

Laying Hens

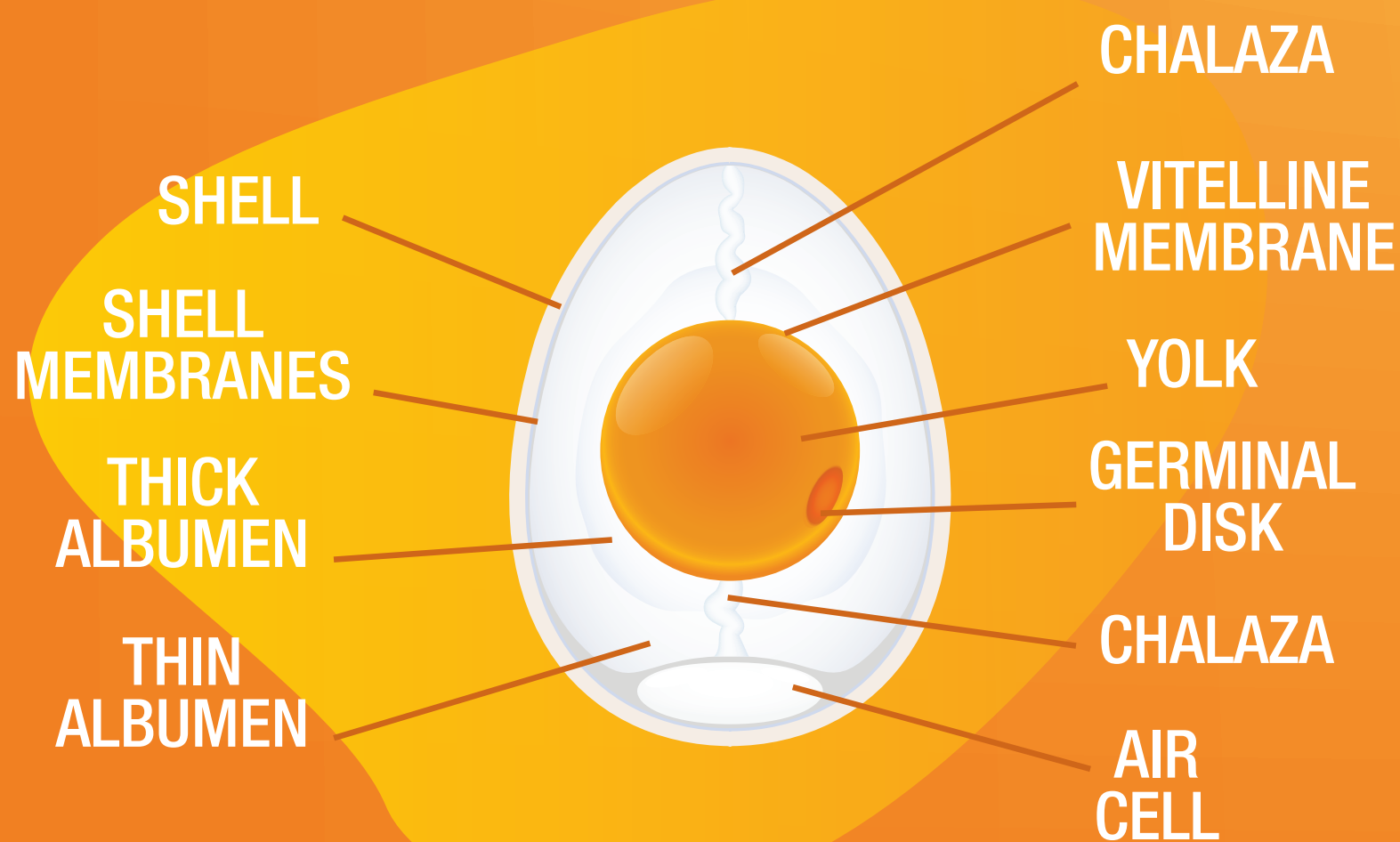
Laying hens are:

Female birds used for egg production.

Commercial laying hens are kept for 2-3 years. Egg production decreases over time.

Egg Facts:

- About 6 million eggs are produced in Texas
- Hens usually lay around 260-290 eggs in a year
- It takes 24-26 hours for an egg to develop and be laid by the hen
- Eggs take 21 days to hatch



1.

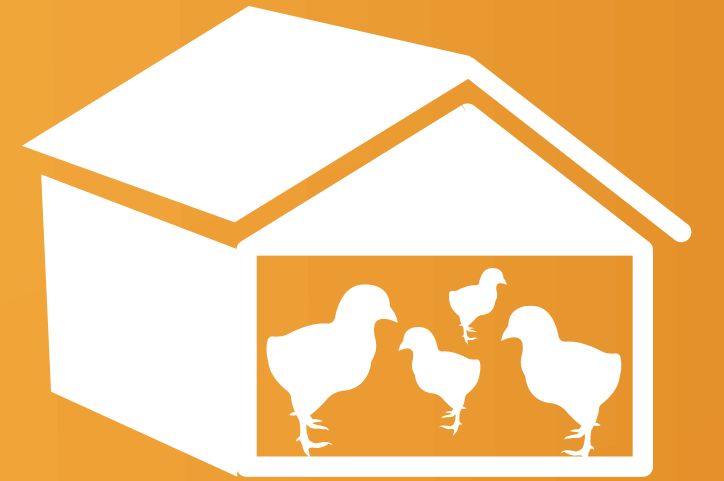
The Hatchery



A chicken's life begins in a hatchery, where fertilized eggs are incubated and then hatched.

2.

Pullet House



Laying hens are raised here for the first 18 weeks. Among many factors that are highly monitored, light exposure is one of the most important. It is critical hens do not get too much sunlight. If they do, they lay eggs prematurely.

3.

Layer House



The hens live in the layer house where the eggs are laid. It is important the hens receive 14-16 hours of light and are given higher ratios of calcium to strengthen the eggshell.

Eggs are immediately collected and sent to processing.