



Backyard Chicken Keeper's Planner

Ten printable worksheets to run a healthy, productive backyard flock: health, eggs, feed, coop care, budget, and more, all in one place.

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How to use this planner: Print the worksheets you need and keep them in the coop or feed room. Logging eggs, feed, and health week to week helps you spot a drop in laying, a sick

bird, or a feed problem early, and the budget tracker shows your true cost per dozen.

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Signs of a Sick Chicken: What to Watch For

Chickens hide illness as a survival instinct, so subtle changes matter. Note and monitor any bird showing:

- Lethargy, hunched posture, or sitting apart from the flock
- Pale, shriveled, or discolored (blue/purple) comb and wattles
- Loss of appetite or not coming to feed
- Watery, bloody, green, or unusually runny droppings
- Labored breathing, gaping, sneezing, or nasal/eye discharge
- Ruffled or dull feathers, drooping wings or tail
- Reduced or stopped egg laying, soft-shelled or odd eggs
- Swollen joints, limping, or unwillingness to move
- Crop issues: hard / impacted or squishy / sour crop

2. Vet & Treatment Notes

Medications used, vet contact, withdrawal periods, and reminders.

This log is for record-keeping only and does not replace veterinary advice. Contact a poultry veterinarian for any sick or injured bird.

4. Production Notes

Note weather, daylight changes, molting, broody hens, diet changes, or stress events that affected laying.

Laying naturally slows with shorter days, molting, broodiness, age, and stress. Use this tracker to spot patterns over time.

Layer feed is for hens of laying age only; growing birds need starter or grower feed. Provide oyster shell free-choice for laying hens and insoluble grit for any flock with treats or forage.

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Coop Cleaning Schedule

A printable checklist for keeping your coop clean, dry, and healthy

Coop Name / Location:

Number of Birds:

Bedding Type:

Month:

1. Daily Tasks

Quick everyday chores. Check the box as each is done.

Task	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Refresh / refill waterer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Top up feeder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quick droppings board scrape	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collect eggs & wipe nesting boxes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spot-clean wet bedding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Headcount & quick health glance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Weekly Tasks

Tackle these once a week to keep the coop fresh.

Task	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Scrub and disinfect waterer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clean and refill feeder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stir / add bedding (deep litter)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Empty and refresh nesting box bedding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sweep coop floor & roosts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rake run / remove droppings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Monthly & Deep-Clean Tasks

Bigger jobs to keep the coop sanitary and your flock pest-free.

Task	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Full bedding change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deep clean coop (scrub all surfaces)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disinfect roosts & nesting boxes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check & treat for mites / lice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inspect coop for repairs & gaps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clean and check ventilation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Maintenance Notes

Repairs needed, supplies to buy, and seasonal reminders.

A clean, dry, well-ventilated coop is the single best defense against respiratory illness, mites, and ammonia buildup. Adjust frequency to your flock size and climate.

Flock Budget & Expense Tracker

A printable worksheet for tracking the real cost of your backyard flock

Flock Name:

Number of Birds:

Year:

Prepared By:

1. Startup / One-Time Costs

One-time investments to get your flock going.

Item	Date	Estimated Cost	Actual Cost
Coop
Run / fencing
Feeder(s)
Waterer(s)
Nesting boxes
Roosting bars
Brooder & heat source
Chicks / pullets / hens
Predator-proofing (hardware cloth, locks)
Other
STARTUP TOTAL

Backyard eggs are rarely cheaper than store eggs once startup and feed are counted; the value is in quality, knowing your source, and the hobby itself. Use this tracker to plan realistically.

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2. Bird Record Card 1

Detail	Information
Name / ID
Breed
Hatch / acquired date
Source (hatchery, breeder, etc.)
Color / markings
Laying status (age, eggs/wk, egg color)
Temperament
Health notes / treatments
Notes

3. Bird Record Card 2

Detail	Information
Name / ID
Breed
Hatch / acquired date
Source (hatchery, breeder, etc.)
Color / markings
Laying status (age, eggs/wk, egg color)
Temperament
Health notes / treatments
Notes

4. Bird Record Card 3

Detail	Information
Name / ID
Breed
Hatch / acquired date
Source (hatchery, breeder, etc.)
Color / markings
Laying status (age, eggs/wk, egg color)
Temperament
Health notes / treatments
Notes

5. Bird Record Card 4

Detail	Information
Name / ID
Breed
Hatch / acquired date
Source (hatchery, breeder, etc.)
Color / markings
Laying status (age, eggs/wk, egg color)
Temperament
Health notes / treatments
Notes

Naming and tracking individual birds makes it far easier to spot health changes, manage laying, and plan your flock. Use leg bands or distinct markings to tell similar birds apart.

Brooder & Chick Log

A printable worksheet for raising healthy chicks from day one

Batch Name:

Chick Count:

Hatch / Arrival Date:

Kept By:

1. Batch Overview

Basic details for this batch of chicks.

Detail	Information
Chick count
Breed(s)
Hatch / arrival date
Source (hatchery / hatched / store)
Brooder location
Heat source
Planned move-outside date

2. Weekly Brooder Temperature

Start at 95°F in week 1 and lower about 5°F each week until chicks are feathered and matched to outdoor temps (around 6 weeks).

Week	Target Temp	Actual Temp	Chick Behavior (huddling / panting / content)	Date
Week 1	95°F	.....	.....	.....
Week 2	90°F	.....	.....	.....
Week 3	85°F	.....	.....	.....
Week 4	80°F	.....	.....	.....
Week 5	75°F	.....	.....	.....
Week 6	70°F	.....	.....	.....

4. Milestones

Record key developmental moments.

Milestone	Date	Notes
First feathers appearing
Wing / tail feathers in
Fully feathered
First time outside (supervised)
Moved to coop full-time
Integrated with main flock
First egg (if hens)

5. Brooder Notes

Losses, treatments, behavior, and reminders.

Chicks need a reliable heat source, clean water, and chick starter feed. Watch the chicks, not just the thermometer: huddling means too cold, panting and spreading out means too hot.

Vaccination & Treatment Record

A printable worksheet for tracking flock vaccines, medications, and withdrawal periods

Flock Name:

Number of Birds:

Veterinarian:

Year:

2. Routine Schedule Reference

Common poultry treatments. Confirm products and timing with your veterinarian.

Treatment	Typical Timing	Notes
Marek's disease vaccine	Day-old (at hatchery)	Most common for backyard layers
Coccidiosis prevention	Medicated starter or vaccine	Choose one approach, not both
Deworming	As needed / fecal-test guided	Check egg withdrawal
External parasite treatment (mites / lice)	As needed	Inspect monthly
Other vaccines (Newcastle, etc.)	Region-dependent	Ask your vet

3. Treatment Notes

Vet contact, product lot numbers, reactions, and reminders.

Always observe egg and meat withdrawal periods after any medication. Many drugs are not labeled for laying hens; consult a poultry veterinarian before treating.

Predator & Biosecurity Checklist

A printable checklist for keeping your flock safe from predators and disease

Flock Name / Location:	Number of Birds:
Date Inspected:	Inspected By:

1. Run & Coop Security

Inspect physical defenses regularly. Most predator losses come from gaps, weak latches, and digging.

Check	Done	Notes / Date
Hardware cloth (not chicken wire) on all windows & vents	<input type="checkbox"/>
Predator-proof locks / latches (raccoon-proof, two-step)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buried hardware cloth apron or skirt around perimeter	<input type="checkbox"/>
No gaps larger than 1/2 inch anywhere	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secure roof / covered run (hawks, owls, climbers)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coop door closed & locked every night	<input type="checkbox"/>
Automatic door working (if used)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fencing intact, no holes or sagging	<input type="checkbox"/>
No overhanging branches giving predators access	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feed stored in sealed, rodent-proof containers	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Security Notes

Upgrades planned, weak points, and seasonal predator patterns.

Chicken wire keeps chickens in but does not keep predators out; use hardware cloth for protection. Review this checklist seasonally and after any predator activity.

Monthly Flock Checklist

A printable 12-month checklist for routine flock care

Flock Name:

Number of Birds:

Year:

Kept By:

How to Use This Checklist

Work through these tasks once a month for every bird and the whole setup. Tick each box and add a date or note for each month.

- Health check: eyes, nostrils, comb, vent, feet, breathing
- Body condition: feel the keel bone, watch for weight loss
- Parasites: part feathers around vent and under wings for mites / lice
- Seasonal prep: ventilation in summer, draft-free warmth in winter

1. January

Task	Done	Notes
Health check each bird	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weight / body condition	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mites & lice check	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coop deep clean	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feed & supplement review	<input type="checkbox"/>
Egg production review	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seasonal prep	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. February

Task	Done	Notes
Health check each bird	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weight / body condition	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mites & lice check	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coop deep clean	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feed & supplement review	<input type="checkbox"/>
Egg production review	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seasonal prep	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. March

Task	Done	Notes
Health check each bird	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weight / body condition	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mites & lice check	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coop deep clean	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feed & supplement review	<input type="checkbox"/>
Egg production review	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seasonal prep	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. April

Task	Done	Notes
Health check each bird	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weight / body condition	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mites & lice check	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coop deep clean	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feed & supplement review	<input type="checkbox"/>
Egg production review	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seasonal prep	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. May

Task	Done	Notes
Health check each bird	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weight / body condition	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mites & lice check	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coop deep clean	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feed & supplement review	<input type="checkbox"/>
Egg production review	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seasonal prep	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. June

Task	Done	Notes
Health check each bird	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weight / body condition	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mites & lice check	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coop deep clean	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feed & supplement review	<input type="checkbox"/>
Egg production review	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seasonal prep	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. July

Task	Done	Notes
Health check each bird	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weight / body condition	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mites & lice check	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coop deep clean	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feed & supplement review	<input type="checkbox"/>
Egg production review	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seasonal prep	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. August

Task	Done	Notes
Health check each bird	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weight / body condition	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mites & lice check	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coop deep clean	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feed & supplement review	<input type="checkbox"/>
Egg production review	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seasonal prep	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. September

Task	Done	Notes
Health check each bird	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weight / body condition	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mites & lice check	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coop deep clean	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feed & supplement review	<input type="checkbox"/>
Egg production review	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seasonal prep	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. October

Task	Done	Notes
Health check each bird	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weight / body condition	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mites & lice check	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coop deep clean	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feed & supplement review	<input type="checkbox"/>
Egg production review	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seasonal prep	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. November

Task	Done	Notes
Health check each bird	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weight / body condition	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mites & lice check	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coop deep clean	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feed & supplement review	<input type="checkbox"/>
Egg production review	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seasonal prep	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. December

Task	Done	Notes
Health check each bird	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weight / body condition	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mites & lice check	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coop deep clean	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feed & supplement review	<input type="checkbox"/>
Egg production review	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seasonal prep	<input type="checkbox"/>

Consistent monthly checks catch problems early, when they are easiest and cheapest to fix. Adjust seasonal tasks to your local climate.
