



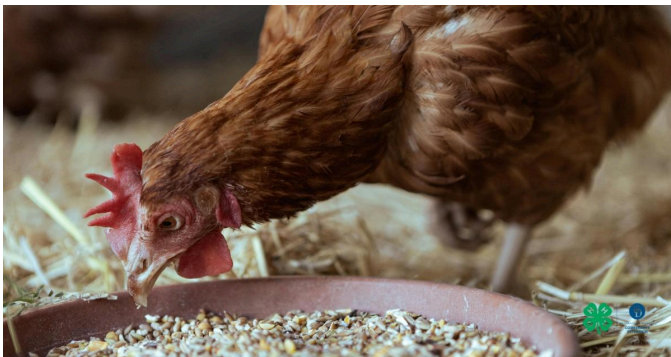
Chicken Health and Hygiene

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

May 2025

Regular Check-ups

- Observe your chickens for signs of illness, such as lethargy, unusual droppings, decreased appetite, or feather loss.
- Check for mites, lice, and other parasites. Dust baths (a shallow area with sand and diatomaceous earth) help chickens keep clean and naturally prevent parasites.



A chicken with an appetite



A healthy chicken in the grass

Vaccinations and Deworming

- Vaccination can prevent some diseases, especially if you're buying chicks from hatcheries.
- Worming is generally only necessary if there are signs of parasites. Some backyard chicken owners use natural preventatives like apple cider vinegar in water or pumpkin seeds, which are thought to help with parasite control.

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.