



# **Urban Agriculture – Urban Poultry Risk Management Workshop!!**

**Rob Bennaton**

**Bay Area Urban Agriculture Advisor**

# **What Growers can do: Risk Management Tips for Urban Chicken Keepers....**

# 10. Use Clean Soil

- For New Chicken Runs
- Have Soil Tested  
by a Certified  
Soil Lab



# 9. Add Clean Cover



**If You Have Already Existing Runs:**

- **Clean/Tested Soils**
- **Clean Mulch/Straw**
- **Clean Compost –  
Feed Stock**



# 8. Use a Feeder Instead of Scattering Feed



**Helps Reduce the Soil  
Amounts Chickens  
Ingest**

- Consider Food Scraps Feeding**
  - Produce Scraps vs. Protein Scraps**
- Store Bought or DIY Works**

# 7. Be Aware of/Look for Possible Contaminant Sources

- Site History

Heavy Metals/Lead/Perc?

--> **Manage Risk**

→ Create Coop Away from Known Potential or Historical Contaminants





# 6. Limit Foraging Activity if Known Risk (Soil Quality, Food Safety, Avian Exposure, Other)



# 5. Remove Small Loose Objects

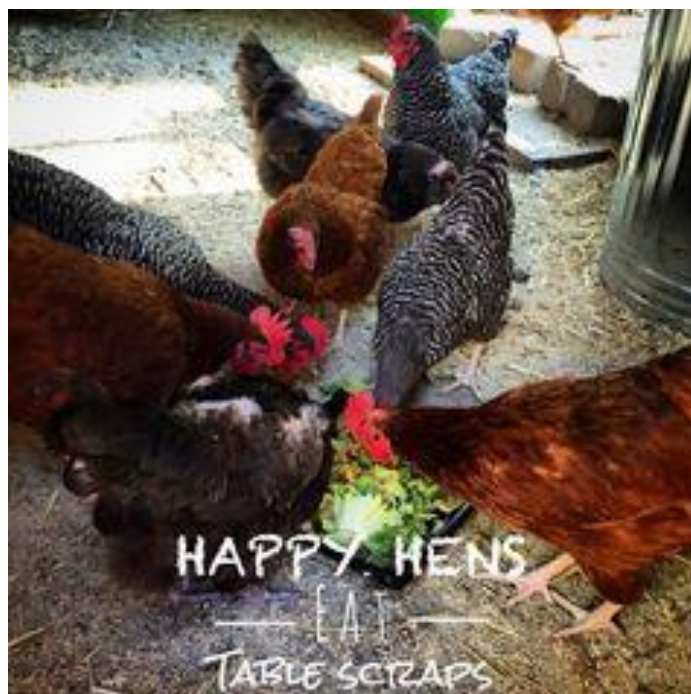
## Ingestion Risks:

- Physical/Veterinary
- Soils Contaminants
- Flock Food Safety





# 4. Don't Feed Chickens Unwashed Plant Material



- Especially from Contaminated Garden/Farm/Yard Areas
- Consider Your Plant Sources (your lawn, urban gardens & farms, kitchen scraps, etc.)



# 3. Provide a Calcium Supplement

- Important for Laying Hens
- Research Suggests May Reduce Lead (Pb) Uptake into Eggs





# 2. Clean Coop=Healthy Flock





# 1. Clean the Coop Often



# Understanding Your Test Results for Chicken Run Soils/Eggs

- Egg Lead Levels ~→ FDA's Recommendation: [Pb] in CANDY not > 0.1 ppm
- European Guidelines - > 0.10 - 0.3  
for solid foods, none specific to eggs

**Think: Relevant Frames of Reference to Reduce Potential Exposures**

# Chicken Run Soils

- IF Soil Lead Test Result  $< 80\text{ppm}$ ,  
no specific practices recommended
- IF Soil Lead Test Result  $> 80\text{ppm}$ ,  
add clean soil/clean cover material
- IF Soil Lead Test Result was higher than  
Guidance Value  $> 80\text{ppm}/400\text{ppm}$ ...  
try the following practices:



# **Discourage Flock from Eating Soil**

- Avoid Feed Scattering of**
- a. scratch grains and**
  - b. foodscraps**

**Provide Flock regular feed, grit, and calcium supplements in feeders.**

# Chicken Eggs

- IF Eggs-[Pb] <0.02ppm-  
~Similar Levels of [Pb] as Store bought Eggs
- IF >0.02 - 0.1ppm  
→ low risk at Egg Consumption of 2-3/week.
- If Eggs-[Pb] is between 0.1 - 0.30ppm  
→ High Potential Risk for (Esp. for Children  
at 1 Egg/day over Time...

# Chicken Eggs

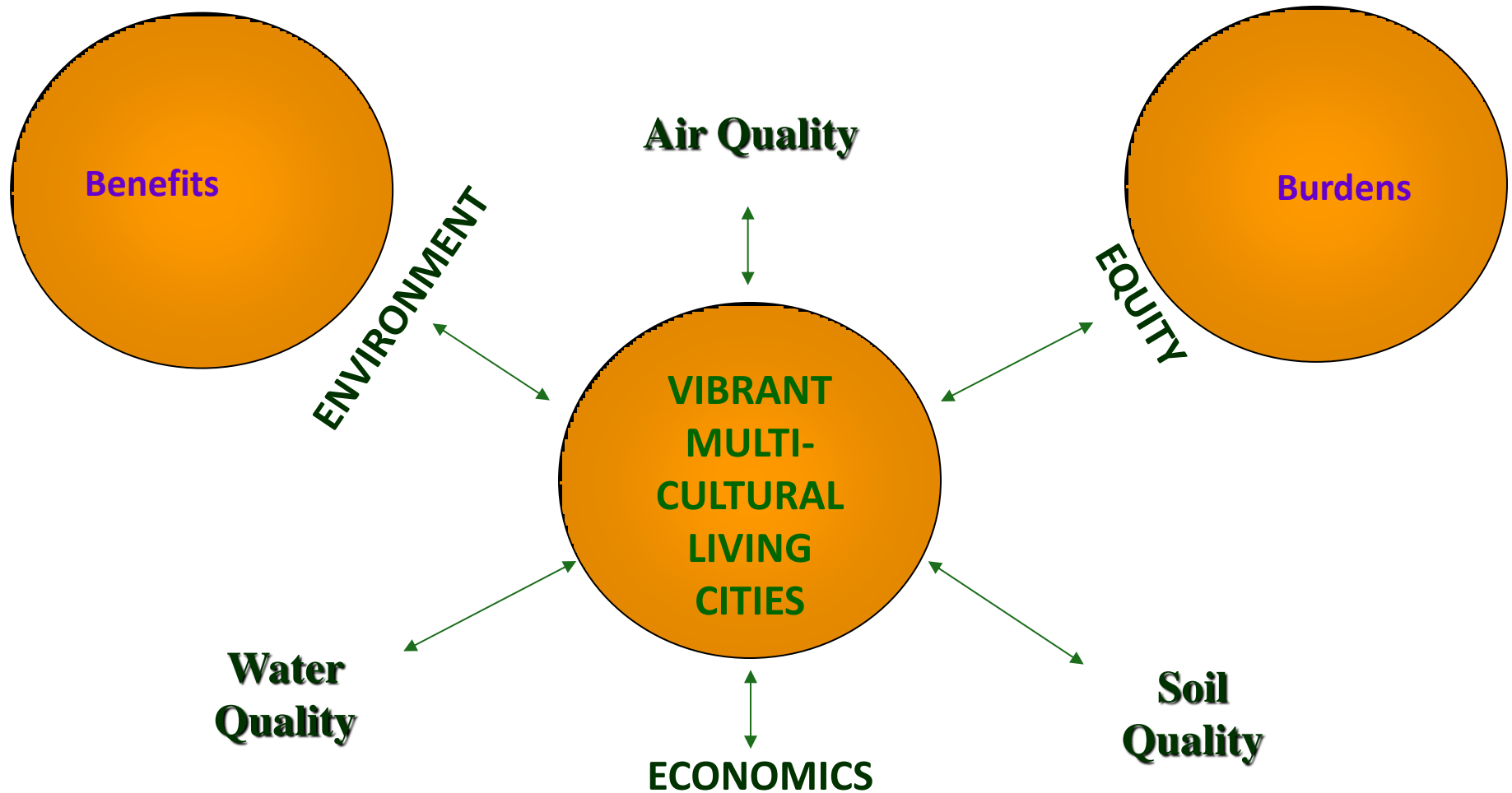
If Eggs-[Pb] > 0.1 and 0.30ppm-

**High Potential Risk for Children**  
**at 1 Egg/Day over Time...**

- Remove Dust/Soil/Manure/Feathers from Eggshells
- Consider Serving Fewer Egg Yolks



# Urban Ag Contributes ...



# Urban Ag As it Grows...



# Credits

**Cornell Cooperative Extension:**

**Healthy Soils, Healthy Communities Project**

**Reyna Yagi, (current)**

**Urban Agriculture Prog. Coordinator, UCCE NorCal**

**Diego Ortiz, (former)**

**Urban Agriculture Prog. Coordtr., UCCE Alameda**

**Dr. Maurice Pitesky, UC Davis Vet. Medical School**

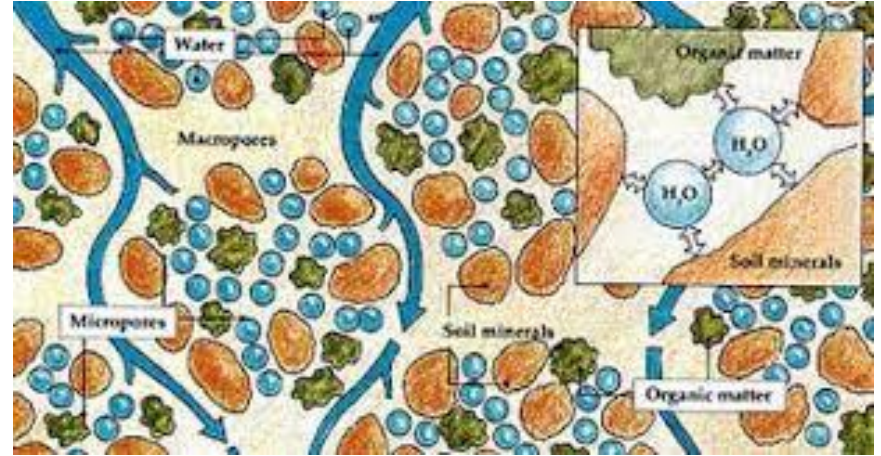




# Let's Grow Together!

*Future 4-Hers, Urban Farmers,  
Composters, Food Preservers And Gardeners!*

# *Happy & Safe Growing! From UC Cooperative Extension!*





# University of California Cooperative Extension

## Alameda County: 100 Years & Counting!

**Rob Bennaton,**  
**Bay Area Urban Agriculture Advisor**

**Offc:** (510) 670-5621 (new #)  
[rbennaton@ucanr.edu](mailto:rbennaton@ucanr.edu)



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