



March 3, 2026

To: All Educators
From: Martha Edwards Manning, UVM Embryology Project Manager
Subject: Vermont 4-H Embryology Program

NOTE: Please read all the information below as there are important Embryology Program changes in 2026. Follow us on FB at Vermont 4-H Embryology

NOW is the time to start planning for the 2026 University of Vermont 4-H Embryology program as an enhancement to your classroom curriculum.

The Embryology program has become a popular spring lesson in schools and home-school programs across Vermont. Orders are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. If you get your registration to us early, we should have no problem in filling your request.

Embryology studies the developmental process of the chicken embryo through the twenty-one day incubation process. Quite simply: from egg to chick. This hands-on activity is an exciting adventure which students remember for years down the road.

For purchase, we offer a preset circulated air incubator. We have used this type of incubator for many years and have been very satisfied with its quality and the resulting hatch rates. The incubator is designed to hold a more uniform temperature by circulating the air through with a small fan and the temperature is preset for bird eggs. It has a large window for making observations. The circulated air incubator regulates itself, but still must be in a room with a stable temperature. It should not be used in sheds or barns. We also offer an auto-turner that fits the incubator. The egg turners have a capacity of forty-one chicken eggs.

This year we are offering fertile eggs from **MEAT CHICKENS**. Quantities of fertile eggs may be limited. Order early — orders will be filled as received. First-come, first-served. As in previous years, you may return the chicks on the designated date.

IMPORTANT 2026 PROGRAM DATES

- Incubator orders must be received by **Friday, March 26, 2026**.
- Orders for fertile eggs and other supplies must be received by **Tuesday, April 7**. (If we sell out of eggs you will be notified immediately.)
- On **Thursday, April 16 at 4:00 p.m. we will be hosting a workshop** for new and returning participants. This is a great opportunity to ask questions and hear tips from other educators. The workshop is free, but you must **pre-register by Tuesday, April 7**. Workshop location is 140 Kennedy Drive, Suite 202, South Burlington. All participants — especially first-time participants — are highly encouraged to attend. There will be a virtual link — register and it will be sent to you.

If you have programming questions, please contact Martha Edwards Manning at home phone 802-827-3913 or text (very poor cell service for calls) 802-782-5056. **I have retired but am managing this program for UVM. Please use my cell or home phone numbers or email martha.manning@uvm.edu (yes, the email still works).**

For registration or order questions, contact Peggy Manahan at 802-656-7610 or peggy.manahan@uvm.edu.

We look forward to working with you on this educational experience.



2026 4-H EMBRYOLOGY PROJECT - DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, April 27 — Egg Pick-up locations and times

Brattleboro	3 – 4 p.m.	South Burlington	2 – 4 p.m.
Barre	2 – 4 p.m.	Middlebury	3 – 4 p.m.
St. Albans	2 – 4 p.m.	Rutland	3 – 4 p.m.

Tuesday, April 28 — Egg Pick-up locations and times:

Morrisville: 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Final Preparations

- Set-up incubator and plug in, April 30. Observe to be sure it is working properly.
 - Bring eggs to room temperature before placing in incubator, Tuesday morning, April 29.
 - If using an egg turner, the pointed end of the egg goes down.
 - Tuesday, April 28 is “Day Zero” and Wednesday, April 29 is “Day One.” Hatch date, May 19.
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Wednesday, April 29

Day 1

Saturday, May 2/Sunday, May 3

Eggs must be turned on the weekend.

Saturday, May 9/Sunday, May 10

Eggs must be turned on the weekend.

Friday, May 15

Last day to turn eggs!

- Remove eggs from turner or stop turning if hand-turning.
 - Place eggs on layer of cheesecloth.
 - Increase humidity in incubator as directed in incubator instructions.
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Tuesday, May 19

Hatch Day!!!!

- Have brooding area ready ahead of time. Be sure heat source is properly secured. Use a heat plate rather than a heat lamp if possible.
 - Keep chicks in incubator until fully dry. This may mean leaving them in the incubator overnight.
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Friday, May 22 — Chick Return: ONE DAY ONLY

- This is the only day to return chicks; drop off is at the South Burlington and St. Albans Extension offices.
 - If you are not able to return chicks on this date call Martha Manning at 802-782-5056 prior to Wednesday, May 20 to make other arrangements.
 - **DO NOT PUT CHICKS on Craigslist, Front Porch Forum, or other sites to rehome.**
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Important Notes

- **Egg Set:** All eggs should be set on Tuesday, April 28. Remember this counts as Day zero — Day 1 is twenty-four hours later (April 29)
- **Turning:** Eggs must be turned on the first and second weekends (May 2/3 AND May 9/10) to ensure proper development. An automatic turner is another option. Eggs must be removed from the automatic egg turner on May 15.
- Monitor humidity/water level through the incubation period. Incorrect humidity is the primary cause of poor hatches!
- **If you have programming questions,** please contact Martha Edwards Manning at home phone 802-827-3913 or text (very poor cell service for calls) 802-782-5056. **I have retired but am managing this program for UVM. Please use my cell or home phone numbers or email martha.manning@uvm.edu (yes, the email still works).** **For registration or order questions,** contact Peggy Manahan at 802-656-7610 or peggy.manahan@uvm.edu.



2026 EMBRYOLOGY - PRICE SHEET/ORDER FORM

Incubator orders deadline: Friday, March 26, 2026
Egg and supply items deadline: Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Item Description	Price Each	Quantity Ordered	Total Cost
NEW — All participants must pay a \$20 registration fee to cover program costs	\$20.00		\$20.00
Incubator: Pre-set, circulated air, HovaBator, Genesis model 1588	\$180.00		
Automatic Egg Turner: Capacity of 41 chicken eggs	\$58.00		
EGGS: Meat bird eggs — sold per dozen (same price as last year) *Limited quantities available — order early	\$28/ dozen		
Cool Light Candling Light	\$16.00		
Digital Hygrometer (measures humidity) — this is a built-in feature in the newer incubators	\$25.00		
Chick Starter Feed (approximately 4 pounds)	\$8.00		
Total for your order			

We accept checks and school purchase orders. If using a purchase order, please send the PO with your registration and order forms. **All Purchase Orders must be paid in full prior to picking up eggs.**

Make checks payable to: University of Vermont

Mail completed form and payment to: University of Vermont Extension Embryology Project
Attn: Peggy Manahan
278 South Main Street, Suite 2, St. Albans VT 05478

If paying by school purchase order, please list Purchase Order Number: _____

Name of contact person if questions regarding Purchase Order: _____

E-mail to submit PO to: _____

Phone number for contact person: _____



2026 EMBRYOLOGY REGISTRATION FORM

Order deadlines: Incubators — Friday, March 26, 2026

Eggs — Tuesday, April 7, 2026

***There will be no refunds after Wednesday, April 8**

Name of School / Participant: _____
Phone Number: _____
Names of Teacher(s)/Instructors: _____
Phone Number for Teacher: _____
County where program will be presented: _____
E-mail address: _____

Please send this year’s correspondence by e-mail (order confirmation, reminders, etc.) yes no

Embryology Workshop Registration: Register by Tuesday, April 7, 2026, for the Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. at the South Burlington Extension Office, 140 Kennedy Drive, South Burlington, VT.

I plan to attend the program workshop on Thursday, April 16 at 4 p.m. at the UVM Extension South Burlington Office (140 Kennedy Drive): yes no

I will be attending: in-person virtually (we will email you the link)

Number of additional attendees from my school who will attend: _____

I will pick up my eggs on Monday, April 27 at the following location:

Barre Extension Office, 2 - 4 p.m., 327 U.S. Route 302, Barre, VT 05641

Brattleboro Extension Office, 3 – 4 p.m., 130 Austine Drive, Brattleboro, VT 05301

St. Albans Extension Office, 2 – 4 p.m., 278 South Main Street, Suite 2, St. Albans, VT 05478

South Burlington Extension Office, 2 – 4 p.m., 140 Kennedy Drive, South Burlington, 05403

Middlebury Extension Office, 3 – 4 p.m., 23 Pond Lane, Suite 300, Middlebury, VT 05753

Rutland Extension Office, 3 – 4 p.m., 271 North Main Street, Rutland, VT 05701

I will pick up my eggs on Tuesday, April 28 at the following location:

Morrisville Extension Office, 1-3 p.m., 29 Sunset Drive, Morrisville, VT 05661

** Additional pick-up locations may be added if there is increased participation.

Call Martha at 802-782-5056 if you are interested in another location.

I plan to return the hatched chicks on Friday, May 22: yes no

I will return chicks at the following UVM Extension Office: St. Albans South Burlington

Chicks may be returned between 12:00 noon and 4:00 p.m. ONLY on Friday, May 22. If you live in another area and need to return your chicks, call Martha Edwards Manning at 802-827-3913 (home) or text 802-782-5056 prior to Wednesday, May 21 to make other arrangements.



University
of Vermont

Extension
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences



The “Embryology Youth & Adult Participation Form” must be completed before we can process your order.

For questions, or to request language interpretation/translation assistance and/or a disability-related accommodation to participate in this program, please call or email 4-H Educator Martha Manning at (802) 782-5056 or martha.manning@uvm.edu by Wednesday, April 1, 2026, so we may assist you.

4-H Youth Group Enrollment Form

Name of program: Embryology 2026 Description Embryology 2026

Group/School name: _____ Start Date: April 27 End Date: May 22,2026

- 4-H Special Interest/Short Term Program
 4-H Overnight Camping Program 4-H Individual Study/Mentoring/Family Learning Program
 4-H Day Camping Program Instructional TV/Video Program
 4-H School Enrichment Program Administrative/Organization Unit

Number of Hours: _____ **Presenter/Leader/Teacher Name:** _____

Project: Embryology

How many: Students	How many of this group are 4-H members?
Males Females	Males Females
Non-Binary _____ Not Listed _____	Non-Binary Not Listed
Prefer not to answer Other/ Unidentified	Prefer not to answer _____ Other/ Unidentified _____

(County User: Be sure to subtract the duplicates listed above from each of the following.)
 Please estimate the ethnic and racial distribution of the participants.

Please indicate the race and ethnicity of participants	Ethnicity	
Racial Groups	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
(1) White Only:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
(2) Black or African American Only:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
(3) American Indian or Alaska Native Only:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
(4) Asian Only:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
(5) Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander Only:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
(10) Balance (other combinations):	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Sub-Total		
Total		

*Hispanic ethnic should be marked "White" race as default.

Where do the participants/ students live?	Farm	Rural	Town 10K-50K
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Grade(s)	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	PHS	NIS
<input type="text"/>															

PHS – Post High School NIS – Not In School

Instructors

(If you are a 4-H volunteer, do not count)	Adult Instructors	
	Ethnicity	
Racial Groups	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
(1) White Only:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
(2) Black or African American Only:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
(3) American Indian or Alaska Native Only:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
(4) Asian Only:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
(5) Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander Only:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
(10) Balance (other combinations):	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Sub-Total	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Total	<input type="text"/>	
Classification of Instructors	Adult Instructors	
	Male	Female
Direct:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Indirect: (you take on a supporting role, not working directly with youth)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Sub-Total	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Total	<input type="text"/>	