

## What To Know Before You Buy An Emu

- 1.) Have you researched available **information on raising emus**?
- 2.) Do you want to be involved **full-time** or will you **hire someone** to help?
- 3.) Have you prepared a **Business Plan** detailing costs and estimated return on investment over a 3-5 year period?
- 4.) Do you have the **personal stamina and time** to be involved in an agribusiness on a daily basis?
- 5.) Which parts of the **emu business** do you want to participate in? Breeders only? Fertile eggs only? Sell chicks only? Grow-out only? Raise birds for others? Incubate & hatch for others? Wholesaling or direct marketing of products? Farm tours?
- 6.) Do you have the **physical resources** - land, water, buildings, pens, personal health and energy? Where will you purchase feed?
- 7.) Do you have the **financial resources** - capitol for initial investment, expansion and the staying power to withstand possible market changes?
- 8.) What do you consider a satisfactory **return on investment**?
- 9.) Are you looking for a **short-term investment** with a quick return or are you looking at a **long term**, year after year program?
- 10.) Do you have **faith in the benefits of emu products**?
- 11.) Have you visited various farming operations to assist in **developing your own plan**?

### Even if you don't plan to raise emus as a business

- a.) Emu **chicks grow extremely fast** and can look over the top of a 4' piece of plywood by the time they are 4 months old. They will reach their full skeletal height by 12 months and weigh 80-100 pounds.
  - b.) Do you have **adequate space and fencing** for your emu to **exercise and be protected from predators** or just to keep them from getting out of their pens (emus can run up to 30 mph and can cover a long distance in a short time)?
  - c.) Have you learned **how to act around an emu** and **how to handle an emu** when moving them from pen to pen or loading into a trailer? Emus have a lot of strength in their legs and very sharp toenails. They can cause injuries, if kicked by them.
  - d.) Emus are **attracted to shiny things** and will peck at buttons, earrings, watches, even eye glasses. They do not have teeth, but their **serrated beak can pinch** and leave a bruise.
  - e.) Before you even start looking for an emu, **check your local zoning laws** to see if emus or their pens are allowed.
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