



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
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Goals

- 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



Background

- 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



Definitions



Chickens- Egg-laying female hens

NO ROOSTERS

Coop: Also called a chicken coop or a hen house

Run: Also called a chicken run

Chicken Tractor: 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!





Care & Safety

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





Chicken Health

Chickens need:

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





Chicken Health



YUMMY

- 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





Structures

- 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





Pro Tips

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





Management Plan

- 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?



What Now

- Share your idea with the school administration & school community
- Complete the [Chicken Management Plan Template](#)
- Submit Plan to DOH and schedule a site inspection
- Order chickens and all material, equipment for delivery after inspection





| Q&A