So you want to get a chicken?

Remember chickens need care 7 days a week

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

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

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.