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a very lucrative business, and many people make money worldwide by raising free-range chickens. However, to build a successful, sustainable, free-range poultry farming business, you need sufficient knowledge, good management skills, and a business plan to raise free-range organic chickens effectively. Let's check out how to start free-range chicken farming below. When chickens or other livestock are "free-range," they can roam freely, with access to outdoor areas, ranging from small pens to large pastures. These animals are not limited to a small coop, warehouse, or pen; they have a much larger, more enriched space to explore. Since some legal regulations on how free-range can be officially labeled for chickens, various farmers, commercial agricultural workers, or urban homesteaders can consider their poultry free-range in different ways. The main difference between regular chicken production farms and free-range breed chickens is the environment in which they are reared. Common farms keep chickens in tight spaces with many other chickens; this is a large-scale factory breeding environment. The same is true of chickens raised for their eggs. Their diet and conditions may or may not be purely organic. Free-range chickens can roam in low-pressure environments, outside and away from chicken coops or common residential areas. This arrangement allows the chickens to roam in nature with plenty of air, sunshine, and no stress. In case you missed it: Earning More than \$3k per Month: A Success Story of Kadaknath Chicken Farmer There are several benefits to raising free-range chickens. Because birds are not confined to small areas, they get more exercise; their flesh has more flavor; and their eggs are healthier. Free-range chickens also tend to be less susceptible to diseases and predators. With more room to roam, free-range chickens have anxiety, aggression, and territoriality problems, even with large flocks. The cost of caring for free-range chickens can also be less than that of a confined flock. Because birds naturally feed on a wide range of food, there is less need for expensive feed or extra pellets. Free-range chickens will also control natural pests in gardens or landscapes as they snatch away all kinds of insects, weeds, and seeds, and their natural beaks, scrapes, and digs will sprout into the soil. Their pulp becomes the best fertilizer. A large flock can lead to a dirty or bad rebel area; however, be aware of the consequences before releasing the birds. Free-range chicken tastes better and has more protein due to better breeding conditions. The best breeding equals the best health. Chickens that spend free time outside with better exercise, clean air, clean water, and plenty of sunshine are the best sources of natural meat products. On the farm or in the free-range chickens on your farm can benefit your landscape. Farmers use mobile chicken pens to move chickens on their farmland. Chickens feed on insects and eat leftover crops such as lettuce and other vegetables that fertilize the soil simultaneously. It creates a symbiotic relationship between animals and the land. A few free-range chickens can help reduce pests in the garden and provide you with a fertilizer source. Broader Diet - Free-range chickens can feed on insects, grasses, and weeds. Their diet will be much more diverse than that of captivity. It makes them happy and healthy chickens. Low feed cost - Since chickens are foraging, this will increase some of their feed. You will need to give them chicken feed, but free-ranging will reduce the amount. Saving money is always a good thing in life. In case you missed it: How this Farmer Made 24 Lakh Profit from Country Chicken Farming - A Success Story The type of housing you need and the size of this property will depend on your poultry endeavor. When choosing a poultry business location, you want to balance the cost of the property against the potential income. If you're looking at a rural area, you'll likely find lower prices for land and labor. But if you're in an urban area, you'll likely find higher prices. The number of farm workers will depend on the free-range chicken size. If you run a small business like 100 birds/cycle, you and your family may have enough to take care of the chickens. However, if you are raising 2,000 birds per cycle, you will need full-time staff to manage free-range chickens. Business success requires good technical knowledge of free-range poultry farming techniques. You also need good management skills. The free-range chicken market is increasing as more people move towards organic and healthy food. People mostly prefer organic free-range chicken meat to broiler chicken meat. Thus, the free-range organic chicken meat demand is constantly increasing. Free-range chickens cost more than broiler chickens because they are considered higher. Free-range hen eggs are also considered better than commercial indoor-laid hen eggs. Free-range chicken eggs are highly nutritious, delicious, organic, and healthy. In case you missed it: 1000 Broiler Chicken Farming Project Model Report The price of free-range organic eggs is higher compared to that of ordinary chicken eggs. You can deliver free-range chicken meat and eggs to individual households, butchers, schools, restaurants, companies, supermarkets, organizations, events, and more. You can sell your free-range chickens as live birds, slaughter them, and freeze and sell them as dressed chickens. You can export your free-range organic products as you grow your chicken farming business. Free-range chickens can mess with your backyard - Chickens like to scratch the ground in search of insects or while bathing in the dust. It is common in chickens, but when they scratch the ground too much, it can damage your landscape, yard, or garden. So, before you let your birds roam, ensure your landscape is well protected. Eating unwanted plants (ground, flowers, herbs, etc.) - If you or your neighbor has a garden and your chickens find it, they will benefit from free food. Also, they will eat some flower petals and herbs if you are not careful. By giving their birds home-grown produce, they will be tempted to stay in the house. Hunting eggs can be frustrating if you don't know where to start. It would help if you had several much-needed areas around the yard to overcome this problem. This way, you will save time as your hens will be left in special places where you can easily find their eggs. Raising free-range chickens can be challenging, but it can benefit a stronger, healthier, more productive flock. The free-range system is best suited for small-scale farmers who raise chickens for domestic and commercial use. This low-cost free-range system increases the commercial value of poultry products. The above steps are useful for starting free-range chicken farming. If you buy an item via links on this page, we may earn a commission. Our editorial content is not influenced by commissions. Read the full disclosure. Are you trying with the idea of getting chickens? Are you having to wait on getting them because of the expense of the coop? We've been there. There are some really awesome chicken coops out there. The only problem is a lot of them come with quite a price tag. We invested very little money into our first coop and it showed. It didn't last very long. We also made the mistake of using a poor layout and made poor material choices. So when we decided to build a new one, we were stunned when we built a functional free chicken coop for practically no money! That's right, I said it was practically free! We made sure to make better material choices this go round and knew the design we needed to make our chicken coop fully functional. Pallets/Scrap wood/Hinges/Air Material for the roof (We used an old metal roof that was preassembled). Materials for the nesting boxes and roosts (We used scrap wood and slabs). Here is how we built it: In case you haven't heard by now, pallets are the greatest free building material around. You can make a ton of neat pallet projects from them. In this instance, you will be building a chicken coop. Most of the time you can find pallets for free by going around to local businesses. You are actually saving the business owner money by taking their waste off their hands. The number of farm workers will depend on the free-range chicken size. If you run a small business like 100 birds/cycle, you and your family may have enough to take care of the chickens. 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double-wall construction, 4' by 6' (inches) for 2-storey birdhouses. Planting the sills close together, providing the sills (or lighter cardboard or concrete slabs) should be adopted for larger birds, in such cases, the sills should be fitted 16" to 20" apart from one another. If the floor span is more than 10' (feet) then central support should be used for the joists, 4' (inches) or 4' by 6' (inches) as sills; the corners require extra bracing to resist snapping or shearing when moved. Flats joists should be 2' by 4' (inches) or 2' by 6' (inches), depending on the span. Rafters are chosen according to the load requirement of the roof and span: 2' by 4' (inches) for lighter buildings where the clear span is not more than 12' (feet) and 2' by 5' (inches) for longer roofs and where a snow load is expected. Purlins and girders should be used where rafters are more than 12' (feet) long; purlins are usually 2' by 6' (inches) and set on the edge of posts as supports for the roof. They are placed lengthwise of the house and about halfway along the rafter they relate to. In ridged-roof designs, a board is placed between the end of rafters: this keeps the ridge straight and even. Collar beams and crossies should be fitted, with dimension 1' by 6' (inches): to prevent splaying of rafters on gable or combination roofs. Position these collar beams and crossies as low as possible as to gird maximally, but not to interfere with headroom for labourers. If hens roost on them, cover the space between beams and rafters with wire netting. Rafters cut 2' (feet) apart from centre to centre: to avoid wastage of roof boards when cut. Floors Type of alternative flooring for the poultry house – materials and designs for differing circumstances. Concrete flooring must not be laid in direct contact with the ground: otherwise, the floors will be damp and cold, leading to bird discomfort and perhaps disease. To combat this, install flooring on a deep and porous foundation and well insulated. An even and complete floor coverage with litter should be used: this helps to keep the floor dry and warmer for the birds. Best practice for concrete flooring: lay tamped compact foundation of cinders, broken stone or gravel, approximately 6' (inches) deep, with 3' to 4' (inches) of cement flooring on top. Between the two layers (the foundation and the cement floor) it is advised that an impermeable layer of tarred building paper inserted. This prevents moisture from rising up from the ground and getting into the concrete, thus making the floor damp. Best practice for wooden flooring: lay single thickness matched flooring in milder conditions and climates. In cooler climates, use double floor layering, with lower layer boards set diagonally and tight: the space between layers and building paper will help to insulate and prevent damp absorption. Walls Upright structures for upholding the integrity of the building. Mostly, single-walled and nailed directly into the studs: this provides a good combination of optimal cost, effectiveness and satisfactory strength. In colder climates, use double-thickness walls with space in between and also a layer of building paper over sheathing: this adds to insulation, heat retention and thermal efficiency. Lumber of 2.5" to 6' (inches) thick should be used: because boards are likely to shrink a lot – even to produce cracks. The lowest board on the wall should extend beyond the sill: this makes sure the joint is entirely covered. Tight joints at the eaves: by cutting off the rafters with the rear wall and also covering the joint with roofing paper. Shutters under the eaves: allow for better ventilation in summer months and hot climates. Roofs Weatherproof, thermal efficient roofing design for poultry houses. 3-ply sheeting on the roof: to prevent heat loss. Planed on one side and laid close together: smooth side up helps you lay on prepared roofing successfully. Sheathing paper between sheaths and layers: this improves insulation and waterproofing. A slope of 1' (inch) or more to the foot: to prevent pooling of rainwater, by quick run-off. The steeper the slant, the longer-lasting the roof: because it endures less weathering by preventing pooling of water. A good way of sealing off the end of the roofing paper is to bend them under the heating layer: this prevents the tracking in of rainwater into the roofing structure by capillary action at the edges of the roof sheathing. Paints and whitewash A covering for the inside and outside of poultry houses giving a clean, hygienic and crisp finish. Layer of paint (on the inside and outside) of the poultry house: adds a clean appearance and durability. Primer coat half paint and half linseed oil: is thoroughly brushed into the wood, to protect against moisture. Spread whitewash lightly and evenly: for complete coverage. Artificial lights Artificial lights are required to compensate for the lack of natural light in darker, winter months. Give hens 12 – 14 hour days with artificial lighting to extend winter months: this increases the proportion of eggs laid in winter months (but not increasing the total egg output of the farm). 40-watt lamps 10' (feet) apart, with 2 lights in a pen of twenty sq. ft. – for even and satisfactory distribution of light. 6' (feet) high with reflectors of 16' (inches) in diameter and 4' (inches) deep: for the appropriate intensity of light for flocks. Greatest concentration of light should be on the mash hoppers and water dispensers: to encourage correct patterns of feeding in the flock. Lights can be programmed on a timer: to ensure automated delivery of artificial lighting and reducing man-power labour hours. Artificial heating Power-generated heating for the correct running of flock management including watering and normal usage of the entire floor space Prevent freezing of water and keeping the house dry from damp and moisture: this ensures the folk is well watered, maintaining good feeding habits and that disease from damp does not occur. Well structured and insulated poultry houses ought to be artificially heated: or else it proves too costly and inefficient. Typical methods of artificial heating: hot water system, electrical panel heaters or stoves fueled with coal briquettes. Insulation of walls and roofs An additional layer that traps heat (reduces heat loss) laterally and vertically. Double walls for insulation: preventing sudden changes in temperature or sharp gradient. Plus, is a reducer to condensation. Ventilation Planned airflow system for the poultry house, helping flock obtain good quality of air aiding performance. Usually controlled by openings in the front of houses: this plus the rafters is usually more than enough to raise a flock successfully. No. (or frequency) or openings: is dependent on exactly how much ventilation is required for the climate, or flock density. Best practice for poultry house ventilation via openings & windows: 4" to 18" (inches) wide and high up in the front and back of the house. This is enough to avoid condensation moisture but still allow enough heat retention. On cold nights: rafter ventilation is all you need. Ventilator flues: are advised for houses with 24' (feet) depth or more, and where walls are insulated. 1 sq. ft. of flue are for 100 hens. Flues should be just in front of droppings boards. Flues built with a slide to adjust depending on the weather. Fixtures & equipment Nests, hoppers and drinkers – anything that would be provided to enable normal bird behaviour and facilitate performance. Avoid excessive items: otherwise interferes with bird behaviour, hinders the job of the labourers, adds unnecessary capital cost and makes cleaning more difficult. Nests Small, comfortable niches where hens can rest, lay and sleep. Locations placed on end walls or partitions & high enough that birds can work beneath them. User-friendly: arranged so then the hens can easily get into them. Dimensions & design: about 12" to 14" (inches) square, about 12" (inches) high and a lip of about 4' (inches) at the door to prevent litter from escaping or spilling out. Distribution: 1 nest for every 4 to 5 hens. Style: darkened nests for the minimal egg-eating habit of hens. Dry mash hoppers Eating containers for birds to gather and economically receive their feed. Key benefits: minimal wastage of feed, keep litter and dirt out. This keeps your birds performing and growing a peak performance. Size: long enough to enable birds to eat with ample space and from both sides. 1' to 1.5' (feet) long for every 10 birds. Small sections added for shell and grit: to encourage these good eating behaviours. Small open troughs: are great for small birds and chicks and getting their feeding 2 to 4 birds at a time. Drinking Stations Drinking apparatus for birds to gather around and get refreshed. Placed on platforms: to keep the dispensers sanitary and free from dust/dirt. Also, put slats on the floor of the platform to allow droppings to fall through for easy collection. Poultry Farm Layout These are just some of the practically useful poultry farm layout examples on the internet. I pulled them together for your viewing pleasure and benefit, so to speak. One man 10-acre poultry farm: well-organised use of space for using a 10-acre plot and running a layer and breeder farm, with free-range access to crops for foraging. Natural windbreakers and orientation for sunlight etc. Broiler farm layout with feed mill: a good example of spatially organising a simple commercial broiler farm, complete with feed mill and incinerators. I like the fact this plan details recommended distances between structures on-site. Buttercup Poultry Farm Poster: a useful artist's impression of what a 200,000 layer farm would have been laid out like in the 1920s, for example. From the picture, you can only imagine that the smaller brown huts are where the brooder colony style houses were sited and perhaps where the pullets were kept. Layers, of course, were in the large houses. 1+3 layer hen system and 4+1 broiler system: ever wanted to know what the layout plans would look like for your favourite layer hen or broiler rearing system? This is a simplified sketch (which needs LOTS of zooming up) that helps puts things into perspective for your poultry farm project report. Norfolk Black 40,000 bird free-range farm plans: according to Norfolk Black Chicken (www.norfolkblackchicken.com) this bird is "...com fed and slow grown for succulence and an unrivalled depth of flavour." This is an architectural drawing and plan for a 40,000 strong, 3 shed free-range farm. How to design a modern automatic chicken farm (Africric): this next example I've included as a useful step-by-step tutorial for designing what might be a more modern approach to poultry farming. 'Controlled Environment' Houses Now, you might have landed on this post looking for something a little more technological. Perhaps a computerised automated house capable of housing 100,000 birds, with a control shed and all the motorised and programmable help possible. If that is the case, I have a serious investment proposal for you. What would you say if a leading, international poultry farming professional told you that: "...a controlled environment shed could increase your feed conversion ratio by as much as 1 point? In his own language, "For larger companies, one FCR point is worth up to US\$ 300,000 per year." Here is my analysis on how you can take Dhia Alchalabi's advice and practically make it profitable... My take: "Increase Your Poultry Profit By \$300,000 with optimal environmental control." (Premium Newsletter & PDF): a thorough guide into how you can use tight poultry house environmental control to slash your feed costs and rocket your profit. Computer monitored house: this is a simple schematic diagram of how a computer monitored house is relayed in a circuit. A good overview if you are new to the idea. Poultry housing (Slideshare): An academic approach to a guide on poultry housing – very thorough and a good slideshow format – a kind of picture book on everything you might find in a commercial scale environmentally controlled chicken house. QS construction plan of an automated house Pictures of an automated, environmentally controlled poultry house are actually quite easy to find online. However, getting quantity surveyor approved plans and accurate cost estimations is HARD. This is why I have included this next section a reference to www.estimations.com Authored by Derrick Navara (a qualified Quantity Surveyor 'QS' with experience in construction-related projects). The website hosts THE MOST detailed QS plans of some very complex construction projects, including ... This one (essential if you're planning a computer-controlled poultry house): Cost of building a poultry house for 20,000 layers: an impressive step-by-step tutorial for building an automated environmentally controlled poultry house for 20,000 layer birds. Every nut and bolt is accounted for here in this cost analysis and with precise amounts of material – with layouts. Great work. Budget calculation of an environmentally controlled poultry house As a first-timer...., calculating a detailed construction budget for an 'environmentally controlled' poultry house is near impossible without professional input. It's a completely different type of project to building a wooden shed. For a start, half of the components involved are completely foreign to most laymen. But without accurate estimates, you simply can't calculate the capital cost or raise funding. So, I put this chart together based on the findings of Derrick Navara of Estimation QS. Here it is: Cost of building a poultry house for 20,000 layers (COST ANALYSIS CHART): a proportional breakdown of the construction cost elements of the project. (Source: A 1,000 bird poultry shed construction budget calculation In response to a question from one of my readers, I wrote this example budget calculation for a 1,000 bird pen. As a premium subscriber, I'll answer your questions via my Q&A board. Example Poultry Houses from around the World In this section, I share some leading examples of poultry house designs from around the world. I've taken a selection of houses with different: materials sizes systems use ...and on different types of land, locations and in a variety of climates. They should help you have an eye for what currently works out there. Please don't think that these are entirely representative of each country's poultry farming enterprises – Rather think of this as a photo scrapbook of example poultry farm buildings. I tried to make them as varied as possible to appeal to many types of poultry business model. (Also, for a decent beginner's overview of poultry housing systems, complete with pros and cons take a look at this guide: India India Poultry Farm No.1: ANE, At Post : Shindewadi, Tal: Junner , Dist : Pune, Shindewadi, Maharashtra 412411, India. (LINK) Nigeria Dayntee Farms Limited: Kilometre 5, Offa Rd, Amberi Village, Ajasso Ipo, Nigeria. (LINK) South Africa Ismailis Poultry Farm (LINK) Kenya Kari Improved Kienyeji Chicken: Ruaka Town, Muchatha, Kenya (LINK) United States Pastured Life Farm: 6944 210th Pl, O'Brien, FL 32071, United States (LINK) Philippines Fermi Farm Free Range: Unnamed Road, Fola, Oriental Mindoro, Philippines (LINK) Zambia Poultry & Farm: Makeni Konga Makeni, Zambia (LINK) Ghana Westhood Farm: SasaaBi, Ghana (LINK) Uganda Kande Poultry Farm (Uganda) Ltd.: Semuto Town council, Sebagaala Zone Semuto Town Council, Uganda (LINK) Zimbabwe Rising Dawn Livestock And Poultry: 99 Seke Road, Hatfield, Zimbabwe (LINK) Now, over to you... That complete's this guide to poultry houses. I included various designs, structures with their plans, construction budgets with materials costs, site layout, systems of housing, components, photos and even country examples... Are you currently planning a poultry house construction project? Do you have experience with poultry buildings and have something to add? Either way, I'd be interested to hear from you. Leave a comment below, now. References University of Noth Texas Digital Library Sonoma Library www.alphafarms.co.uk (featured image) Here are 20 Free Chicken Coop Plans to choose from. There are Backyard Chicken Coops, Colorful and Architectural Coops, and even some Outrageous Coops. Is building a new coop on your summer to-do list? Building a backyard chicken coop is one of those diy projects that's both fun to dream up and totally overwhelming to build. That's why it makes sense to use detailed plans that have step by step instructions to help you along the way. Most of the chicken coop ideas on this list come with a material list as well as photos or illustrations of the entire process so you don't get lost. Getting started on your new chicken coop is as easy as picking a beautiful design off this list, making a shopping list, and following the detailed instructions to build it yourself. To top it all off, all of these plans are free, simply click the title of the coop you like to get access to the plans! Let's get started! This post contains affiliate links. This charming little coop has dual functionality, a chicken coop and a planter box. It's perfect for just a few hens and you can grow their treats right in the planter box. The plans include an easy access clean out tray and nesting box. In our opinion, easy access is one of the most important features of a small chicken coop, because it can be really tough to clean and collect eggs otherwise. Photo Credit: Gina If you're looking for a fully functional chicken coop that can house a medium sized flock this is it! We love the fully covered chicken run, that's a wonderful feature for keeping out predators, and the roof on top will keep the bedding dry too, which means it will last longer between cleanouts. This coop also features outdoor access to the nesting boxes, which means you don't need to enter the enclosed area every day in search of eggs. Photo Credit: Construct101 If you're looking to save even more money building your chicken coop, this one is a clear winner. This coop's frame is made from wood pallets and used windows. What a great way to recycle and cover your feathered flock at the same time. There are many places you can pick up old pallets for free, just try to make sure they haven't been used to transport hazardous materials as that could harm your chickens. The best place we've found to get pallets for building projects is our local feed store. They get livestock feed as well as bedding delivered on pallets weekly and stack them up for the taking when they're done! Photo Credit: Heather This coop is a huge space saver. Only three feet wide the additional run brings it to almost 22' in length. It is both efficient and roomy for a limited space. We love the shingled roof, it not only keeps out bad weather, but it looks lovely too! This smaller coop uses a very simple construction process that would be perfect for a beginner to take on. The only real downside to this one is there's very little space for chickens, you could only keep a few birds inside. Photo Credit: South City Coop This coop is adorable and made with recycled materials, which are always a great way to save money. The sloping roof and full-size door make for easy entry for the flock owner which makes for easy cleaning of the coop! We love the playful design of this stylish chicken coop. The only thing that would make it better would be an attached chicken coop run for the hens to get outside and play. Photo Credit: Ana White We think this swingset chicken coop is such a brilliant way to re-use an old swingset and build a chicken coop on the cheap at the same time. This coop includes a fenced in chicken run for the flock to spend their time in during the day. The only thing we would change is to close off the space between the coop and the run so the chickens have a more protected place to sleep at night. This coop as-is would likely be fine in a place that has year-round warm and mild weather. However, most locations see plenty of cold, snow, wind, and rain and the chickens would need protection from that in a completely closed coop. What a cool concept for a chicken coop! This chicken tractor is a great design if you have a lot of land and the ability to rotate your flock through the pasture. Chicken tractors are great because the chickens can always have access to fresh ground with the protection of the fenced in run. If you do it right and rotate frequently, you never need to clean the chicken run because the poop gets left behind to fertilize the pasture. This one looks like a relatively easy build that can be done cheaply too! Photo Credit: Courtney Loyd This coop is steeped in history. The original coop was built in 1895 by the grandparents of Joy Tarter from Tarter Farm and Ranch Equipment. The coop was so sturdy she had a replica made in her yard and generously shares the plans with others. We love how huge coop has enough room for a large flock of chickens and the attached chicken run gives them lots of outdoor space! Photo Credit: Tater Farm and Ranch Did you know the Home Depot has chicken coop plans, and they're free?! The best part about the plans is they tell you exactly what you need to buy to build the coop. These chicken coop plans even have videos and photos of every step to help you follow the steps. This simple chicken coop is absolutely perfect for a beginner or someone who needs a quick coop, as you could finish it easily in a weekend! Photo Credit: Home Depot This beautiful chicken house would look stunning in any backyard! The creator of this coop was concerned about possible predator attacks and shows you how to bury chicken wire around the perimeter to keep out digging predators. They also included a metal roof in this design, which will last a long time and even allow you to collect rainwater if you'd like! We love that there are tons of photos of the building process to help you create the same design at home. Photo Credit: Coy a Vin This medium sized coop will house 18 of your feathered feds. These printable plans are chock full of detailed measurements and graphics from every angle of the project. This great design has multiple entry points into the coop and chicken run to make for easy access for the chicken keeper. Photo Credit: Home and Garden Plans This little beauty is a chicken cottage complete with a white picket fence. It's big enough for 10 chickens, and the cedar shingles used on the outside of the coop can be painted to any color palette you desire. We love the windows covered in hardware cloth to keep out predators and pests, as well as the fact that the chicken coop is raised up off the ground. This feature keeps diggers like rats and foxes from getting access to the coop. Photo Credit: Trevor The church design of this wee coop is perfect for four hens and doubles as a chicken tractor, allowing your hens to move about the yard. Having a portable chicken coop is so handy, especially if you have a lot of land for your chickens to forage on. We love the intricate design and think it would fit in perfectly in almost any backyard! Photo Credit: Todd Leach This coop is simply adorable, and Ana White and Gina from Lady Goats and are so kind to share free plans to build it yourself! We love that this coop has outside access to the nesting boxes, as well as a fun planter on top of the built in chicken run that you can use to plant veggies and herbs to feed to your chickens. We would plant greens, basil, and radishes to feed our flock. You can also get really creative with this coop and paint it any color you'd like. You could even add a chicken mural or some sweet chicken coop signs to the outside. Photo: Lady Goats This purple beauty has windows for good ventilation and a big run for your girls to get their exercise. Additionally, there are corner perches that are a big hit with the owner's flock. We love that it fits in perfectly with the landscaping, and you can't beat a purple coop with such a clever name! Photo Credit: Navy Chick This coop has room for not only one backyard animal but two. It's made to house both chickens and rabbits, but if you don't raise rabbits, you could still use their hutches to house broody hens and chicks or use it to keep sick hens away from the flock. The open concept of this coop allows for plenty of air movement but may only be feasible in warmer climates. Photo Credit: Doug Scott Another great set of plans from Home and Garden. This coop is a whopper and will comfortably suit 24 chickens. The extended runs help the coop to feel even roomier. We love how easy this one is to clean, and all the windows for lots of fresh air. This big chicken coop would be perfect for someone with lots of space in the country! Photo Credit: Home and Garden Plans This coop is what you need if you have a flock of over 25. It is 120 square feet, giving lots of space for your chickens to roam. This structure hardly even looks like a chicken coop, and could be just what you need if your HOA has strict rules on the appearance of outbuildings, you'd never guess it was a chicken coop! Photo Credit: Hen Haven This absolutely beautiful coop truly has it all. The gazebo style is pleasing to the eye and the windows all around will let in lots of natural light. The attached chicken run will give your hens lots of time outside and the whole coop is easily accessible by doors all around for easy cleanup and egg collection. The hanging plants and flowers are just the icing on the cake! Photo Credit: Todttrac You have to say this is one mighty fine chicken coop. This coop has a tin awning, fabric curtains, and a chalkboard sign complete with hotel rates! We love the fun design and could see this sort of creativity spreading to other outbuildings until you have a whole tiny Western town in your backyard! Hey, we can dream, right? Photo Credit: The Eggcelsior Did you find a coop idea that you just can't live without? You know you can always tweak a coop plan and make it uniquely your own. We would love to see pictures of your coop whether you're building a new one or have already built that unique coop you've been dying to share. Share your picture and description in the comments, and we'll be happy to show off your coop. Happy building everyone!