



# 4-H POULTRY PROJECT



## Step It Up!

Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.

### Communication

- Design a poster on parts of the bird
- Participate in a judging contest giving oral reasons
- Explain how to prepare poultry products

### Citizenship

- Volunteer your bird for a community petting zoo
- Hand out food samples at your local grocery store
- Volunteer to help at the county fair poultry show

### Leadership

- Invite other 4-H members to tour your farm
- Teach others how to safely handle poultry
- Lead a poultry selection and feeding clinic

**4-H**  
GROWING TOGETHER

## Are You Into It?

In the poultry project you can learn about selection and raising your birds, and dive into health issues, poultry products and careers!

- Learn the basic principles of animal science by owning, caring for, and keeping records on your birds
- Explore knowledge of sound breeding, feeding, and management practices
- Investigate current issues facing the industry and how you can start a career in the poultry business

## Here's what you can do all year!

### Starting Out Basic / Level 1

- Learn the different types of birds and what they're used for
- Produce a healthy and safe meat product
- Identify different breeds
- Locate and name parts of a bird
- Learn proper feeding techniques
- Be a good sport when showing your animals

### Learning More Intermediate / Level 2

- More about nutrients and poultry products
- Compare poultry carcasses and grading
- Explore the difference between class, breed and variety
- Discover how eggs are made
- Candle eggs
- Describe signs of a healthy bird
- Learn effective advertising
- Learn different housing systems

### Expanding Horizons Advanced / Level 3

- Conduct a judging clinic
- Manage your flock
- Investigate DNA and genetics
- Outline the steps to poultry processing
- Discover proper food safety techniques from farm to table
- Learn proper cooking techniques
- Investigate ethics in the poultry business
- Start a career in poultry



# Take Poultry further!

Here are other opportunities to explore Poultry:

- Contact your county ISU Extension office for other local workshops, activities, and events
- Tour a poultry farm
- Attend a poultry show and observe the judge and their techniques
- Attend a poultry project meeting
- Design a business card or marketing brochure for your farm or imaginary farm
- Write an educational article about some aspect of poultry production for your newspaper
- Participate in a poultry skillathon
- Organize a poultry showmanship contest
- Attend a national poultry conference
- Ride with a local veterinarian to learn about animal health
- Visit a local grocery store to learn proper meat handling techniques
- Attend Animal Science Round-Up as part of the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference and participate in one of the livestock tracks, participate in the community service project, bringing ideas back to your community.
- Is it fair time? Consider showing in your County Fair poultry show or the Iowa State Fair.
- Interested in a college education in animal science or veterinary medicine?  
Schedule a visit with Iowa State University to explore those majors. [www.iastate.edu](http://www.iastate.edu)

## Exhibit Ideas

- Participate in the 4-H poultry show
  - Breeding birds
    - Chickens
    - Ducks
    - Geese
    - Turkeys
    - Exotic
  - Market broilers
  - Egg production
    - White egg layers
    - Brown egg layers
  - Showmanship
- Consider an exhibit, notebook or display showing what you've learned in a poultry-related topic
  - Nutritive value of poultry
  - Meat cuts and proper preparation
  - Feeding rations
  - Preventative vaccinations
  - Photos of different breeds
  - Daily routine in caring for animals
  - Grooming techniques
  - Developing a breeding herd
  - Video interview with a poultry producer
  - Best care techniques for newborns
  - Poultry by-products
  - Locally grown foods
- Create a recipe book, display, or presentation with egg or chicken recipes
- Create an exhibit, notebook, or display discussing food safety and poultry products

## Resource

### 4-H Resources

- Iowa 4-H Poultry  
[www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/poultry](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/poultry)
- [Scratching the Surface](#)  
Level 1 (4H 656A)
- [Testing your Wings](#)  
Level 2 (4H 656B)
- [Flocking Together](#)  
Level 3 (4H 656C)
- [Poultry Leader Guide](#)  
(4H 656 LDR)

### Other Resources

- Iowa Poultry Association  
[www.iowapoultry.com](http://www.iowapoultry.com)
- Iowa Egg Council  
[www.iowaegg.org](http://www.iowaegg.org)
- Nat'l Poultry Improvement Plan  
[www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/animal\\_dis\\_spec/poultry/participants.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_dis_spec/poultry/participants.shtml)
- Pullorum-Typhoid  
[www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/fo\\_wl\\_typhoid.pdf](http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/fo_wl_typhoid.pdf)
- U of MN Poultry Resources  
[www1.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/poultry/](http://www1.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/poultry/)
- Dept. of Agriculture – Avian Flu  
[www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=avian\\_influenza.html](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=avian_influenza.html)
- American Egg Board  
<http://www.aeb.org>
- Good Egg Project  
[www.incredibleegg.org/good-egg-project](http://www.incredibleegg.org/good-egg-project)
- American Poultry Association  
[www.amerpoultryassn.com](http://www.amerpoultryassn.com)

### Record Keeping

- [Poultry Project Worksheet](#)
- [4-H Yearly Summary](#) (4H0096)
- [Basic 4-H Project Record](#) (4H-0096A)
- [Experienced 4-H Project Record](#) (4H0096B)
- [Advanced 4-H Project Record](#) (4H0096C)
- [Record keeping Self-Evaluation](#) (4H98)