

Backyard Chickens

(or front yard)

Presented by Community CROPS



"Community CROPS helps people work together to grow healthy food and live sustainably."

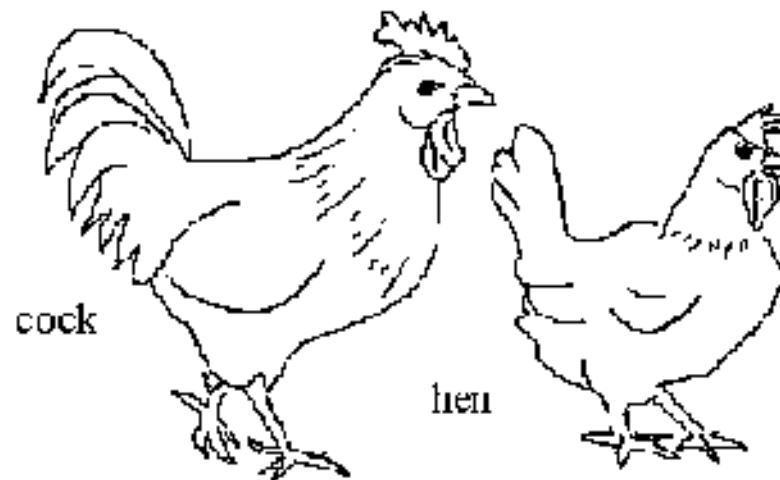
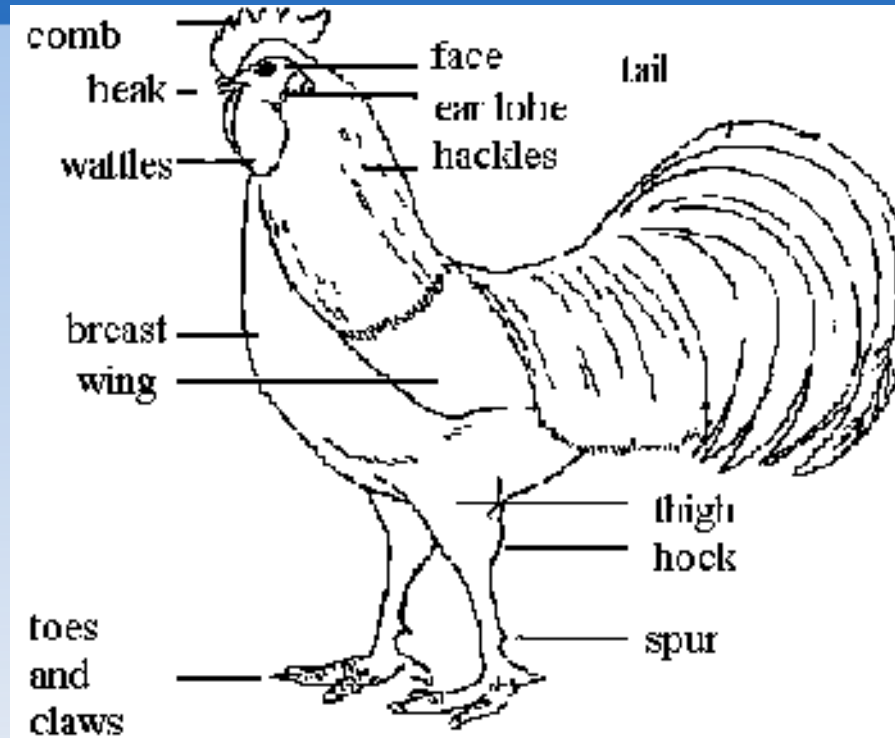
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Why keep chickens?

- They are fun pets for the whole family.
- They produce delicious eggs.
- They produce useful fertilizer.
- They'll help control insect pests.
- They're pretty low-maintenance.



What is a chicken?



Fun Facts About Chickens!

6.04.040 Pigeons, Small Animal, and Fowl Permit Requirements.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to keep or harbor small animals or fowl, without a permit, in numbers equal to or greater than the minimum provided in Table 6.04.040.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to keep or harbor small animals or fowl as follows:

(1) In numbers greater than the maximum provided in Table 6.04.040;

(2) Within pens, enclosures or shelters closer than fifty feet to a neighboring residence; or

(3) Within pens, enclosures or shelters closer than five feet to a neighboring property line.

Got That??

Basically...

- If you have 2 or less hens, you don't need a permit in Lincoln.
- For 3-20 birds, you need a permit, which is \$50/year.
- No roosters allowed.
- The birds have to be 50ft. from neighbors' houses and 5ft. from property lines.
- Make sure they don't smell bad.

Which came first?

- The chicken
 - Chick
 - Pullet
 - Laying Hen
- The egg
 - Laying
 - Washing
 - Eating!



Chicks

■ Selecting chicks

- Local options include Orscheln's, TSC
- Hatcheries include Central Hatchery and Welp Hatchery (www.welphatchery.com)
 - Choose a breed that is intended for either eggs or for meat—dual purpose birds aren't great at either
 - Some breeds lay brown eggs and some lay white
 - Usually better to get two of the same breed because some breeds don't get along well



Caring for chicks

- Day 1: if you order from a hatchery, the chicks have had no food or water
- Days 2-42
 - Prepare a brooder nest for them; Key components include
 - Heat
 - Bedding
 - Rounded edges
 - Water
 - Food
 - Continue expanding the space as they grow

Supplies

- Orscheln's
- Tractor Supply Company



Pullets



- Chickens are called pullets when they are about to start laying eggs
- They usually start laying around week 20
- Sometimes they need to be taught where to lay—in their nest! You can teach them by placing an egg or a golf ball in the nest.
- The next box should be a fairly small, dark place with straw in it—they need to feel like it's a safe place.

Laying Hens

- Full-grown hens will lay on average 300 eggs/year
- They'll slow down some in winter when light levels drop. You can add supplemental light if you want to keep production up.
- Chickens will molt every year or so. This is a process where they lose their feathers and grow new ones-sometimes slow and sometimes fast.

Eggs



- Brown, green, white or speckled
- They'll lay between about 7am and 2pm.
- Keep fresh straw in the nest box to keep eggs clean. Replace if it gets dirty.
- If dirty, clean with fine grit sand paper or water that is 10 degrees F warmer than the eggs.
- Chickens lay small eggs when young, and gradually larger eggs as they age.
- Keep them rotated in your fridge so you don't accidentally leave some for a long time.

The Henhouse

- Mobile or stationary—benefits of each
- Components include:
 - Coop: sheltered space for sleeping
 - Nest box: small, dark space for laying
 - Roost: 1-2 inch thick wood; 1ft. per bird
 - Feeder: secure so it can't be tipped, or sat in
 - Waterer: also secure from tipping or sitting
 - Run: minimum 3 sq. ft. per bird

Upgrade from the doghouse





Costs

- Dumor 16% layer crumbles = \$11.50 at TSC
- One 50# bag lasts me about 2 1/2 months, without much grass and some kitchen scraps.
- This means I spend \$0.16 in feed/day for 2 birds.
- Over-full feeders leads to extra cost.
- Gallon drinker = \$7.00 at TSC
- The pen is the main cost. I spent about \$70 just retrofitting a dog house with a run.

Additional Resources

www.thecitychicken.com
www.backyardchickens.com



