Chickens

History
• The modern chicken was domesticated from the Red Junglefowl, a wild bird native to Asia.
• The Red Junglefowl is a prolific reprodcer when exposed to large amounts of food, it is this characteristic that made the chicken such a good domestication decision.

Anatomy of a Chicken
- Exterior
- Combs
- Ear
- Tail
- Brood Patch (during Nesting Season only)
- Wattle
- Hackles
- Hock

Proper Chicken Diet
- Cleanliness is essential
- Containers on the ground should be cleaned once or twice a day

Dietary Supplements
- Of course, insects are a welcome treat
- Bird grit is a good additive for digestion as needed
- Yogurt and Apple Cider Vinegar are a great natural probiotic that can be used as needed
- Hanging feeders and water canisters help prevent debris from collecting in the containers
- Oyster shell is a great natural calcium boost
- Food Grade Diatomaceous Earth or (DE) can be used as needed

ajo_csa
Ajo Center for Sustainable Agriculture
ajocsa.com
Coup Design
• Aim for 8 to 10 sq ft per chicken
• 1/2 inch aviary wire is recommended to keep all small birds out, and will also allow airflow
• Be sure your coop has shade, either from an existing tree or structure, or make some with a roof
• If you are using a smaller coop for only laying and night, be sure to give them their space to run
• Put their fence a foot into the ground and/or use pavers as lining around

Common Chicken Ailments
• Impacted Crop
• Egg Bound
• Sour Crop
• Bumble Foot
• Respiratory Infections
• Impacted Cloaca

Significant Laying Varieties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Egg</th>
<th>Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Ancona</td>
<td>• Upto 5 eggs/week</td>
<td>• Cream to White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Australorp</td>
<td>• Upto 5 eggs/week</td>
<td>• Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Favaucana</td>
<td>• Upto 5 eggs/week</td>
<td>• Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sussex</td>
<td>• Upto 4 eggs/week</td>
<td>• Light Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Wyandotte</td>
<td>• Upto 4 eggs/week</td>
<td>• Brown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Small Bodied
• Handle heat better and are often among the best layers
• These birds tend to be harder to handle and are much flightier

Large Bodied
• With proper Coup set up, they can handle heat as well as a small bodied bird
• Easier to handle and are less flighty
• Typically dual purpose, meaning they can be used for eggs or meat

Tips on keeping your chickens cool
• Provide more shade if needed
• A container like a kiddy pool filled with water allows the chickens to take a dip, this needs to be emptied daily to be kept clean
• Frozen bottles work surprisingly well
• Multiple spray downs with a garden hose
• Provide more shade if needed