

Guidelines for starting a chicken co-operative

1. Find one or more neighbouring households interested in being involved.
2. Agree on where to house the chooks.
3. Identify a primary provider of husbandry activities. Organize a backup provider, or more, for when primary person unavailable.
4. Decide how to house chooks – from plastic covered cardboard box -> deluxe manufactured M^cmansion.
Needs to be water-tight, closable/lockable and easy to clean. It also needs space for a roost, a nesting box/area and for you to move about comfortably.
5. Agree how and where to feed chooks. Agree on sites for co-op members to deposit kitchen and yard scraps.
Good for chooks to have access to grass regularly – can 'farm' grass or 'fence' chooks.
6. Work out the when, who and how of killing the non-productive chooks.
7. Once worked out what needs to be done, establish who will do what, when. This includes the initial set up of the yard.
8. Work out egg distribution schedule.
9. Agree on access criteria for non-resident co-op members to visit chooks.
10. Set up yard: housing, water, food and fencing.
11. Get chooks. Rule of thumb: 1 chook = 6 eggs/wk; 2 chooks = 12 eggs/wk.
12. Keep up your end of the bargain and wallow in the joy that is a happy flock of chooks.