



# NESTING BOX SECRETS FOR HAPPIER HENS & MORE EGGS!

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Backyard Chickens Mama



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# INTRODUCTION

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## WHY NESTING BOXES MATTER MORE THAN YOU THINK

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If you've ever wondered why some hens lay beautiful, clean eggs in the same box every day while others seem to lay in every random corner—you're not alone!

The truth is, a good nesting box setup makes all the difference.

It affects egg quality, hen health, and even how often your flock lays. And the best part? Creating the perfect nesting box is easier than you think.

Let me walk you through the tried-and-true steps I've used over my 25+ years of keeping backyard chickens.

Whether you're a brand-new chicken keeper or a seasoned flock mama or papa, you'll find something helpful here.



## CHAPTER 1

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# ESSENTIALS FOR THE PERFECT NESTING BOX SETUP

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Creating a cozy, functional nesting box isn't complicated—but a few key elements can make a world of difference:

1

### **Clean Bedding**

Soft, dry bedding (like straw or pine shavings) gives hens a comfortable spot to lay. Change it out regularly to keep the area fresh and sanitary.

2

### **Privacy & Protection**

Hens like a bit of quiet when they lay. Place your boxes in a low-traffic area of the coop and give them partial shade or covers for privacy.







3

### Good Airflow

Ventilation helps keep things dry and prevents ammonia buildup. Moisture and smell can discourage laying.

4

### Proper Box Height

Nesting boxes should be about 18–24 inches off the ground to discourage floor laying—but lower than your roosting bars to avoid sleep-pooing in boxes!





5

## Herbal Support

This is where the magic happens. Herbs like lavender, chamomile, and marigold help create a calming, pest-repelling environment. That's why I created my own Nesting Box Herbs blend—so you can just sprinkle and smile.

SHOW ME!



## CHAPTER 2

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# THE POWER OF HERBS IN THE COOP

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Herbs are one of the best-kept secrets in coop care. They're not only fragrant and beautiful, but they serve real functional benefits for your hens.

### How Your Chickens Benefit from Herbs

1

#### Reduced Stress

Lavender, chamomile, and marjoram calm nervous hens and reduce pecking.

2

#### Repel Pests

Peppermint, rosemary, and fennel seed deter mites, lice, and flies.





3

### Support Egg Production

Parsley and dandelion leaf offer vitamins and minerals that support reproductive health.

4

### Promote Cleanliness

Many herbs have antibacterial and antifungal properties, which help keep nesting areas sanitary.

Want an easy way to use herbs in your coop? Try my pre-mixed [Nesting Box Herbs](#) blend. It's the exact mix I use for a clean, calm, egg-friendly environment.



SHOW ME!



## CHAPTER 3

# TROUBLESHOOTING NESTING BOX PROBLEMS



Even the best setups can run into issues. Here are a few common problems and what to do about them:

1

### Egg Eating

Bored, stressed or calcium deficient hens may peck at eggs.

- Use darker nesting boxes
- Gather eggs often
- Consider placing ceramic eggs to break the habit.
- Offer calcium supplements such as Oyster Shells







2

## Dirty Eggs

If eggs are covered in droppings or mud, it usually means hens are sleeping or pooping in the boxes.

- Adjust your roosting area
- Keep bedding clean.
- Make sure coop floor isn't muddy.

3

## Broken Eggs

Thin shells or clumsy landings can cause this. Make sure hens have plenty of calcium (like oyster shell) and ample bedding.

- Make sure hens have plenty of calcium (like oyster shell)
- Make sure nesting boxes have enough bedding.





## 4

### Hens Avoiding Nesting Boxes

If they're laying outside the box, it could be too bright, too noisy, or too dirty.

- Try using ceramic eggs to show them where they should be laying.
- Clean out nesting boxes regularly.
- Add calming herbs such as my special [Nesting Box Herbs](#) blend to nesting boxes.
- Add curtains to nesting boxes to darken the laying area.
- Make sure there aren't any predators making visits to the boxes.



## CHAPTER 4

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### WEEKLY NESTING BOX CHECKLIST (PRINTABLE!)

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**Keep your nesting boxes in tip-top shape with  
this weekly routine:**

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Remove all soiled bedding.

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Wipe down nesting boxes if needed.

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Add fresh, clean bedding.

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Sprinkle Nesting Box Herbs in boxes.

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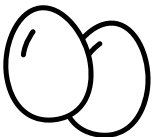
Check for pests, mites, or damage.

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☐

Refresh fake eggs, if using.

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**This simple checklist takes less than 10  
minutes a week and makes a big difference!**

## CHAPTER 5

# BONUS — MY FAVORITE COOP COMFORT TIPS

Want to spoil your hens a little? Here are a few extra tricks that will not only leave your coop smelling not like chickens, but also encourages egg laying:

1

### Hang Herb Bundles Next to Nesting Boxes to Deter Pests:

- Lavender
- Rosemary
- Peppermint
- Marigold
- Chamomile
- Marjoram
- Parsley
- Fennel Seed



I have included all of these herbs inside my Special Nesting Box Herbs Blend.

Use coupon code **SAVE\$5** to save an additional \$5 on your purchase!



**SHOW ME!**



2

## Add Cooling Herbs to Dust Bathing Areas. (Hens LOVE it!)

- Lemon Balm
- Rose buds/petals
- Chamomile
- Peppermint
- Hibiscus



I have included all of these herbs inside my Special Cooling Herbs Blend for Chickens.

Use coupon code **SAVES\$5** to save an additional \$5 on your purchase!

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### 3 Coop Curtains

A little fabric over the front of the boxes has many benefits, which can encourage laying:

- Increased Privacy for Hens
- Reduces Stress and Startled Behavior
- Encourages Consistent Egg-Laying in Boxes
- Keeps Nesting Area Cleaner
- Dissuades Egg Eaters
- Blocks Drafts
- Supports Broody Hens
- Adds a Touch of Coop Charm
- Helps Establish Nesting Box Routine
- Provides Mental Stimulation



## CONCLUSION

# HAPPY HENS START WITH A HAPPY NEST

A peaceful, well-tended nesting area sets the tone for the whole coop.

It keeps your hens healthy, improves egg production, and makes your daily egg gathering a joy.

If you're looking for an easy, natural way to boost your nesting box routine, my **Nesting Box Herbs** and **Cooling Herbs** blends are a wonderful place to start.

It's the exact mix I use in my own flock after years of testing and tweaking.

Here's to cozy nests and happy hens! 🐔🌿



**COOLING  
HERBS**



**NESTING BOX  
HERBS**

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