

FARM FRESH EGGS

BASICS ON KEEPING CHICKENS

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READY SET RIDE THERAPEUTIC RIDING FACILITY



AGENDA

- Introduction to Ready Set Ride
 - Who we are
 - Meet the Chickens!
- Benefits of Raising Chickens
- Need-to-Know for Getting Started
- Estimated Costs
- Q & A



WHY CHICKENS?

- Teach family about sustainability, how we can do our part
- Produce farm-fresh eggs
- Natural method of protein consumption for meat-industry-sensitive family or vegetarians
- Why not?



LIVING WITH CHICKENS

- Lifespan can vary but average 6-8 years in a backyard flock, reaching 10-12 with excellent care and no genetic issues
- Most flocks will produce eggs for 3-4 years with quantity, size, and shell quality decreasing each year
- You can keep eggs for two weeks at room temp as long as they are not “washed”; otherwise, one week in the refrigerator like all eggs.
- They can run 9 mph and turn on rails



NEED TO KNOW

Pro tip: Check with your HOA first

- Two permits required from Plainfield, a coop permit and chicken-keeping permit, ~\$80 through the Planning Dept
- Coop permit requires:
 - 2 copies of plat or survey of property
 - Build plan submission of materials, foundation, electrical
 - Pre-build city inspection if pouring concrete and post-build inspection for electrical and everything else
- Chicken-keeping permit is signed agreement to care and health of chickens



THE COOP

Pro tip: Compare HOA requirements to Plainfield requirements

- Entire enclosure must be 30 feet from adjacent homes
- Full pen plus shelter must be no less than 32 square feet
- Full pen plus shelter must be enclosed with a fence constructed of wood or metal
- Enclosed shelter must be at least 16 square feet (of the 32 above), no more than 6 feet tall, and must contain an independent electric heat source that does not require use extension cords



ONCE YOU'RE APPROVED...

Pro tip: Time the process for the month you'd want to acquire chickens

- When the pen is inspected and approved, you can register to obtain your chickens through the Planning Department
- No Roosters, Limit 8 chickens (hens) per household
- Coops and Pens must be kept clean and tidy to minimize odors
- Rules prohibit slaughtering of chickens on residential property except for humane reasons



BREEDS TO CONSIDER

Friendliest Breeds:
Australorp & Isa Brown hen

RealSelfSufficiency.com

Best Chicken Breeds for Eggs

	Breed	# Eggs Per Year	Temperament	Best For	Start to lay at
	Golden Comet	300	Hardy & friendly	Dual Purpose	15 weeks
	Rhode Island Red	250	Hardy & bossy	Dual Purpose	18 weeks
	Barred Plymouth Rock	250	Gentle & friendly	Dual Purpose	18 weeks
	White Leghorn	280	Hardy but nervous	Eggs	16 weeks
	New Hampshire Red	200	Feisty & broody	Dual Purpose	18 weeks

	Breed	# Eggs Per Year	Temperament	Best For	Start to lay at
	Buff Orpington	200	Friendly & inquisitive	Dual Purpose	19 weeks
	Sussex	250	Friendly & docile	Dual Purpose	16 weeks
	Ancona	200	Hardy but nervous	Eggs	20 weeks
	Marans	200	Calm & docile	Dual Purpose	24 weeks
	Ameraucana	250	Hardy & friendly	Dual Purpose	25 weeks

Similar to
Easter
Eggers

CARE OF CHICKENS

Climate

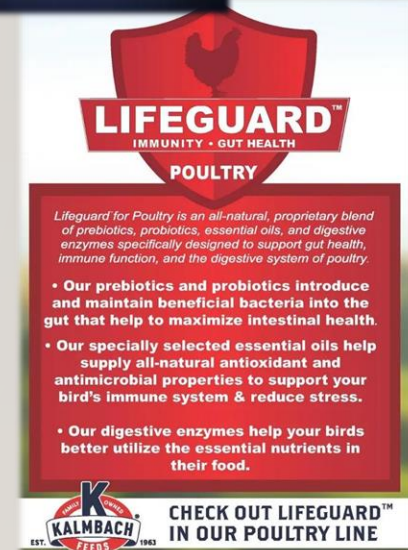
- Chickens are well-adapted to survive our cold winters and their heated shelters provide respite as well – each breed has unique strengths, so research your options 😊

Feed (Farm & Fleet, Big R, Feed Loft)

- Nutrena Nature Wise Layer Feed Crumble or Pellet. 40lb bag \$16-18 (crumble)
- Hen House Reserve is another great feed for chickens. 30lb bag \$20-22 (pellet)
- Scraps as treats, fruits and veggies before going bad (ensure no mold)

Supplements (see [14 Supplements for Chickens](#))

- Multi-vitamin + calcium
- Oyster shell



Find a Chicken Vet [here](#)

COMMON CHICKEN HEALTH ISSUES

Egg Laying issues are the most common and caused by vitamin deficiencies, parasite or infection, and/or stress with a variety of remedies

- Examples you can remedy are egg yolk peritonitis and soft-shelled eggs
- Adding calcium and protein to the diet can remedy most in addition to general vitamin and oyster shell supplements
- Examples that require a vet are egg binding or infections needing antibiotics

Check the chicken symptom checker [here](#).
Chicken health conditions a-z [here](#)



COMMON CHICKEN HEALTH ISSUES

Injuries are also common and caused by pecks, entanglements, or fighting

- Detect injuries by seeing bald spots, scabs, or if they aren't putting weight on their foot, acting lethargic
- Prevent fighting and entanglements by making the coop bigger (3-5 sq ft/bird)
- Isolate aggressive birds
- Injuries due to infection like Bumblefoot will need antiseptic wound care, washing, and antibiotic cream; possible a vet trip to drain abscess



COMMON CHICKEN HEALTH ISSUES

Vocabulary: Pasty Vent

- **Parasites** like mites, lice, ticks, and worms are most common parasitic diseases among chickens showing feather loss, irritation, lethargy, and loss of appetite
 - Clean the coop regularly, replace bedding, spray insecticides and treat bird with antiparasitics (just like dogs)
- **Viruses** like bronchitis, avian flu, fowl pox are less likely, highly contagious
 - These can be treated with vaccines and should be before you can purchase
- **Bacterial** infections and Fungal diseases like e coli and salmonella and ringworm respectively are not overly common but treatable

ESTIMATED COSTS

- The average range of backyard chicken coops cost between \$300 and \$2,000 to build, with most people spending around **\$600** for an 18sq. ft. coop with a 90-foot run to hold 6 chickens.
- The **maximum** cost to raise chickens in your backyard will be about **\$69/month**, for a flock of 5 hens, kept for 5 years; or on **average \$200-500/yr.**
 - This includes the birds, feed, bedding, a brand-new high-quality coop, and miscellaneous costs like medicine, pest control, and feeders and waterers.
- Vet visits are about **\$100**, with an average of \$185 per year per bird with unexpected illnesses increasing a bit more.

Costs for 5 hens

\$600 for the coop

\$400/yr for keep

\$925/yr for vetting

\$1,925 in year one;
\$1,325/yr beyond

KEEP RESEARCHING

- ♥ See popular chicken topics [here](#).
- ♥ The Happy Chicken Coop [blog](#).
- ♥ The Chicken Chick [blog](#).
- ♥ Raising Happy Chickens [blog](#).

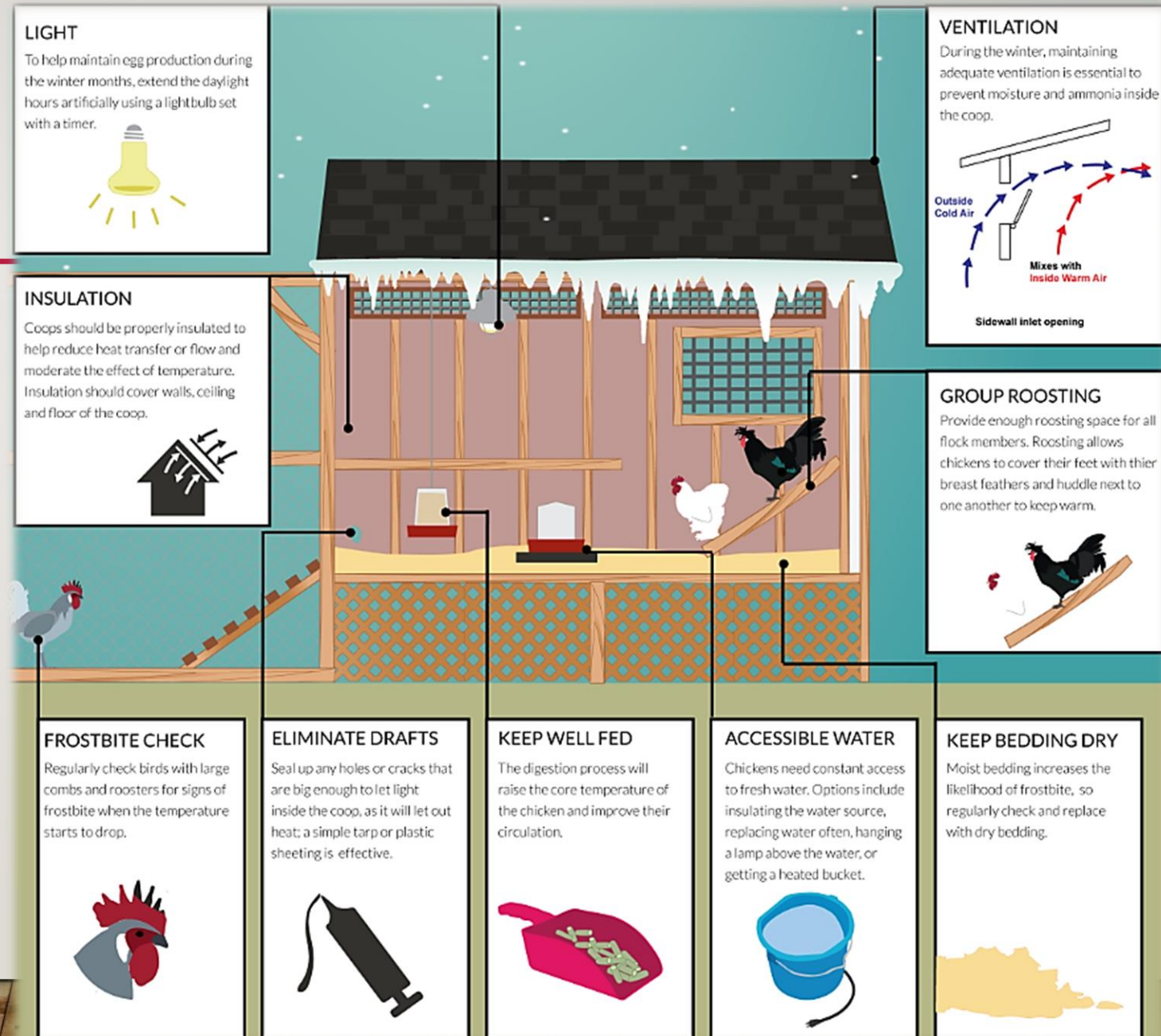
Visit our chickens at Ready Set Ride!

Set up a Barn Tour:

volunteer@readysetrider.org

13056 Essington Road

Plainfield IL 60585



BEING A READY SET RIDE VOLUNTEER

- ♥ Side-walking
- ♥ Leading
- ♥ Barn Chores
- ♥ Fundraising events
- ♥ Group outings
- ♥ Corporate Match

<https://readysetrideride.org/>

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