

Backyard Chicken Basics

BACKYARD CHICKEN BASICS



LIVE WELL UTAH

Are you interested in keeping backyard chickens? Here is some basic information to get you started.

- Some municipalities do not allow backyard chickens, or have strict ordinances to regulate them. Be sure to check what your city allows or requires before setting up a coop.
- Purchase chicks from sources that certify they are free from specific diseases.
- You may end up with a rooster among your chicks. Be prepared to part ways with the roosters—hens do not need a rooster present in order to lay eggs.
- Chickens are no respecters of property lines, and they can fly. To minimize the impact on neighbors, enclosures should properly restrain poultry and confine them to your property.
- Chickens have a relatively short life span. The productive life of a hen is about three to five years.
- Where there are chickens, there are rodents. Take this into consideration when planning your coop, and implement a rodent control program.
- Don't keep chickens with ducks or turkeys. Mixing of species increases the potential for infection and spread of avian influenza (bird flu).

Find Out More

Explore the Garden Family Night: Backyard Chickens

USU Botanical Center, Kaysville

[Register Here](#)

Raising backyard chickens has become very popular in Davis County. This event will teach families how to properly choose the right breed of backyard chicken, identify common diseases, nutrition, egg/layer management, and answer questions.

Participants will learn about the 4-H youth poultry program opportunities in Davis County as well.

Fact Sheet: Basics for Raising Backyard Chickens

Fact Sheet: Considerations in Raising Small Backyard Flocks of Poultry in Population-dense Communities

The Word on Bird Flu, It Might Affect You!



There has been quite a buzz about avian influenza, commonly called “bird flu”, but could it really affect you? If you have backyard chickens, then the answer is yes. Here are 5 quick tips from USU Extension to keep your chickens healthy and happy. Good cluck!

1. Do not co-mingle chickens and other poultry with waterfowl.

Waterfowl are the natural hosts of bird flu. Even though waterfowl may not show signs of illness, they can still be carriers of the flu.

*Counties adjacent to large bodies of water where migrating

waterfowl tend to congregate are at greater risk, including Box Elder, Weber, Davis, Salt Lake, Tooele, Juab and Utah counties.

2. Provide clean drinking water for your chickens.

Water for your chickens should be clean and chlorinated. If possible, use water from a culinary source. Never allow your chickens to have access to swamps, ponds or ditches because water from these sources could easily cause illness.

3. Avoid visiting neighbors' chicken flocks.

You never know if your neighbors' chickens are sick and infected. Although their chickens might seem healthy, sometimes it takes a little while for symptoms to appear.

4. Use dedicated footwear and outerwear when caring for your flock.

You never know when you might come in contact with viruses. To stay on the safe side, only use footwear and outerwear that is dedicated to caring for your flock. To make this easier, leave boots and coveralls in an adjacent covered container.

5. Keep chickens in an escape-proof enclosure.

Chickens can stay in backyard runs or coops. Make sure they are completely covered with wire or netting. Housing your flock in an enclosed space will keep them away from other birds that might contaminate them.

For further information, a recorded presentation of a recent webinar on avian influenza presented by David Frame and Warren Hess can found [here](#).