4-H Poultry Projects engage youth in learning life skills while having fun raising chickens. In *The 4-H Pullet Chain*, youth raise day old chicks for 5 to 7 months by caring for, training, and preparing birds for a show and/or final sale. *The 4-H Laying Flock Project* provides the same opportunities, except it is designed for youth that already have laying hens or secure non-4-H chicks.

Periodically throughout the project year, youth and their families will receive a project newsletter that will provide valuable information to ensure they are successful. Participants will receive show dates, deadline reminders, and poultry related information through the project newsletter and SC 4-H Poultry Facebook page.

Note that 4-H poultry project opportunities and shows offered through local county 4-H programs may vary.

**For registration or more information visit the website below or contact your local Clemson Extension Office. If your county is not hosting a local 4-H poultry project, view the SC 4-H Poultry Project map on the SC 4-H website for the nearest project.**

[https://www.clemson.edu/extension/4h/programs/ag-animals/livestock/poultry.html](https://www.clemson.edu/extension/4h/programs/ag-animals/livestock/poultry.html)

Should you require special accommodations due to a disability, please notify our office ten days prior to the event.

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4-H Poultry Projects

Participant Responsibilities and Details

Registration
• Participants must be age 5-18 as of January 1, and register online as a SC 4-H member.
• Online registration links and forms can be found at https://www.clemson.edu/extension/4h/programs/ag-animals/livestock/poultry.html
• Sibling Fee Option: See website for full details. $10 per sibling to participate.

Project Expectations
• Pick up chicks, care for them in the project duration, participate in minimum 1 show or poultry event, participate in 4-H auction, and complete 4-H Poultry Project Record Book.
• Provide a brooder space that is a safe and protective environment for your chicks (consider weather, temperature, wildlife, pets, or other animals that may harm chicks).
• Provide appropriate spacing for your flock (minimum 3’x3’ per bird coop space).
• Provide a nutritional diet for birds to grow properly with a starter-grower ration, 18-22% crude protein is recommended. Change feed to a layer ration at egg production age (around 5-6 months for most breeds). Free choice, clean water at all times.

Activities & Events
• Chick Pick-up: 4-H Poultry Project coordinators will notify participants with a May date, time(s), and locations. Recommended: small animal crate or ventilated cardboard box, and substrate for day-old chicks to stand on and stay warm.
• Shows/Events/Activities: Each participant is encouraged to show at least once in the county or region that they registered through. County, multi-county and regional show schedules will be posted on a State 4-H Livestock Show Calendar; shows will be independently run by the county, multi-county, or regional effort. Participation is encouraged in all 4-H poultry activities (virtual and/or in-person) to include, but not limited to: webinars, Golden Egg Contest, Communications Contests, State 4-H Livestock educational events, Egg Prep Challenge, Avian Bowl, Poultry Judging, and county 4-H poultry-related activities.
• NPIP Testing & Clinics: NPIP testing details will be communicated per county/regional projects, and is required within 90 days prior to exhibiting poultry. Youth are encouraged to practice showmanship independently or at show clinics.
• Auction/Sale of Poultry: All SC 4-H regions will offer a final sale/auction for birds in the pullet chain. This component of the project is a way to help youth learn valuable financial experiences. Youth are encouraged to return approx. 20% of their original 4-H chick order to auction (Ex.: 12 chicks, return 3 qty for auction; 25 chicks, return 5 qty). The funds from the sale of the birds will support county, regional and/or state 4-H poultry activities. The auction is mandatory for pullet chain participants purchasing 12, 25, or more quantities of chicks.
• Prizes/Awards/Deposits: Shows and auctions are run independently by event coordinators, therefore, prizes/awards will vary. Youth participating in the auction/sale with approx. 20% of their original chick order, have the opportunity to receive their original “deposit” or order fee returned. (Ex.: return 3 birds for auction; receive $40 back in return for 100% project completion).

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