

# URBAN FARMED ANIMALS RESOURCE GUIDE

[www.auachicago.org](http://www.auachicago.org)



Advocates for Urban Agriculture (AUA) supports urban farmers, community and school gardeners, individuals, collectives, businesses, and organizations dedicated to advancing sustainable urban agriculture in the Chicago region. In the following pages you will find resources to help you get started with raising your own chickens, goats, ducks & quail, and worms. Along with educational resources, you will find information on Chicago's zoning laws, local supply stores, and veterinarian care.



# Chickens



Congratulations on considering chickens! These lovely, entertaining birds are a popular addition to many Chicagoland backyards. Many people raise chickens for eggs and as a form of insect pest control. They also use their droppings as compost. Chickens are also entertaining companion animals. *Read a comprehensive article on keeping chickens by Jennifer Murtoff (Home to Roost LLC) at [bit.ly/AUAchickens](https://bit.ly/AUAchickens)*

## Veterinarians

### **Niles Animal Hospital**

7278 N Milwaukee Avenue, Niles, IL  
847-647-9325  
[nilesanimalhospital.com](http://nilesanimalhospital.com)

### **Animal House of Chicago**

2752 W Lawrence Avenue, Chicago, IL  
773-878-8002  
[animalhouseofchicago.com](http://animalhouseofchicago.com)

### **Chicago Exotics Animal Hospital**

3757 Dempster St, Skokie, IL  
847-329-8709  
[exoticpetvet.com](http://exoticpetvet.com)

### **Ness Exotic Wellness Center**

Drs. Staudenmeier, Ness, and Nye  
1007 Maple Avenue, Lisle, IL  
630-737-1281  
[nessexotic.com](http://nessexotic.com)

## Suppliers

### **Belmont Feed and Seed**

3036 W Belmont Ave, Chicago, IL  
773-588-1144  
[belmontfeedandseed.com](http://belmontfeedandseed.com)

### **The Feed Store**

5408 S Harlem Ave, Summit, IL  
708-458-1327  
[frommfamily.com/r/1802](http://frommfamily.com/r/1802)

## Other Resources

### **Chicago Chicken Enthusiasts**

[sites.google.com/site/chicagochickenenthusi](https://sites.google.com/site/chicagochickenenthusi)

### **Home to Roost LLC (Chicago-based chicken consulting)**

[htrchickens.com](http://htrchickens.com)  
FB: [facebook.com/hometoroostllc](https://facebook.com/hometoroostllc)

## Zoning Laws

In Chicago, keeping chickens as pets and for eggs (humanely, cleanly, appropriately) is not prohibited in residential districts. There is no specific prohibition on livestock in residential areas, but slaughtering, nuisance, sanitation, noise, and humane treatment and housing ordinances apply. [sites.google.com/site/chicagochickenenthusi/city-chicken-policy](https://sites.google.com/site/chicagochickenenthusi/city-chicken-policy)

# Goats



Goats are fun, creative, intelligent, and pleasant animals. They come in all sizes from 30 to 200 pounds. Urban goats require extra care to assure their health. Before obtaining goats, please understand why you wish to have them in your life. *Read a comprehensive article on keeping goats by Carolyn Ioder (GlennArt Farm) at [bit.ly/AUAGoats](https://bit.ly/AUAGoats)*

## Veterinarians

### **Dr. Pat Rodawold**

6791 N 16000 E Rd, Momence, IL  
815-953-0998  
FB: Rodawold Veterinary Services, LLC.

## Suppliers

### **Antiquity Oaks**

PO Box 181 - Cornell, IL 61319  
815-341-1223  
[nigeriandwarfdairygoats.com](http://nigeriandwarfdairygoats.com)

### **Prairie Fruits Farm & Creamery**

4410 N. Lincoln Ave. Champaign, IL  
[prairiefruitsinfo@gmail.com](mailto:prairiefruitsinfo@gmail.com)  
[prairiefruits.com/goats-for-sale](http://prairiefruits.com/goats-for-sale)

## Other Resources

**Greta's Goats** offers a wide variety of seasonal farmstead goat milk cheeses, goat milk, and soaps.  
[grettasgoats.com](http://grettasgoats.com)

**GlennArt Farm** hosts educational events at their West Side urban farm and across Chicago.  
[glennartfarm.com](http://glennartfarm.com)

**Thrifty Homesteader Academy** offers classes on how to care for goats.  
[thriftyhomesteader.teachable.com](http://thriftyhomesteader.teachable.com)

## Zoning Laws

It shall be unlawful for any person to sell within the city or for any dealer in meats or any manufacturer of meat-food products to purchase, accept, hold or store within the city any carcass of cattle, sheep, swine or goats, or any meat-food products thereof, unless they shall have been inspected and passed by a duly authorized inspection of the United States Department of Agriculture or the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

# Ducks & Quail



Ducks are fairly easy to raise and resistant to disease. Most ducks are hardy, doing well in hot, cold, or wet weather, and they can live to be as old as 15! Most people who raise quail keep Japanese coturnix. These hardy birds are sturdy, small, and resistant to disease. *Read a comprehensive article on keeping ducks & quail by Jennifer Murtoff (Home to Roost LLC) at [bit.ly/AUAducksandquail](https://bit.ly/AUAducksandquail)*

## Veterinarians

### **Niles Animal Hospital**

7278 N Milwaukee Avenue, Niles, IL  
847-647-9325  
[nilesanimalhospital.com](https://nilesanimalhospital.com)

### **Animal Hospital at the Shores**

5071 Shoreline Rd, Lake Barrington, IL  
847-842-5000  
[animalhospitalats.com](https://animalhospitalats.com)

### **Chicago Exotics Animal Hospital**

3757 Dempster St, Skokie, IL  
847-329-8709  
[exoticpetvet.com](https://exoticpetvet.com)

### **Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center**

3305 N California Ave, Chicago, IL  
773-281-7110  
[medvetforpets.com/location/medvet-chicago](https://medvetforpets.com/location/medvet-chicago)

## Suppliers

### **Belmont Feed and Seed**

3036 W Belmont Ave, Chicago, IL  
773-588-1144  
[belmontfeedandseed.com](https://belmontfeedandseed.com)

### **The Feed Store**

5408 S Harlem Ave, Summit, IL  
708-458-1327  
[frommfamily.com/r/1802](https://frommfamily.com/r/1802)

## Other Resources

### **The Poultry Site**

[thepoultrysite.com](https://thepoultrysite.com)

### **Poultry DVM**

[poultrydvm.com](https://poultrydvm.com)

### **Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine**

Atlas of Avian Diseases  
[partnersah.vet.cornell.edu/avian-atlas/#](https://partnersah.vet.cornell.edu/avian-atlas/#)

## Zoning Laws

You can get two different types of permits if you want to obtain a commercial permit: Wild Game & Bird Breeder Class A or Class B. Your local government may have a website that contains ordinances, or you can check these sites. *American Legal Publishing: [codelibrary.amlegal.com](https://codelibrary.amlegal.com) Municode: [library.municode.com](https://library.municode.com)*

# Bees



Bees are beautiful insects that help pollinate flowers so they can reproduce and make more plants, fruits, and seeds. Pollination is central to the overall ecosystem as trees and plants provide oxygen, store water, produce rain, and feed the living soil that gives nutrients to plants, in the circle of life. *Read a comprehensive article on beekeeping by Oscar Villa (Bee-utiful Honey) at [bit.ly/AUAbees](https://bit.ly/AUAbees)*

## Suppliers

### **Belmont Feed and Seed**

3036 W Belmont Ave, Chicago, IL  
773-588-1144  
[belmontfeedandseed.com](https://belmontfeedandseed.com)

### **The Hive Supply**

1701 S Clinton St, FL 2, Chicago, IL  
312-995-9508  
[thehivesupply.com](https://thehivesupply.com)

### **Meyer Bees**

2021 Holt Road, Minooka, IL  
815-521-9116  
[meyerbees.com](https://meyerbees.com)

## Other Resources

**Windy City Bees** is a networking and meet up group of beekeepers to share good practices and mutual support.  
FB: [Windy City Beekeepers \(Chicago\)](https://www.facebook.com/WindyCityBeekeepers)

**Chicago Honey Coop** delivers beekeeping classes and resources for individuals, community groups, and schools. [chicagohoneycoop.com/classes](https://chicagohoneycoop.com/classes)

**West Side Bee Boyz** offers classes and mentorship on beekeeping for both honey and native bees.  
[facebook.com/westsidebeeboyz](https://www.facebook.com/westsidebeeboyz)

## Zoning Laws

Up to five hives or colonies of honey bees may be kept as an accessory use. However, beekeepers must register with the Illinois Department of Agriculture. [chicago.gov/city/en/depts/dcd/supp\\_info/urban\\_agriculturefaq.html](https://chicago.gov/city/en/depts/dcd/supp_info/urban_agriculturefaq.html)

# Vermicomposting



Decomposers are the unsung heroes of the life cycle, and key to ensuring sustainability in agriculture, in which we hope to manage all stages of the lifecycle of all organisms of an environment. In urban agriculture, where space is limited, nutrient dense compost has to be made quickly and efficiently. No method of composting is more efficient than vermiculture. When managing worms in composting, called vermiculture, special attention must be paid to the conditions in which worms live. There are conditions under which worms are the most successful, and conditions under which worms are less successful. *Read a comprehensive article on urban vermiculture by Tucker Kelly at [bit.ly/AUAvormicomposting](http://bit.ly/AUAvormicomposting)*

## Suppliers & Resources

### **Windy City Worms**

Rolling Meadows, IL  
Erikewindycityworms.com  
[windycityworms.com](http://windycityworms.com)

### **Illinois Food Scrap Coalition Composting at Home**

[illinoiscomposts.org/composting-at-home](http://illinoiscomposts.org/composting-at-home)

### **Chicago Home Composting Program Brochure**

[garfieldconservatory.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/CompostBrochure2009.pdf](http://garfieldconservatory.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/CompostBrochure2009.pdf)

## Zoning Laws

It shall be unlawful for any person to place, leave, dump, or permit to accumulate any garbage or trash in any building, structure or premises so that the same shall afford food or harborage for rats, or to dump or place on any premises, land or waterway any dead animals or waste vegetable matter of any kind. Any person who violates this section shall be fined not less than \$300 nor more than \$600 for each offense. Each day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate and distinct offense to which a separate fine shall apply. 7-28-710 Dumping prohibited.

# Soil, Compost, Mulch, & Amendments

## **Midwest BioAg**

800-327-6012  
[midwesternbioag.com](http://midwesternbioag.com)

## **Crop Services International**

800-260-7933  
[cropproductsintl.com](http://cropproductsintl.com)

## **Cowsmo Compost**

[cowsmocompost.com](http://cowsmocompost.com)

## **Teegen Compost Services**

847-565-9231  
[teegencompost.com](http://teegencompost.com)

## **Christy Webber Farm & Garden**

2833 W Grand Ave  
312-829-8200  
[cwfnrg.com](http://cwfnrg.com)

## **E-Z Tree Recycling**

7050 S Dorchester Ave  
773-493-8600  
[e-ztreerecycling.com](http://e-ztreerecycling.com)

## **Midwest Organics**

312-550-2464  
[compostmatters.com](http://compostmatters.com)

# Soil Testing

## **Advocates for Urban Agriculture Free Soil Testing Program**

[soileauachicago.org](http://soileauachicago.org)

## **Depaul University Department of Environmental Science Studies**

1110 W Belden Ave  
Email [jmontgom@depaul.edu](mailto:jmontgom@depaul.edu) with 'soil testing' in the subject line

## **STAT Analysis**

2242 W Harrison St  
312-733-0551  
[statanalysis.com](http://statanalysis.com)

## **Logan Labs**

620 N Main St, Lakeview, OH  
937-842-6100  
[loganlabs.com](http://loganlabs.com)

## **University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign**

Soil Test Labs certified by the Agricultural Laboratory Testing Association  
[extension.illinois.edu/soil/soil-test-labs](http://extension.illinois.edu/soil/soil-test-labs)

## **Loyola Environmental Testing Laboratory**

6349 N Kenmore Ave  
773-508-2056  
[LETL@luc.edu](mailto:LETL@luc.edu)  
[loyolaetl.wordpress.com/estimated-costs](http://loyolaetl.wordpress.com/estimated-costs)

# Thanks for reading!

## Here's how to stay connected.



[outreacheauachicago.org](mailto:outreacheauachicago.org)



[@auachicago](https://www.instagram.com/auachicago)



[Advocates for Urban Agriculture](#)

**Sign up for  
our newsletter**



**Join our  
Google Group**



**Donate  
to AUA**

