Quick Tips

Height Matters

Pick a high, dry spot to avoid flooding, have good drainage and avoid pests

Airflow

Think about airflow and weather: vents or windows should open

Sturdy Materials

Use solid, easy-to-clean flooring and locking latches to block predators

Think About Sunlight

Face windows and runs south for sun in winter and shade in summer

Weather

Insulate well to protect birds in heat and cold

Run Space

Attach protected roaming space to the coop for birds to feel more relaxed

Fun Facts + Tips

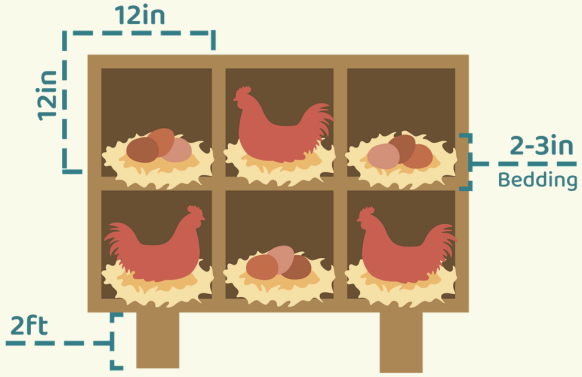
Egg Production

Hens produce 5-6 eggs per week during their first two years of peak production.

Light Lovers

Hens need 12-14 hours of light daily — a simple bulb works in winter.

Nesting Box Setup



Resources

www.healthybirds.info

Facebook
Small Flocks Collaborative

Instagram
@smallflocks_healthybirds

COOP BASICS FOR YOUR SMALL FLOCKS

What a good coop looks like

Use these tips to help form a healthy and safe home for your birds

SMALL FLOCKS COLLABORATIVE

Coop Prep

1. Keep a Clean Coop

- Scrub perches, floors, and boxes often. Keep coop clean and dry.

2. Choose a Dry Spot

- Build on high, well-drained ground to avoid standing water, odors, and flies.

2. Bedding & Supplies

- Use 2–3 in. clean, dry bedding. Provide 1 feeder and 1 waterer per 6–8 birds.

3. Watch Behavior

- Calm birds eat, drink, and roost normally. Huddling, panting, or pecking shows heat, cold, or crowding problems.

Bird Spacing

1. Chickens

- 2-4 sq ft coop, 8-10 sq ft run

2. Bantams

- Slightly less than chicken measurements

3. Turkeys

- 6-10 sq ft coop, 15+ sq ft run

4. Predator Protection

- 4-6 sq ft coop, 10-15 sq ft run

Basic Coop Setup

1. Roosts

- 8–10 inches per bird. Set higher and away from nest boxes to keep eggs clean.

2. Ventilation + Light

- Windows or vents = fresh air + fewer health issues.

3. Nesting Boxes

- Provide 1 box for every 3–5 hens. Mount boxes lower and away from roosts, and add 2–3 inches of clean bedding.

4. Predator Protection

- Use secure latches, hardware cloth and bury fencing to keep out any predators.

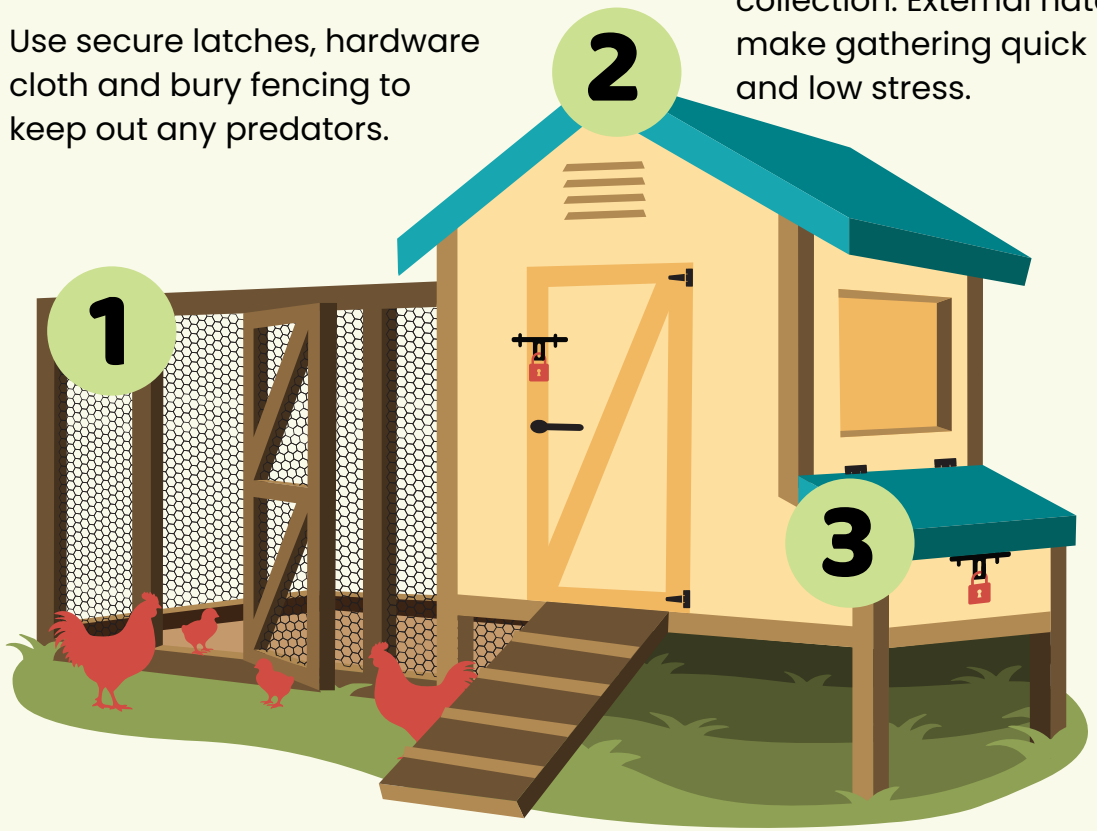
3 Main Elements

1. Outdoor Run

- Room to scratch, dust bathe peck, and exercise safely.
- Use half inch hardware cloth (**not chicken wire**) for predator protection.

2. Secure Coop

- A dry, ventilated space for sleeping and predator protection.
- Adding a lock to the door will help keep it secure

3. Nesting Boxes

- Place boxes for easy egg collection. External hatches make gathering quick and low stress.