



BRINGING YOUR CHICKS HOME

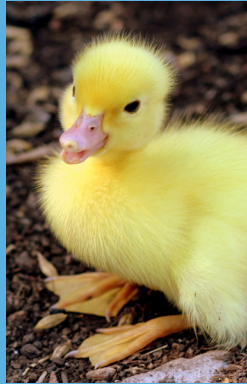
- Have a brooder, a first home, for your baby chicks that is warm, draft free and has about ½ to 1 square foot of space per chick.
- Prepare your brooder with 3-4 inches of bedding that is absorbent and odor free.
Tip: pine wood shavings or chopped straw work best.
- Use a heat lamp to keep temperatures between 92-95° F. Keep heat lamps securely fastened to prevent them from falling and lighting the bedding on fire.

CARING FOR YOUR CHICKS

- Clean, fresh water should be provided daily, away from the heat lamp. *Tip: use a shallow waterer.*
- Fresh chick starter feed that protects against coccidiosis should be provided near the water.
- Decrease the temperature 5° F each week until it reaches a minimum of 55° F.
- Change and refresh your chicks' bedding daily.
Tip: dedicate one pair of shoes for this task.
- Remind visitors that your chicks are VERY fragile!

CLEANLINESS

- Always wash your hands before and after you interact with your chicks! Salmonella, a bacteria that can make people sick, can spread from your baby chicks to you, so don't kiss them or touch them to your face.



GET INVOLVED

- Michigan State University (MSU) Extension has many hands-on opportunities for youth (5-19 yrs. old) to learn more about poultry through 4-H.
- Contact your local MSU Extension office to find out about programs in your area. Visit 4h.msue.msu.edu to explore opportunities, msue.anr.msu.edu/county to find your county office or call 888-678-3464.
- Sign-up for the MSU Extension Poultry Newsletter to get poultry-related news and events delivered right to your inbox. To subscribe, text "MSUE" to 22828 or visit msue.msu.edu and click on "Newsletter Sign-Up."

RESOURCES

- Small and Backyard Flock Resources:
articles.extension.org/poultry
- Michigan State University Extension:
888-678-3464
msue.anr.msu.edu/topic/info/poultry
msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/4h_poultry
- Michigan Dept. of Agriculture and Rural Development:
800-292-3939
www.michigan.gov/aviandiseases