



Bear friendly egg producer program

Information for Flock Owners

Why is electric fencing a good part of flock management?

1. More food. Chickens are healthier when well fenced because predators do not stress them by repeatedly attempting to break into their coop or run; safety increases their ability to fight disease. Risk of injury and death is decreased. Safe chickens gain more weight and hens lay more eggs.

2. Insurance. Electric fencing is low-cost insurance against having to pay the cost of predator damage like:

- Repairing or replacing a coop
- Having to euthanize injured chickens
- Contending with chickens made sick from stress (vet bills)
- Replacing chickens

3. Protect bears. Once a bear has successfully broken into a coop, the bear knows the reward for taking this risk, and it's worth it. They will be back, which often leads to their destruction.

4. Protect neighbourhood flocks. Like a chain, a neighbourhood that fences chickens is only as good as the weakest link. If your neighbours have good electric fencing to deter bears but you don't, it makes everyone vulnerable. Why? Once a bear tastes chicken, it knows the reward (delicious chicken) is worth the risk and no fencing or coop will deter the bear any longer. The whole neighbourhood has to keep the secret of how tasty chickens are from bears.

5. Peace of mind. Flock owners who have added electric fencing say, "What a relief!" Leaving the property and sleeping at night become worry-free.

"I used to run out to the coop whenever I heard weird calls from the chickens during the night fearing they were in danger. Now I know that nothing can get in - from wildlife to neighbourhood dogs - and it feels great not to worry. It's easier getting a house sitter when needed to as I don't need to worry if something happens while I am away. I also appreciate the fact that keeping my flock safe also keeps wildlife safe and keeps predators reduced in my neighbourhood. It lets you sleep at night! The investment is totally worth it!" (Ellen Thomas)

What is involved in becoming a WildWise certified bear friendly egg producer?

It's simple!

1. Put up an electric fence built to a standard that will exclude bears.
2. Include attractants such as feed, compost piles and carcass disposal equipment inside the fence.
3. Pass a WildWise inspection (see WildWise Electric Fence Inspection Form).
4. Receive a label file. You can include the label in your carton label design or print them on Avery labels and stick them to your cartons. You will be included in our registry once you have passed inspection. We will promote your business on our website!

Please send us an email if you are interested in joining this program.

info@wildwise.ca