



Living with Chickens: Everything You Need to Know to Raise Your Own Backyard Flock

Jay Rossier , Geoff Hansen (Photographs) , American Poultry Association (Introduction)

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Chickens-why not? Tens of thousands of people in all areas of the country enjoy raising these birds, whether for food or companionship. You can, too, with this indispensable guide. Then again, you may want to read Living With Chickens just for the sheer joy of it.

Straightforward prose and dozens of clear, detailed illustrations gives any future chicken farmer the tools he needs to get started, from step-by-step instructions on building the coop to a brief background on chicken biology ("gizzard talk"); from hints on getting high-quality eggs from the hens, to methods for butchering. Vermonter Jay Rossier draws on his own experiences and those of his fellow poultrymen in discussing how to keep marauders from the chicken coop, the benefits of homemade grain versus commercial, and how to live (and sleep) with a rooster in your midst. Personal anecdotes, interesting facts, and lush, full-color photographs of the birds and their landscape round out this comprehensive book.

Living with Chickens: Everything You Need to Know to Raise Your Own Backyard Flock Details

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From Reader Review Living with Chickens: Everything You Need to Know to Raise Your Own Backyard Flock for online ebook

Kelly says

If you have chickens, this is a great reference book to have. We bought it from the hatchery when we bought LuLu Chicken and the other one (can't remember her name). And its been a constant guide to chicken life!

Mephistia says

This is actually an incredibly informative, interesting and fun book. I just checked too many books out from the library and didn't have enough time to finish this one. Unfortunately, someone put it on hold, so I can't renew it, either.

I'm thinking I'm going to buy the e-book version. This is just one of those good-to-have books.

Christine says

A beautiful book--the photograph are terrific. Good info on feeding, but parts of it were a little more technical than I'll probably ever need (and aimed at those keeping bigger flocks than I'm planning on). Also, big emphasis on meat birds, including a step-by-step butchering guide. Not for me! On the plus side, a very detailed explanation (with illustrations) on how to determine if a hen is laying, and how many eggs she's laid in her lifetime--cool!

Rose says

It was a great read for a snowy December as I daydreamed about what would one day be a yard filled with peeping chicks and happy hens. Great resource and wonderful images. I borrowed this book from my local library.

KA says

A good introduction to keeping chickens, with photographs of local chickens by a neighbor of ours. Instantly helpful.

Sarah says

If you only have time to read one book before launching your backyard chicken mission, this is the book for you. It covers all of the basics concisely, without chincing on the details beginners really want to know more

about (like what exactly you do about poo control).

Becca says

Very informative! A great reference to keep on hand for the nuts and bolts of chicken raising. It would have been cool to learn a bit more about chicken behavior, but this is great for basic things like food and shelter and basic care.

Dree says

This book certainly has some useful information. However, much of the coop information assumes you will have 10 or even 25 chickens. That's not for someone with a backyard--that's for someone with land. Many pictures of chickens coexisting with horses and a pig. Again, those are not backyard chickens.

So--interesting, but the subtitle is misleading.

Dan says

This is quite a good beginners guide to raising chickens, though it is aimed more toward large flocks than to the small backyard flocks most will choose to have. Also, unlike books that aim to educate small-flock owners, Living with Chickens also includes a section on butchering your own birds, in case you want to go that route.

Lon says

Good primer for us as we raise our six little chicks. Interesting chapter on butchering!!! Also, kind of rough advice on what to do when the missus gets too old to lay an egg. (I advise against chuckling about this with your post-menopausal friends--believe me, they will NOT think it's that funny.) A Spanish Fork Library book.

JoDean says

What I learned that I didn't previously know about keeping chickens:

1. the progression of a molt. Our Leah should be starting to lay again any day.
 2. letting the manure mix with the litter on the floor of the coop and composting there over the winter. This is accelerated by throwing some scratch over it so the hens break up the droppings. Clean it out in the spring and add fabulous compost to the vegetable garden.
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Lenalopatina says

Great book. It has all the information one needs to raise backyard chickens. The book is technical and has a lot of quantitative information, while being not too wordy which allowed one to get lots of info in short period of time. Highly recommend it!

April says

if you're interested in chickens, this is a great place to start. not too overwhelming, but gives you a good idea of the basics. great pictures and really solid pages -whole thing is in color - feels kind of fancy - I like that!

Emily says

Fun photos and very informative; I also liked the references and glossary in the back.

Kit says

Lovingly done. The photos are gorgeous -- Wyandottes are beautiful hens! Who knew?

And rich-in-potential-metaphor info on chickens. For instance: Did you know that you can tell how many eggs a hen has laid by how yellow her body is? After laying about ten eggs, her flesh loses its yellow tint in her head. After laying 100 eggs, her breast is pale.

Go ahead. Make something of that.
