



Christopher Braunschweig/Jasper County Tribune

Chickens owned by Bev Clark Floss search for food outside their coop. Clark Floss owns more than 70 chickens on her Baxter far.

Chickens

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middle of February, she is finding close to a dozen and a half eggs every day. Most are found in the coops, but every so often the chickens get an inkling to hide their treasures, much to the chagrin of Clark Floss. They'll stash their eggs any place they find room, she says; like squirrels burying their walnuts.

For an Iowan like Clark Floss who has grown up around the typical livestock of cows, horses and hogs, she says it is — funnily enough — the darn chickens that make a farm a farm. Whether they are Ameraucana hens or Calico hens or any common variety in the state, the feathered friends clucking around the barn or the edge of the dirt road is what makes that idealized Iowa farm.

"It makes a farm," she says. "We've had cattle here and horses here. And we always had chickens. People like seeing the chickens out on the yard. In our family we had a long history of someone being the chicken person, and I'm this generation's chicken person. My kids took their chickens to the fair. My daughter walked in the parade with her rooster tied to her arm!"

Of course, owning and caring for chickens is not entirely exclusive to country dwellers. Some cities allow domestic livestock to reside within city limits, provided the property is big enough and there are other assurances. It is unlikely, for instance, that crowing roosters

would be allowed. However, egg-laying hens could probably abide by local noise ordinances.

Plus, there are benefits to owning a flock of chickens. Chances are you will never have to shop for eggs again. Grocery store bills have risen substantially, and the price of a dozen eggs is making some people consider buying and maintaining a small flock. Clark Floss has seen the growing interest on social media pages, and some are taking the consideration seriously.

Some folks are even humorously comparing the high demand for chickens or eggs to when toilet paper was hard to come by. ("Are chickens the new toilet paper?" Clark Floss asks in jest.) While she understands why some people may want to start raising a flock chickens — sometimes called a "peep" or a "brood" — they come with their own sets of challenges.

In addition to constructing a coop and buying food for the chickens, Clark Floss said the most challenging thing people will encounter when raising their chickens is keeping them alive. Or, rather, keeping them safe from predators. Raccoons, possums, foxes, coyotes, minks, hawks, owls, bobcats and even house cats can pose a threat to chickens at various stages of their lives.

Clark Floss has some *kind* words — none of which can be published — for all those predators who torment her flock. Keeping chickens' living structures safe and secure is a top priority, which means constantly looking for deficiencies in the buildings they are kept in and

perhaps even laying traps for returning predators. Sometimes a handy firearm at the right moment is enough to do the trick.

For folks living in the country, that type of retaliation is no problem most of the time. City dwellers may end up with a hefty fine if they decide to shoot a pest in the middle of the night while their neighbors are sleeping less than 100 feet away. Other than that, Clark Floss recommends to spoil your chickens. Give 'em a sun room in the chicken house. (No, seriously!)

Iowa families know how excited their kids get when they're around chickens, too. Clark Floss says the little ones love looking around for the eggs in the coop and in the hiding spots all around the yard. Chickens can also be an excellent educational tool into the world agriculture, a child-friendly introductory lesson into Iowa farm life.

Sometimes chickens can be stubborn. Sometimes they lay more eggs than people know what to do with. Sometimes they just stop laying eggs. Sometimes they get into trouble, or trouble finds them. Sometimes it seems like you are putting too much time and effort into keeping predators away. But a farm is not complete without them, Clark Floss says, and they create great memories.

"My dad was getting eggs in a five-gallon bucket one day," she recalls. "He was out in the cattle yard and he tripped coming over the fence. I saw it, of course, and *all* those eggs went flying. We still talk about Dad and those eggs and laugh about it."

Community Calendar

To include your meeting on the community calendar or to announce an upcoming event, email it to news@jaspercountytribune.com

THURSDAY

- Mingo Park & Recreation regular meeting meets at 6:30 p.m. the last Thursday of month at City Hall

SATURDAY

- Poweshiek Partners 4-H club meets at 9 a.m. the first Saturday of the month in the C-M Elementary lunchroom

MONDAY

- BEDCO meets at 5:30 p.m. the first Monday of month
- Baxter Garden Club meets at 7 p.m. first Monday of month, March to December, at the Baxter Community Building
- Colfax Cub Scouts Pack 345 meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of month in the C-M High School Cafetorium
- Colfax Planning & Zoning meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of month at the library

TUESDAY

- Mingo Library Board meets at 5 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month (public meeting)
- Baxter American Legion meets at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of month at the Baxter Community Building

WEDNESDAY

- Hominy Ridge 4-H Club meets at 6:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of month in the Baxter School Cafeteria
- Colfax Public Library Board of Trustees meets at 5 p.m. the first Wednesday of month in the downstairs meeting room.
- MEDCO meets the first Wednesday of month
- Baxter City Library Board meets at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of month at the Baxter Library

THURSDAY

- Baxter Garden Club meets at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of month.

Event Briefs

Lenten Service in Colfax

Howard Street Christian Church in Colfax is hosting a Lenten Service with Higher Power at 6 p.m. Sunday. Coffee and refreshments will be served at 5 p.m.

Club News

Baxter Garden Club

Baxter Garden Club met at 7 p.m. March 16 at the community building. The program was on starting seeds. Roll call was your favorite season and no one mentioned winter or summer.

Secretary and treasurer reports were given and members paid dues. Correspondence and announcements were discussed. Old and new business were the new planters, sign up sheet for planter watering, the June district meeting and the spring tea. The next meeting will be April 13 and the program will be Geise Park updates. The public is invited to all our meetings.

Church Schedules

HOWARD ST. CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)
Pastor Tom Burns
Howard & Locust St., Colfax
Office - 674-3746
Church Cell - 971-0569
SUNDAY - 9 a.m. Adult & children's Sunday school classes; 10 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship Time; 10:30 a.m. Worship
TUESDAY - 9:30 a.m. Grounds for Discussion
WEDNESDAY - 3:15 to 5:30 p.m. ChiRho (jr. high) and CYF (high school)
Third Sunday of month - Marathon Sunday includes elders, board, potluck and food pantry
First Monday of month - WIC appointments

Church Office 674-4165
SATURDAY, April 1 - 7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast/Bible Study
SUNDAY, April 2 - 9 a.m. Fellowship; 9:15 a.m. Bible Education Classes; 10:25 a.m. Message by Pastor Cody Dyer
MONDAY, April 3 - 6 p.m. Deacon/Deaconess meeting
TUESDAY, April 4 - 6 p.m. Trustee meeting
WEDNESDAY, April 5 - 9 a.m. Busy Bee Quilters and Fresh Encounter Prayer; 5:45 p.m. NO AWANA, Spring Break
THURSDAY, April 6 - 3 p.m. Women's Coffee & Prayer

CATHOLIC CHURCH
302 E. Howard St., Colfax
Fr. Ron Hodges
515-674-3711
SUNDAY - 9 a.m. Mass
DAILY MASS - 8 a.m.

MINGO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rev. Phil Dicks
515-689-4926
SUNDAY - 9:45 a.m. Worship service (Sunday school not meeting at this time)

THURSDAYS 10 a.m. - Womens Bible Study

BAXTER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
218 S. Main, Baxter
Pastor Ben Spera
SUNDAY - 10:30 a.m. Worship (*Labor Day-May, Sunday School during church service; June-Labor Day worship at 9:30 a.m.; No SS during summer*)
Check us out on Facebook and baxtercongregational.com

ASHTON CHAPEL
8887 W. 122nd St. N., Mingo
Pastors: Larry Craig & Mark Eddy
SUNDAY - 9 a.m. Sunday school; 10 a.m. Worship

CORNERSTONE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
1000 E. 12th St., Newton
Rev. Josh Farver, pastor
Phone 641-792-4650
SUNDAY - 9 a.m. Sunday school; 10:15 a.m. Worship
WEDNESDAY - 6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting and Bible Study; Youth Group

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
5627 N. 95th Ave. W., Baxter
641-227-3402
Pastor Chris Hayward
SUNDAY - 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship. First Sunday communion. All are welcome.

HERITAGE WORD OF LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
102 Second St. NW, Mitchellville
Pastor Dave Adams
515-967-3330
SUNDAY - 9 a.m. Bible classes; 10 a.m. Worship service; 6 p.m. Evening service
WEDNESDAY - 7 p.m. Evening activities

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH, BAXTER
Mike McIntock, Pastor
SUNDAY - 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 10 a.m. Worship; 6 p.m. Awanas
WEDNESDAYS - 1st & 3rd - 6:30 p.m. Mens Bible Study
2nd & 4th - 6:30 p.m. Men's and Womens Bible Study

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF HOPE - Local Newton
Capitol II Theatre in Newton
SUNDAY - 9:30 a.m. Livestream Worship Service

COLFAX FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
S. Locust & W. Division St.
Office - 674-3782
Rev. Phil Dicks pastor
SUNDAY - 11 a.m. 10 a.m. Family Worship — Sunday School will enter with Palm Branches; today is Holy Communion

HOPE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
126 E. Howard
Rev. Matt Stuva, pastor
Church: 674-3700
SUNDAY - 9 a.m. Sunday school; 10 a.m. Worship; 6 p.m. Evening services
WEDNESDAY - 6 p.m. Bible study

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
Newton, Iowa
SATURDAY - 4 p.m. Mass
SUNDAY - 9 a.m. Mass
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The church schedule is brought to you by

Coburn FUNERAL HOMES
Colfax-Prairie City-Monroe
515-674-3155
www.coburnfuneralhomes.com

Prayer Service

IS LOVE