



SMART LITTLE FARMERS KNOW:

- **Baby chicks need a safe brooder with a heat lamp to provide 95 to 99 degrees of warmth for up to 6 weeks until they are fully feathered (no fluff). Be careful of a possible fire from shavings or cardboard near the heat lamp. If baby chicks huddle together under the heat lamp then it is not warm enough and if they stay far from the lamp it is too hot and can be raised up a little.**
- **Baby chicks need a small, shallow chick water so they will not drown.**
- **Baby chicks need a chick starter crumble or mash feed in a shallow feeder for at least six weeks.**
- **The breed of chick or chicken determines the color of the eggs.**
- **You do not need a rooster for hens to lay eggs.**



SMART LITTLE FARMERS KNOW:

- **Young hens are called pullets until they are over a year old.**
- **Baby chicks are best kept separate from mature hens and roosters until they are fully feathered and ready for a regular pellet diet.**
- **All chicks and chickens need clean water daily.**
- **Chickens need nesting boxes 24 inches off the ground closed on three sides for a darker place to lay eggs. The bottom may have straw or shavings.**
- **Chickens need a roost at least 18 inches off the ground in the safety of a coop to sleep on each night. Clean the coops once a week as needed. Use a cat litter scoop to clean shavings from next boxes and rake out the bottom of the coop.**



SMART LITTLE FARMERS KNOW:

- **Chickens need about a $\frac{1}{4}$ pound of complete feed per day, per hen or rooster along with clean water. Treats containing bugs for protein, wheat, alfalfa and ingredients such as chili peppers (chickens can't taste the heat, but benefit from the vitamins), can be offered after a complete feed diet.**
- **Offering chickens treats and calling to them will make them friendly and they may benefit from additional protein.**
- **Chickens need clean water every day.**
- **Chickens will go back inside their coop to roost before dark.**
- **When you spend time raising chicks and call them for food or treats, they will become more friendly.**



SMART LITTLE FARMERS KNOW:

- **Hens start laying eggs around 6 to 7 months old.**
- **If you purchase “Straight Run” chicks you will not know if they are hens or roosters. Purchase “Sexed” chicks as the best chance to get hens.**
- **Hens need a complete feed diet with at least 16% protein.**
- **Hens lay eggs every 26 hours, usually midmorning and do not require a rooster.**
- **Hens only need a rooster to fertilize eggs. They may hatch if kept warm after 21 days.**



SMART LITTLE FARMERS FIRST TIME BUYER CHECKLIST for baby CHICKS :

___ Check your city zoning to see if you can have chickens. Some cities limit the number you can keep and some cities do not allow you to have roosters.

___ Chick brooder, heavy cardboard, plastic or metal tub. Sides at up to 24 inches and flat bottom for little feet.

___ Heat lamp with clamp. Be careful to keep it safe from cardboard, shavings or straw. Make sure the cord is taped or safely protected so as not to be a trip hazard.

___ Small chick waterer.

___ Small chick feeder or shallow tray.

___ Medicated chick feed or chick crumble.

___ Purchase sexed chicks if you only want hens. Straight run chicks mean you will know when they are older if you have roosters.

___ Shavings are a nice starter to keep a clean floor due to mess or damp from spills.



SMART LITTLE FARMERS FIRST TIME CHECKLIST FOR CHICKS OVER 6 WEEKS OLD:

___ Purchase or build a chicken coop with fine wire on the bottom to keep them safe from predators. A covered top is also good for safety. A walk in sized coop allows you to interact and clean with ease.

___ The coop should have nesting boxes around 24 inches off the ground that are darker and protected. Place shavings or straw in the bottom. Cat litter scoops are helpful to keep the boxes clean.

___ The coop should have a separate roost a least 18 inches off the ground. Chickens jump up on the roost to sleep just as it gets dark.

___ Chicken feed for laying hens with a 16% protein. Chicks over 2 weeks old may stay on crumble until they are fully feathers then start with a complete feed at $\frac{1}{4}$ lb per hen per day. Treats may be offered after complete feed for extra protein and variety. Chickens naturally eat bugs and worms.



SMART LITTLE FARMERS FIRST TIME CHECKLIST FOR CHICKS OVER 6 WEEKS OLD continued

___ Provide a full size feeder and a full size waterer. Clean waterer out often in hot weather to provide access to clean cool water.

___ Chickens naturally eat small stones to help grind whole grains because they do not have teeth. Place grit in a shallow dish and provide fine grit for chicks over 2 weeks old with access to whole grains.

___ Chickens naturally dust their feathers in dirt. If your coop does not have dirt you may offer diatomaceous earth in a shallow kitty litter style pan.

___ When your chickens are of age to lay their first egg, approximately 6 months old, you may place a fake egg in the nest box to encourage them to start. Chickens lay eggs in the morning.

___ Mature hens will lay eggs less often in very hot weather or in darker cold weather.

Best of luck with your family
farm experience



with love in every handful
Owners creators and little farmers
Stephanie Gulliford Gawle
Chuck Gawle

