



# Alaska Mill & Feed

## WINTER CARE OF CHICKENS

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Monday—Friday 9a-7p  
Saturday 9a-5p, Sunday 11a-4p  
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### WINTER FEEDING TIPS

- Feed intake varies with season, temperature, age, size, rate of lay, and a ration's energy density
- A Chicken's body operates most efficiently at an ambient temperature of 70-75F
- Cold weather increases a bird's energy requirements.
- In cold weather, chickens eat more to obtain additional energy to stay warm
- Feed a small amount of scratch in the morning or evening to kindle body warmth
- Stimulate appetites with warm mash or by stirring up rations

### POISONOUS FOODS FOR CHICKENS

- Chocolate
- Apple Seeds
- Pits from peaches, cherries, apricots, nectarines, and pears. The fleshy part is ok.
- Avocado
- Onions
- Tomato plant, including leaves and the stem. The fruit is fine if it is ripe.
- Raw beans
- Potato Plant and uncooked potatoes
- Caffeine, salt, tobacco

### WATER

- A chicken's body contains more than 50% water. An egg is 65% water.
- Egg production will be maintained if they have plenty of warm water to drink.
- Ideal water temperature is 50-55F
- The average chicken drinks between 1 to 2 cups of water per day

### FROSTBITE CARE

- Prevent by rubbing Vaseline on combs and wattles.
- Apply damp, warm cloth to unfreeze. DO NOT RUB. Apply antiseptic ointment. Keep away from other birds until healed
- Frostbitten combs once thawed are red, hot, and swollen. They may peel, get scabby or turn black.

### MUST-HAVE COLD WEATHER SHELTER REQUIREMENTS

- Provide adequate space for the number of birds
  - 1 nest box for every 3 - 4 hens
  - 3' - 3.5' of floor space for every mature chicken
- Is well ventilated and draft free
- Protects from the wind and sun
- Keeps out rodents, wild birds, and predatory animals
- Has adequate roosting space
  - 12"-14" per bird on a flat 2"x2" board
- Is easy to clean
- Is situated where drainage is good
- Bedding is 3"-5" deep, using straw, pine or white shavings. No cedar.
- Keep feeding and water areas clean

### TEMPERATURE CONTROL

- Chickens don't require heat to be healthy
- Consistent temperature (40F at roost height) will help maintain egg production
- Protect the North side of your coop
- Can use insulation with a vapor barrier to prevent moisture
- South facing windows or doorways to provide natural light
- If your birds go outside regularly, continue that routine as it gets colder to help them adjust. If it is below 15F outside, keep them inside your coop

### LIGHTING

- In a small coop, a well placed white incandescent light bulb should supply sufficient light and heat. Avoid fluorescent lights.
- Supplement daylight hours with 14-16 hours of light to maintain egg production. Use a timer.
- Red lights keep your chickens warm and reduce stress
- White Light (enough to read a newspaper by) will encourage continued laying
- For a 100 sq ft coop = one single 100watt bulb 4.5 ft above roost with a reflector / 3ft without reflector