



# Heritage Pastured Poultry Workshop Coming to Great Falls

GREAT FALLS – As interest in pastured poultry continues to grow around the country, an upcoming workshop being presented by the **National Center for Appropriate Technology**, the **Mission Mountain Food Enterprise Center**, and the **Salish Kootenai College** will take a closer look at the opportunities and challenges for heritage pastured poultry operations, especially in Montana. The workshop, “**Heritage Pastured Poultry Production: Opportunities and Challenges**,” is being funded by the **USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA)**.

**Title:** Heritage Pastured Poultry Production: Opportunities and Challenges

**Location:** Holiday Inn Express, 1625 Market Place Drive in Great Falls.

**Date:** March 14, 2013

**Time:** 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Cost:** \$15, which includes lunch

**For more information:** email Jeff Schahczenski at [jeffs@ncat.org](mailto:jeffs@ncat.org).

**Registration link:** <http://bit.ly/ZdyelN>

You also can register by going to the Events menu on the National Center for Appropriate Technology website at [www.ncat.org](http://www.ncat.org)

Speakers at the workshop will address a number of issues.

- **Can a heritage poultry market thrive in Montana?**

That’s the question the workshop’s keynote speaker, Jim Adkins, will address. Jim is the founder of the International Center for Poultry (ICP), located in Old Fort, North Carolina. ICP is dedicated to educating people about standard and heritage bred poultry as well as sustainable farming.

For the past thirty years, Jim has raised over fifty breeds and varieties of standard bred poultry (that includes chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys). In 1994, he received his poultry judging license from the American Poultry Association which has taken him to thirty plus states, Canada, and Australia to judge standard bred poultry. Recently, he worked for a large commercial turkey company, supervising five ranches that produced more than a half million turkeys a year.

- **What is the market and economic potential for pastured poultry products?**

Jeff Schahczenski, an Economics Specialist with the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT), will take on that question as well as review resources for pastured poultry production.

Jeff is an agricultural economist at NCAT. Jeff has expertise in organic and sustainable agriculture public policy, marketing and economics, transgenics in agriculture, organic horticulture, renewable ag energy, cooperative development, sustainable building, intercultural communications and beekeeping. He is also Executive Director of both the Big Hole River Foundation and Western Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (WSAWG). He has worked with the Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO) on regional sustainable agriculture projects and is an adjunct instructor for the University of Montana Western and Montana Tech.

- **What about processing?**

Jan Tusick of the Mission Mountain Food Enterprise Center will review the Montana Poultry Growers Cooperative Poultry Processing Manual and Hazardous Analytical Critical Control Plan (HACCP) systems for on-farm poultry processing.

Jan is the co-founder and Director of Lake County Community Development Corporation's Mission Mountain Market Food Enterprise Center. The center provides a unique opportunity for area agricultural producers and food entrepreneurs in their business development by providing a USDA and FDA inspected shared-use processing facility with technical expertise and support. During the last 20 years Jan has effectively assisted food businesses, cooperative groups and value added agricultural ventures in their business development, providing business and market planning, capitalization development, feasibility analysis, and navigating the food regulatory world. She is a founding steering committee member of Grow Montana- a coalition of organizations that are focused on developing and pursuing policies that will strengthen Montana's regional food economy.

- **Farm tour**

The day will end with a tour of the Rough Diamond Farm, a pastured poultry operation outside of Great Falls that is developing a breeding-stock program for Ranger chickens.

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