



4-H POULTRY ACTIVITY PAGE

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Beginning

Your 4-H ANIMAL SCIENCE—POULTRY Project

Are you responsible? Do others trust you to follow through with a commitment? Being responsible is a skill that everyone should have. Learning to be responsible can start by caring for an animal. When you care for an animal, you are responsible for providing everything that animal needs. To do this, you need to know about your animal and how to take care of it.

This 4-H project can help you learn things you need to know to work with poultry. Some of the skills you can learn and activities you can do in this project are listed below. Check your favorites. Then, work with your 4-H leaders and parents to make a 4-H project plan for what you want to do and learn this year.



- Learn about different poultry breeds.
- Learn the four basic needs of a day-old chick.
- Develop poultry management skills.
- Produce healthy chickens.
- Learn proper poultry nutrition.
- Contribute to your home food supply.
- Conduct a service project using project skills you have learned.
- Other _____



Life Skill
Responsibility



LAY AN EGG

The average laying hen lays 257 eggs a year. How many hours does it take a hen to lay a single egg? _____

Managing Poultry

As they grow, your animals will depend on you to care for them. Baby **chicks** require lots of tender loving care. They depend on you for all their needs while they are in the six-week **brooding period**. The **growing period** begins next. It continues until the **pullets** are ready to lay and become **layers**. Listed below are some of the most important needs your flock will have. Look in books or on the Internet to learn more about how to care for your animals as they grow. Share what you learn in a 4-H meeting.

- Space
- Ventilation
- Light
- Temperature
- Access to feed and water
- Roosts
- Nests



Breeds

Before you choose a breed of chicken, you need to decide if you want to raise chickens for eggs or meat. Different breeds are used for egg production (**egg-type**), for meat (**meat-type**) or both (**dual-purpose**). Look in books or on the Internet to learn more about breeds. Share what you learn in a 4-H meeting.

My Poultry Story

Describe your flock! On another sheet of paper, write a story about your chickens. Include your birds' breed, health, age and daily work involved with raising your flock. Include a photo if you'd like. Share your story with others and keep it in your 4-H project folder.

Jumbo to Pee Wee

Eggs, like people and chickens, come in different sizes. Visit a grocery store to see the sizes of eggs. How are they different? What is the difference in price? Record what you learn in your 4-H project folder and share it in a 4-H meeting.

- 30 oz per dozen eggs = jumbo
- 27 oz per dozen eggs = extra large
- 24 oz per dozen eggs = large
- 21 oz per dozen eggs = medium
- 18 oz per dozen eggs = small
- 15 oz per dozen eggs = pee wee

Try This—Eggs Cooked in the Shell

Place eggs in a single layer in a saucepan. Add enough tap water to come at least 1 inch above eggs. Cover the pan and quickly bring just to the boiling point.



Turn off the heat. If necessary, remove the pan from the burner to prevent further boiling.

For hard-cooked eggs, let eggs stand, covered, in the hot water for about 15 minutes for large eggs. Adjust time up or down by about three minutes for each size larger or smaller.

Immediately run cold water over eggs or place them in ice water until completely cold.

To remove the shell, crack it by tapping gently all over. Roll egg between hands to loosen shell, then peel, starting at large end. Hold egg under running cold water or dip in bowl of water to help ease off shell.

Share your eggs with friends or family. Eat and enjoy!

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Poultry Parts

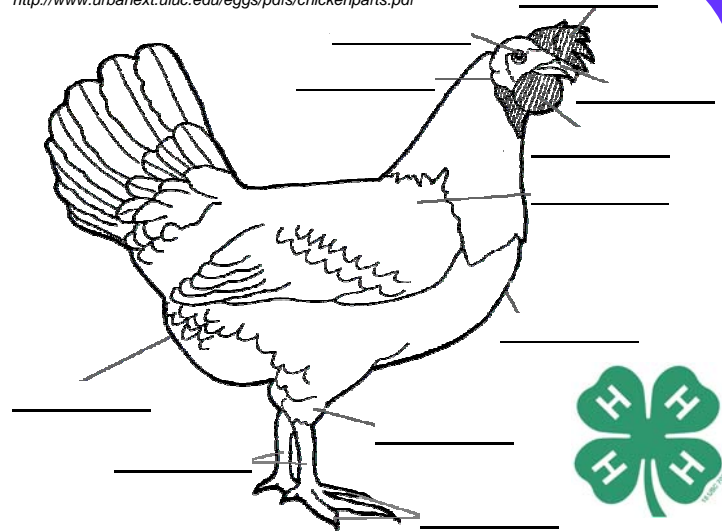
If you are going to be responsible for your chicken, you should be familiar with its anatomy. Label the parts of the chicken using the words in the box. Then, look in books or on the Internet to learn more about each part. Share what you learn in a 4-H meeting. You can also search for the words in the puzzle.

S I Z Y M X H H W Y
 K H K C S J X W A Y
 S B O E G Q O E T Z
 O K O U Z E A L T N
 V T N F L R E E L I
 C E J A L D Y J E K
 O A N O H E E J S A
 M U B T X S J R R E
 B E T S A E R B D B
 H O C K F K Q C Z P

Words to Use

BEAK
 BREAST
 COMB
 EARLOBE
 EYE
 HOCK
 SHANKS
 SHOULDER
 TOES
 VENT
 WATTLES

Graphic adapted from University of Illinois Extension
<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/eggs/pdfs/chickenparts.pdf>



Career Scavenger Hunt

By asking others, researching on the Internet or reading a book or magazine—search for a job that uses poultry skills and knowledge. Here's what you are looking for.

1. Job Title _____
2. Job Description _____

3. Education Required _____

Service Ideas

- ◆ Donate eggs to a food bank.
- ◆ Conduct an educational "show-and-tell" for younger children.
- Provide eggs for a community Easter egg hunt.



Don't forget to submit your project report to your 4-H leader.

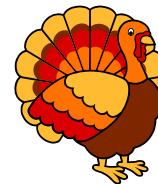
Additional Resources

Responsibility is an important part of the poultry project. This activity sheet has given you the opportunity to explore things you need to know so you can be responsible for your animal. But this is just the beginning! Use the resources listed below to continue learning about poultry.

- School & public libraries
- People who know about poultry
- 4-H project groups
- The 4-H poultry Web page:

<http://www.utextension.utk.edu/4h/projects/poultry.htm>

For more ideas, contact your 4-H office.



Other 4-H Poultry Activities

4-H Chick Chain
 4-H speech
 4-H demonstrations
 Fair exhibits

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