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

General Dates:

March 1: Pullet Orders Due, 10am
May: Chick Arrival
May 3: 4-H Laying Flock deadline, 10am
July-Sept: Clinics & NPIP Tests
Aug-Nov: County & Regional Shows
Nov-Dec: Auction & Record Book Due

Open to all youth ages 5-18

Must be a 4-H member ($15)
https://v2.4honline.com
Cost: $15 - $70 (depending on qty.)

The objectives of 4-H Poultry Projects are that youth will:

- Set goals, plan activities, and strategies to achieve desired outcomes.
- Reflect on their yearly work by documenting their skill development and learning experiences.
- Give back to their communities through educational and service activities.
- Learn valuable skills in record keeping, financial management, and written communication.
- Gain valuable life lessons by caring and providing for their 4-H birds.

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

www.clemson.edu/4h

Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.
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 can be found at [https://www.clemson.edu/extension/4h/programs/ag-animals/livestock/poultry.html](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, multicounty and/or regional 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 $35 back in return for 100% project completion).

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