

So you want to get a chicken?



Remember chickens need care 7 days a week



What should I look for when buying a bird?

Research the breed of bird to be learn its hardiness, ease of care and longevity

Purchase a bird from an NPIP certified flock

Make sure the bird looks healthy, no watery eyes or discharge

Observe the bird's behavior and activity level



Where's the best place to buy a chicken?

A feed store that purchased from a National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) certified dealer

An NPIP certified flock in Arizona

An NPIP certified flock from out of state State or county fair

How do I keep the bird healthy?

Find a local veterinarian that can help you keep your flock healthy

Research the type of feed recommended for the breed, most feed stores can help

Make sure the feed is not moldy, and the birds are fed on a regular basis

Make sure they have access to fresh water 24 hours a day

Protect birds from extreme temperatures; birds can be sensitive to heat and stress easily

Check birds purchased for eggs several times a day and collect the eggs often

What do I need for housing?

Separate housing for chickens outside the home

A coop or enclosure with shelter appropriate for bird type

A line of separation to protect bird from people

Containment to protect your bird, its water and food from wildlife

Good biosecurity measure to protect birds from disease

An easy to clean shelter to help prevent buildup of manure



For more information about backyard poultry and nest run producing, contact the Arizona Department of Agriculture. agriculture.az.gov/npip or 602-542-4293. Developed with information from New Mexico State University, the United States Department of Agriculture and the Centers for Disease Control.