Backyard chickens are an excellent hobby. They provide eggs, a good way to learn about agriculture and a healthy sense of responsibility. No matter why you have them, it’s important to prevent disease.

*Salmonella* is a bacteria most often associated with food preparation. It’s also common on live poultry. There have been 40 *Salmonella* outbreaks linked to live poultry in the past 10 years including in Arizona.

**Start with healthy birds**

- Buy birds from hatcheries that participate in the USDA National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP)
- Provide a clean environment, protective housing, nutritious food and fresh water
- Find a local veterinarian that can help you keep your flock healthy

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.