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/AU Achickens

Veterinarians

Niles Animal Hospital
7278 N Milwaukee Avenue, Niles, IL
847-647-9325
nilesanimalhospital.com

Animal House of Chicago
2752 W Lawrence Avenue, Chicago, IL
773-878-8002
animalhouseofchicago.com

Chicago Exotics Animal Hospital
3757 Dempster St, Skokie, IL
847-329-8709
exoticpetvet.com

Ness Exotic Wellness Center
Drs. Staudenmeier, Ness, and Nye
1007 Maple Avenue, Lisle, IL
630-737-1281
nessexotic.com

Suppliers

Belmont Feed and Seed
3036 W Belmont Ave, Chicago, IL
773-588-1144
belmontfeedandseed.com

The Feed Store
5408 S Harlem Ave, Summit, IL
708-458-1327
frommfamily.com/r/1802

Other Resources

Chicago Chicken Enthusiasts
sites.google.com/site/chicago
chenenchusi

Home to Roost LLC (Chicago-based chicken consulting)
htrchickens.com
FB: 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
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

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

Prairie Fruits Farm & Creamery
4410 N. Lincoln Ave. Champaign, IL
prairiefruitsinfo@gmail.com
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

GlennArt Farm hosts educational events at their West Side urban farm and across Chicago.
glennartfarm.com

Thrifty Homesteader Academy offers classes on how to care for goats.
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

Veterinarians

Niles Animal Hospital
7278 N Milwaukee Avenue, Niles, IL
847-647-9325
nilesanimalhospital.com

Animal Hospital at the Shores
5071 Shoreline Rd, Lake Barrington, IL
847-842-5000
animalhospitalats.com

Chicago Exotics Animal Hospital
3757 Dempster St, Skokie, IL
847-329-8709
exoticpetvet.com

Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center
3305 N California Ave, Chicago, IL
773-281-7110
medvetforpets.com/location/medvet-chicago

Suppliers

Belmont Feed and Seed
3036 W Belmont Ave, Chicago, IL
773-588-1144
belmontfeedandseed.com

The Feed Store
5408 S Harlem Ave, Summit, IL
708-458-1327
frommfamily.com/r/1802

Other Resources

The Poultry Site
thepoultrysite.com

Poultry DVM
poultrydvm.com

Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine
Atlas of Avian Diseases
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 Municode: 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

Suppliers

Belmont Feed and Seed
3036 W Belmont Ave, Chicago, IL
773-588-1144
belmontfeedandseed.com

Windy City Bees is a networking and meet up group of beekeepers to share good practices and mutual support.
FB: Windy City Beekeepers (Chicago)

Meyer Bees
2021 Holt Road, Minooka, IL
815-521-9116
meyerbees.com

The Hive Supply
1701 S Clinton St, FL 2, Chicago, IL
312-995-9508
thehivesupply.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)

West Side Bee Boyz offers classes and mentorship on beekeeping for both honey and native bees.
facebook.com/westsidebeeboyz

Chicago Honey Coop delivers beekeeping classes and resources for individuals, community groups, and schools. chicagohoneycoop.com/classes

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
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/AUAvermicomposting

Suppliers & Resources

Windy City Worms
Rolling Meadows, IL
Erik@windycityworms.com
windycityworms.com

Illinois Food Scrap Coalition
Composting at Home
illinoiscomposts.org/composting-at-home

Chicago Home Composting Program Brochure

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

**Crop Services International**
800-260-7933
cropservicesintl.com

**Cowsmo Compost**
cowsmocompost.com

**Teegen Compost Services**
847-565-9231
teegencompost.com

**Christy Webber Farm & Garden**
2833 W Grand Ave
312-829-8200
cwfng.com

**E-Z Tree Recycling**
7050 S Dorchester Ave
773-493-8600
e-ztreerecycling.com

**Midwest Organics**
312-550-2464
compostmatters.com

Soil Testing

**Advocates for Urban Agriculture Free Soil Testing Program**
soil@auachicago.org

**Depaul University Department of Environmental Science Studies**
1110 W Belden Ave
Email jmontgom@depaul.edu with 'soil testing' in the subject line

**STAT Analysis**
2242 W Harrison St
312-733-0551
statanalysis.com

**Logan Labs**
620 N Main St, Lakeview, OH
937-842-6100
loganlabs.com

**University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign**
Soil Test Labs certified by the Agricultural Laboratory Testing Association
extension.illinois.edu/soil/soil-test-labs

**Loyola Environmental Testing Laboratory**
6349 N Kenmore Ave
773-508-2056
LETLeulc.edu
loyolaetl.wordpress.com/estimated-costs
Thanks for reading!
Here's how to stay connected.

outreach@auachiago.org
@auachicago
Advocates for Urban Agriculture