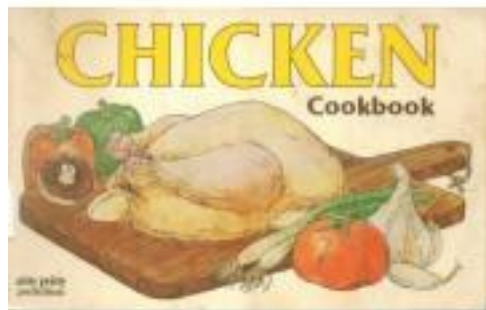


Skillet cookery



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著者:

出版者:

出版时间:

装帧:

isbn:9780911954555

Present day chickens are descended from the jungle of Southeast Asia and appear to have been domesticated as early as 2500 B. C. However, until recent times, they remained an infrequent luxury at the dinner table. It used to take months to raise a bird to maturity, and hens were prized for their egg producing capability. As a result, the chickens which were picked for consumption were either stringy roasters or tough, old hens. Tender, young fowl were rarely available, and considered a

special delicacy. , ’ ‘

Today,of course, the situation has dramatically improved. Chicken is widely available and at very reasonable prices. Tender, young birds, (known as broilers or fryers) are no longer a rarity. Instead they are the variety which is most commonly marketed. This rapid change in the availability and quality of chickens has been due to the ingenuity of American poultry farmers and agricultural researchers. They worked to develop special breeding and nourishing techniques for producing plump and juicy chickens. They perfected methods which reduced the time required to mature the birds from months, to just weeks.

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