

EVANS EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

CHICKEN PROTOCOLS

AUGUST 2021

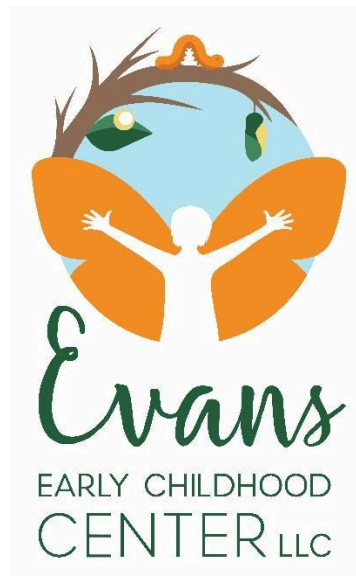


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Evans Early Childhood Requirements and Guidelines for Keeping Chickens on School Grounds

I. Introduction

"Today, Morgan County remains one of the state's most important agricultural counties. Its 212,569 head of cattle rank third among the state's sixty-four counties, and Morgan County is one of the state's top producers of corn. County farms also produce significant crops of wheat, melons, hay, and vegetables," according to <https://coloradoencyclopedia.org/article/morgan-county>. Schools have a growing interest in teaching students where their food comes from. To better educate students on the origins of what they eat and the science behind it, schools are opting to grow fruits and vegetables and raise chickens and other food production animals. The following policy will outline the necessary procedures and protocols for installing a coop and raising chickens at Evans Early Childhood Center.

II. Care and Safety Rules

1. Wash hands before and after handling chickens.
2. Do not eat or drink while in the run/coop or after working in the run/coop until hands have been washed.
3. In order to reduce the transfer of foreign substances into and out of the chicken area, staff will use shoe booties when entering and leaving. Shoe booties will be kept in a weatherproof tote outside of the coop area.
4. The chickens will be in an enclosed area down-slope from any food producing garden.
5. No student under the age of five should enter the chicken area. No student under the age of eight should handle chickens.
6. The chicken area (coop and run) is the appropriate size with adequate ventilation and proper materials to accommodate the maximum number of chickens planned.
7. Plenty of shavings for bedding and straw for the nesting boxes will be provided and stored in the utility closet, separate from any human food and properly sealed at all times.
8. The chicken coop and run will be cleaned by properly trained individuals at the frequency determined by the cleaning schedule set in the management plan. Dust masks must be worn when cleaning the coop and run. It is the responsibility of the school to provide dust masks for cleaning purposes.

9. Waste bedding and chicken manure should be placed in garbage bags and thrown in the trash dumpsters.
10. All students and volunteers must have a signed Waiver and Release of Liability (Appendix 1) on file with the school attesting that they have been instructed of the proper care of chickens and the risks that may be associated with caring for chickens and consuming their eggs.
11. The following recommendations should be followed when handling eggs:
 - Keep the nesting box clean.
 - Eggs should be collected daily by properly trained staff, students over age 8 or volunteers.

III. Chicken Health

1. Chickens will be fed a high-quality feed that is clean, dry and kept free of mold. It will be stored in the front utility closet, separate from food for human consumption.
2. We will ensure clean water is always available. A two-gallon standing watering system will be used.
3. We will ensure feed is regularly available and kept clean with a chicken feeder.
4. We will establish a schedule to ensure that chickens are monitored as frequently as possible.
5. Signs will be posted on each side of the coop with contact information for the chicken program manager and an alternate so that community members can call to report issues.
6. We have identified a local veterinarian that can provide care to sick birds.
 - Fort Morgan Veterinary Clinic, Telephone: (970) 867-9477, Address: 1215 East Burlington Ave Fort Morgan, CO 80701

IV. Structures and Materials

General:

1. Chickens will be kept on the school grounds, but outside of fenced, licensed outdoor playground areas.
2. The site for the coop and run maintains at least 15 feet from a fence shared with a neighbor or from a public sidewalk.
3. In order to be proactive in regard to potential vandals, a camera system with remote

access will be in place.

Chicken Coop Specifications:



This fir wood constructed chicken coop can comfortably accommodate up to six chickens. It includes six nesting spaces, three roosting bars, and 125 cu ft of pen space for the flock to roam around and exercise.

Features

- Assembled Dimensions: 142"L x 70"W x 68"H
- Run Size: 142"L x 36"W
- House Size: 36"L x 36"W
- 6 Nesting areas
- Slide out tray for easy cleaning

Feed and Equipment Storage:

1. The feed and equipment storage is secure, weatherproof, rodent proof, and dry. We use metal containers with tight lids.
2. Space will be provided for feed, classroom equipment, cleaning supplies, safety equipment, and anything else to support lessons in the chicken area.

V. Engaging Students

1. We will begin each year by setting students' behavioral expectations. We will create and agree on rules that students will hold themselves accountable for when

working with chickens and assign roles/ jobs that students will be expected to fill.

2. Students should be taught how to approach, pick-up, hold, and set down a chicken properly.
3. Chickens can be used to teach all subjects and a wide range of topics. We will use, but are not limited to the resources section at the end of the document for ideas. We currently use the creative curriculum, which is heavily nature based and will work well to incorporate learning about agriculture and chickens. When at all possible, we strive to use chickens to create connections between subjects.

VI. Community Relations

1. We will post a notice on the coop/run notifying the community that the chickens are the property of the school and that they are being cared for daily throughout the year, including school holidays. The notice will include contact information for the school chicken program manager and an alternate so that community members can call with questions, concerns or to report a problem.
2. Complaints from the community will be responded to by the school within 24 hours.
3. We will maintain our run and coop in an attractive way, and it won't be an eyesore to the neighbors.

Evans Early Childhood Management Plan Form and Agreement

School Information

Name: Evans Early Childhood Center

School Address: 313 Linda Street, Fort Morgan, CO 80701

Chicken Program Contact Information

Name: Roseanne Evans

Email: evansECcenter@gmail.com

Phone (accessible after school hours): 816-349-9925

Affiliation with School: Owner/Director

Number of chickens on site: 6

Size of coop (in square feet) 108 sq. ft.

Size of run (in cubic feet): 125 cu. ft.

To be considered schools must:

Provide a map showing where the coop and run will be located on school grounds, delineating dimensions and distances from public sidewalks, school buildings, school walkways, playgrounds and school gardens. See Below...



Coop Location

Distance from school building: 45 feet

Distance from neighboring sidewalk: 55 feet

Distance from neighboring Senior Center: 50 feet

Provide detailed schematic drawings of the run and coop design indicating all materials used for flooring, walls and roof.

Store bought coop from Murdochs, Product: Large Chicken Coop

Flooring: Wood Mulch, Coop has a removable tray for easy cleaning.

Walls: Chicken Wire, Wood

Roof: Wood





Answer the following questions:

1. What procedures are in place to ensure hands are properly washed and that shoes are clean before and after handling of chickens and entering chicken area?
 - Any person before and after handling chickens, chicken feed, or equipment will wash hands before and after any handling of the aforementioned. Shoe booties will be worn into the chicken area and then properly disposed of after each use.
2. What procedures are in place to ensure staff, students and volunteers have been properly trained to enter the chicken area and handle chickens and their eggs?
 - Staff, students, and volunteers must first sign the waiver of release of liability and complete a training on proper health and safety guidelines and handling of chickens and eggs, conducted through our local extension office.
3. How will you care for chickens in the event of unplanned school closings or extreme weather?

- The chicken manager will be responsible for caring for chicken in unplanned school closings or extreme weather. There will be a chain of command, and if the chicken manager is unable to complete their duties, the next in line will be responsible in these cases. All chicken staff will be local and able to complete duties outside of school hours.
4. How will you ensure that the chicken area is secure?
- The chickens will be monitored remotely by an onsite camera system. The chicken manager will be alerted if there is unauthorized activity at the chicken coop.
5. Describe the feeding and watering schedule including:
- a. What watering and feeding systems will be used?
 - Stainless steel 2 gallon watering system, and stainless steel gallon standing feeding system.
 - b. How frequently will feed and treats be given?
 - Feed, water, and treats will be given daily

6. Describe the day-to-day care and cleaning of the chickens as well as the chicken area. Include frequency of cleaning the run and coop as well as who will be responsible.
 - The chicken manager and chicken-trained staff will be responsible for cleaning the chickens and their area. The coop and run will be checked daily for waste and properly cleaned. Waste will be removed, placed in a garbage bag, and disposed of in the onsite dumpster outside.
7. What procedures are in place to ensure the chickens are properly cared for over extended breaks of three or more days?
 - The chicken manager will be responsible for caring for chicken over extended breaks of three days or more. There will be a chain of command, and if the chicken manager is unable to complete their duties, the next in line will be responsible in these cases. All chicken staff will be local and able to complete duties outside of school hours.
8. How will the eggs be collected, stored, and used?
 - Staff or children aged 8 and older will collect eggs from the coop, wearing gloves when doing so. They will be stored in clean egg cartons, in a cool, dry place in the staff lounge (separate from food preparation areas). Staff will be able to take these eggs home, as they will not be used on site.
9. Who is the Veterinarian whom you will utilize if you have a sick bird?
 - Fort Morgan Veterinary Clinic, Telephone: (970) 867-9477, Address: 1215 East Burlington Ave Fort Morgan, CO 80701
10. What is the exit plan for the chicken program if it is discontinued?
 - We hope to be able to provide the chicken program for rich learning experiences for years to come! In the event the chicken program is discontinued, the coop and chickens will be rehomed to a member of the staff or community.

We, the undersigned, attest that we have thoroughly reviewed the Requirements and Guidelines for Keeping Chickens on School Grounds. We attest that we will properly care for chickens under our care and that all staff, students and volunteers will be properly trained in proper care and safety and informed of the potential risks associated with chicken care and consumption of eggs. Furthermore, we will obtain and keep on file a signed Waiver and Release of Liability for all students and volunteers that will be involved in the care of chickens and maintenance of the run and coop. Finally, we recognize that the choice to keep chickens on school grounds is entirely that of the school and that failure to comply with the management plan is grounds for the loss of the privilege to keep chickens at the school.

Roseanne Evans

School Director

(Print Name)

Signature

8-21-21

Date

Roseanne Evans

School Chicken Mngr. (Print Name)

Signature

8-21-21

Date

Resources

1. City and County of Denver, Food Producing Animals: Suggested Care Practices and Local Resources, Chickens, Ducks and Goats.
<https://www.denvergov.org/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/682/documents/Animal%20Protection/FPA%20Best%20Practices%20Handout%20-%20EV.pdf>
2. Food Safety Begins on the Farm: A Grower's Guide/ Good Agricultural Practices for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, Assessment Sections – Petting Zoos, Manure (www.GAPs.cornell.edu)
3. Texas A & M Cooperative Extension's Safety and Handling Procedures for Chickens. Shared by Jeff Raska, jwraska@ag.tamu.edu, May 12, 2014.
4. Salmonella and Backyard Chickens. Accessed July 15, 2014.
www.extension.org/pages/70621/salmonella-and-backyard-chickens
5. Risk of Human Salmonella Infections from Live Baby Poultry. Accessed July 15, 2014. www.cdc.gov/Features/SalmonellaBabyBirds
6. Clauer, Phillip J. Small Scale Poultry Housing. Accessed July 15, 2014. Virginia Cooperative Extension. www.ext.vt.edu.
7. Clauer, Phillip J. Proper Handling of Eggs: From Hen to Consumption. Accessed July 15, 2014. Virginia Cooperative Extension. www.ext.vt.edu.
8. Ellis, Love, Moore, Haro-Marti. Composting and Using Backyard Poultry Waste in the Home Garden. University of Idaho Extension. Accessed July 15, 2014.
9. Clauer, Phillip J. Management Requirements for Laying Flocks. Accessed July 15, 2014. Virginia Cooperative Extension.
10. Ingham, Barbara and Ron Kean. Egg Safety and the Backyard Flock. Accessed July 15, 2014. University of Wisconsin Extension.
11. Bunning and Avens. Colorado State University Extension. Home-Produce Chicken Eggs. Fact Sheet No. 9.377
12. Colorado State University Extension. Raising poultry for small-scale production.
13. Darre, Michael. Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Poultry House.
<http://smallfarms.cornell.edu/2014/04/07/cleaning-and-disinfecting-your-poultry-house/> Accessed July 16, 2014.

Hens, feed & supplies

- Murray McMurray Hatchery (www.mcmurrayhatchery.com)
- The Urban Farm (www.theurbanfarm.org)
- Coops and organic chicken feed are available from Denver Urban Homesteading (303•534•8700, www.denverurbanhomesteading.com)
- www.mypetchicken.com: for info / orders for as few as three hens (will guarantee the

sex)

- Golden Mill, (1012 Ford Street, Golden, CO 80401 303-279-1151) feed store and chickens (will guarantee the sex)
- High Altitude Organics, organic chicks and feed (highaltitudeorganics.com)

Other

- Urban Hens, program of UC Boulder, can answer questions, provide technical support and help find new homes for chickens (Wynn.Martens@Colorado.EDU)
- The Old Feed Store (970.493.0320, 3612 W County Rd 54g, Laporte, CO 80535)

Appendix A: Waiver and Release of Liability

In consideration of the desire to participate in the care of the school's chickens, collection of eggs and maintenance and repair of the chicken coop, all students and volunteers must have a signed Evans Early Childhood Waiver and Release of Liability on file with the school for working with the chickens, with the full understanding that handling chickens and their eggs and working in a chicken coop may expose individuals to Salmonella and other potential risks.

Waiver and Release of Liability

In consideration of being allowed to participate in the **care and maintenance of school chickens and their coop/run** ("Activity"), to the extent permitted by law I hereby forever discharge, release, and hold harmless Evans Early Childhood ("School") and its employees, officers, directors, agents, representatives, and authorized volunteers (collectively, the "Releasees") from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions, and causes of action arising from or related to any loss, damage, or injury, including death, that may be sustained by me, or to any property belonging to me, while participating in the Activity.

I am fully aware of the potential risks and hazards and I hereby elect to voluntarily participate in the Activity. I knowingly and freely assume all potential risks, known and unknown, including those arising from the negligence of the Releasees.

I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, further agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees from any loss, liability, damage or costs, including court costs and attorneys' fees, that Releasees may incur due to my participating in the Activity, including those caused by the negligence of the Releasees or otherwise.

I have read this Waiver and Release of Liability ("Agreement") and fully understand its terms. I also understand that I have given up substantial rights by signing it and sign it freely and voluntarily without any inducement. I am at least eighteen (18) years of age and fully competent to sign this Agreement.

Participant (Print Name)

Signature

Date

*Parent/Guardian (Print Name)

Signature

Date

(* If Participant under 18 years of age)