

EXPERIMENTAL HOMESTEADER

Polish Chicken Care

Checklist & Flock Health Tracker

MEMBERS-ONLY PRINTABLE

A practical companion for your chicken-keeping binder

Daily care | Health checks | Seasonal routines

Egg records | Breeding notes | Flock observations

POLISH CHICKEN CARE

Checklist & Flock Health Tracker

A practical printable companion to the Polish Chickens guide at ExperimentalHomesteader.com. Use these pages in your coop binder to track daily care, crest condition, egg production, and changes you might otherwise forget.

Bird or flock: _____ Started: _____

Daily care | Morning

☐ Count birds; note alertness, posture, movement, and appetite.

☐ Provide appropriate feed and fresh, accessible water.

☐ Check that crest feathers are dry and eyes are not obstructed.

☐ Watch for bullying or birds unable to reach feeders.

☐ Check doors, latches, fencing, shade, and shelter.

Daily care | Evening

☐ Count every bird before closing the coop.

☐ Look for unusual breathing, droppings, wounds, or behavior.

☐ Secure predator-proof doors and latches.

☐ Check water and bedding conditions for the coming night.

Quick observations

WEEKLY HEALTH INSPECTION

Bird name/ID: _____ Week of: _____

☐ Crest: dry, clean, not matted; feathers not blocking vision.

☐ Eyes and face: no swelling, discharge, or injury.

☐ Skin and feathers: check for lice, mites, irritation, or pecking.

☐ Feet and legs: normal gait, no sores or swelling.

☐ Body condition: no unexpected weight loss or weakness.

☐ Housing: dry bedding, clean roosts, no obvious parasite hiding places.

☐ Social behavior: bird can eat, drink, and roost without harassment.

Record anything unusual

Date	Observation / concern	Action taken	Follow-up

If a bird is severely ill, injured, or having difficulty breathing, seek prompt veterinary advice. Follow poultry-specific product labels and withdrawal periods.

SEASONAL CARE PLANNER

Winter

☐ Keep water from freezing and check it often.

☐ Inspect crests for wet or frozen feather clumps.

☐ Ventilate to remove moisture without drafts at roost level.

Spring

☐ Inspect fences, run roof, gates, and predator entry points.

☐ Review breeding plans and quarantine new birds.

☐ Check crests and housing for parasites.

Summer

☐ Provide shade, airflow, and reliable cool drinking water.

☐ Observe for heat stress and wet or dirty crests.

☐ Monitor feed access in a mixed flock.

Autumn

☐ Watch molt, appetite, and feather regrowth.

☐ Repair coop leaks and improve drainage before cold weather.

☐ Review records and prepare winter supplies.

Seasonal notes and improvements

INDIVIDUAL BIRD PROFILE

Bird name / ID: _____

Hatch date / estimated age: _____

Variety / color / bearded or non-bearded: _____

Sex (confirmed or uncertain): _____

Source / breeder: _____

Temperament / flock relationships: _____

Baseline observations

Date	Weight / body condition	Crest / vision	General health

Treatments, changes, or milestones

EGG & BREEDING TRACKER

Use one line per collection or observation. Identify the laying hen when possible.

Date	Hen / pen	Egg count	Egg condition / notes

Breeding and hatch records

Breeding pen / parents	Eggs set / date	Expected hatch	Hatch result / notes

Parentage note: hens can retain viable sperm for weeks after a rooster is changed. Record separation dates and do not assume immediate certainty about sire.

FLOCK NOTES & NEXT STEPS

Use this page for patterns you notice, questions to research, or changes you want to make before the next season.

What is working well?

What needs attention?

Supplies or improvements to plan

For detailed explanations of crest care, feeding, housing, breeding, showing, and flock management, read the full Polish Chickens article at experimentalhomesteader.com/polish-chickens/.