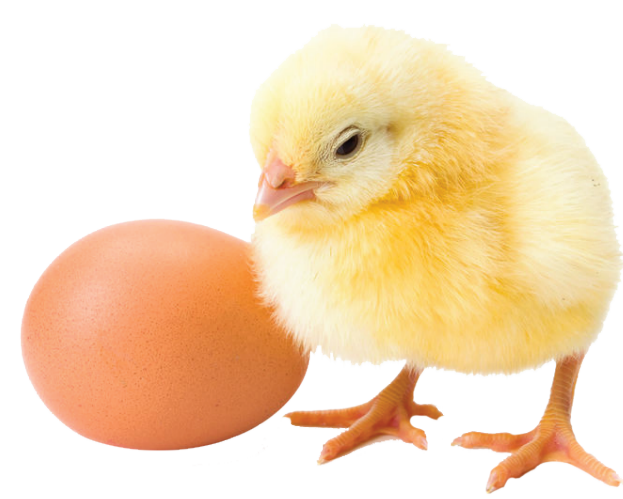




Chicken Predators



Owls

Found: All over North America

PREVENTION:

- House chickens in a durable, fenced enclosure that will allow the birds to safely eat and loaf outside during the day.
- Install overhead bird netting that is strong enough to support the force of a large Owl.



Raccoons

Found: All over North America

PREVENTION:

- Remove potential dens sites.
- Clean up any food or water sources.
- Move chickens indoors at night and lock enclosure with a 2 step latch as Raccoons are very good at opening latches because of their dexterous hands.
- Use at least 16 gauge cloth fencing that is 1/2 inch by 1/2 inch. They can chew through lower quality wire such as poultry wire.
- Cover with a roof and eliminate nearby tree limbs so that raccoons can't climb over the top of fencing.



Crows

Found: All over North America

PREVENTION:

- Install aviary bird netting over top or use hardware cloth with reinforced supports.
- Clean up any spilled grain or feed that may attract them



Hawks

Found: All over North America

PREVENTION:

- Eliminate Hawk stalking areas & make sure there are no perch sites within 100 yards.
- Install overhead bird netting that is strong enough to support the force of a large Hawk.



Snakes

Found: All over the world except for Antarctica

PREVENTION:

- Add Snake proof fencing with no openings larger than 1/4 inch and is 30 inches high.
- Remove Snake hiding spots such as tall grass, wood piles and large rocks.



Bobcats

Found: In almost all 50 States

PREVENTION:

- Run one or two electrified wires towards the top of the fence to prevent bobcats from jumping the lower hot wires.



Coyotes

Found: All over North America

PREVENTION:

- Install 19-gauge or higher, 1/2-inch or 1/4-inch hardware cloth fencing that is 6 to 7 ft. high.
- Install electrically charged wires along the bottom and top of woven wire fences to increase their effectiveness.
- Fencing must be buried at least 2ft into the ground or 2ft outward along the ground surface and firmly anchored into the ground to prevent digging under.

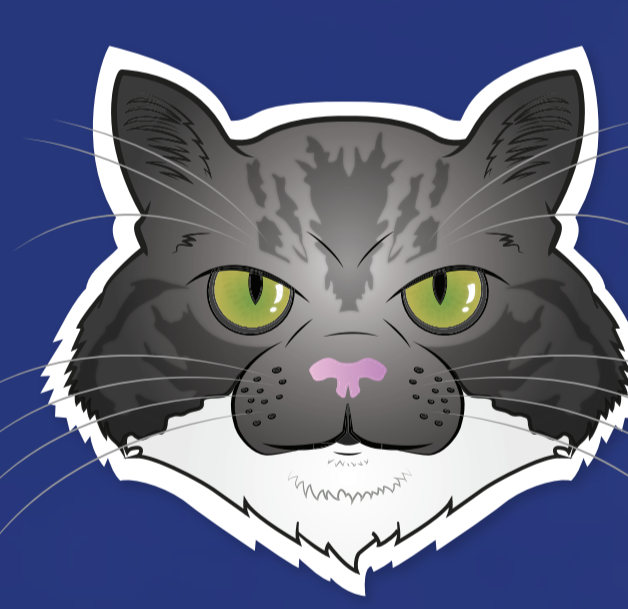


Badgers

Found: In Southern, Mid and Western States

PREVENTION:

- Protect from digging underneath by using mesh fencing buried at least 12 to 18 inches below ground.

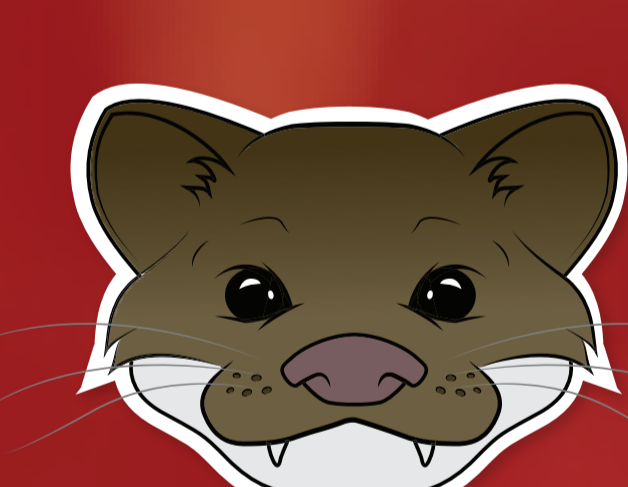


House Cats

Found: All over North America

PREVENTION:

- Install an overhead ceiling using wire mesh with openings smaller than 2.5 inches.



Weasels

Found: Found in almost all 50 states

PREVENTION:

- Ensure there are no openings larger than 3/4" thick. Weasels have flexible rib cages, allowing them to flatten their bodies to fit through very small spaces.
- Seal areas with 1/2" plastic-coated hardware cloth. Do not use chicken wire, as it is not effective for keeping weasels out.



Opossums

Found: Mainly in mid to Eastern and Southern U.S. Also in far Western U.S. such as California, Oregon and Washington

PREVENTION:

- Don't provide access to garbage, Clean BBQ grill grease traps thoroughly, and eliminate potential den sites.
- Trim tree branches that hang within 10 feet of your roof or poultry enclosure, to prevent opossums from climbing them and jumping down.
- Equip chicken coops with well fitted doors and secure locking mechanisms.
- Completely enclose outdoor pens with 1/2 inch woven wire fencing.



Skunks

Found: All over North America

PREVENTION:

- Prevent skunks from digging under the coop by burying fencing 1 to 2ft. under the ground.
- Eliminate tall grass and shrubbery and remove woodpiles that may be used as den sites.



Foxes

Found: All over North America

PREVENTION:

- Use galvanized 19-gauge or higher, 1/2-inch or 1/4-inch hardware cloth fencing at least 6ft. high.
- Prevent foxes from digging by extending the fencing at least 12 inches under the ground or 12 inches outward along the ground surface and firmly anchored into the ground to prevent digging under.



Once you have identified which predators are causing problems with your flock, you can take actions to prevent their attacks. These actions may involve changing a flock's enclosure, modifying the habitat around the area where you keep a flock, using a guard dog, or seeking assistance from wildlife services.



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SOURCES:

<http://articles.extension.org/pages/71204/predator-management-for-small-and-backyard-poultry-flocks>
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