

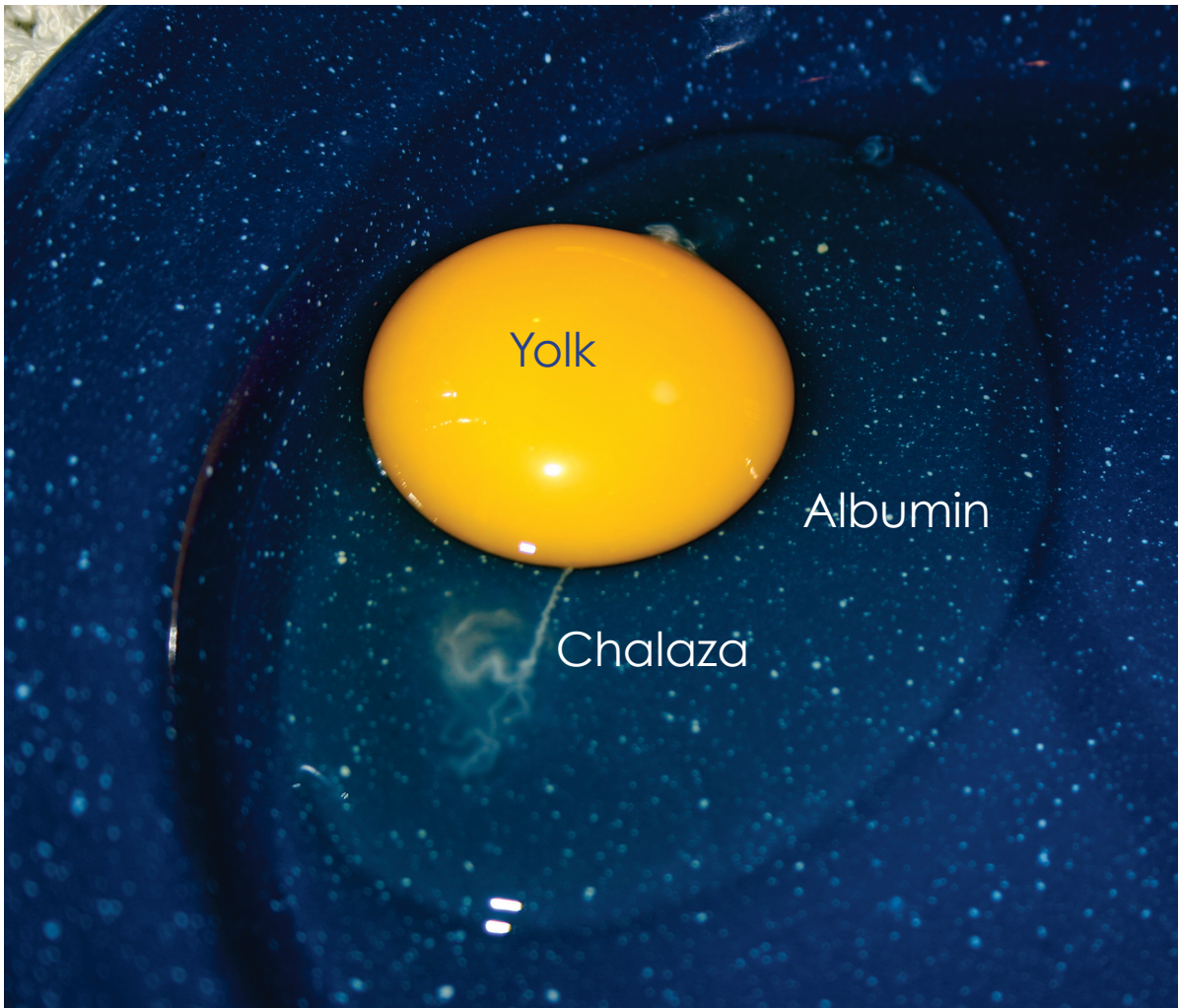


A nest of eggs laid by several hens.



A basket of
green, white
and brown
eggs.

The green eggs are from an Aracauna, the white eggs from an Ancona, and the brown eggs from a Rhose Island Red-Barred Rock cross.



Here, you can see the parts of a fresh, fertilized egg (on a blue plate): the yellow yolk, the clear albumin or “white”, and the chalaza (the twisted strand that anchors the yolk into the white and thickens over time.)



Baby chicks take 21 days to hatch. This is the incubation period. The yolk is where the embryo forms. The yolk and albumin provide the chick nourishment as it grows. The protective shell allows gases to move through. This coating is made of calcium carbonate.



Once born, chicks need warmth right away. A heat lamp in their cage will keep them warm. They also need food and water right away. Baby chicks need about two days to gather their strength and dry off completely before they are handled. By ten days old, they need to be living on the farm.