



## FARMING INFORMATION

Over the years we have been asked all kinds of questions regarding emu farming. Questions range from the generalized "Tell me (in an email yet) everything you know about emu farming." to the specific questions about hatching, choosing stock or basic costs.

The following pages were set up to provide basic information on emu farming. Keep in mind that not every farm is run the same way. Our farm is in Tennessee and the choices we make regarding our farm is influenced by our location, just as farms in South Dakota and Florida are influenced by their locations. If you are seriously interested in emu farming, I recommend that you:

- Investigate the market. Emu farming is currently a farm to finish operation. If you are only interested in raising birds and sending them to auction or a slaughter facility, this is not for you. The industry is changing due to efforts by the **American Emu Association (AEA)** <https://aea-emu.org/>
- Purchase Maria Minnaar's two books, The Emu Farmer's Handbook Volume I and Volume II. Check ET&T for these.
- Subscribe to **Emu Today and Tomorrow (ET&T)** <https://www.emutoday.com/>
- Visit every emu farm/ranch in your area, take a notebook, ask questions, make notes. Take everything that you are told with a grain of salt and use common sense when making decisions regarding your future!
- Plan your farm layout carefully, purchase unrelated stock.
- Attend your local **emu association's meetings** <https://aea-emu.org/affiliate-organizations/> Not all states have emu associations, but there are state and regional groups.
- Join the **American Emu Association (AEA)** <https://aea-emu.org/> Why should you join? Don't know, but here is **why I joined**:

### Why Should I Join the American Emu Association?

- I am a member of the American Emu Association because I want to know what is going on in the industry. I want to know what 'the big boys know' about emu farming. Being a member has allowed me to network and find customers for my raw products. It has given me ideas on how to market.
- Like many farm organizations, AEA is a national organization run by members. Information is provided to members via a bi-monthly publication, the EMUupdate, a yearly national symposium and state and regional meetings (check your area for meeting schedules). If you are online, members have the option of joining both email and Facebook 'chat lists'. The information on these lists range from basic emu care (disease, hatching questions, etc.) to legislative issues. Questions can be asked along with new ideas and techniques being shared and discussed.
- AEA monitors governmental developments that may potentially affect emu farming. As an example: AEA organized legislative efforts to gain mandatory USDA inspection for ratites. Before that we had voluntary inspection, meaning that the farmer had to pay for the

inspection. Mandatory inspection meant that the inspection would be free to the farmer, and budgeted into the USDA's operating expenses. Jeanne Summerour, AEA Legislative Director, spearheaded the efforts to gain mandatory inspection. Working via the internet email chat lists and state meetings, AEA membership got thousands of people to write legislators in favor of mandatory inspection. In addition, Ms. Summerour visited legislators in Washington, lobbying for passage of HR 4461 and S 761 . Due to her efforts, budgeting for USDA inspection of ratites was included in the 2001 Agriculture Appropriations Bill.

- In 2008, Joylene Reavis spearheaded the Agriculture Committee, working with the Legislative Committee, which gained approval for the shipping of day old emu chicks through the United States Postal Service. Emu are the only ratites allowed to be shipped via the USPS at this time.
- This is an example of what a strong organization can accomplish - and the organization will only be as strong as its membership.