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# Keeping Chickens

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### **Learn to:**

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- Breed and rear chickens
- Construct the perfect hen house
- Keep your chickens happy and healthy

### **Pammy Riggs**

*Poultry farmer, teacher and columnist*

### **Kimberly Willis**

*Poultry breeder and enthusiast*

### **Rob Ludlow**

*Owner, BackYardChickens.com*



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***Keeping Chickens***

FOR

**DUMMIES®**



# ***Keeping Chickens*** FOR **DUMMIES®**

**by Pammy Riggs,  
Kimberly Willis and  
Rob Ludlow**



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# About the Authors

**Pammy Riggs** and her family moved away from mainstream life more than twenty years ago to create a different kind of reality, transforming a bare, wet Devon field into Providence Farm ([www.providencefarm.co.uk](http://www.providencefarm.co.uk)) – a thriving small organic farm and a cosy low-carbon home – planting woodland and reinstating wild meadows along the way.

In the warm light of this liberation of her life, Pammy now nurtures a burning desire to share her invaluable knowledge and vast experience. Pammy speaks and teaches at various educational institutions and has created a brand new home for her writing, courses and ideas for getting reconnected with a more natural and creative life at [www.rootedin.co.uk](http://www.rootedin.co.uk). Her passion is to empower us all to get out from behind our computers and desks and get our hands dirty in the rich soil of life.

**Kimberly Willis** lives with her husband, Steve, on a small farm in the thumb area of Michigan. When not writing, she works at the MSU Extension office in Lapeer County, Michigan, as a horticulturalist and doubles as the resident chicken expert. Kim has raised a number of breeds of chickens and other types of poultry for over 30 years. She has shown poultry locally. She is an advocate for eating locally and sells her fresh brown eggs to friends and family. She is a proud member of [www.backyardchickens.com](http://www.backyardchickens.com).

Kim is also a garden writer and has numerous articles in print and online. You can read her work at [www.life123.com](http://www.life123.com) or [www.squidoo.com/gardeninggranny](http://www.squidoo.com/gardeninggranny) or her blog at [www.gardeninggranny.blogspot.com](http://www.gardeninggranny.blogspot.com).

**Rob Ludlow**, his wife Emily, and their two beautiful daughters, Alana and April, are the perfect example of the suburban family with a small flock of backyard chickens. Like countless others, what started out as a fun hobby raising a few egg-laying hens has almost turned into an addiction.

Originally, Rob started posting his experiences with chickens on his hobby website – [www.Nifty-Stuff.com](http://www.Nifty-Stuff.com) – but after realising how much his obsession with chickens was growing, he decided to concentrate his efforts on a site devoted completely to the subject. Now, Rob owns and manages [www.backyardchickens.com](http://www.backyardchickens.com) (BYC), the largest and fastest-growing community of chicken enthusiasts in the world.

Rob hopes to work with BYC's tens of thousands of members to promote a change of the old concept, 'a chicken in every pot', to a new version, the BYC vision – 'a chicken in every yard'!



# Dedications

**Pammy Riggs:** To my darling Mum, Joy Seales, who gave me all that Scottish education and time mucking about in Scottish farmyards – valuable compost for a fruitful animal-filled life.

**Kimberly Willis:** I would like to dedicate this book to my husband, Steve, who took over the cooking and dishes so I could concentrate on my latest book.

**Rob Ludlow:** To the three most important girls in my life – Emily, Alana and April – who not only support but also contribute to my joy of raising backyard chickens.

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**Rob Ludlow:** Thanks to my brother Michael for getting me started with chickens, and to Mike Baker and Kristin DeMint for their help with the project. Especially huge thanks to the incredibly smart, patient and helpful staff at [www.backyardchickens.com](http://www.backyardchickens.com), and the thousands of friendly BYC community members.

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