

Douglas County 4-H

2023-2024 4-H

Poultry Project

Rules & Guidelines

Project Objective:

To give youth an opportunity to learn by doing through participating in feeding, caring, and managing their poultry project.



DOUGLAS COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
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Important Dates to Remember

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Poultry Clinic | March 23 |
| Project Drop Deadline | May 1 |
| Meat Quality Assurance | May 2 or 3 **required for poultry members |
| Fair Registration Opens | Beginning June TBA |
| Poultry ID Date | TBA |
| Fair Registration Closes | Middle of June TBA |
| Animal Written Test Night | July 17 |
| Poultry Check-in | Please see DC Fair & Rodeo Schedule/CR |
| Poultry Showmanship | Please see DC Fair & Rodeo Schedule/CR |
| Poultry Show Judging | Please see DC Fair & Rodeo Schedule/CR |
| Fair | July 27-August 4 |
| Record Books | Please check with your club leader on this due date |

How do I enter my animal in the Fair?

Poultry will be enter into Fair Entry on Poultry ID Day. See Douglas County Fair and Rodeo Competition Rules: www.DouglasCountyFairandRodeo.com/p/exhibitors/junior-division



4-H Member's Responsibility

1. Enroll in in the correct project by the deadline. If you have questions call your leader, or the Extension Office.
2. You must attend a Meat Quality Assurance Training in order to complete your project and show at the County Fair.
3. You are expected to have complete access to the poultry project at all times, and must provide are and amanangement a majority of the time.
4. Become familiar with the American Poultry Association (APA) rules and book.
5. Each 4-H member is required to write Than You's to their buyer and/or award donor with a copy being sent to the Fair Office before you will receive your sale check (if makret Birds)

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How do I show my project at County Fair?

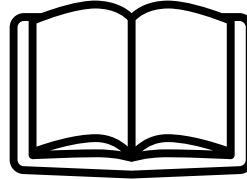
Poultry Showmanship Tips



You want you and your bird to look the best in front of the judge.



It is a good idea to have your own judging stick. You will use this when you are getting your bird to "show" for the judges.



Have a copy of the "Standards of Perfections" or a booklet written on your particular breed handy when studying to prepare for showmanship.



Smile and be confident! Look at the judge and introduce yourself.

What the Judge is looking for:

- ✓ Exhibitors Appearance and Introduction
- ✓ Shares name and age with judge
- ✓ Exhibitor's Poultry Knowledge
- ✓ Well groomed and proper attire
- ✓ Quality and Condition of Bird

4-H Livestock Record Books

- ✓ Record books should be kept up-to-date throughout your project
- ✓ Record books must be 50% complete before one can participate at fair. Record books are to be reviewed by your leader or by the Animal Science Agent on/or before the Animal Science Test Night
- ✓ Record books must be turned in for grading and be at least 50% complete to be eligible to complete the project and show your livestock at County Fair.



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Project Guidelines & Details

What to expect from your poultry project

1. Getting acquainted with the value of following a program in which good management practices are stressed.
2. Raising chickens, turkeys, geese, ducks, and pigeons can be interesting, and fun.
3. Raising chickens, turkeys, geese, and ducks can contribute to your home food supply.
4. Raising chickens, turkeys, geese, and ducks can be a source of cash income.
5. Raising chickens, turkeys, geese, ducks, and pigeons can be a valuable experience in life skills such as decision making, problem solving, self-esteem, sharing, and personal responsibility.

What to look for when purchasing poultry

Chickens

If you want to raise chickens that are good for meat as well as good layers, choose dual purpose breeds. Popular **dual purpose breeds** are White Plymouth Rocks, Rhode Island Reds, New Hampshires, or Barred Plymouth Rocks. **Egg breeds** - Single Comb White Leghorn (S.C.W.) are a breed that have been developed for laying lots of eggs. **Meat chickens** require about 6 weeks to produce as a 3 1/2 to 4 pound fryer, and 8 weeks to produce a 5-10 pound broiler. Leghorn or cross-breeds such as Austra White will start laying in about 5 months. Good time to buy future layers is from March 1 to April 15. Dual purpose breeds will start laying in about 6 months. Good time to buy them is between February 1 and April 15.

Turkeys

Breeds - Bronze, Betsville Small Whites, White Hollands, Bourbon Reds, Narragansetts Blacks, Slate, Broad Breasted White are a few of the varieties. The most common market turkey varieties are Broad-Breasted White and Broad-Breasted Bronze Breeds.

Pigeons, Geese, and Ducks

Ducks - Pekin Duck are the most popular "green duck". Green ducks are ducklings which are grown rapidly and are marketed at about 8 to 9 weeks of age. Blue Swedish, Alesbury of England, Muscovy of South America, and Rouen of France are popular meat production breeds. Runners are a good breed for market egg production.

Geese - Toulouse, Emden, and African are the most popular breeds for meat production.

Common dual purpose breeds are: Chinese, Canada, Buff, Pilgrim, Sebastopol, and Egyptian. Geese will start to lay in February or March and will go until early summer. The Chinese breed may start laying in early winter.

What to do before your birds arrive...

- Remove all loose dirt, using a hoe or scraper if necessary in the brooder house.
- Clean and scrub all feeding and watering equipment
- Spray walls and floors with a good, animal safe, disinfectant
- Put at least 2 inches of shavings or litter on the floor
- Set up the brooder stove and operate it for 3 days to make sure all parts are working satisfactory
- You can put sand on the floor before putting down the shavings - 2" by 4" frame around the brooder
- Provide one 1 gallon or four 1 quart glass jar waterer for each lot of 100 birds brooded.
- Clean & fill water founts daily or as often as necessary to keep chicks supplied. Disinfect the founts each week by thoroughly scrubbing with soap and water.
- Provide two 3-foot feeders for each lot of 100 birds brooded. Fill each feeder two-thirds full of mash. Use a good commercial starter. Geese will do much better on pellets than mash and waste less feed. Provide oyster shell (or other calcium sources) grit at all times.
- Stir the shavings on the floor daily and add an inch of shavings each week. Remove and replace any damp litter or shavings.
- Once the birds have reached 2 weeks they can go outdoors if weather permits.
- Put roosts in brooder house when birds are 3 to 4 weeks old.
- Get rid of all runts or sickly birds immediately.
- After the first week, increase the amount of fresh air from windows. Do not keep the brooder room too hot.

How Many Birds Should I Raise?

Here are some factors to help you decide how many birds you should raise.

1. Size of brooder house you will use.
2. Brooding equipment such as feeders, waterers, and brooder you will need.
3. How much feed you can afford to purchase?
4. What breed are you going to raise?
5. Time you can give to your project.
6. Where to purchase your birds.
7. Amount of money you can invest in your project.
8. Whether you plan to continue with the laying project in the fall and winter with the pullets



Project Guidelines & Details

What to Feed



Commercial rations are convenient and will ensure proper diet for your birds. Give chicks a 20% protein pullet ration ("starter diet") for their first two months, then gradually change over to a 16% protein pullet ration ("grower-developer diet") for the next 3 months. At 8 weeks, chicks are considered mature. Laying diets contain 16-18% protein and 3-4% calcium. Each adult bird needs 5-6" of feeder space.

Birds need water available throughout the day. If a hen does not have water for 36 hours, it may go into a molt, followed by a period of poor laying. Depending on weather, and the bird's size, each bird drinks between one and two cups of water each day. Layers drink twice as much as non-layers. In warm weather, a bird may drink two to four times more than usual. Birds prefer water at temperatures between 50-55 degrees (Fahrenheit).

What facilities do I need



Adult birds need two to three square feet of floor space each. Chicks need at least 1/2 foot of floor space per bird. 50 adult birds need a facility that is 10' by 10'-15'. Sawdust, straw, peanut hulls, wood shavings, or shredded newspaper can be used for litter. The floor should be solid (concrete is best) and able to disinfect.

The building should be draft free and secure enough to keep the birds dry and protect from predators. Good air quality is essential. They need adequate light and ventilation. A roost should provide for birds that are one month old and older. Roost should be about 18" above the floor and extend the length of the house. Adult birds need about 6" of roost space. Outdoor area should be twice as big as the coop area. Sturdy fence wire (chicken wire) should be at least five feet tall.

How to keep my bird healthy



Work with your veterinarian to develop a vaccination and coccidiosis control program for your flock. Watch closely for signs of lice or mites and treat as needed with approved medications. Always recommended withholding times for meat and eggs.

Provide at least two square feet per adult bird.

Keep the area dry as possible so wet litter doesn't become a breeding bed for germs and disease. The litter should be fluffy and absorbent and changed when necessary.

Provide adequate sunlight.

Provide protection from predators. The coop should be secure enough to keep dogs, cats, and other predators out. Provide proper equipment like feeders, waterers, roosts, and supplement light.

The coop should be free of drafts but have enough ventilation to remove ammonia and other gasses.



Growth Charts (in pounds)

| Growth Chart of Chickens | Age | Leghorn | Leghorn | Heavles | Leghorn | Leghorn | Heavles | Heavles |
|-----------------------------|------------|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| | (In weeks) | Pullets | Cockerels | Cockerels | Pullets | Cockerels | Pullets | Cockerels |
| | 0-4 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 2.1 | 2.1 |
| | 4-8 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 3.6 | 3.3 | 3.7 | 3.4 |
| | 8-12 | 1.4 | 1.7 | 2.7 | 4.2 | 3.4 | 3.8 | 3.7 |
| | 12-16 | 2.0 | 2.9 | 3.8 | 4.9 | 3.3 | 4.1 | 4.4 |
| | 16-20 | 2.5 | 3.5 | 4.8 | 5.5 | 4.5 | 4.9 | 4.9 |
| Totals | | | | 21.3 | 17.7 | 18.6 | 18.5 | |

| Standard Weights for Varieties of Geese | Breed | Male Young Weight | Adult Male Weight | Young Female Weight | Adult Female Weight |
|--|------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Toulouse | 20 | 26 | 16 | 20 |
| | Emden | 20 | 26 | 16 | 20 |
| | African | 16 | 20 | 14 | 18 |
| | Chinese | 10 | 12 | 8 | 10 |
| | Canada | 10 | 12 | 8 | 10 |
| | Sebastopol | 12 | 14 | 10 | 12 |
| | Pilgrim | 12 | 14 | 10 | 13 |
| | Buff | 16 | 18 | 14 | 16 |
| Egyptian | 5 | 5 1/2 | 4 | 4 1/2 | |



| Standard Weights for Varieties of Turkeys | Breed | Adult Tom Male 2+ yr (pounds) | Yearling Tom Male 1-2 yr (pounds) | Young Tom <1 yr (pounds) | Hen (Pounds) |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| | Bronze | 36 | 33 | 25 | 26 |
| | White Holland | 33 | 30 | 23 | 18 |
| | Beltsville Small White | | | 15 | 9-1/4 |
| | Bourbon Red | 33 | 30 | 23 | 18 |
| | Narragansett | 33 | 30 | 23 | 18 |
| | Black | 33 | 30 | 23 | 18 |
| | Slate | 33 | 30 | 23 | 18 |
| | Broad Breated White | | | 24 | 19 |

Douglas County 4-H Poultry Project

Resources

Be sure to ask us about signing up for the weekly Douglas County 4-H newsletter!

Douglas County 4-H Website Calendar:
<https://douglas.extension.colostate.edu/4-h/resources/>



Douglas County 4-H Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/183640871675571/>



Douglas County 4-H Poultry Website:
<https://douglas.extension.colostate.edu/4-h/programs-2/livestock/>



Colorado State 4-H Poultry Project Website:
<https://co4h.colostate.edu/program-areas/animals/>



4-H Poultry Fitting & Showmanship Member's Guide (In color & Free to download!)
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/wexford/uploads/files/Poultry%20Showmanship.pdf>



****If you need this printed off please contact the Extension Office additional fees may apply**

Colorado State 4-H Poultry Resource Handbook
<https://co4h.colostate.edu/projects/manuals/Poultry-Handbook.pdf>



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