

Keeping Chickens



Presented by:
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Urban Farm Supply, Co.

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Why Chickens?



- ☞ The same reasons you keep any companion animal
- ☞ They help eliminate food waste
- ☞ They play an important role in the composting cycle
- ☞ They are a food source for meat and eggs
- ☞ They (hens) are quieter than dogs
- ☞ They are beautiful and calming
- ☞ They are fun and funny
- ☞ Why not?



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



Permit



Where can I keep chickens?

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

National List of Municipalities
<http://www.cityofminneapolis.org/development/development/development/development.html>

Permits



- ☞ Minneapolis
- ☞ <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/homegrown/WC/MSIP-133231>
- ☞ 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 | \$25.00 | Yearly Renewal | \$25.00 |
| 7-15 Hens | \$50.00 | Yearly Renewal | \$50.00 |
| 16-30 Hens | \$75.00 | Yearly Renewal | \$75.00 |
| Rooster | \$100.00 | Yearly Renewal | \$100.00 |

Permits



- ☞ **St. Paul**
<https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/safety-inspections/permits/animal-permit>
- ☞ No Roosters.
- ☞ Obtain and complete permit.
<https://www.stpaul.gov/sites/default/files/Media%20Root/Keeping%20of%20Animals%20Permit%202017.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 | \$26.00 |

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.

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

Your Chickens



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



- ☞ Always have fresh water available. Keep it away from the heat lamp.
- ☞ "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 will disappear as they start to grow.
- ☞ 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, avacados.
- ☞ 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

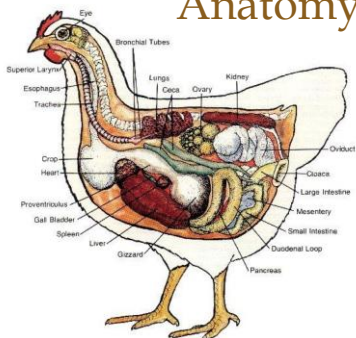
Weekly

- ☞ 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

Anatomy



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.

☞ Healthy

Poo



☞ Unhealthy



Photos: <http://chat.allotment.org/index.php?topic=17568.0>

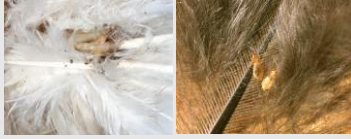
Health-Conditions



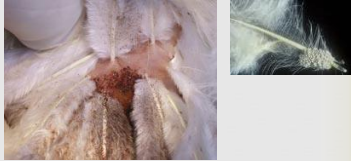
- ☞ Marek's disease: Vaccination.
- ☞ Coccidiosis: (weeks 4-8) Clean environment, Coccidiostat.
- ☞ Respiratory conditions: Control moisture and dust in house and run.
- ☞ *Chicken Health Handbook*, Gail Damerow.

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.



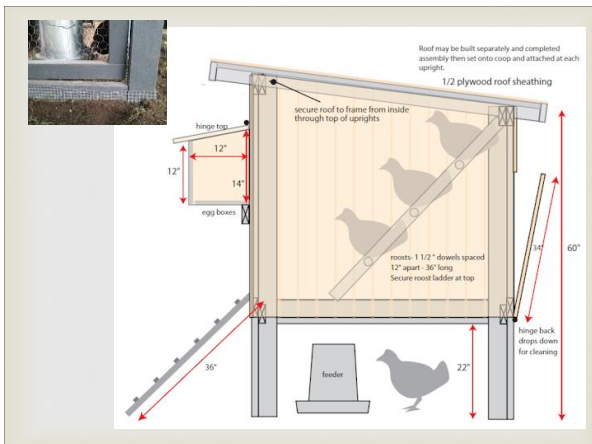
Coop and Run



Housing



- ☞ 4 square feet per bird in the house
- ☞ 8-10 square feet per bird in the run
- ☞ 6 to 10 inches of perch per hen
- ☞ 1 nest box or area per 4-5 hens
- ☞ Ventilation
- ☞ Protection from the wind and rain
- ☞ Access to sun and shade
- ☞ Protection from predators



Coop and Run





Interior



Ventilation



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



Heat and Light



Water



Resources



General Information

☞ TwinCitiesChickens (Google and FaceBook groups)

☞ Twin Cities Coop Tour
sites.google.com/site/twincitiescooptour/

☞ U of M Backyard Chicken Basics
<http://www.extension.umn.edu/food/small-farms/livestock/poultry/backyard-chicken-basics/>

☞ Backyard Chickens
www.backyardchickens.com/

Books

☞ **A Chicken in Every Yard**
Robert and Hannah Litt
Ten Speed Press

☞ **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
