



# Chicken Daily and Seasonal Care

Written by: Twila Parish-Short, MEd., Science Educator

May 2025

## Daily Routine

- Open the coop in the morning to let chickens into their run and check food, water, and bedding. Collect eggs daily to keep nesting boxes clean.
- Close and lock the coop at night to protect chickens from predators, as many animals are nocturnal hunters.



*A hen laying in a nesting box with eggs*

## Daily Maintenance

- **Food and Water:** Check that food and water are full and fresh each morning. Clean waterers daily to avoid bacterial growth.
- **Coop Check:** Look over the coop for any signs of damage or potential predator entry points.
- **Egg Collection:** Collect eggs daily to prevent any breakage or buildup in nesting boxes.
- **Observe Behavior:** Spend a few minutes observing your chickens to catch early signs of illness or injury.



*A chicken in its coop*

## Seasonal Adjustments

- **Summer:** Provide shade and cool water to prevent heat stress. You can freeze bottles of water or provide shallow pans for them to stand in on hot days.
- **Winter:** Chickens are hardy, but consider insulating the coop or using a safe coop heater in extremely cold temperatures. Ensure they have access to water that won't freeze and avoid drafts.

*This information is brought to you by Delaware 4-H and the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, a service of the UD College of Agriculture and Natural Resources — a land-grant institution. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*