Small-scale family poultry farming involving semi-scavenging flocks of mostly indigenous breed poultry in rural regions of many developing countries, contributes in a very meaningful way towards the social and financial needs of rural families. Whilst productivity is relatively low, so too are inputs, which makes the production system reasonably viable, as evidenced by the many millions of such flocks world wide. The principal constraint to profitability is the high mortality rate in young chicks, due to a combination of disease, predation, malnutrition and climatic exposure, combined with moderate to high mortality rates in grower and adult stock due to the effects of disease, of which Newcastle Disease is a common cause. Simple cost effective interventions involving vaccination of the flock against Newcastle Disease with heat tolerant vaccines combined with early confinement of the chicks with the hen and creep feeding over the first three to four weeks, has been demonstrated to impact dramatically on survival of the birds and on household food security and profitability. Such improvements are fully compatible with programs aimed at the development of the commercial poultry meat and egg industries in developing countries to meet the needs of the urban and peri-urban populations. Family poultry raising is making a resurgence in many “developed” countries. The number of families raising backyard poultry is on the increase due to both a growing enthusiasm for organic poultry products and the economic downturn. Backyard production systems vary in accordance with local government regulations, producer preferences, household residential circumstances and climatic conditions.