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

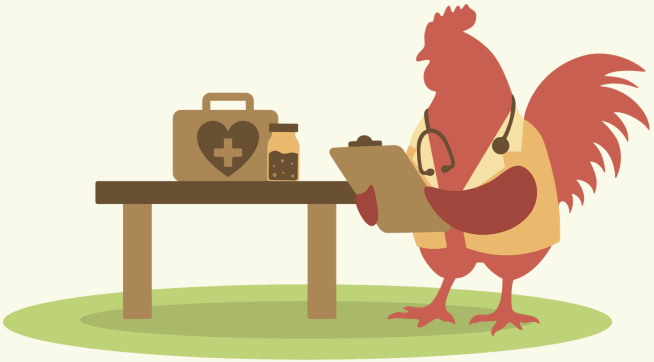
Fun Facts

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

Facebook

Small Flocks Collaborative

Instagram

@smallflocks_healthybirds

SMALL FLOCK CARE CHECKLIST

Daily, weekly, monthly, and seasonal tips

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

SMALL FLOCKS COLLABORATIVE

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