

Chickens in Schools

Certification Training - February 18, 2017

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- Background
- Getting Started
- Care, Safety, and Chicken Health
- Structures and Materials
- Engaging Students
- Program Management
- Resources
- Chicken Management Plan



- Community members and school staff are well supported to manage school-based chicken programs
- Chicken programs are well managed and safely operated
- Students benefit from chicken programs as educational resources



- DC Healthy Schools Act
- School Garden Safety Checklist
- Section 502 of the Animal Protection Amendment Act of 2008
- Classroom Animal for Educational Purposes Amendment Act of 2016
- Chicken Management Plan





- <u>Chickens</u>- Egg-laying female hens NO ROOSTERS
- <u>Coop:</u> Also called a chicken coop or a hen house
 - Run: Also called a chicken run
- <u>Chicken Tractor</u>: A movable chicken coop lacking a floor

Getting Started

- Get certified!
- Work with a team to draft a Chicken Management Plan
- Notify DOH
 - Share your plan
 - Schedule a pre-inspection
- Get coop, run, and chickens
- Notify DOH that you are ready for final inspection and permit
- Engage students!





Cleanliness

- Keep quarters clean, especially nesting boxes
- Wash eggs after handling chickens
- Wash hands
- Proper waste disposal
- Egg handling
- Collect and refrigerate eggs
- If eggs MUST be washed, wash in warm water, 90-120 degrees F.

Keep wild animals out

Clear area clear of any trash





Chickens need:

- Fresh Air
- Dry, nutrient dense food
- Sunshine
- Some shade
- Fresh clean water
- Treats
- Adequate space
- Roosting branches





Chicken Health



- Commercial Chicken Feed
- Clean fresh water
- Treats (Kale, bananas)
- Beetle Larvae
- Insects
- Oyster Shells



YUCKY

• Earthworms

- Snails
- Slugs
- Spoiled or moldy foods
- Stale dirty water



- Golden Comet
- Ameraucana
- Delaware
- Plymouth Rock
- Wyandotte
- Easter Eggers*
- Buff Orpington
- Black Australorp





Materials

- Hardware cloth NOT chicken wire
- Flooring can be grass or soil
- Screens
- Straw (nesting boxes)
- Feeding & watering trays
- Classroom materials (clipboards, pens)
- Cleaning equipment





- Coop and Run
- 2-10 square feet per chicken
- Tightly constructed "cocoon" with lock(s)
- Space for humans too
- Roosts away from food/ water
- One nesting box/ 5 chickens
- Well ventilated
- Secure, weatherproof storage



Engaging Students

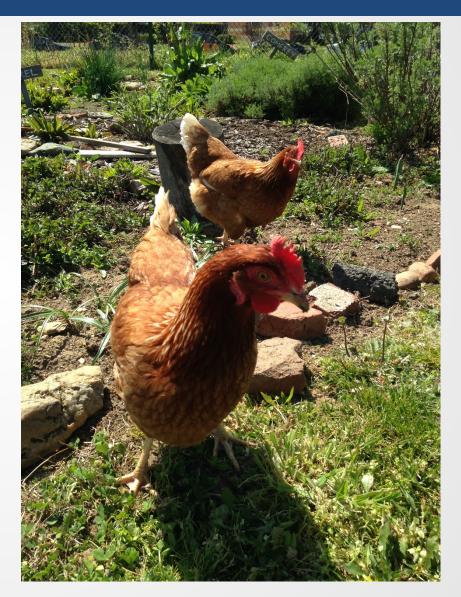
- Student rules/ roles/ jobs
- Picking up/holding/setting down
- Cross-curricular teaching tool
- Naming chickens
- Make run inviting to students





Program Management

- Collect eggs (daily)
- Access to water at all times (1Xweek)
- Access to feed at all times (1-2Xweek)
- Keep the coop clean (1Xweek)
- Maintenance (1Xmonth)
- Feed/ water over extended breaks
- Schedule with teachers





- Chicken tractor/rotation plan
- Store eggs pointy end down
- Egg shells can be crushed and placed in the compost pile





- What procedures are in place to ensure hands are properly washed and chicken area is kept clean?
- How are students trained to enter the chicken area and handle chickens?
- How will you care for chickens in the event of unplanned school closings, breaks, or extreme weather?
- How do you ensure that the chicken area is secure?
- Describe the feeding and watering schedule (type, frequency).
- Describe the day-to-day care and cleaning of the chickens as well as the chicken area (frequency).
- Describe how the coop and run structures ensure that both the chickens and humans are safe and healthy.
- What is the breed of chicken and why was it selected?
- How are the eggs collected, stored, and used?
- What is the exit plan for the chicken program?



- Share your idea with the school administration & school community
- Complete the <u>Chicken</u> <u>Management Plan Template</u>
- Submit Plan to DOH and schedule a site inspection
- Order chickens and all material, equipment for delivery after inspection



