

Caring for Poultry



- A lot of factors go into keeping chickens healthy and happy. Remember, they are not pets, so you must pay attention to the details to make sure the flock is healthy. A good place to start is at www.tractorsupply.com/tsc/cms/chick-days.
- All birds need quality feed and clean water. Keeping coops clean and secure will also help birds thrive while protecting them from predators.
- Other important supplies include heat sources and appropriate perching, added calcium for egg laying and vitamins for breeding season.
- Raising a flock takes time and patience. It may be 18 weeks or more before new chicks start laying eggs.
- If you have purchased chicks from Tractor Supply, refer to the QR code on the Chick Days box for in depth care instructions and the CDC fact sheet, which outlines best practices for safe and proper handling of chicks.

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Keeping Your Flock Healthy

Tractor Supply Company sources chicks from trusted hatcheries that follow USDA and NPIP (National Poultry Improvement Plan) guidelines and adhere to strict biosecurity protocols, which includes monitoring for diseases. All chicks sold at Tractor Supply come from Avian Influenza-clean, Pullorum Typhoid-clean and Salmonella-monitored hatcheries. To ensure all birds receive proper care throughout Chick Days, all store team members complete a detailed training course.

- Support flock health by limiting access to your birds. Keep wild animals, which are known to carry some diseases, away from your flock and minimize contact by securing feed bins and water sources.
- If you have been near other birds or bird owners, clean and disinfect your clothes, shoes, equipment and hands before going home. Adults should always supervise hand washing for all children.
- Don't borrow tools, lawn equipment or poultry supplies from other bird owners. Make sure only cleaned, disinfected items enter your bird area.
- Keep new birds and birds returning from shows separate from your flock for at least 30 days.
- According to the USDA, birds should only be bought from NPIP-participating breeders, hatcheries or dealers.
- Monitor your flock and know the warning signs of disease (some examples include coughing, sneezing, poor appetite, and discoloration of wattles, combs, and legs).
- For questions about Avian Influenza or other poultry diseases, please refer to the CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-pets/about/backyard-poultry.html>.
- Report sick birds to your local or State veterinarian, or the USDA toll-free at 1-866-536-7593.