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!

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<th>Starting Out</th>
<th>Learning More</th>
<th>Expanding Horizons</th>
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<td>Basic / Level 1</td>
<td>Intermediate / Level 2</td>
<td>Advanced / Level 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learn the different types of birds and what they’re used for</td>
<td>More about nutrients and poultry products</td>
<td>Conduct a judging clinic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Produce a healthy and safe meat product</td>
<td>Compare poultry carcasses and grading</td>
<td>Manage your flock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identify different breeds</td>
<td>Explore the difference between class, breed and variety</td>
<td>Investigate DNA and genetics</td>
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<td>Locate and name parts of a bird</td>
<td>Discover how eggs are made</td>
<td>Outline the steps to poultry processing</td>
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<td>Learn proper feeding techniques</td>
<td>Candle eggs</td>
<td>Discover proper food safety techniques from farm to table</td>
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<td>Be a good sport when showing your animals</td>
<td>Describe signs of a healthy bird</td>
<td>Learn proper cooking techniques</td>
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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

Communication

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

Leadership

- 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

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
- 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
- Iowa Egg Council: www.iowaegg.org
- Pullorum-Typhoid: www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/fowl_typhoid.pdf
- U of MN Poultry Resources: www1.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/poultry/
- American Egg Board: http://www.aeb.org
- Good Egg Project: www.incredibleegg.org/good-egg-project
- American Poultry Association: 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)

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