

Housing for the happy hen

Chicken Coops for the hobby farmer are sweeping the nation. Fresh eggs with a higher nutrient content, insect control, free fertilizer, easy care and less household food waste are just a few of the many benefits associated with keeping backyard hens. Whether you are just starting out or are expanding your flock there are many important aspects of chicken farming that you need to keep in mind. First you must find out if your city allows backyard hens. More than 90% of major cities do but it is still important to check in with your town to find out the rules and regulations for your area.

An important next step is to select the proper living environment for your flock.

When choosing the proper coop for your hens here are some of the questions you should ask:

How many hens do you plan to keep?

- If you want about a dozen eggs per week you will need to plan to keep at least three chickens. Even if you want less, do not plan to keep less than two chickens as they are social creatures who thrive within a flock.
- What type of chickens do you plan to keep? Some fancy breeds do not lay as often and as many eggs as a laying breed of hen. If you want the high end hen in your coop you will need to keep additional birds in order to get a dozen eggs per week.

How much space do my hens need?

- Adult laying hens should be provided a minimum of 8 square feet of coop and run space per bird.
- It is important to provide a safe outdoor environment for your hens to roam.
- Hens need a secure house that includes nesting boxes & roosting bars.
 - Nest boxes should be at least 10" X 10". One box can be shared with up to 5 hens.
 - Roost bars should provide 6"-10" of space per bird.

How do I protect my hens from predators?

- Predators come in all shapes & sizes. Any hole or gap can be an entry point.
- Your coop and run area should have no gaps larger than 1 inch. This includes the wire used. It is important to use wire with small openings in all housing.
- Chickens should be "put up" at night to roost. Make sure the coop doors are closed and securely latched.

Features of our coops:

- Nesting box with locking lid provides security from predators
- Easy close coop door
- Hinged roof or tri-fold roof provides easy access
- Removable pan and double door (select models) allow for easy cleaning
- Oversized run securely attaches to the Chicken Fort model
- Multiple roosting bars in every coop
- Models available for up to 8 chickens!

