

## **4-H Poultry Project General Information**

**(January 2024)**

**4-H Project General Description:** A 4-H project consists of 6 to 8 hours of sequential learning experiences (over a period of at least a few days or weeks) exploring a general subject with the guidance of a leader or mentor.

*Translation:* A poultry project leader or the club's team of poultry project leaders is/are planning/organizing/facilitating 6-8 hours (at least) of poultry topic related activities to help members learn about poultry and/or meet their poultry project goals.

For recognition of project work, members must be members in good standing and keep a member record and project record (see page two for record book details).

4-H members ages 8+ may handle poultry. If Cloverbuds wish to gain exposure to poultry and animal care, an adult needs to be holding and in control of the bird. Cloverbud activities should be limited to feeding, petting, and stroking the birds. Caution should be exhibited when entering a coop or other area where poultry are loose, especially for the Cloverbuds. Those who handle poultry should heed the cautions and best practices as recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/SalmonellaPoultry/>).

### **Specific Project Information**

- **2024 Update:** Approval Forms and Lease/Loan forms are no longer required
- Sharing birds for educational purposes is allowed.
- For 4-H showing, sharing of birds is not allowed.
- Owning or leasing poultry is not required. Project leaders may help members find poultry to purchase or lease.
- Members may choose to enhance the club project meeting learning in the poultry project area by participating in the following if/when available:
  - County quiz bowl practices and quiz bowl contests
  - Judging contests
  - Clinics, poultry shows\*, workshops
  - Regional Day with a poultry presentation
  - Fairs/Field Days with a poultry presentation
  - Community Service Projects
  - Career Exploration

**To find other information, rules and documents** such as record books and show guidelines related to the poultry project go to the “poultry” section on the 4-H projects page ([www.uvm.edu/extension/4-hevents](http://www.uvm.edu/extension/4-hevents)).

### **General Record Book Information**

- Record books document project work, and include goals and a reflection piece to summarize the project experience.
- Most 4-Hers use the standard record books available through the 4-H program.
- Members may use alternative formats for records but must have prior approval from their 4-H Educator.

### **Poultry Project Record Books**

- **Poultry project members** usually **use one of the *Poultry Project Record Books***.
- **Members without poultry may use** the generic *4-H Project Record*.
- **Poultry members may use** the *Poultry Project Record* or pages of it if they have been tracking, for learning purposes, the care and expenses of poultry that they don't own or lease. Project leaders would help determine if such an approach makes sense based on project goals.

### **Out of State Opportunities**

- Poultry Congress
- Southern New England Poultry Show, UCONN Storrs, CT (April)
- National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference

### **Learning about Poultry**

This is a partial list which suggests areas that should be explored when learning about poultry:

1. Animal Health - veterinary fees, drugs, vaccinations, avian influenza, salmonella, etc.
2. Liability - injury to the animal, injury by the animal
3. Feeding - costs, types of feed, source of feed
4. Labor and management
5. Housing specifications
6. Exhibiting – transportation, disposition of premiums and awards
7. Incubation and raising your own flock

*(November 2012, R. Garritano; revised for the Poultry Project by Wendy Sorrell, January 2024)*

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