years and they've worked really good so

**[00:15:51]** far we're at about exactly 10 weeks for

**[00:15:54]** these birds and they are looking really

**[00:15:56]** good some of the hens are a little

**[00:15:58]** smaller The Roosters are huge and they

**[00:16:00]** usually even out pretty well and the

**[00:16:02]** cool thing though even though they take

**[00:16:04]** a little longer than the Cornish cross

**[00:16:05]** they still do get this big and they're

**[00:16:07]** still like running around in there and

**[00:16:09]** they're being pastured Birds those

**[00:16:11]** Corners cross they just sit in there and

**[00:16:12]** eat feed all

**[00:16:13]** [Music]

**[00:16:20]** [Music]

**[00:16:27]** day small

**[00:16:29]** [Music]

**[00:16:31]** quick

**[00:16:41]** [Music]

**[00:16:49]** quick mom dad you want thisal

**[00:16:54]** B there's the last one 56 Broiler chicks

**[00:17:00]** not chicks anymore we've still got the

**[00:17:01]** laying hands left in this pen here we

**[00:17:03]** started them at the same time as these

**[00:17:05]** and they are much much smaller so

**[00:17:07]** they're going to stay in here for now

**[00:17:08]** till they're a little bigger to go out

**[00:17:10]** with the rest of the laying flock and

**[00:17:12]** there's 16 of them left in there they

**[00:17:15]** won't take much feed and water at all so

**[00:17:17]** they'll be easy to take care of these

**[00:17:18]** guys here were eating half a bag of feed

**[00:17:21]** a day they did seem like they're a

**[00:17:23]** pretty good size a lot of them were big

**[00:17:24]** some of them were a little smaller I do

**[00:17:26]** feel like they could have gone a little

**[00:17:27]** longer gotten a little bigger I usually

**[00:17:29]** like to go to about 10 and 1/2 weeks and

**[00:17:31]** these are at 10 weeks but I kind of got

**[00:17:33]** to work around what it works for me to

**[00:17:35]** take them to the processor so 11 weeks

**[00:17:38]** is starting to get a little long they're

**[00:17:39]** starting to get big and the thing is

**[00:17:40]** like I said they're eating like half a

**[00:17:42]** bag a day so if I would take them out

**[00:17:45]** another week that'd be about another

**[00:17:46]** four bags so you're looking at what like

**[00:17:49]** another 60 $65 something like that so it

**[00:17:53]** becomes a little bit of a balancing act

**[00:17:55]** because as they get a lot bigger they're

**[00:17:58]** going to grow slow lower so to take him

**[00:17:59]** out another week would they really grow

**[00:18:01]** fast enough to make it worth it to feed

**[00:18:03]** him that much more feed I don't

**[00:18:06]** know I'm going to have to stop on the

**[00:18:08]** way and get some bags of ice put in

**[00:18:10]** these coolers these coolers will go

**[00:18:13]** along and once the chickens are done

**[00:18:15]** being butchered they'll go in the

**[00:18:16]** coolers of ice and I'll pick them up

**[00:18:20]** tomorrow it's starting to get late but I

**[00:18:23]** wanted to wait as long as possible to

**[00:18:25]** take them up there for a couple reasons

**[00:18:27]** one so that it would be cooler so they

**[00:18:30]** don't stuck in here when it's hot and it

**[00:18:32]** is nice and cool now and the other

**[00:18:33]** reason just so they don't have to be in

**[00:18:34]** there quite as long so they could stay

**[00:18:36]** out in the pasture as long as

**[00:18:42]** [Music]

**[00:18:48]** possible I just picked up the chicken

**[00:18:50]** they're all in coolers with ice but they

**[00:18:52]** need to get out of there and get put

**[00:18:54]** into Ziploc bags and get put in the

**[00:18:55]** freezer we'll show you how we do all

**[00:18:57]** that but I've got a ways to get home and

**[00:18:59]** then Michelle has an appointment tonight

**[00:19:01]** that she's got to get to so I'm only

**[00:19:02]** going to have her help for about an hour

**[00:19:04]** so hopefully we can get that done pretty

**[00:19:09]** [Music]

**[00:19:17]** quickly look at that yummy stuff hearts

**[00:19:20]** and

**[00:19:21]** gizzards so we got all of our chickens

**[00:19:24]** quartered except for 10 of them we had

**[00:19:27]** them leave whole for things like

**[00:19:29]** Thanksgiving and Christmas and stuff

**[00:19:31]** like that so the way I bag my chicken is

**[00:19:34]** I do four of these it's like a thigh and

**[00:19:37]** a drumstick together I do four of those

**[00:19:40]** in a bag and four wings so it's like the

**[00:19:42]** pieces from two chickens and then I put

**[00:19:46]** the breast piece

**[00:19:47]** here two of these into another bag I

**[00:19:51]** just like to have the breast pieces

**[00:19:54]** separate from the other pieces and then

**[00:19:57]** all of the bag

**[00:19:59]** so like this the back with the tail and

**[00:20:02]** then also the neck with the little piece

**[00:20:03]** on it I put all of those into other bags

**[00:20:07]** and I use those to make bone broth so I

**[00:20:09]** just put those straight into my instant

**[00:20:11]** pot I had the kids write a 24 on a whole

**[00:20:13]** bunch of Ziploc bags so that I know

**[00:20:16]** which bags are from this year in the

**[00:20:18]** past I have not done that which is

**[00:20:20]** really dumb but I just like skipped that

**[00:20:21]** step and then I never quite knew when

**[00:20:24]** the chicken was from and I do try to get

**[00:20:26]** my chickens all used up in a year I have

**[00:20:29]** a few chickens left over downstairs in

**[00:20:31]** my basement but I'm definitely running

**[00:20:33]** low I also when I put these into my

**[00:20:36]** freezer I try to put them into like

**[00:20:39]** separate categories so that I don't have

**[00:20:41]** to dig through my stuff to try to find

**[00:20:43]** the kind of meat that I want while

**[00:20:45]** you're filling up bags I will close them

**[00:20:47]** up and I'm going to then take them down

**[00:20:50]** to the freezer before I take this down

**[00:20:51]** to the freezer in the basement I want to

**[00:20:53]** weigh it I just have a bathroom scale

**[00:20:55]** that's not incredibly accurate but it

**[00:20:57]** should work

**[00:20:59]** [Applause]

**[00:21:02]** I was just telling Michelle that I think

**[00:21:04]** this is one place that maybe a vacuum

**[00:21:05]** sealer might be a good idea but we don't

**[00:21:08]** have one and we haven't had one for like

**[00:21:11]** 10 years of doing this and it's worked

**[00:21:13]** so far so for now we're putting it in

**[00:21:16]** Ziploc

**[00:21:26]** bags I'm going to start getting this

**[00:21:27]** chicken put in the freezer we've got

**[00:21:29]** three freezers in our basement we've got

**[00:21:30]** one for chicken one for beef and one for

**[00:21:32]** our veggies and fruit and stuff like

**[00:21:34]** that and I know in one way it's maybe

**[00:21:36]** not a good idea in case one of them

**[00:21:38]** would get out give out then you would

**[00:21:39]** lose all of one thing but it just makes

**[00:21:41]** it so much easier to be that organized

**[00:21:44]** so if we want chicken come down to the

**[00:21:46]** chicken freezer and pull out what we

**[00:21:47]** want if we want beef we go pull out what

**[00:21:48]** we want from the beef freezer and it's

**[00:21:50]** not like we're losing any more food if

**[00:21:52]** one of the freezers would give out

**[00:21:53]** they're all usually about equally full

**[00:21:56]** just because we would have different

**[00:21:57]** stuff in there we'd still lose like the

**[00:21:58]** same amount of f

**[00:22:00]** food so even if there was different

**[00:22:02]** stuff in there we'd still lose like the

**[00:22:03]** same amount of food if one of them gave

**[00:22:04]** out we just keep a good eye on it make

**[00:22:06]** sure that they don't give out without us

**[00:22:13]** knowing so how does this all actually

**[00:22:15]** shake out is it actually worth it to

**[00:22:17]** raise your own chickens before I talk

**[00:22:19]** about the cost of it I just want to show

**[00:22:21]** you the pasture that they were in it's

**[00:22:22]** been a few days since they've gone and

**[00:22:24]** this is looking absolutely beautiful

**[00:22:26]** it's hard to capture it with the camera

**[00:22:28]** but I can you can actually see the

**[00:22:29]** places that they were are greener than

**[00:22:31]** the other parts of the pasture so right

**[00:22:33]** over here is where they started this is

**[00:22:36]** just like Lush and green I could easily

**[00:22:38]** put more chickens on this right now or

**[00:22:40]** let the cows graze it right now over

**[00:22:43]** there is where they ended up and it's

**[00:22:45]** still got like chicken poop and stuff on

**[00:22:47]** it but you can tell that it is just

**[00:22:48]** going to be really nice grass over there

**[00:22:50]** so for the amount of space that you'll

**[00:22:52]** need this pen here is 9 by3 that's 117

**[00:22:55]** Square ft so you'll need that7 1 square

**[00:22:59]** ft if you move it once a day you'll need

**[00:23:01]** to take that square footage times the

**[00:23:03]** amount of days in about 7 and 1/2 Weeks

**[00:23:05]** cuz they're in the brooder for like the

**[00:23:06]** first 3 weeks that's about 52 days take

**[00:23:08]** that times 117 that's a little over

**[00:23:10]** 6,000 square ft which is just a hair

**[00:23:12]** over an eighth of an acre which is not a

**[00:23:14]** lot of space to be growing enough

**[00:23:16]** chicken to feed a family of six for an

**[00:23:18]** entire year I feel like you could

**[00:23:20]** probably do it with even less because

**[00:23:22]** like I said that part of the pasture

**[00:23:24]** over there I could be putting chickens

**[00:23:26]** on there already again plus this space

**[00:23:28]** can be used for other things for the

**[00:23:29]** rest of the year our garden takes up an

**[00:23:31]** eighth of an acre and that's year round

**[00:23:33]** one thing that I wanted to say something

**[00:23:34]** about just real quick here I did a pull

**[00:23:36]** on YouTube asking what's holding you

**[00:23:38]** back from raising your own meat chickens

**[00:23:39]** and one of the options was I can't eat

**[00:23:42]** something that I raised myself and I

**[00:23:44]** understand that I get you one thing I

**[00:23:45]** would say to that though is if you're

**[00:23:47]** eating meat it's coming from somewhere

**[00:23:49]** and the places that most Broiler

**[00:23:51]** chickens get raised is definitely not a

**[00:23:53]** place you would want your meat to be

**[00:23:54]** coming from so I understand the thing of

**[00:23:57]** raising something yourself and it being

**[00:23:58]** being hard but I will say that I would

**[00:23:59]** much rather do that than have my meat

**[00:24:01]** come from somewhere that I have no idea

**[00:24:03]** where it came from and what kind of life

**[00:24:05]** it had to live so for the cost of

**[00:24:06]** raising these broilers it's really going

**[00:24:08]** to vary a lot depending on what your

**[00:24:10]** situation is what kind of feed you can

**[00:24:12]** find where you can get them processed

**[00:24:13]** and things like that but I will say one

**[00:24:15]** of the things that we do to cut down on

**[00:24:17]** cost but to keep our quality up we get

**[00:24:19]** non-GMO feed it's a little more

**[00:24:21]** expensive than conventional feed but not

**[00:24:22]** nearly as expensive as the organic feed

**[00:24:25]** I feel like non GMO is the most

**[00:24:26]** important and then also since they're on

**[00:24:28]** pasture getting those good nutrients and

**[00:24:30]** stuff feel like it's a good happy medium

**[00:24:32]** but for the actual cost of everything

**[00:24:34]** listing everything out I was going to

**[00:24:37]** talk about it but there's just so many

**[00:24:38]** numbers and everything I feel like it'd

**[00:24:40]** be easier for you to read it so I have a

**[00:24:42]** list of everything down in the

**[00:24:43]** description and that will tell you

**[00:24:45]** exactly how much we spent and how much

**[00:24:47]** you can save by raising your own chicken

**[00:24:49]** this is how we raise our Broiler

**[00:24:50]** chickens and I really hope that helped

**[00:24:51]** you to see that it can be very simple

**[00:24:53]** and it's something that maybe you can do

**[00:24:55]** too we raise our laying hands a little

**[00:24:57]** bit differently though so if you want to

**[00:24:59]** see how we do that watch this video next

**[00:25:01]** chicken poop on my

**[00:25:05]** [Music]

**[00:25:07]** shirt I could watch that backside all

**[00:25:10]** day and don't forget to hop on over to

**[00:25:12]** thrive Market to get 30% off your first

**[00:25:14]** order and get in on their big summer

**[00:25:16]** sale

# Full Text (without timestamps)

[Music] this video is sponsored by Thrive [Music] Market maybe you've seen in some of our other videos a freezer full of chicken pasture raised non GMO insanely delicious Thanksgiving dinner worthy chicken that would cost us about $5.50 a pound if we bought it locally the amount of chicken in that freezer would have cost us over $1600 and we rais it ourselves for about $800 less than that ironically enough as we've said before we've got about eighth of an acre of growing space for our garden that's enough vegetables and berries and hopefully grapes soon to feed our family for an entire year and it takes about exactly that much space for us to raise a Year's worth of chicken here on our Homestead and I understand that some of you are in an HOA and you can't have chickens and there's other limiting factors but I'm hoping that by showing you the simple way that we do this it'll give you some ideas of how you can do it for yourself so I want to take you through the whole process of how we raised our Broiler chickens this year quick disclaimer this is the first time that I've ever tried recording a video in stages over several months so I guess we'll see how it goes so first let's go back to the beginning picking up the baby chicks and we'll get back to some of the cost and space details as we go we're on our way to pick up our Broiler chicks from the post office we order them from Meer Hatchery and they come in the mail and we got to pick them up last year they were all dead now that's the only time that's ever happened but I am a little bit anxious and so I really hope these chicks will be okay the other thing is is before we get them back home to the heat lamps I have to stop and run a couple errands first and so I've got the heat cranked up in the back of the van so we can put them in here and they'll stay warmer until we can get them [Music] home I had to grab a couple things at Tractor Supply and while we were there I ended up buying some ducklings and layer chicks which I talked more about in another video so I'm not going to talk about it here but I just wanted to mention that because those chicks got raised in the same pen as our Broiler chips oh yeah nice and toasty in here I'll start off with one of my first and best tips is to not have your Bruder too warm before I go any further here I got this Bruder halfway set up in an earlier video just with the heat lamps and spreading hail on the floor and I'll explain more about that stuff in a second my Bruder is 5T X 10t and it's built out of patio doors that I got for free from where I used to work the original intent was for it to be a seed starting Greenhouse but we just start all of our seeds and doors and now this makes the perfect Bruder this is more than you would need though a Bruder could be as simple as a big cardboard box or just a small area pinned off in your garage just think simple here I wish that I had Electric in this building but I don't and extension cords work we just really careful about it and everything and we don't leave it out here when we're not using it the nice thing about having this 5x10 Bruder and dividing it in half for the chicks when they're little is that I can also just keep all of the feed edding over here in this other half and not have to worry about them getting into it so once they're a little bigger this hay in here will work just fine as bedding or straw or whatever but when they're really little I like to have some finer stuff like either sawdust or this shredded straw so that they're not tripping over the big pieces of hay and straw I like to set their feed and water up on bricks just so that they can get up onto the bricks and eat from there works a lot better than them just being down on the ground so it doesn't like get all the bedding into it as easily we going to put their water in there and we add some apple cider vinegar to their water just a splash of it and that helps with their digestion and their [Music] [Applause] immunity all right chicks are an odd mixture of hardiness and fragility it's like it's amazing what they can go through these things were shipped through the mail and they're doing fine but then a few missteps you did a few things wrong and you can have them start dying really fast so I want to give you my best tips for keeping these things alive these here are Rainbow Ranger chicks they do really really well I really like them Cornish cross Birds they grow faster but they're also a lot harder to take care of one thing you got to watch out with the corn cross is they don't eat too much and if they do they can end up getting heart attacks leg problems they can die but with these I don't have to worry about it I can put as much feet in here as I want and they won't overeat once the chicks are settled into to their Brer they just need a few basic things fresh water food dry bedding and warmth under their heat lamps without drafts then just keep an eye on them and enjoy them in their little fuzzball stage because it won't last long we work really hard to grow our own food but there's still some things that we need to get in the grocery store healthy options can be pretty expensive so we're always looking for ways to cut cost without sacrificing quality Thrive Market is an online membership based grocery store with guaranteed savings on every single order I actually saved $26 on just this box of food and if you find a lower price somewhere else they'll match it it's summertime right now and everybody is whipping out all the treats and snacks and things and I just really like to have some healthier options for my kiddos I don't want them to like completely miss out on some of that fun but I also want healthier options for some reason our Kroger does not have healthy gram crackers and they don't have healthy marshmallows so Thrive Market has come to the rescue for us so many times we even got some gluten-free graham crackers that are absolutely delicious if you're looking for something on a specific diet you can just use the filter on Thrive Market's website for like keto gluten-free paleo dairyfree whatever it is that you need I'm super excited about these ciete potato chips they have really really amazing ingredients for a great price and they're also fried in avocado oil so you're not getting all the bad seed oils and you know us we go through a ton of collagen we like to add this to our coffee and tea for lots of protein Cody puts this in his chocolate milk so I love getting this on Thrive as well for the great price right now is a really great time to join Thrive Market because not only will you get 30% off your first order plus a free gift but Thrive Market is also having their biggest sale of the summer this week so go to thrivemarket.com morean Farmers to start saving today I will say though that one of the biggest things to watch for with baby chicks is for me any ways that I found is that it doesn't get too hot in the Bruder I've never had had an issue with chicks dying or getting sick or anything like that from being too cold there's a thermometer on the side here and I saw the other night I think it got down to like 40° in here but both of these heat lamps were on and the chicks were able to get under that they were totally fine only a couple days old I have had problems though when it gets like 80° in here they will start getting poopy butt this chick right here has what's called poopy butt if it's stuck really hard you need to actually like dip it in warm water to get it off they'll start getting sick and dying and stuff and and so all the stuff you read about it needing to be like 85 to 90° it's not that you want their entire space to be that hot you need a nice hot place like under the heat lamps or whatever you're using for the warmth but you also want some cooler air around them so that's not just like hot and stuffy everywhere they're all crowding over there in that corner because I'm over here they're trying to get away whatever but one way to tell if your room is getting too warm is if they're just getting as far away from as possible from the heat lamps if they're just just crowding all over the edges I'll talk more about feed cost later but for now their first bag of feed was an organic chick starter feed from Tractor Supply it's expensive but I didn't have time to go to the Amish community where I get my regular non-GMO feed the feed that I fed them after that was a 20% protein starter feed up until they were about 3 weeks [Music] old these chicks are about 3 and 1/2 weeks old now they're still in that like what I call the teenage pimple face stage feathers are still coming in and stuff they're starting about come out of it especially those Ducks man those are getting big I haven't really done anything with them for the last few weeks they've just been growing eating the last couple days I stopped using the heat lamp that's been completely turned off the last couple days and nights also the last few days I've been switching them over to a grower feed so they start out on a starter feed then they go to a grower feed starter feed they're on there for about 3 weeks and then for few days I'll mix it like half and half and so they're pretty much over to that grower feed now and I'm ready to get these broilers moved out on the pasture the Ducks are going to stay in here for now until I get their duck pen ready that'll be in another video but the laying hand chickens I think I'm just going to put them out with the broilers that way I can just keep feeding them the same and everything they'll do fine with them out there this pen here that I use for the broilers is 9 by 13 which I think is slightly ironic and I'm sorry I don't have any plans for it but I will show you a little bit more about about it once I get up into the [Music] pasture the metal on the outside of this pen is just corrugated metal 2T wide it's pretty cheap and it's also very very light and yes I know that most of this would come off when it rains but until then it doesn't look very good so I wanted to clean it off you can see here on the sides instead of wood or something I used 3/4 in EMT like uh electrical conduit metal stuff bent it into the shape that I wanted some aluminum pieces for bracing that came from the window company that I used to work for also this was aluminum down here but if you didn't have access to that kind of stuff like what I used on the front was a 1x6 treated decking board and so that could be used all the way around the bottom the EMT works really well because it's not going to rot eventually it might rust but for now it's doing great um but it bends easily and it's also very lightweight this wheel mechanism here is very simple all it is is just a shaft sticking out of the side here and a square piece of tubing on top of a pipe welded onto a pipe with the wheel just about 6 in up from that so that basically when you're pushing this down it lifts the back end up and then this pin holds it into place I used to use the salatin style pens that are more like 2ft tall and I got tired of not being able to actually go inside them if I needed to catch a chicken or like when we were ready to take take them to get butchered then I wasn't able to go in there to catch them had to work something else out I put these bars across here to hang their feed and water from so that when I pick it up to move it the feeding water comes right with it that way you don't have to come in here and pick stuff up move it out of the way move the pen and then move the stuff back in here it all comes with it otherwise everything in here is completely wide open these are not in here as perches for Broiler chickens they don't need perches they don't need nest boxes so if you were to build something like this for laying H you would need that in here it's covered at the top everywhere and then the sides are open just in the front half so they've got plenty of completely covered space and then the covered space out here still lets a lot of air flow through but it keeps them shaded which is very necessary because usually you're raising broilers In The Heat Of Summer also to help with air flow I've got a vent back here this just to keep the rain out of it but there's chicken wire here and then this peak here is not screwed down completely flat against the roof so that air can escape from the top that way that air can keep moving cuz those chickens will get too hot if they don't have good air flow in there I'm starting to need to put more feed in their feeder every day they're running out so I'm going to switch to one of these 30 lb feeders I really love these I get these metal ones from Tractor Supply after a while they tend to get rusty and the little brackets break that hold it on but I just put a piece of wire on there and it works fine so I'm going to put one of these out there and I'm also going to put a second Drinker out there because they've also been running out of water [Music] one more thing that needs to be done before I bring the chicks out here need to look for any spots where there's like holes under the edge of the Cee and cover it up so that the chicks don't get out so predators don't get in back here in the back especially I have the back just a little bit higher up than the sides so that when I'm pulling it it doesn't catch on the grass as much and stuff so I pretty much always have to put something under the back back [Music] [Music] here move it [Music] Cowboy the nice thing about these Broiler chicks is they're a little fat and slow you can already see a difference in how big these Rangers are versus a Rhode Island red these Rangers get a lot bigger a lot faster but still not so big and fast like the Cornish cross that they're just totally obese [Music] it's so much fun giving these chickens a good life most of the chicken that you buy at the grocery store has never seen actual sunlight they've never been out on grass they don't get to live a life like that they live a life on concrete and just eating grain all day long so I've got 56 Broiler chicks in here and I think it's like 16 of the laying hen chicks in here this pen the size that it is you could probably do about 75 to 80 chickens in here and I usually don't have the laying hand chicks in here with them it just happened that we're raising them at the same time this year so usually I'm just doing about 55 to 60 in here and that's a really good amount of space I like to give them as much space as possible and not push it to its limit but you got to also make it as economical and as efficient as possible and this is about the biggest size of pen that I wanted to move by hand once they're out on pasture they kind of just become a daily routine I move them in the morning while MADD is being milk here we go chickies and our 10-year-old gives them feed and water these things start eating a lot as they get older besides that though nothing really happens until they're about 10 weeks [Music] [Music] old it's finally time kind of well actually be taking them up tonight and they'll stay the night up there and then they'll actually get processed tomorrow morning then we'll have to pick them up tomorrow afternoon and then get them in bags and everything and get them in the [Music] freezer these chicken crates here I made them myself very simple I would say there is a design flaw with them you have to open the whole door to get the chickens in and then sometimes when you got several of them in there try to fly out oh darn what would be better is just a small door on top that would slide open you stick a chicken in and slide it back closed but these are really simple to build sorry I don't have any plans for them or anything it's just like some 1x4s and some 2x tws in the corners plywood on the bottom chicken wire for the sides and the top I've had these for years and they've worked really good so far we're at about exactly 10 weeks for these birds and they are looking really good some of the hens are a little smaller The Roosters are huge and they usually even out pretty well and the cool thing though even though they take a little longer than the Cornish cross they still do get this big and they're still like running around in there and they're being pastured Birds those Corners cross they just sit in there and eat feed all [Music] [Music] day small [Music] quick [Music] quick mom dad you want thisal B there's the last one 56 Broiler chicks not chicks anymore we've still got the laying hands left in this pen here we started them at the same time as these and they are much much smaller so they're going to stay in here for now till they're a little bigger to go out with the rest of the laying flock and there's 16 of them left in there they won't take much feed and water at all so they'll be easy to take care of these guys here were eating half a bag of feed a day they did seem like they're a pretty good size a lot of them were big some of them were a little smaller I do feel like they could have gone a little longer gotten a little bigger I usually like to go to about 10 and 1/2 weeks and these are at 10 weeks but I kind of got to work around what it works for me to take them to the processor so 11 weeks is starting to get a little long they're starting to get big and the thing is like I said they're eating like half a bag a day so if I would take them out another week that'd be about another four bags so you're looking at what like another 60 $65 something like that so it becomes a little bit of a balancing act because as they get a lot bigger they're going to grow slow lower so to take him out another week would they really grow fast enough to make it worth it to feed him that much more feed I don't know I'm going to have to stop on the way and get some bags of ice put in these coolers these coolers will go along and once the chickens are done being butchered they'll go in the coolers of ice and I'll pick them up tomorrow it's starting to get late but I wanted to wait as long as possible to take them up there for a couple reasons one so that it would be cooler so they don't stuck in here when it's hot and it is nice and cool now and the other reason just so they don't have to be in there quite as long so they could stay out in the pasture as long as [Music] possible I just picked up the chicken they're all in coolers with ice but they need to get out of there and get put into Ziploc bags and get put in the freezer we'll show you how we do all that but I've got a ways to get home and then Michelle has an appointment tonight that she's got to get to so I'm only going to have her help for about an hour so hopefully we can get that done pretty [Music] quickly look at that yummy stuff hearts and gizzards so we got all of our chickens quartered except for 10 of them we had them leave whole for things like Thanksgiving and Christmas and stuff like that so the way I bag my chicken is I do four of these it's like a thigh and a drumstick together I do four of those in a bag and four wings so it's like the pieces from two chickens and then I put the breast piece here two of these into another bag I just like to have the breast pieces separate from the other pieces and then all of the bag so like this the back with the tail and then also the neck with the little piece on it I put all of those into other bags and I use those to make bone broth so I just put those straight into my instant pot I had the kids write a 24 on a whole bunch of Ziploc bags so that I know which bags are from this year in the past I have not done that which is really dumb but I just like skipped that step and then I never quite knew when the chicken was from and I do try to get my chickens all used up in a year I have a few chickens left over downstairs in my basement but I'm definitely running low I also when I put these into my freezer I try to put them into like separate categories so that I don't have to dig through my stuff to try to find the kind of meat that I want while you're filling up bags I will close them up and I'm going to then take them down to the freezer before I take this down to the freezer in the basement I want to weigh it I just have a bathroom scale that's not incredibly accurate but it should work [Applause] I was just telling Michelle that I think this is one place that maybe a vacuum sealer might be a good idea but we don't have one and we haven't had one for like 10 years of doing this and it's worked so far so for now we're putting it in Ziploc bags I'm going to start getting this chicken put in the freezer we've got three freezers in our basement we've got one for chicken one for beef and one for our veggies and fruit and stuff like that and I know in one way it's maybe not a good idea in case one of them would get out give out then you would lose all of one thing but it just makes it so much easier to be that organized so if we want chicken come down to the chicken freezer and pull out what we want if we want beef we go pull out what we want from the beef freezer and it's not like we're losing any more food if one of the freezers would give out they're all usually about equally full just because we would have different stuff in there we'd still lose like the same amount of f food so even if there was different stuff in there we'd still lose like the same amount of food if one of them gave out we just keep a good eye on it make sure that they don't give out without us knowing so how does this all actually shake out is it actually worth it to raise your own chickens before I talk about the cost of it I just want to show you the pasture that they were in it's been a few days since they've gone and this is looking absolutely beautiful it's hard to capture it with the camera but I can you can actually see the places that they were are greener than the other parts of the pasture so right over here is where they started this is just like Lush and green I could easily put more chickens on this right now or let the cows graze it right now over there is where they ended up and it's still got like chicken poop and stuff on it but you can tell that it is just going to be really nice grass over there so for the amount of space that you'll need this pen here is 9 by3 that's 117 Square ft so you'll need that7 1 square ft if you move it once a day you'll need to take that square footage times the amount of days in about 7 and 1/2 Weeks cuz they're in the brooder for like the first 3 weeks that's about 52 days take that times 117 that's a little over 6,000 square ft which is just a hair over an eighth of an acre which is not a lot of space to be growing enough chicken to feed a family of six for an entire year I feel like you could probably do it with even less because like I said that part of the pasture over there I could be putting chickens on there already again plus this space can be used for other things for the rest of the year our garden takes up an eighth of an acre and that's year round one thing that I wanted to say something about just real quick here I did a pull on YouTube asking what's holding you back from raising your own meat chickens and one of the options was I can't eat something that I raised myself and I understand that I get you one thing I would say to that though is if you're eating meat it's coming from somewhere and the places that most Broiler chickens get raised is definitely not a place you would want your meat to be coming from so I understand the thing of raising something yourself and it being being hard but I will say that I would much rather do that than have my meat come from somewhere that I have no idea where it came from and what kind of life it had to live so for the cost of raising these broilers it's really going to vary a lot depending on what your situation is what kind of feed you can find where you can get them processed and things like that but I will say one of the things that we do to cut down on cost but to keep our quality up we get non-GMO feed it's a little more expensive than conventional feed but not nearly as expensive as the organic feed I feel like non GMO is the most important and then also since they're on pasture getting those good nutrients and stuff feel like it's a good happy medium but for the actual cost of everything listing everything out I was going to talk about it but there's just so many numbers and everything I feel like it'd be easier for you to read it so I have a list of everything down in the description and that will tell you exactly how much we spent and how much you can save by raising your own chicken this is how we raise our Broiler chickens and I really hope that helped you to see that it can be very simple and it's something that maybe you can do too we raise our laying hands a little bit differently though so if you want to see how we do that watch this video next chicken poop on my [Music] shirt I could watch that backside all day and don't forget to hop on over to thrive Market to get 30% off your first order and get in on their big summer sale