

# CHICK DAYS



**Tips to  
become an  
'eggsper't'**

With egg prices climbing due to the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak, many are choosing to raise their own chickens. Backyard flocks and farm-fresh eggs are becoming more popular, but it's essential to follow state and federal regulations when selling eggs. As 4H and FFA youth gear up for fair season and "Chick Days," here are some tips to help you get your chicks started off right:

- Buy chicks from NPIP-approved flocks. Check NPIP lists by state.  
[www.poultryimprovement.org/statesContent.cfm](http://www.poultryimprovement.org/statesContent.cfm)
- Many local feed stores source from NPIP hatcheries — ask for confirmation.
- Isolate chicks from other poultry for at least 30 days to prevent disease.
- Educate yourself: Learn how to raise chicks properly.  
Ask your feed store or veterinarian for advice.  
[www.homesteadandchill.com/raising-baby-chicks-101-beginners-guide/](http://www.homesteadandchill.com/raising-baby-chicks-101-beginners-guide/)
- Practice biosecurity: Visit USDA's "Defend the Flock" for tips:  
[www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/defend-the-flock](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/defend-the-flock)  
or you can email WSDA at [AVHealth@agr.wa.gov](mailto:AVHealth@agr.wa.gov).
- Wear dedicated clothing/footwear when handling your flock and limit visitors.
- Watch for signs of illness: Keep domestic waterfowl and chickens separate.  
Cover your coop runs, and limit contact with wild waterfowl and places they visit;  
like ponds, standing water, and irrigation canals.



For more information on bird health and biosecurity, visit [agr.wa.gov/departments/animals-livestock-and-pets/avian-health](http://agr.wa.gov/departments/animals-livestock-and-pets/avian-health). If you notice a lot of your birds getting sick or dying, please call our **Sick Bird Hotline** at: 1-800-606-3056, or use the online reporting tool, <https://arcg.is/05KT8S>.

