



So, You Want To Raise Chickens!



Well to start off with, you will need to have a very sturdy, well ventilated indoor coop for your chickens. Yes, they need to be *out of the elements* to live long and prosper!

Do not think a flimsy little coop that you can assemble in a matter of hours will do the trick. Sorry to burst bubbles, but any animal with enough determination will be able to get into that and decimate your flock. Plus, in the summer those things are incredibly hot, and can have a detrimental effect upon your hens. Like, it can kill them!

Most likely, you will be raising baby chicks from the very start. This is the fun, adorable stage.

You do have to spend some money **\$\$** on preparation for the chicks. Like: a way to keep them 97 degrees for the first week. Usually, this is a heat lamp up and mounted securely to something unmovable. These can be dangerous, but if you keep vigilant they do ok. There is another solution, but that is a secret. Keep on reading, and it will be revealed!

They will need water and food small little chick waterers and feeders. Found at your local feed dealer, or Tractor Supply.

You will need starter feed, but that comes in after they are refreshed and rested from their long trip to you.



You may see the little peepers at Tractor Supply because they have "Chick Days" at their stores in the early springtime. However, in talking with other chicken owners, some hens do not produce well, and some have died. Which can happen regardless of where they are purchased from. I am sure that they do have good ones, but to be sure and not have disappointments in the future, there are other ways, luckily.

Just know that once you and your kids are mesmerized at all the cute little chicks, you may forget all this, and why not, go ahead and buy them.

Perhaps a better choice is to order yours from a number of hatcheries!



This is how:

- ② Going on line, you pick the breeds, the day of delivery, (which is determined by the hatchery available stock)
- ② Baby chicks are mailed to you via the U.S. Postal Service! Just let your local post office know that you are expecting baby chicks and that they should inform you immediately once they get there. They do this!
- ② Bring them home to a well prepared baby chick raising area. It could be in your home, or a well heated and ventilated garage, barn or workshop.

- ② Chicks will need to be contained. Cardboard boxes taped together so they have room to go from one to the other works, which I made for mine. A sleeping spot, and a feeding area. Using wood chips only, and not paper (their legs will not be able to grip, and you could give them splayed legs!)
- ② Then you simply gently pick up the chicks out of their box they came in, and help them to their waterer, and dip their little beaks into the water. Repeat to the feeder.
- ② Then release them. Do that to each and every one of them, and you have a good start.



☺ Feed and water must always be present. Fresh water, and chick starter feed is all

you need for now!

- ☺ At first because they had been contained, they do not move around too much. But, if you show them around, they will buzz around peeping away in no time!
- ☺ They may eat, and get water, and then because of their long trip, take naps.
- ☺ Be aware that these little guys are now their own flock. They stick close together, and this is where the fun begins.
- ☺ As you watch them, you will undoubtedly start to laugh.

- 🌀 I won't give it away, because I want you to discover their ways. Just know, they are *God's* little creatures, and some day they will be making fresh eggs for you and your family and friends!



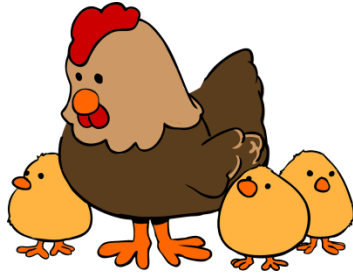
The growth stage after baby - a male chick is called a cockerel. A female is called a pullet, not a hen. Adult mature chickens have the hen and rooster designation.



Another very interesting factoid:

After mating successfully with a hen, chicken eggs will be fertile for as long as up to fourteen days. Every single egg she lays in those fourteen days will be a fertilized egg. And, a chicken can reject a rooster after mating, and the eggs will not fertilize.

Now, the first egg laid in that fourteen day period is nested, and will not start developing until the last egg is laid, so each chick will develop at the same amount of time, and be born. They crack through the shell at the same amount of time. So, even though the earlier eggs were laid days past, they all mature at the same rate, and all hatch on the same day!



Everybody who wants to have chickens should get some information so that trouble can be avoided. Like any animal, they have really different personalities! You may find some noisier than others. Some may dig furiously the minute they get out of their indoor coop in the morning. Some will shy away from you, some will come up to you, and some will try to ignore you!

Resources

Book and Magazine:

"Raising Chickens" by Gail Damerow an excellent 438 page Best Seller
Backyard Chickens, Backyard Poultry,
Hobby Farms Magazines. Tractor Supply offers magazines as well

Hatcheries:

<https://www.cacklehatchery.com/>

<https://meyerhatchery.com/>

<https://www.mcmurrayhatchery.com/>

Feed stores:

Tractor Supply

Blue Seal Feeds (mostly New England)

Your Local Feed Store