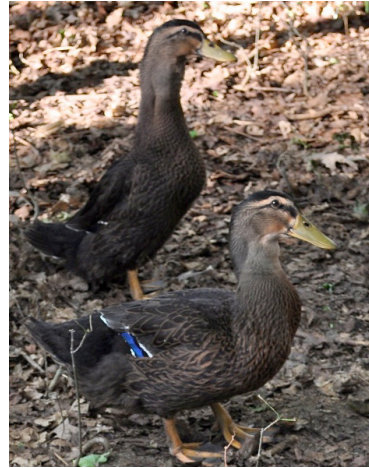


NICHE ANALYSIS

NEEDS

- **Food:** forage slugs and bugs, fresh greenery, supplement with grain (pellets best)
- **Water:** need ample water for drinking, wading, and cleaning their bills. 5 Gal tubs work well
- **Shelter:** night protection from predators, well ventilated, 2 to 3 square feet per duck



DUCK

YIELDS

- **Meat:** some breeds are excellent for meat production (slow 4 – 8 months to mature)
- **Eggs:** some breeds reliably produce eggs slightly larger than chicken eggs
- **Feathers:** down feathers can be harvested and used for stuffing

- **Eggs** are said to be 2x as nutritious as chickens, more Omega 3s, store longer
- **Meat:** a well-balanced meat with a unique tastes; fat can be rendered and stored long term
- **Economics:** Currently there is a niche market for duck so good income potential; also can save costs on pest control

HUMAN BENEFITS

- **Cold Hardy**
- **Semi-Aquatic** – need water to swim or wade in
- **Few Diseases**
- **Can forage much of own diet**
- **Root and Burrow** with their beaks as they forage (don't disturb ground)
- Many domestic breeds from Asia, South America, Europe
- Most breeds are still rather "wild" and docile in nature

CHARACTERISTICS

- **Pest Control:** especially slugs and insect issues on crops
- **Manure** is high in phosphorus
- Will also weed vegetation – in aquatic and terrestrial habitats
- Potential for use in aquaculture and orchard systems

ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONS