Options for Disposing of Unwanted Chickens

When you buy chickens, be aware that some chicks may grow up to be roosters not hens. Also be aware that after 2-3 years hens slow down significantly in the number of eggs that they lay. You may wish to replace these older hens with new young ones. Plan ahead on how you will dispose of any birds that you no longer wish to keep.

What You Can Not Do:

1. Release birds into parks or country back roads. Domestic chickens have no survival skills. They won't be able to find food and will be easy targets for predators.
2. Butcher birds on your property in incorporated towns and cities. This is permitted in unincorporated rural parts of the county.
3. Dispose of dead birds in your garbage or trash which is hauled to a land fill. Call a vet or the humane society to ask if they will dispose of birds for you.

What You Can Do:

1. Advertise on Craigslist for free birds to a good home. Many poultry people are currently buying and selling on the internet. This is better than asking local 4-H kids, farm families or poultry clubs to take your unwanted birds.
2. Check FowlBlog.com and other internet poultry websites. Put in " how to dispose of unwanted birds". There are lots of options.

3. Sell birds at bird swaps. There are swaps sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Pheasant and Waterfowl Association which are held at the American Pride Co-op in Brighton. The dates are the second Sunday in March, May, July, September and November, 7:00-11:00am in the parking lot at 55 Bromley Lane, Brighton, 80601. Call 303-659-1230 for information. There is a small fee for sellers. All types of birds and many other types of small farm animals are sold at the swaps.

4. J & T Country Feed in Greeley (6380 West 10th Street, Greeley, CO 80634 (970) 378-0240) has market day swaps the first Saturday each month. There is no fee. Go to www.j&tcountryfeed.com for further information.

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