

Seasonal Care



Hot Weather

- Increase airflow – open vents and add shade or a fan at bird level
- Provide cool, clean water at all times; add extra drinkers in the run
- Encourage feeding early morning or late evening when temperatures are lower
- Keep bedding dry to reduce odor, flies, and ammonia buildup
- Watch for panting, drooped wings, or sluggish birds – signs of heat stress



Cold Weather

- Close drafts at bird level but keep upper vents open for airflow
- Add deep, dry bedding or straw for insulation and dry footing
- Use safe heated waterers or replace water often to prevent freezing
- Check insulation, seals, and moisture – prevent frostbite and damp air
- If you want birds to keep laying use a light timer to maintain day length for steady egg laying

Fun Facts

Egg Hunt

Collect eggs twice daily to keep them clean and prevent egg-eating.

Chatty Chickens

Healthy hens peck, scratch, dust bathe, and quietly “talk” all day.



Resources



www.healthybirds.info



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Small Flock Care Checklist

Daily, weekly, monthly, and seasonal tips



Use these tips to keep your birds healthy, productive, and safe



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Daily Care



Care + Feeding

- Check and refill feeders; feed dry, clean, and free of mold
- Refill and clean waterers; keep water fresh, free of debris or ice
- Provide feed and water at all times
- Collect eggs once or twice daily



Flock Health

- Observe birds; note alertness, movement and sound
- Scan droppings; ensure normal form and color
- Separate and monitor any sick or weak birds



Coop + Run

- Lock coop at night; open and secure in the morning
- Spot clean wet or dirty bedding or manure
- Adjust vents and give birds access to both sun and shade
- Clean coop shoes and sanitize hands before and after flock care

Weekly Care



Care + Feeding

- Empty and scrub waterers; rinse lines or hoses if used
- Clean feeders and remove any caked or spilled feed
- Check feed storage for moisture, mold, or pests



Flock Health

- Inspect for mites/lice; treat if any found
- Handle a few birds to check weight and keel condition
- Record unusual behavior, illness, or drop in egg production



Coop + Run

- Replace nest-box bedding (2-3 inches); scrub boxes if soiled
- Remove manure under roosts and high-traffic areas
- Rake or turn bedding and run soil to dry and reduce odor
- Refresh disinfectant; clean brushes and wipe shared tools or feeders

Monthly Care



Care + Feeding

- Inspect feed bins for cracks, leaks, or pest signs
- Rotate feed bags; discard anything old or damp
- Adjust feeding amount or timing for weather or flock condition changes



Flock Health

- Handle a few birds to check body condition and feathers
- Treat for lice, mites, or worms if needed; refresh dust bath
- Review notes on production, behavior, and any losses



Coop + Run

- Deep clean coop; remove all litter, scrub, disinfect, and dry
- Disinfect boots, tools, and replace worn or dirty biosecurity supplies
- Check and repair roosts, nest boxes, lighting, vents, and predator barriers
- Improve drainage or grading around the coop or run