



# 4-H POULTRY PROJECT



Historically, humans and poultry have interacted in many ways beyond owning chickens as farm animals. From domesticated fowl being used for meat and egg production to fancy breeds being shown in competition, ducks, chickens, turkeys, and other poultry are a huge part of many cultures around the world. In 4-H, youth in the Poultry Project can learn:

- Caring for and raising chickens responsibly and humanely.
- Best management practices used on farms and industry.
- Value of poultry meat and eggs in human nutrition and how to grade eggs.
- Showmanship and showing techniques; breeds and anatomy of various types of poultry.

## 4-H THRIVE

### Help Youth:

#### Light Their Spark

A spark is something youth are passionate about; it really fires them up and gives them joy and energy. Help youth find how this project excites them.

#### Flex Their Brain

The brain grows stronger when we try new things and master new skills. Encourage youth effort and persistence to help them reach higher levels of success.

#### Reach Their Goals

Help youth use the GPS system to achieve their goals.

**Goal Selection:** Choose one meaningful, realistic and demanding goal.

**Pursue Strategies:** Create a step-by-step plan to make daily choices that support your goal.

**Shift Gears:** Change strategies if you're having difficulties reaching your goal. Seek help from others. What are youth going to do when things get in their way?

#### Reflect

Ask project members how they can use their passion for this project to be more confident, competent and caring. Discuss ways they can use their skills to make a contribution in the community, improve their character or establish connections.

#### Starting Out *Beginner*

- Identify different avian species.
- Learn how to properly house birds.
- Understand basic avian anatomy.
- Learn the feed requirements of different poultry.
- Demonstrate basic handling techniques.

#### Learning More *Intermediate*

- Name and describe breeds of poultry.
- Understand the Standards for breeds of poultry.
- Learn the basic of avian disease prevention and care.
- Participate in poultry showmanship.
- Identify breed characteristics for egg production, meat production, and special purposes.

#### Exploring Depth *Advanced*

- Learn how to properly incubate eggs.
- Describe grades and sizes of eggs.
- Understand use of photoperiods and lighting in production of chickens.
- Participate in Poultry Bowls and Champion Exhibitor contests.
- Present on topics pertaining to poultry.
- Improve knowledge of breeds and standards of poultry.

The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.



# Expand Your Experiences!

## Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

- Design an experiment on the affect of light and photoperiods on egg laying hens.
- Explore anatomical differences in various species of poultry and how they relate to different nutritional needs of each specie.
- Research and design the best chicken coop layouts.

## Healthy Living

- Research nutritional value of poultry meat and eggs in relation to human health needs.
- Create a list of safety and biosecurity recommendations for competitive poultry events.
- Create a chart of the vital signs for different birds including heart beats per minute, respiratory rate, and temperature. Compare your findings to the vital signs of the average human.

## Citizenship

- Develop and share a presentation in your community on poultry diseases and prevention.
- Study the history of poultry production in other cultures.
- Share your expertise and assist urban families who are starting to raise chickens in their backyard.

## Leadership

- Teach others the importance of caring for an animal.
- Become a role model for others by taking the position of junior/teen leader.
- Mentor younger members to learn how to raise and show poultry.

## Resources

- American Poultry Association  
[www.amerpoultryassn.com](http://www.amerpoultryassn.com)
- California Department of Food and Agriculture  
[www.cdffa.ca.gov](http://www.cdffa.ca.gov)
- California 4-H Animal Science  
[www.ca4h.org/Projects/SET/Animal](http://www.ca4h.org/Projects/SET/Animal)
- Oklahoma State University, Department of Animal Science  
[www.ansi.okstate.edu/outreach-extension/poultry/poultry-resources](http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/outreach-extension/poultry/poultry-resources)
- U.S. Poultry and Egg Association  
[www.poultryegg.org](http://www.poultryegg.org)

The UC 4-H Youth Development Program does not endorse, warrant, or otherwise take responsibility for the contents of unofficial sites.

### Connections & Events

**Presentation Days** – Share what you’ve learned with others through a poultry-related presentation.

**National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference**  
[national4hpoultryandegg.psu.edu](http://national4hpoultryandegg.psu.edu)

**California 4-H Animal Science Advisory Committee**  
[www.ca4h.org/Administration/Advisory\\_Committees/](http://www.ca4h.org/Administration/Advisory_Committees/)

### Curriculum

- National 4-H Poultry Curriculum  
[www.4-hmall.org/Category/4-hcurriculum-poultry.aspx](http://www.4-hmall.org/Category/4-hcurriculum-poultry.aspx)
- Poultry Knowledge Bowl Sample Questions  
[www.ca4h.org/files/63606.pdf](http://www.ca4h.org/files/63606.pdf)

### 4-H Record Book

4-H Record Books give members an opportunity to record events and reflect on their experiences. For each project, members document their experiences, learning and development.

4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.

To access the 4-H Record Book online, visit  
<http://ucanr.edu/orb/>



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