

# ✓ SUPPLY CHECK LIST

- BROODER CONTAINER
- BEDDING
- ENVIRONMENTAL THERMOMETER
- CHICK WATERER
- CHICK FEEDER
- HEAT LAMP WITH NON-TEFLON BULB
- CHICK STARTER FEED
- SOAP AND DISINFECTANT



**SICK BIRDS?  
GIVE US A CALL**

866-922-2473

**CAHFS LABORATORY  
BACKYARD FLOCK SERVICES:**

909-383-4287



# CHICK CARE CHECK ✓

**EASY GUIDE TO  
TAKING CARE OF  
CHICKS**





# SPACE FOR YOUR CHICKS ✓

**Congratulations on your new chicks!** Chicks need **at least ½ square ft.** per bird and both a warm zone and a cool zone. There should be space for chicks to move freely from the heat source when they get too warm.

Think about where you'll keep your chickens once they are grown. 4 square ft. of indoor space and 5-10 square ft. of outdoor space is recommended for adult chickens.

Make sure that chickens are permitted where you live. Talk to your city and county representatives to learn of poultry ordinances and local laws.



# PURCHASING CHICKS

Make sure chicks are from a **credible U.S. hatchery** such as one that participates in the NPIP (National Poultry Improvement Plan) program and vaccinates chicks for Marek's disease.

Be sure to ask questions about **breed, sex, hatchery source, and the vaccination status of the chicks for Marek's Disease and coccidiosis.**

## REMINDER

Always double-check your sources for chick and poultry care. Look for websites that reference research and educational centers, and when in doubt, contact a veterinarian.



# STEPS TO CHECK ✓

- Clean and disinfect chick supplies prior to use and weekly. Remove solid debris with soap and water, drench in a mixture of 1 part bleach to 10 parts water, and rinse thoroughly.
- Place brooder in an area that is well ventilated but not drafty, and warm enough at night. Fresh air is essential during all seasons as ammonia buildup can be hazardous to birds.
- Set up a circular and expandable brooder, ½ square foot per chick. Corners can trap chicks!
- Add absorbent bedding, such as pine wood shavings, to the bottom. Do not use cedar shavings or other strong odor shavings because they are harsh on chicks' delicate respiratory systems. Keep the area dry and odor free by removing wet bedding daily, especially around waterers.
- Assemble a heat lamp or radiant heater about 20 inches above the bedding in the center of the brooder. Provide 2.5 to 3 feet between the lamp and the guard walls so chicks can cool down if needed. The temperature under the heat lamp should be 95° F when they are less than 1 week old. Decrease the temperature by 5 degrees each week of life until you match room temperature when 4 weeks of age.
- Place 4 linear inches of feeder space per bird. Feed should be available to the chicks at all times.
- Store feed in a place where it will stay dry, at room temperature, and secure from rodents.
- For every 25 chicks, place and fill two 1-quart waterers in the brooder. Be sure to place the waterers away from the heat lamp.

**CONSULT YOUR LOCAL VETERINARIAN FOR MORE USEFUL TIPS.**