

# Spring Into a Healthy Flock

## Presented by the Stratford Chicken Board

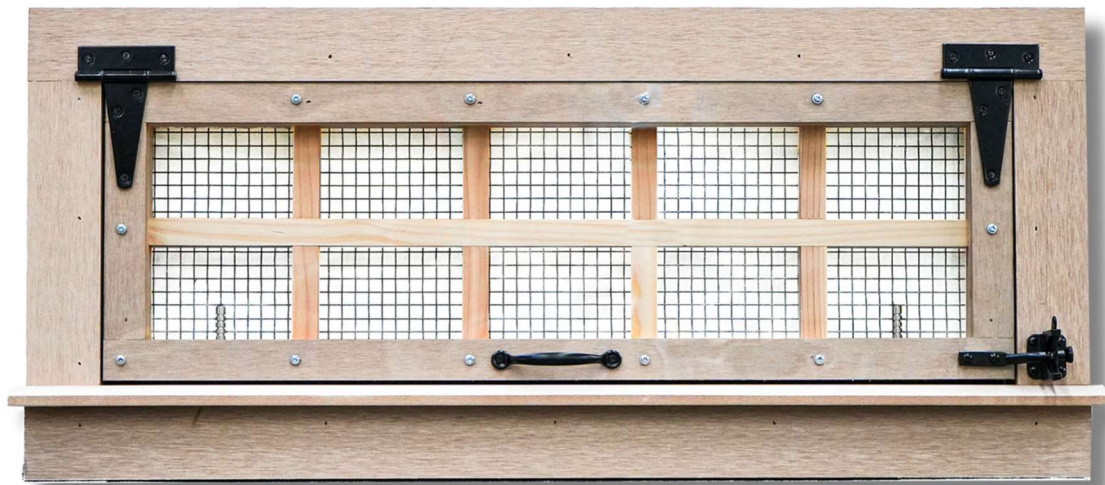
Spring is here — and that means longer days, fresh starts, and the perfect time to prepare your coop and welcome new chickens! Whether you're refreshing your current setup or starting with a new flock, thoughtful preparation clucklettereads to healthier birds, better egg production, and a smoother season.

Below is your official Stratford Chicken Board Spring Guide.

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### Spring Coop Refresh: Start Clean





A clean coop prevents parasites, respiratory issues, and moisture buildup.

**Spring Cleaning Checklist:**

- Remove all bedding and scrape droppings
- Scrub roosts, nesting boxes, and walls with warm water + vinegar or poultry-safe cleaner
- Allow the coop to fully dry before adding bedding
- Replace with fresh pine shavings or hemp bedding
- Inspect for mold, rot, or rodent entry points
- Check hardware cloth and latches for predator protection

**Tip:** Ventilation is critical — airflow at the top of the coop prevents moisture without creating drafts.

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**Adding a New Flock? Do It Right.**



200 ft wireless range





Spring is chick season! Preparation now prevents stress later.

**Brooder Basics (First 6–8 Weeks):**

- Start at 95°F and reduce 5°F weekly
- Provide non-slip flooring the first few days
- Feed chick starter (18–20% protein)
- Clean water daily (shallow and safe)

**Introducing New Birds to an Existing Flock:**

- Quarantine for 2–4 weeks
- Monitor for sneezing, discharge, lethargy
- Use the “see but don’t touch” integration method
- Expect minor pecking order adjustments

Patience during integration prevents injury and long-term bullying.

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**Nutrition = Strong Immunity**





Healthy flocks begin with proper nutrition.

**Feed by Stage:**

- **Chicks:** Starter feed
- **Pullets:** Grower feed
- **Layers:** 16% layer feed once laying

**Always Provide:**

- Grit (if free-ranging)
- Oyster shell (for laying hens)
- Fresh water daily
- Access to dust bathing areas

Optional immune support:

- Small amounts of apple cider vinegar (occasionally)
- Garlic powder in moderation
- Clean, dry coop conditions

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**Spring Health Watch**

Warmer weather brings mites and bacteria.

Check monthly for:

- Lice/mites (under wings & vent)
- Bumblefoot

- Respiratory symptoms
- Weight loss or lethargy

Early detection keeps small issues manageable.

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### **Enrichment & Outdoor Care**

As grass returns:

- Rotate runs if possible
- Add perches, straw bales, or logs
- Ensure shaded areas for warmer days
- Keep run areas dry to reduce odor and bacteria

A stimulated chicken is a healthy chicken.

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### **Stratford Spring Flock Checklist**

- ✓ Deep clean coop
- ✓ Refresh bedding
- ✓ Inspect fencing
- ✓ Prepare brooder
- ✓ Quarantine new birds
- ✓ Adjust feed for growth stage
- ✓ Schedule monthly health checks

For questions or guidance, reach out to the Stratford Chicken Board at:  
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Together, we keep Stratford's backyard flocks healthy and thriving.