**4-H POULTRY PROJECT**

**Are You Into It?**

In the poultry project you can learn about selection and raising your birds, and dive into health issues, poultry products and careers!

- Learn the basic principles of animal science by owning, caring for, and keeping records on your birds
- Explore knowledge of sound breeding, feeding, and management practices
- Investigate current issues facing the industry and how you can start a career in the poultry business

**Here’s what you can do all year!**

**Starting Out**

- Learn the different types of birds and what they’re used for
- Produce a healthy and safe meat product
- Identify different breeds
- Locate and name parts of a bird
- Learn proper feeding techniques
- Be a good sport when showing your animals

**Learning More**

- More about nutrients and poultry products
- Compare poultry carcasses and grading
- Explore the difference between class, breed and variety
- Discover how eggs are made
- Candle eggs
- Describe signs of a healthy bird
- Learn effective advertising
- Learn different housing systems

**Expanding Horizons**

- Conduct a judging clinic
- Manage your flock
- Investigate DNA and genetics
- Outline the steps to poultry processing
- Discover proper food safety techniques from farm to table
- Learn proper cooking techniques
- Investigate ethics in the poultry business
- Start a career in poultry

**Step It Up!**

Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.

**Communication**

- Design a poster on parts of the bird
- Participate in a judging contest giving oral reasons
- Explain how to prepare poultry products

**Citizenship**

- Volunteer your bird for a community petting zoo
- Hand out food samples at your local grocery store
- Volunteer to help at the county fair poultry show

**Leadership**

- Invite other 4-H members to tour your farm
- Teach others how to safely handle poultry
- Lead a poultry selection and feeding clinic

*For more information or to obtain project materials contact your county ISU Extension Office or go to: www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/poultry*
Take Poultry further!

Here are other opportunities to explore Poultry:

- Contact your county ISU Extension office for other local workshops, activities, and events
- Tour a poultry farm
- Attend a poultry show and observe the judge and their techniques
- Attend a poultry project meeting
- Design a business card or marketing brochure for your farm or imaginary farm
- Write an educational article about some aspect of poultry production for your newspaper
- Participate in a poultry skillathon
- Organize a poultry showmanship contest
- Attend a national poultry conference
- Ride with a local veterinarian to learn about animal health
- Visit a local grocery store to learn proper meat handling techniques
- Attend Animal Science Round-Up as part of the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference and participate in one of the livestock tracks, participate in the community service project, bringing ideas back to your community.
- Is it fair time? Consider showing in your County Fair poultry show or the Iowa State Fair.
- Interested in a college education in animal science or veterinary medicine? Schedule a visit with Iowa State University to explore those majors. [www.iastate.edu](http://www.iastate.edu)

Exhibit Ideas

- Participate in the 4-H poultry show
  - Breeding birds
    - Chickens
    - Ducks
    - Geese
    - Turkeys
    - Exotic
  - - Market broilers
  - - Egg production
    - White egg layers
    - Brown egg layers
  - - Showmanship
- Consider an exhibit, notebook or display showing what you’ve learned in a poultry-related topic
  - - Nutritive value of poultry
  - - Meat cuts and proper preparation
  - - Feeding rations
  - - Preventative vaccinations
  - - Photos of different breeds
  - - Daily routine in caring for animals
  - - Grooming techniques
  - - Developing a breeding herd
  - - Video interview with a poultry producer
  - - Best care techniques for newborns
  - - Poultry by-products
  - - Locally grown foods
- Create a recipe book, display, or presentation with egg or chicken recipes
- Create an exhibit, notebook, or display discussing food safety and poultry products

Resource

4-H Resources

- Iowa 4-H Poultry [www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/poultry](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/poultry)
- Scratching the Surface Level 1 (4H 656A)
- Testing your Wings Level 2 (4H 656B)
- Flocking Together Level 3 (4H 656C)
- Poultry Leader Guide (4H 656 LDR)

Other Resources

- Iowa Poultry Association [www.iowapoultry.com](http://www.iowapoultry.com)
- Iowa Egg Council [www.iowaegg.org](http://www.iowaegg.org)
- Natl Poultry Improvement Plan [http://www.poultryimprovement.org](http://www.poultryimprovement.org)
- Pullorum-Typhoid [www.csph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/touyl typhoid.pdf](http://www.csph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/touyl typhoid.pdf)
- U of MN Poultry Resources [www1.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/poultry/](http://www1.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/poultry/)
- Good Egg Project [www.incredibleegg.org/good-egg-project](http://www.incredibleegg.org/good-egg-project)
- American Poultry Association [www.amerpoultryassn.com](http://www.amerpoultryassn.com)

Record Keeping

- Poultry Project Worksheet
- 4-H Yearly Summary (4H0096)
- Basic 4-H Project Record (4H0096A)
- Experienced 4-H Project Record (4H0096B)
- Advanced 4-H Project Record (4H0096C)
- Record keeping Self-Evaluation (4H98)

Iowa State University

Extension and Outreach

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