

Drawbacks



- ☞ They require care and attention
- ☞ They rely on you entirely for their safety and well-being, even when you go on vacation
- ☞ Sooner or later, they will die
- ☞ 5-10 year life-span (average is 7 years)
- ☞ Egg production stops after 3-5 years
- ☞ Health problems increase with age

What You'll Need



Basic Costs



- ☞ **Typical Start-up Costs:** **\$500***
- ☞ Permit/Fees: \$0 - \$75
- ☞ Chick Brooder: \$50 - \$75
- ☞ Hen House: \$200 - \$300
- ☞ Run: \$100 - \$200
- ☞ Chicks: \$3 - \$5 each
- ☞ Pullets: \$10 - \$20

* These are *minimum* numbers. Your mileage may vary.

Basic Costs



Basic Monthly Expenses: 3 hens <\$30

Feed: \$10-\$20

Pine shavings: \$3

Straw: \$5

Winter Costs



One-time Expenses: \$45 - \$190

Heated Waterer: \$20 - \$50

Heater: \$20 - \$120

Thermometer: \$5 - \$20

* These are rough estimates only. Your mileage may vary.

Where can I keep chickens?

Alton	YES	Duluth	YES	Little Falls	NO	Richfield	YES
Albert Lea	YES	Eagan	YES	Mahtomedi	YES	Robbinsdale	YES
Andover	LIMITED	Eden Prairie	YES	Maple Grove	LIMITED	Rochester	YES
Anoka	YES	Edina	YES	Maple Plain	YES	Rosemount	YES
Apple Valley	NO	Elk River	NO	Maplewood	YES	Roseville	YES
Blaine	YES	Falcon Heights	YES	Mendota Heights	YES	Saint Anthony	LIMITED
Bloomington	YES	Faribault	NO	Minneapolis	YES	Saint Francis	NO
Brooklyn Center	YES	Farmington	YES	Minnetonka	YES	Saint Louis Park	YES
Brooklyn Park	YES	Forest Lake	NO	Montrose	YES	Saint Michael	NO
Buffalo	NO	Fridley	YES	Mounds View	YES	Saint Paul	YES
Burnsville	YES	Golden Valley	YES	New Brighton	YES	Saint Paul Park	YES
Carver	YES	Grant	YES	New Hope	YES	Savage	YES
Centerville	YES	Ham Lake	NO	Newport	YES	Shakopee	YES
Champlin	NO	Hastings	YES	North Saint Paul	YES	Shoreview	YES
Chanhassen	NO	Hopkins	YES	Northfield	YES	Shorewood	YES
Chaska	NO	Hudson, WI	YES	Oakdale	YES	South Saint Paul	YES
Circle Pines	YES	Hugo	YES	Orono	YES	Stillwater	YES
Columbia Heights	YES	Inver Grove Heights	YES	Osseo	YES	Sunfish Lake	YES
Coon Rapids	YES	Lake Elmo	YES	Otsego	YES	Vadnais Heights	LIMITED
Cottage Grove	YES	Lakeville	YES	Plymouth	YES	West Saint Paul	YES
Crosby	YES	Lexington	NO	Prior Lake	YES	White Bear Lake	YES
Dayton	YES	Lino Lakes	NO	Ramsey	LIMITED	White Bear Township	YES
Dellwood	YES	Little Canada	NO	Red Wing	YES	Woodbury	NO

National List of Municipalities
http://home.comcast.net/~henrychickens/chickens.html

Permits



☞ Minneapolis

☞ <https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/homegrown-minneapolis/backyard-chickens/>

☞ Chicken, turkey, duck pigeon)

☞ Three tiers: 1-6 birds, 7-15 birds, 16-30 birds

☞ Roosters require special permit.

☞ Notify neighbors for 6 or fewer

☞ More than 6 requires written consent of 80 percent of the neighbors within 100 feet of the property

☞ Allow inspection of the birds and where the birds will be kept.

1-6 Hens	\$30.00	Yearly Renewal	\$30.00
7-15 Hens	\$55.00	Yearly Renewal	\$55.00
16-30 Hens	\$80.00	Yearly Renewal	\$80.00
Rooster	\$105.00	Yearly Renewal	\$105.00

Permits



☞ St. Paul

☞ <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/safety-inspections/animal-control/animal-licenses-and-permits/backyard-chicken-keeping>

☞ No Roosters.

☞ Obtain and complete permit.

☞ <https://www.stpaul.gov/sites/default/files/2021-04/Application%20Backyard%20Chicken%20Keeping%20Permit%203%2024%2021.pdf>

☞ Notify neighbors within 150 feet for 6 or fewer

☞ More than 6 requires written permission of 75% of neighbors within 150 feet

☞ An Animal Control Inspector will perform an inspection for approval.

Fees:			
6 or fewer Hens	\$26.00	Annual renewal	\$16.00
7-15 (max) Hens	\$76.00	Annual renewal	\$28.00

Your Chickens



Dual-purpose Breeds



- ☞ Considered docile and will mix well with other breeds (though some breeds may produce aggressive individuals)
- ☞ They are well-suited to small flocks and as pets, especially if raised and handled as chicks
- ☞ Better than average egg production
- ☞ Able to forage and breed on their own
- ☞ Provide bird and egg variety in a small flock

Chicks



- ☞ Draft-free location
- ☞ Safe from pets (and small children)
- ☞ Plastic storage bin, empty fish-tank, or similar container
- ☞ Paper towels for flooring



Chicks-General



- ☞ **Temperature** should be 90° F (33° C) to start. Reduce the temperature 5 degrees per week until they are at room temperature (around 70° F/21° C).
- ☞ **Pasting up** is hardened poop that sticks to the bird's vent. Pry it off VERY gently, or moisten with a damp cloth and wipe. This happens only in the first days.
- ☞ **Handle** your birds gently and often and they will be friendly as they grow older.
- ☞ **IMPORTANT:** Wash your hands after handling chicks and chickens. This is especially important for young children.

Nutrition



- ☞ **Water** – Provide a constant source of clean water.
- ☞ **Feed** – Adult layer ration (16 % Protein, 3.0% Calcium). Approximately ¼ lb per hen per day.
- ☞ **Access** – Hang or raise feeder and waterer if possible. Less mess and less waste. In a small coop, locate both outside the hen house.
- ☞ **Scratch** – Carbohydrate-rich supplement (chicken candy). A good bribe. In winter, offer scratch in the late afternoon, so chickens roost with a full crop of grain to digest generate body heat. No more than 5-10% of diet.
- ☞ **Grit** – Free choice, separate from feed.
- ☞ **Supplements** – Oyster shell, kitchen scraps, free range.

Foods to Avoid



- ☞ Pet foods, especially cat food.
- ☞ Grass (other than foraging – they only take the tips).
- ☞ Rotten or moldy food.
- ☞ Citrus, potato skins or eyes, avocados.
- ☞ Onion or garlic (unless you like those flavors in your eggs).
- ☞ Layer ration for chicks – can cause kidney damage.

Schedule*



Daily

- ☞ Provide water
- ☞ Provide feed
- ☞ Observe birds
- ☞ Collect eggs

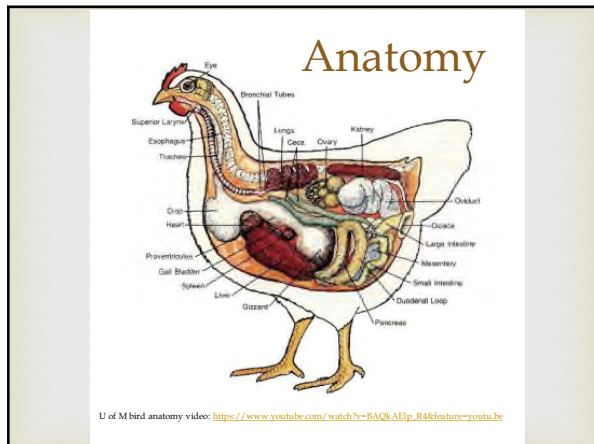
Weekly

- ☞ Clean feeders and waterers
- ☞ Remove droppings from hen house
- ☞ Add bedding
- ☞ Hold and examine birds

Monthly

- ☞ Replace bedding in hen house and run
- ☞ Check for signs of damage to coop or fencing and repair

* Your locale may have specific requirements.



Health-Symptoms

❧

- ❧ Listlessness, lack of appetite or thirst.
- ❧ Limping
- ❧ Wheezing, sneezing, discharge from nostrils.
- ❧ Bloodshot eyes, or discharge from eyes.
- ❧ Pale or discolored comb.
- ❧ Watery, off-colored, foul-smelling, or bloody droppings
- ❧ Visible lice, mites, or their eggs.

Poo

❧ Healthy

❧ Unhealthy

Photos: <http://chat.allotment.org/index.php?topic=17368.0>

Health-Conditions



- ☞ Marek's disease: Vaccination.
- ☞ Coccidiosis: (weeks 4-8) Clean environment, Coccidiostat.
- ☞ Respiratory conditions: Control moisture and dust in house and run.
- ☞ *Chicken Health Handbook*, Gail Damerow.
- ☞ 2022 Detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/avian-influenza/2022-hpai>

HPAI



- ☞ Separate your flock from disease sources including wildlife and wild birds.
 - ☞ Keep your poultry area and equipment clean.
 - ☞ Separate new or returning birds from your flock for at least 30 days.
 - ☞ Don't share equipment between neighbors.
- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Chickens: | Turkeys and other poultry: |
| ☞ gasping | ☞ tremors |
| ☞ extreme diarrhea | ☞ twisted necks |
| ☞ swelling around the head, neck, and eyes | ☞ paralyzed wings |
| ☞ purple discoloration around the head and legs | ☞ recumbent pedaling |
| ☞ rapid death | |

HPAI



If you suspect HPAI:

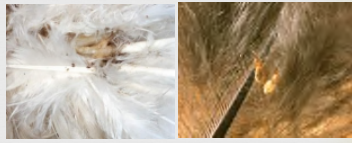
- ☞ Minnesota Board of Animal Health:
<https://www.bah.state.mn.us/poultry>
- ☞ Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory (MPTL):
(320) 231-5170.
- ☞ Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL):
612- 625-8787

More Information:

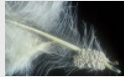
Avian Influenza Basics for Urban and Backyard Poultry Owners
<https://extension.umn.edu/poultry-health/avian-influenza-basics-noncommercial-poultry-flock-owners>

Health - Parasites

- ☞ Lice, Red mites, Northern Fowl mites: Dust bath, diatomaceous earth in house and run.



- ☞ Scaly Leg mites: Diatomaceous earth, cover affected area

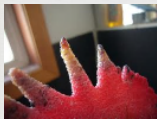


Health - Other

- ☞ Bumblefoot (Staphylococcus aureus)



- ☞ Frostbite



Health-Molt

- ☞ Partial to complete feather loss.
- ☞ Stop laying.
- ☞ Vulnerable to other hens.
- ☞ Supplement diet with additional protein (sunflower seeds, peas).
- ☞ Limit scratch use.
- ☞ 3-4 weeks to 12-16 weeks to complete.
- ☞ Avoid handling birds during molt. It is painful to them.



The Coop

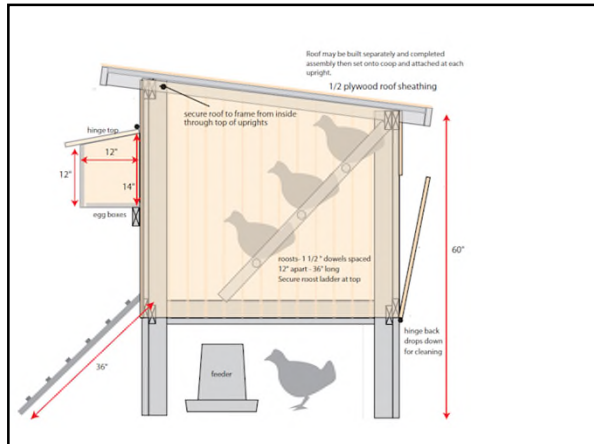


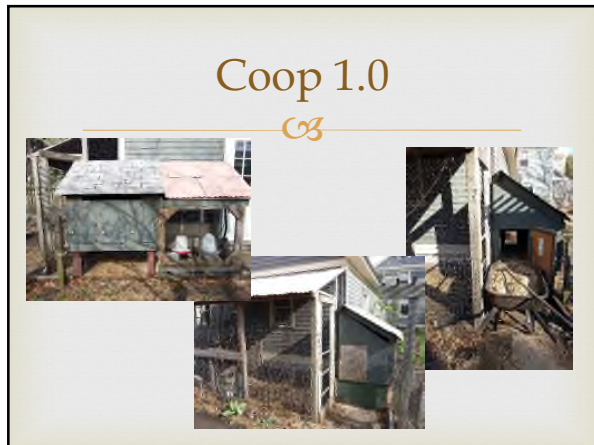


Housing



- ☞ 4 square feet per bird in the house
- ☞ 8-10 square feet per bird in the run
- ☞ 18 inches of perch per hen
- ☞ 1 nest box or area per 3 hens
- ☞ Ventilation
- ☞ Protection from the wind and rain
- ☞ Access to sun and shade
- ☞ Protection from predators







Skirting



Interior



Roost



1 ½ in.



Ventilation



Heat and Light



Water



Winter Goals



What do you want for your birds?

- ☞ Survive
- ☞ Comfortable
- ☞ Productive
- ☞ Thrive

Effort



Cost



Winter Goals



What does this mean for you?

Effort



Cost



Less Effort = Greater Cost

Winter



- ☞ **Insulation** – The least expensive way to keep your chickens warm.
- ☞ **Covered run** – Snow-free run with straw to scratch around in.
- ☞ **Water heater** – Chickens need access to clean water at all times.
- ☞ **Supplemental heat** – You will want to heat a portion of your hen house.
- ☞ **Supplemental light** – 14-16 hours of light a day to lay.

Run Sheathing



Resources



General Information

- ☞ TwinCitiesChickens (Google and FaceBook groups)
- ☞ Twin Cities Coop Tour (2023)
<https://sites.google.com/view/twincitiescooptour2023>
- ☞ U of M Backyard Chickens
<https://extension.umn.edu/poultry/small-scale-poultry>
- ☞ Backyard Chickens
www.backyardchickens.com/
- ☞ Find a Poultry Vet (MVMA)
<https://www.mvma.org/find-a-vet/>

Books

- ☞ *Storey's Guide to Raising Chickens*
Gail Damerow
Storey Publishing
- ☞ *Chick Days*
Jenna Woginrich
Storey Publishing
- ☞ *Young Chicken Farmers*
Vickie Black
Beaver's Pond Press

Services (local)

- ☞ Cozy Coops:
<https://cozycoopsandsheds.com/>
- ☞ Chicken/duck sitting:
<https://flocksittingmn.com/>
