



# IMPLEMENT

Putting it all together

# The Cage



With the help of some neighbours we managed to lift the enormous cage from Pete's truck over the 6ft high fences and into our pen.

# Moving it into position



The cage was incredibly heavy. It is built from galvanized steel and is 3m x 2m x 2m (approximately). We moved it using rollers made from telegraph poles Pete had removed for a job. There was lots of levering and rocking involved.

# Finally in position



Once we managed to get the cage into position we filled it with the chicken's things. A nesting box and a roosting box, their water, dustbath and food dispenser which we managed to hang from the roof of the cage to make it less accessible to rodents.

# Planters



The next stage was to add planters to the outside. The planters were made from pallet crates left from a landscaping job. These were lined with recycled weed suppressant fabric and filled with our own homemade compost from the site. (chicken manure!)

# Planting up!



Everlasting sweet peas, peas, runner and green beans, carrots, squash and French Marigolds were planted in the crates. The climbing plants were positioned to clamber up the sides of the cage, softening the look and providing summer shade for the chickens.

# Inside the cage



We use the 'deep litter' method of floor cover for the chicken run. This is a deep layer of locally sourced straw which they love to unpack and spread around by themselves. This offers opportunity for foraging and is better for their feet than the concrete which occupies most of the ground. The straw is removed every six weeks and composted in a compost bin situated right outside the enclosure for ease.

Roosting branches are fixed to the cage so the chickens can access higher places.

The chickens are fed a mixture of organic layer pellets, seeds and grains, dried fruit, weeds, grass clippings and fresh vegetable 'waste' from our kitchen and local food share - the stuff that is no longer available to people but too good to just be composted down. They also are fed live worms from the wormery as a treat

The 'cage' is not our ideal scenario for keeping chickens, but it protects them from local predators (mink, birds of prey) and from Avian flu which is circulating our area at the moment. Protecting our flock from Avian Flu isn't just about protecting our birds, it is about protecting wild birds too.