

# Coon Creek Connection

The Newsletter of Coon Creek Family Farm- Summer 2003

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## Turkey



PASTURED POULTRY, LAYING HENS, HOLIDAY TURKEYS - FED CERTIFIED ORGANIC FEED  
DAILY ACCESS OUTDOORS \* FED & WATERED WITH HELP FROM OUR 2 YOUNG BOYS

### HERITAGE TURKEYS

Heritage turkeys once graced the banyards of many small family farms. Unfortunately, the "industrialization" of the Thanksgiving turkey lead to the demise of many of these stately birds. Turkeys went from roaming the family farm to living in large numbers in confinement housing. Breeds of turkey once considered common were placed on an endangered list. When species become endangered and even extinct we all lose as the genetic diversity of our food supply becomes severely limited.

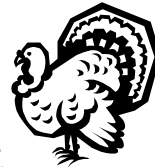
### HOW WE STARTED

During the 2002 season, we started raising turkeys primarily for our own family and friends. We began our efforts relatively late in the season. Our turkeys arrived July 24<sup>th</sup>. By Thanksgiving, they averaged 9 pounds. By Christmas, they were approximately 12 pounds. Based on the delicious taste of these farm-raised birds, we decided to expand our turkey endeavors.

The turkeys we raised during 2002 were industrial whites. One of the things that bothered us about

these birds was that they were bred to fit the industrial production model. This means that they have such a large breast that they cannot reproduce naturally. All of these turkeys are bred via artificial insemination. They also look nothing like the turkeys traditionally pictured with the pilgrims. The main advantage is that these birds are less expensive to purchase initially and far more readily available. Therefore, we can afford to charge \$2.50 per pound for turkey.

Raising heritage turkeys was a more logical alternative for us. The breeds we chose include: Narragansett, Blue Slate and Royal Palm. The number of these stately birds remaining in production has in many cases reached a critical low. Organizations such as the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy have been working to preserve these birds by increasing consumer demand for their meat and encouraging farmers to keep breeding pairs. Heritage turkeys cost more per pound as they cost more initially, take longer to raise and eat significantly more feed. Thus, the

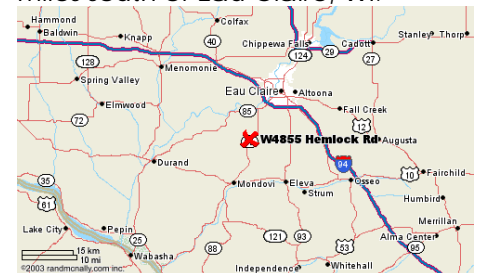


cost per pound for a grown bird is \$3.50.

All of our turkeys are fed certified organic feed from Day 1. Turkeys will be processed at a federally-inspected plant. Thanksgiving turkeys will be ready for pick-up November 25<sup>th</sup>. Christmas turkeys will be ready December 24<sup>th</sup>. We have a limited number of turkeys and orders will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

### LOCATION

We are located approximately 11 miles south of Eau Claire, WI.



We welcome visitors! Please call ahead to ensure we are home.

*Thank you for buying our products! We appreciate your support!*

(715) 834-4547

**ORDER FORM**

**Turkey:**

Whites @ \$2.50/lb plus \$8.00  
processing per bird

Thanksgiving \_\_\_\_\_

Christmas \_\_\_\_\_

Heritage @ \$3.50/lb plus \$8.00  
processing per bird

Thanksgiving \_\_\_\_\_

Christmas \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a non-refundable \$10.00 holding fee per bird. This will be applied in full to your order. If we are unable to fill your order, you will receive a full refund.

We also offer organically-raised pastured poultry. These chicken will be available fresh on July 16 and October 1. We will also have a limited number available frozen. Please call us to reserve your birds.

Chicken - \$2.00/pound + \$2.00 processing per bird. Please include \$2.00 non-refundable per bird holding fee. This fee will be applied in full to your order and refunded in the event that we are unable to fill our order.

July 16 \_\_\_\_\_

October 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to:**

Vince and Julie Maro

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Mondovi, WI 54755

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