



**BABY CHICKS, SHOWN AT FEEDING TIME**, will be moved to the outdoors when they are about three-weeks-old. After that, the chicks will be fed a diet consisting mostly of grass and will find their home in the outdoor pens.  
 (Times Photo by Lorraine Heath)

## ■ Chickens

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plow, the goats eat the grass near the trailer, and the couple even have rabbits that they are raising for meat.

"Everyone here has a job," Ken says.

The family is now ready to tackle orders for their chickens and are one of the vendors at the Little Falls Farmers' Market. Chickens will be available for purchase from June until October, and turkeys available (fed the same way) in time for Thanksgiving. The couple also has brown eggs, laid by the grass fed chickens, at the market on Saturday.

"Last season we ran into some difficulty storing and delivering the birds dressed to customers. This year we will have the poultry picked up at the farm on specific dates. This will allow us to

concentrate on producing the high quality animals and better fulfill the regulations we must follow as small-scale poultry processors," Ken said.

Small scale though they are, the couple wants to establish a good relationship with their present customers and future customers as well.

"If you have a problem with our birds, let us know, we will correct it," Ken said.

Chickens will cost \$1.75 per pound while turkeys will be a little higher at \$2.50 per pound. Whole chickens are \$7-10 at 4-6 pounds and turkeys from \$20-50 and weigh between 10 and 20 pounds.

The couple is planning to process birds three times a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

"We will process in the morning with pick-up in the afternoon," Ken said.

The couple is very dedicated to producing quality meat for their customers and it shows in the way they tend to their farm.

During the interview, both Ken and Jill did their chores, while the children, getting a day off from school, played in the fields and near the freshly made pond. Ken's philosophy is simple: values.

"Some people say it is not good to home school children, I disagree. We spend a lot of time together and that is important. I did have three jobs, making about \$10 per hour but I hated it. Now, I am outdoors, see my children, and know that what I am producing here is quality," he said.

Ken said happiness is the trade off he accepted when he quit those other jobs.

"We are struggling financially, but we love what we are doing," he said. "What good is money if you are unhappy?"

Anyone who would like to order a grass-fed chicken or turkey can do so at the farmers' market or by phone at 518-568-5322. Ken and Jill both say once a customer tries one of their birds, they will see the difference in meat.

"You do not know how long that chicken has been on a shelf at the grocery store or even what it was fed. We provide the freshest possible chickens," Ken said.