

A missing link

Letters to the Editor

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The Jacoby Creek Land Trust received a \$30,000 grant to complete a Mobile Poultry Processing Facility (MPPF) for Humboldt County. Sarah Brunner, of Wild Chick Farm, began putting the facility together two years ago with winnings from the Humboldt County Economic Fuel contest, but found herself short on funds.

The Jacoby Creek Land Trust worked with Sarah, and the newly formed Humboldt Poultry Co-op, to put together a grant request from a private foundation to complete the MPPF.

It is a good idea for farmers to grow poultry for the local market. Chickens and turkeys, and other poultry, can fit into small farm management and provide a missing link -- for manure production, pest control, and market diversity

Currently, poultry is not raised commercially in Humboldt for lack of a processing facility. The MPPF is a mobile enclosed trailer custom built with the equipment necessary to process poultry, on farm, in a humane and sanitary manner. The MPPF has been approved by the state for the use in processing up to 20,000 birds per farmer per year. Several local farmers have taken an interest in producing poultry products for Humboldt County and soon will have access to a professional processing facility through a poultry co-op.

Wild Chick Farm, Jacoby Creek Land Trust, Feral Family Farm, Shakefork Community Farm, and other poultry farmers are the founding members of the Humboldt Poultry Cooperative -- a collective that will own and operate the MPPF. For more information contact rcurboldtpQulty.com.

Susan Ornelas

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