

MINI 4-H POULTRY



NAME: _____

CLOVERBUDS/MINI 4-H—Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Grades

This booklet is good for the 3 years of Mini 4-H Poultry

PURDUE EXTENSION



DECATUR COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
545 S COUNTY ROAD 200 W
GREENSBURG, IN 47240
PHONE: 812-663-8388
4-H EDUCATOR: NORA BRUNS
EMAIL: stacyn@purdue.edu



To enroll in Mini 4-H, go to:
<https://v2.4honline.com/>

SOURCES:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/is this the 4 h project for me poultry](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/is_this_the_4_h_project_for_me_poultry)

<https://www.thehappychickencoop.com/10-best-chicken-show-breeds/>

<https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/anr-60>

<https://backyardpoultry.iamcountryside.com/chickens-101/choosing-the-best-4-h-show-chickens/>

<https://www.wikihow.com/Show-Chickens>

<https://www.thespruce.com/daily-and-monthly-chicken-care-tasks-3016823>

<https://www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/extension/publications/beginners-guide-raising-chickens>

This booklet created and prepared by Bonita Hellmich, Decatur County Extension Office—October 2023.

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Mini 4-H'ers Page

Welcome to Mini 4-H! You are now a member of the 4-H family. You are a special person. Mini 4-H'ers have a lot of fun! There are many activities for you to explore and new things to try. You can share it with your family and friends. Mom, Dad, another adult and your 4-H club can help you with your project. When it is finished, bring your project to the 4-H fair to display it so others can see what you have done. You will also get a ribbon made just for Mini 4-H'ers. Most of all, have fun with learning about horses!

Here are some things to know about 4-H:

The 4-H Symbol: The symbol is a four-leaf clover with a "H" in each leaf.



Clover is a plant which grows in fields, yards, and along roadsides. Most clovers only have 3 leaves. If you look closely when you are outside, you may get lucky and find a clover with four leaves. A four-leaf clover is used as the symbol for 4-H to let everyone know 4-H is a special kind of group.

The 4-H Colors: The 4-H colors are green and white. The four-leaf clover is green and the "H" in the leaf is white.

The 4-H Motto: "TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER." When something is better than all of the others, it is the best. 4-H encourages you to always try to do better, even if you are doing the best, you have ever done.

The 4-H Mission: The Indiana 4-H Youth Development mission is to "provide real-life educational opportunities that develop young people who positively impact their community and the world".

The 4-H Vision: Indiana 4-H Youth Development strives to be the premier community-based program empowering young people to reach their full potential.

The 4-H Pledge: A pledge is a promise you make to yourself and to the people around you.



**I pledge my HEAD to clearer thinking,
My HEART to greater loyalty,
My HANDS to larger service,
And my HEALTH to better living,
For my club, my community,
My country and my world.**

Mini 4-H Helper's Page

Welcome to the Mini 4-H program! Mini 4-H is designed for youth to explore a variety of project activity areas and to interact with caring adults and other children.

Children receive project manuals for their chosen project(s) after enrolling in Mini 4-H. These manuals provide information to learn about the chosen project along with learning activities to provide fun and interaction throughout the year in Mini 4-H. The manuals also provide ideas for a project to bring to the fair. **Much information in this booklet is also to help the first-time 4-H parent/helper to learn about this project. Read to your child and help them by talking about the information with them and guiding them thru the learning activities.**

As a Mini 4-H helper, your job will be to guide and encourage the Mini 4-H'er through doing the activities in the manual. A wide range of activities are provided to allow you to choose the ones most appropriate for the child you are working with. Read through the booklet with your child. It is suggested that you DO NOT complete the activities for them, but instead, help them, guide them, and work with them, letting the child do as much as they possibly can themselves. 4-H believes in allowing children to "learn by doing". The Mini 4-H project activities are hands-on learning opportunities designed to provide a meaningful educational experience for youth.

Additionally, the Mini 4-H program is setup to allow children to display a project activity based upon information learned from this manual. Some children choose to exhibit their project at the Decatur County 4-H Agricultural Fair. Fair week is an exciting week for 4-H members, Mini 4-H'ers and their families. It is a week that allows the community youth to showcase their enthusiasm for learning.

Mini 4-H is fun! Children will certainly enjoy it. As an adult helper, you can have fun too, by guiding and helping as children participate in the program. Encourage and praise the child(ren) as they have fun learning while doing the activities, and sharing what they are learning with you.

If you have questions regarding Mini 4-H or the 4-H program and projects, please feel free to call the Decatur County Extension Office at 812-663-8388.



Decatur County Extension Office
545 South County Road 200 West
Greensburg, IN 47240
Phone: 812-663-8388
4-H Educator: Nora Bruns
Email: stacyn@purdue.edu



Mini 4-H Program Rules

The Mini 4-H program is designed to supplement and introduce students in kindergarten through second grade to the Decatur County 4-H program.

Rules:

Mini 4-H is open to any boy or girl who is currently enrolled in Kindergarten, first or second grade on January 1st of the current 4-H year.

Mini 4-H participants will enroll in a 4-H club where they may get help with their project from older 4-H'ers and their club leader. They can also do their project at home with help from their parents.

Mini 4-H'ers in Decatur County may enroll in any of the following projects: Arts and Crafts, Bicycle (grade 2 only), Bugs, More Bugs (2nd grade), Collections, Dinosaurs, Farm Animals, Foods, Foods 2 (2nd grade), Forestry, Garden, Genealogy, Models, My Pets & Me, Plants & Flowers, Sewing, Space, Whales & Dolphins, Wildlife and Woodworking.

Animal projects now have manuals, and the child will participate in the Mini 4-H Livestock show during the fair for the species they have signed up to show. They will use an animal provided by an older sibling, relative, friend, or other 4-H'er that is already being shown at the fair. Older 4-H'ers and adults will help them so they will learn the proper way to show the animal. Animal projects include: Beef, Dairy, Rabbits, Goats, Sheep, Horses, Puppies/Dog, Swine and Poultry. The animal booklets are good for 3 years of Mini 4-H.

Mini 4-H'ers will complete activities in their project manuals, show in the Mini 4-H show, and if desired, turn in a project also. Any poster exhibits must follow the following specifications:

- The poster must be a stiff cardboard or foam core board so it can stand up easily, if needed. Poster board size is to be 22" high x 28" wide. Posters are to be covered with plastic to protect them.
- The Decatur County Extension Office sells foam core poster board and plastic sleeves to cover the poster boards, as a set, at a minimal price.
- Posters must be positioned horizontally.



POULTRY BASICS FOR THE BEGINNER

The [4-H poultry project](#) is an awesome 4-H project for youth who may be interested in a project that has the potential to be entrepreneurial. Birds generally do not take a significant amount of space and, depending on the type of bird you select, there may be an opportunity to profit from your project. Poultry projects consist of chickens, turkeys, ducks or geese.

Poultry projects are not a highly labor intensive project. Feed and water birds twice per day. Daily observation is critical to creating a base line for what the animal's normal behavior is. If your chickens are laying eggs, you will have to collect eggs each day. You will also need to clean coops out regularly and provide clean, fresh bedding. Additionally, birds you intend on showing need to be handled regularly so they become used to performing the showmanship steps and learn how to be properly posed for show.

Proper biosecurity practices need to be carried out with poultry flocks, which includes keeping equipment clean, limiting visitors to see your birds, regular hand washing and keeping a single pair of shoes and clothes designated for when you care for your birds. Poultry carry salmonella, so always wash your hands before and after interacting with birds.

Budget: The amount of money you have to spend on your project is another factor that should be considered. Some of the expenses to factor into your budget are any housing needs or improvements that may need to be made; the purchase price of the animal; feed and bedding; and any medical costs.

Coop costs will vary depending on how you choose to build it. The pre-fabricated coops available for purchase at your local farm supply store run between \$70 and \$1,000. If you are building your own, a \$500 budget should get you the supplies you need if you are starting from scratch. If you have a garage or outbuilding available, you can modify it to provide a coop space. You will need special poultry feeders and waterers that can be purchased from your local feed store starting around \$10 for very basic products.

The cost of the animal is another factor. What you are going to focus on—meat birds, egg laying birds or fancy type show birds—will determine what you spend on the animal itself. Meat and egg layers can be purchased from vendors for approximately \$3 per bird. Fancy birds can range from \$25-\$100 or more, depending on the quality of the bird.

There are a few different options for bedding or litter in your coop. You can use wood shavings that can be purchased from a local farm store for about \$7 per bag, or straw. Straw can be purchased for about \$4 per bale, depending on the time of year and the area you reside. All bedding will have to be periodically replaced as you clean the coop.

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/is_this_the_4_h_project_for_me_poultry

Type of Chickens for you to Show:

Breed Characteristics of Chickens One of the first things that a member has to do when they decide to do a 4-H poultry project is to select an animal to work with. Deciding the breed characteristics and the breed to be used is the first step. Breed characteristics include body size, feather color, and conformation specific to a breed.

The Egg Producing Flock These birds have smaller bodies than broiler chicks, and they do not eat as much feed. They also lay more eggs. Common breeds are: production-type Rhode Island Red, White Leghorn, Hybrids and Sex-Link.

The Broiler (Meat Producing Flock) Crossbred chicks are used for broiler (meat) production. These chicks grow fast and produce broilers in 6 to 7 weeks. One pound (0.5 kg) of meat is produced on less than 2 lbs (1 kg) of feed. The principles of brooding broilers are the same as for other chickens. Common breeds are: Red Sussex, Cornish Game and Hybrids.

Dual Purpose (Meat and Eggs) These birds typically lay brown-shell eggs and are used to produce both meat and eggs. They are gentle and easy to manage. Common breeds are: Rhode Island Red, New Hampshire, Sex-Link and White Plymouth Rock You should learn about the various types of poultry in your area so you can decide which one best suits your needs.

[efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.4hab.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Poultry-Activity-Guide.pdf](https://www.4hab.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Poultry-Activity-Guide.pdf)

POPULAR POULTRY BREEDS

Silkie

The Silkie (or Silky) is a flightless, furry-looking bird of small stature.

It's sometimes mistaken as a bantam, but that is not the case. Hailing from China, India, or Japan (true origin unknown), The American Poultry Association Standard Perfection entered the bird in 1874.

The body is covered in a silky (hence the name) plumage, closer resembling fur or hair than feathers.



The Silkie has black skin, with a deep maroon-colored comb and wattles.

The ears are turquoise and stunning against the plumage and dark face.

The Silkie has 5 toes instead of 4, which is difficult to see below their feather-covered legs.

Blue Cochin

The Cochin Blue is a personal favorite of mine.

Its effortless beauty makes it an easy choice in the show ring.

They're friendly, calm birds keen to lay and set eggs.

The Cochin Blue has slate blue, grey, and deep blue feathers capped with a vibrant red comb and wattle. Exaggerated rump feathers and feathery legs and feet meet the bird's sleek body.

This bird thrives and thrills in the show world. This bird has other color varieties, such as Buff, White, Black, and Cuckoo (in the UK).

Their large size is often a favorite of judges and onlookers alike.

Originating in China, the Cochin Blue was brought over on ships in the 1800s.



Polish Chicken



If you can believe it, the Polish chicken was first highly sought after due to their white egg-laying ability and not their funky hairdos.

However, shortly after the Leghorn bumped them off the podium for the #1 best white egg layer, their striking appearance secured them a spot in the "Ornamental" category, where they were bred for looks.

The Polish's pom-pom hairstyle makes them easily one of the most recognizable birds in your local agricultural show. Aside from the prominent head crest and hairdo, the Polish have an entire body of haphazard-looking and remarkably colorful feathers.

The birds are known to be gentle, calm, and content birds that are rarely aggressive.

With origins unknown, the Polish breeding lines vary between prolific egg layers to variable or sparse. Their intent to go broody is minimal, though not entirely unheard of.

If just the appearance through a photo intrigues you and you want to learn more about this goofy-looking feathery beauty, check out Polish Chickens: Temperament, Color, and Egg Laying - to decide whether they're a must-have in your flock.

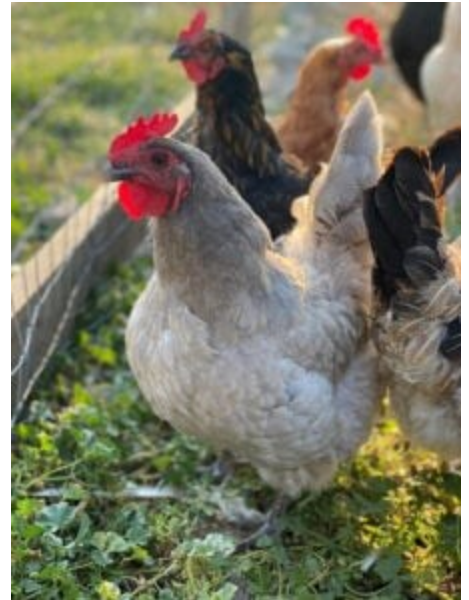
Lavender Orpington

The Lavender Orpington tops the list of show quality extravagance. A heavy yet agile chicken who displays a full body of light purple/grey feathers below a bright red comb and wattle.

The combs vary between birds, as I have a few hens with tiny pea combs and others with slightly larger ones.

The Orpington's beauty is, well, in the butt. A rump full of spiraling feather-set is show-stopping.

There is barely a color the Orpington breed doesn't come in. These colors include Lavender, Buff, White, Lemon Cuckoo, Chocolate, Spangled... the list goes on.



The Orpington hens are chatty, curious, gentle, and friendly. I can always count on one of my Lavender Orpington to warble and coo at me during egg collecting.

The roosters we've had did not enjoy the company of our children but were relatively easy on our hens. It's said the roosters are generally even and calm, but that has yet to be our experience. They are, however, tall, big-breasted beauties that are captivating to watch in the chicken yard.

A British breed, they maintain a show-quality, fancy appeal the British breeds are known for.

Brahma

The Giant, the King, the Brahma.



The Brahma chicken was a prevalent breed in the 1930s for many reasons. However, it fell off the radar commercially soon after while remaining a favorite amongst backyard flocks.

The Brahma is a tall, erect bird despite its size (approx 10lb for a rooster, 8lb for a hen).

With tight feathering, it thrives in cooler climates and appears "fluffy" under sleek feathers. The Brahma ranges in colors: dark, light, and buff. The variety is beautiful amongst a mixed flock. Long, feathered legs support the chicken's weighted body and strong wings. Despite their wingspan, they cannot fly well.

This particular breed is known for its docility. The personality of Brahma is gentle, calm, and curious.

Why the Brahma? The rooster is beautiful in the show ring and easy to handle due to their relaxed nature. Containment is easier for this breed as their flight abilities are limited.

The Brahmas size deters smaller land predators and aerial threats. With the Brahma's large size comes limited coop space and a bit higher feed bill, but their success in the ring makes up for the smaller flock size.

Faverolle

The Faverolle is a multi-purpose bird used for eggs and meat and performs well in the show ring.

A full-bodied bird with loose feathering consisting of white and honied salmon.

Faverolle's cheeks are full and fluffy, making them look as friendly as they are. Feathered legs and small rose-colored combs give them a delicate, pretty look.



The Faverolles were imported to the states in the 1900s and are becoming a hit among backyard keepers and show breed enthusiasts. The Faverolle, chosen for its tolerance of cages over the favored Houdan, makes it the perfect show breed.

Like the Orpington, the Faverolle is chatty, friendly, and tolerates handling well. Their exceptional coloring is unlike many other breeds, making them stand out. The Faverolle is a reliable layer, the bottom of the pecking order, and a gentle mother, ensuring continued breeding stock for years.

Their gentle, friendly nature makes them a wonderful 4-H project for younger chicken keepers!

Australorp



Reining primarily from the land down under, with Australia being mostly credited for the breed's development, the Australorp is a mixture of many breeds with a base of Orpington, Rhode Island Reds, Minorcas, Langshan, and White Leghorns.

The finished product is a tall, black bird with iridescent feathering in deep shimmering green.

The Australorp is an upright, reliable egg layer and very friendly to boot! Their slow, stately walk and inquisitive personality make them excellent pets with a purpose.

This breed tolerates confinement well but can be prone to obesity if that is their sole management style.

This breed is keen to forage, go broody, and lays light brown eggs. The Australorp's full, hardy body makes it easy to keep them in your backyard flock.

Sturdy from chicks, the Australorp is ideal for beginner chicken show enthusiasts, with their friendly personalities and suitable mothering tendencies. In many areas, the Australorp is easy to come by. Therefore continuing breeding and replenishing of a flock is relatively simple.

Ayam Cemani

Welcoming this rare, exotic, and unusual bird from Sumatra, Indonesia - is the Ayam Cemani. The Ayam Cemani is an erect muscular bird boasting black, shimmering feathers.



Fibromelanosis makes this bird all black, including their skin, bones, and bone marrow. Considering its eye-catching and rare appearance, the bird is said to have magical powers connecting the spiritual and living worlds in its native land. This bird was and is owned by those of wealth and status in their home country and is well cared for.

A friendly, gentle bird by nature, they are sure to add a conversation piece and feathery friend to your flock. As with any rare or unusual breed, the Ayam Cemani can be profitable if strict breeding practices are followed. This breed can fetch you ribbons, but selling chicks for fertilized eggs could also help your profit margin.

The Cemani is said to be flighty though I've read mixed reviews. Many people find them relatively easy to contain and handle confinement well. However, like any bird, they also value foraging and exercise.

Rosecomb Bantam



Like the Brahma, this bird is eye-catching for its size.

Except the Rosecomb Bantam is recognizable for its lack of size! Rosecomb bantams are considered a "true bantam," meaning they are not a miniature of anything but a breed itself.

The compact bird comes in various colors but is most notable for their large, bright red comb and oversized white ears. Their feathers are long, and the tail appears large and full.

The Rosecomb Bantam is a joy (and quite comical) to watch in the barnyard. I once watched one call out, sprint, and rally hens amongst a flock of substantially bigger roosters. The Rosecomb Bantam is known for being friendly and easy to handle.

As you can imagine, this bantam breed is ideal for smaller coops, enclosures, and pens. Requiring less room than their regular-sized cousins, a Rosecomb Bantam would be the perfect companion to travel around the show circuit given its compact size, lesser food requirements, and friendly disposition.

This breed could be for a 4H project or beginner chicken keeper!

<https://www.thehappychickencoop.com/10-best-chicken-show-breeds/>

There is much information online about breeds of poultry to show. If you Google "popular breeds of show poultry with photos" you will find a lot of information on show breeds to read about. Also, talk to your local 4-H Poultry Superintendent and leaders about popular breeds to show in your area.

CHOOSING YOUR POULTRY BREEDS

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR RAISING CHICKENS?

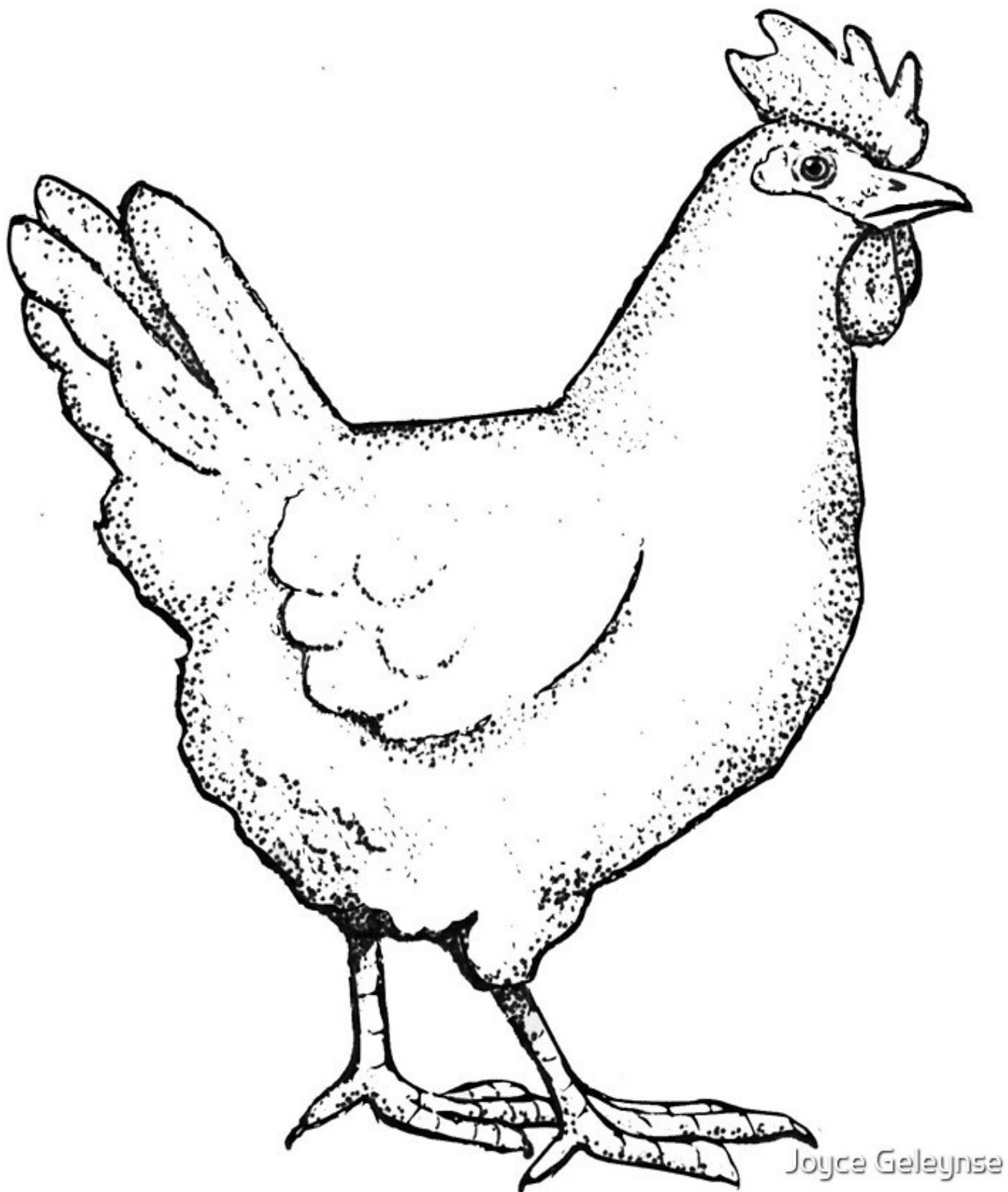
Before selecting the breed of chick to purchase, you need to ask yourself several questions. The first one is: What are your needs for your flock? This is important because you are looking at a commitment of potentially seven to eight years, which is the average lifespan of a chicken. Other questions include:

- What is your end goal for raising chickens?
- Do you want a certain type of egg, or are you looking for meat production chickens?
- Is your goal egg production, egg and meat production, or just meat production?
- Are you interested in raising chickens for show purposes and production is not important?

Each breed of chicken has traits that make them better suited for exhibition, egg, meat or dual purpose production.



Color the picture of the chicken. You may enter this picture as a Mini 4-H project.



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POULTRY TERMINOLOGY

Being able to talk “chicken” is important. Here are a few terms used for poultry:

- **Hen:** a female adult chicken
- **Rooster:** a male adult chicken
- **Chick:** a baby chicken of either sex
- **Pullet:** a female chick (immature chicken)
- **Cockerel:** a male chick (immature chicken)
- **Broody:** a hen inclined or wishing to incubate eggs
- **Non-Setting:** a hen that does not have the inclination or wish to incubate eggs
- **Dual Purpose:** chicken practical for meat and egg production



<https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/anr-60>—This website will give you some great information on the following with regards to choosing your poultry:

- *EGG PRODUCTION*
- *EGG AND MEAT PRODUCTION*
- *MEAT PRODUCTION*
- *SHOWS AND EXHIBITION OF POULTRY*
- *BUYING YOUR CHICKENS*
- *WHAT TEMPERAMENT OF CHICKEN IS IDEAL FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY?*
- *CHICKEN BREEDS*

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING YOUR POULTRY:

1. Do you want to raise poultry primarily for their eggs or for meat, or do you just want chickens as pets?
- Temperament vs. Production
 - Special Features and Characteristics :
 - ♦ Egg Color:
 - ♦ Exotic Feathers (or lack thereof):
 - ♦ Pint-Sized:
 - ♦ Good Mothers—Some 4-H kids might want show chickens that are good at hatching their eggs and will be good mothers for their chicks
 - Climate and Housing Concerns:
 - ♦ Cold Hardy
 - ♦ Heat Tolerant
 - ♦ Hardy in Cold and Heat

2. Do you want your birds to be fun and friendly to interact with or just good at producing a product for you?
3. Is there a particular feature you're interested in such as egg color, exotic looks, size, or ability to hatch chicks?
4. What kind of climate and housing will they be raised in?

- ♦ Well-adapted to Confinement
- ♦ Prefer Free-Ranging
- ♦ Happy Either Way — Confined or Free-Ranging:

One final thing to consider as you choose your breed of 4-H show chicken is which bird you will use for showmanship. This is the part where you show off what you know! Typically you take one bird in and out of a cage in front of a judge, handle and manipulate the bird to show and describe all the body parts, and then answer any questions about poultry that the judge may ask while you stand there holding your bird. Any breed of chicken can be used for 4-H showmanship if they are handled regularly from the very start.

<https://backyardpoultry.iamcountryside.com/chickens-101/choosing-the-best-4-h-show-chickens/>

Parts of a meat chicken:



DAILY CARE OF YOUR POULTRY

Daily Chicken Care Tasks:

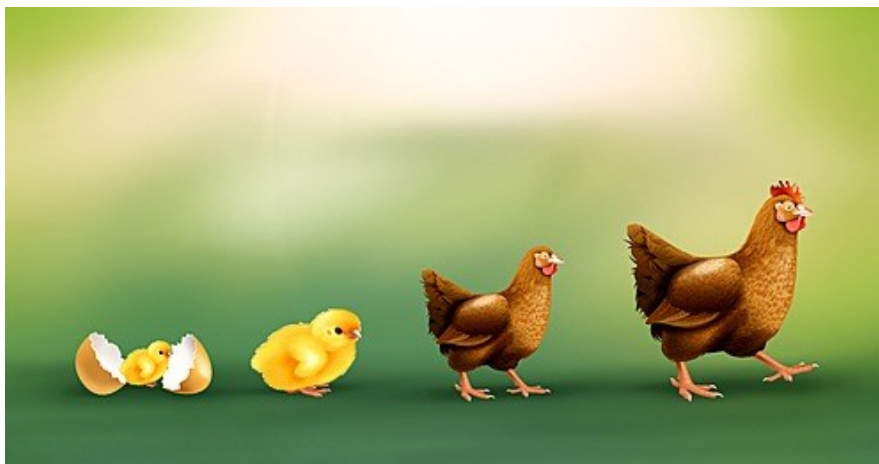
These are the basic of chicken care that needed to be tended to every day:

- **Refresh the water:** Chickens need to drink about a pint of fresh water per chicken each day. Because they don't like dirty water, they can become dehydrated quickly. Shavings, straw, and poop can get in the water throughout the day. Consuming feces from other chickens may lead to worms. Refresh the water daily, especially if you notice any debris or sliminess in the container.
- **Clean water bowls and containers:** Use dish soap and water for regular cleanings, and rinse well before refilling. You can also use chlorine bleach or oxygen bleach as needed to sanitize the water container, as long as you rinse it thoroughly.
- **Feed the chickens:** You can free-feed your chickens with a large hanging feeder, adding the chicken feed as needed. Or you can feed them a set amount each day.
- **Collect eggs:** Collecting eggs daily ensures that they are as clean as possible. It also minimizes cracked eggs and maximizes freshness.
- **Observe the chickens:** Spend some time with the flock, observing the chickens to make sure they are healthy. Active, alert chickens with bright eyes and smooth feathers are a good sign.

Monthly Chicken Care Tasks:

- Manage the bedding
- Freshen the nest boxes
- Sanitize the waterers

<https://www.thespruce.com/daily-and-monthly-chicken-care-tasks-3016823>



SHOWING YOUR POULTRY

1. Select a purebred chicken to show. At most poultry shows, your chicken will be judged on how well it conforms to the standards of its specific breed and variety. For this reason, most competitions will not accept hybrid or mixed-breed chickens for show.

- Do research on specific breeds of chicken that are accepted for show in your area and by the organizations you want to work with.
- For example, if you live in the U.S., you might start by looking at the list of breeds recognized by the American Poultry Association.

A few popular show breeds include Cubalayas, Favorolles, Brahmas, Dutch Bantams, and Silkies.



2. Study the standards for your chosen breed. Before you show your chicken, consult your local poultry association's manual of breed standards. In order for a show chicken to be successful, it must conform to these standards. These might include things like being in a particular weight range, having a certain type of plumage, or having combs and wattles of a specific shape or color.

If you live in the U.S., you will probably need to refer to the American Poultry Association's guide, *The American Standard of Perfection*.



3. Buy chicks from a reputable breeder. Do a search for your preferred breed's national club or association and browse their breeder directory. If you're not sure how to find out whether a breeder in your area is reputable, talk to someone at a local poultry club and ask for recommendations.

You can also find directories of breeders through the websites of organizations like the Livestock Conservancy. Avoid buying chickens from feed stores, farmers' supply centers, and auction houses. These chickens are more likely to be misidentified or in poor health than chickens bought directly from breeders.



4. Choose a bird from your flock that meets the breed standards. Just because a chicken belongs to a show quality breed, there is no guarantee that it will meet all the required standards for show. You may need to raise a lot of birds before you get the perfect show chicken.

- If you raise purebred chickens in a flock, it's a good idea to occasionally remove members of the flock that don't conform to breed standards. That way, undesirable traits won't be passed on within the flock. Humane ways of culling your flock include selling unwanted chickens as pets or housing them separately as part of a laying flock.



5. Pick a bird that is healthy. A chicken that is sick, bedraggled, injured, or over- or under-weight is unlikely to win any shows. Make sure any chicken you plan to show is in the best possible health before signing it up for an exhibition.

Give your chickens the best possible care to ensure that they are healthy, happy, and show-ready. This means providing proper housing, nutrients, and grooming.

6. Practice holding your chicken correctly. When handling your chicken at a show, you need to use proper form. To pick up your chicken, approach it from the front. Put your left hand underneath the chicken's body with your index finger between its legs. Use your thumb to support one leg and your other 3 fingers to support the other leg. Carry the chicken with your right hand on its back and its head tucked under your left arm.



Using this hold not only demonstrates that you are familiar with show form, but will also help your chicken feel calm and secure.

7. Learn how to pose your chicken. Study your breed standards guide to find out what kinds of poses you may be asked to demonstrate. Get familiar with what the poses are supposed to look like, and practice guiding your chicken into those poses. Put your chicken on flat surface covered in a piece of carpeting and gently move its head and tail into the appropriate positions. If the chicken moves, guide it back into position.



- Your goal is to get the chicken to hold the pose for 30-60 seconds after you remove your hands. Try practicing with your bird 10 minutes at a time, several times a day until the poses become second nature.
- Stroke your chicken under the beak as it poses and reward it with a treat if it stands still. You can also try clicker training your chicken. When the chicken does something you like (e.g., holding its head up for a pose), immediately click your clicker, then offer a treat. Your chicken will soon associate the sound and related action with a reward. While you can support your chicken from beneath as you are teaching it to pose, don't put your hand on its back. Doing so will encourage the chicken to sit or squat.



8. Train your chicken to do a controlled walk. During the show, the judges may ask you to have your chicken walk along a table while you direct it with a baton or pointer. Set your chicken down on a long table covered in old carpet. Lead the chicken around the table with a treat until it gets the hang of following you around. Once your chicken is ready to stay on the table and follow your lead, incorporate your pointer, gently tapping the chicken to direct it around the table.

- When you want the chicken to turn, tap it on the side of the hackle (the neck). To get your chicken to go forward, tap it on the saddle (the lower back, just above the tail).

- You may need to tap your chicken with a little force at first—enough to annoy it and get it moving without causing any pain. As your chicken becomes more willing to respond to the commands, make your taps lighter. Reward your chicken with a treat when it follows your guidance.

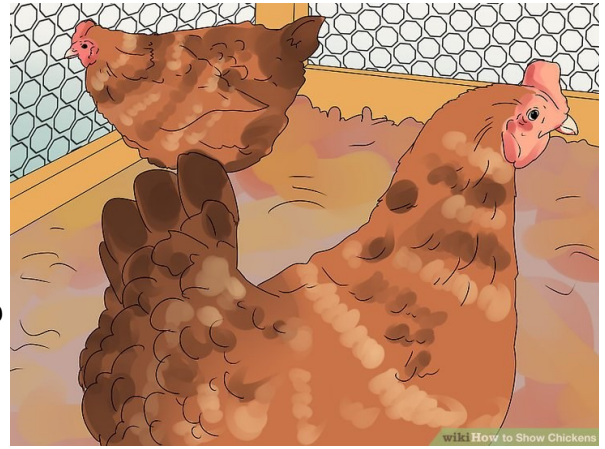
PREPARING YOUR CHICKEN FOR SHOWING:

1. Start preparing a year in advance. The year before you plan to show a chicken, attend an 4-H show to watch how the 4-Hers handle their chickens. This will give you a clear idea of what to expect. Over the course of the year, observe your chicks carefully and select the chicken(s) you think are most likely to be show quality.

Some breeds take longer to mature than others, so try to hatch eggs or buy chicks within an appropriate timeframe relative to when you plan to show. While some chickens may be ready to show in 6-8 months, others may take a year or more to fully "bloom."



2. Keep your show chickens in small groups. Remove any chickens you think are show quality from the flock and house them in groups of 2 or 3. The complicated social hierarchies that form in large groups of chickens can lead to squabbling within the flock. This means that keeping your show chickens in a bigger flock puts them at risk of getting bullied.^[11]



- A chicken that is low on the pecking order can end up with bald spots or more serious injuries. They might also become shy and skittish, which will make training and showmanship more difficult.

If possible, avoid isolating your show chickens completely. Chickens are highly social animals that don't do well without company.



3. Get your chicken used to being handled. During the show, you'll be expected to handle and pose your chicken. Start socializing your show chickens from an early age so that they won't act scared or aggressive when it comes time to show them off. You can do this by:^[12]

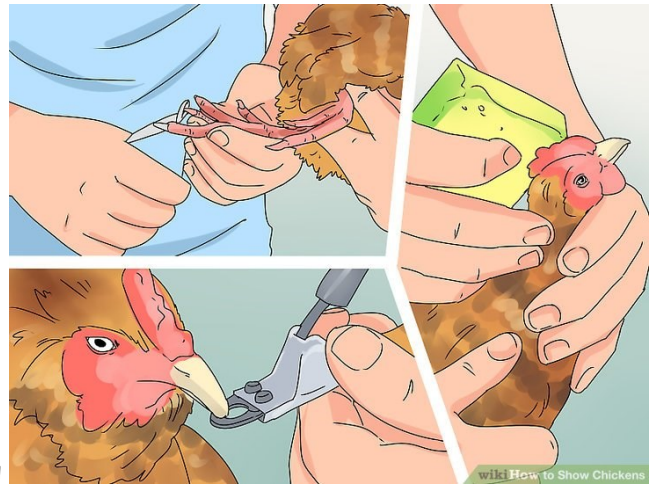
- Handling your chicken frequently from an early age.
 - Talking to your chicken regularly in a calm, soothing voice.
- Feeding your chicken treats out of your hand.

4. Clean your chicken 2-5 days before the show. A few days before you plan to exhibit your chicken, bathe your bird in a tub or basin filled with warm water and a little gentle shampoo or dish soap. Rub the sudsy water through the chicken's feathers from base to tip. Use a soft-bristled toothbrush to scrub the chicken's legs and feet. Carefully rinse out the soapy water when you're done.



- For an extra clean rinse, transfer your chicken to a second rinse basin filled with warm water and a few spoonfuls of apple cider vinegar. This will help get all the soap residue out. Rinse the chicken a second time with plain water.
 - Never submerge your chicken's head under the water.
 - Bathe your chicken in a warm, draft-free area, where the air temperature is around 80-90 °F (27-32 °C).
- Give your chicken at least 24 hours to dry off and preen itself before the show.

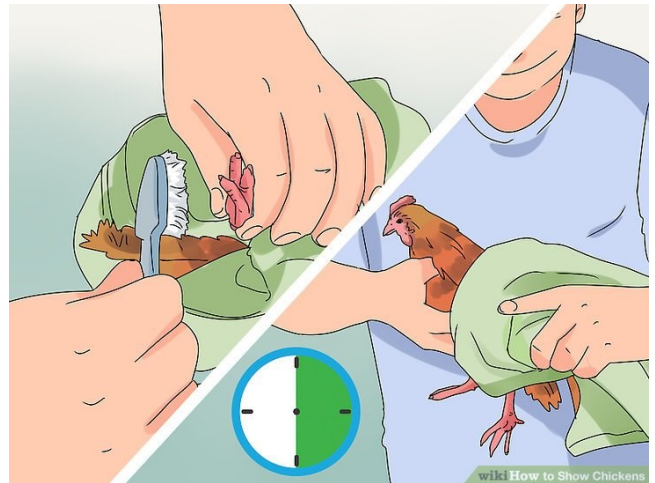
5. Groom your chicken's face, beak, and nails right after bathing it. Once you've taken your chicken out of the bath, wrap it in a clean, dry towel with its face and feet sticking out. Use a damp sponge to wash the face, beak and wattles. Use a pair of nail clippers to carefully trim the top of the beak so it's even with the bottom. Use soft-bristle toothbrush to scrub the nails, then clip them with nail clippers.



- Take care not to cut through the vein in your chicken's toenails, since this will cause pain and bleeding.
- You can file down any rough spots on the nails and feet with an emery board.

When you're done grooming your chicken, pat it dry with a towel and place it in a warm, clean coop.

6. Do a final grooming 30 minutes before show-time. About half an hour before judging begins, do some last-minute touchups to get your chicken looking its best. Gently scrub the toenails and feet with an old toothbrush, then wipe the legs down with wet wipes and a little baby oil to create a nice sheen. Use a wipe to clean away any dirt or manure from the feathers around the vent. Rub a silk cloth over the feathers from head to tail to smooth them and make them shine.



If you like, you can also rub the comb and wattles with a little baby oil or antibiotic ointment. This will help them look glossy and healthy.

<https://www.wikihow.com/Show-Chickens>

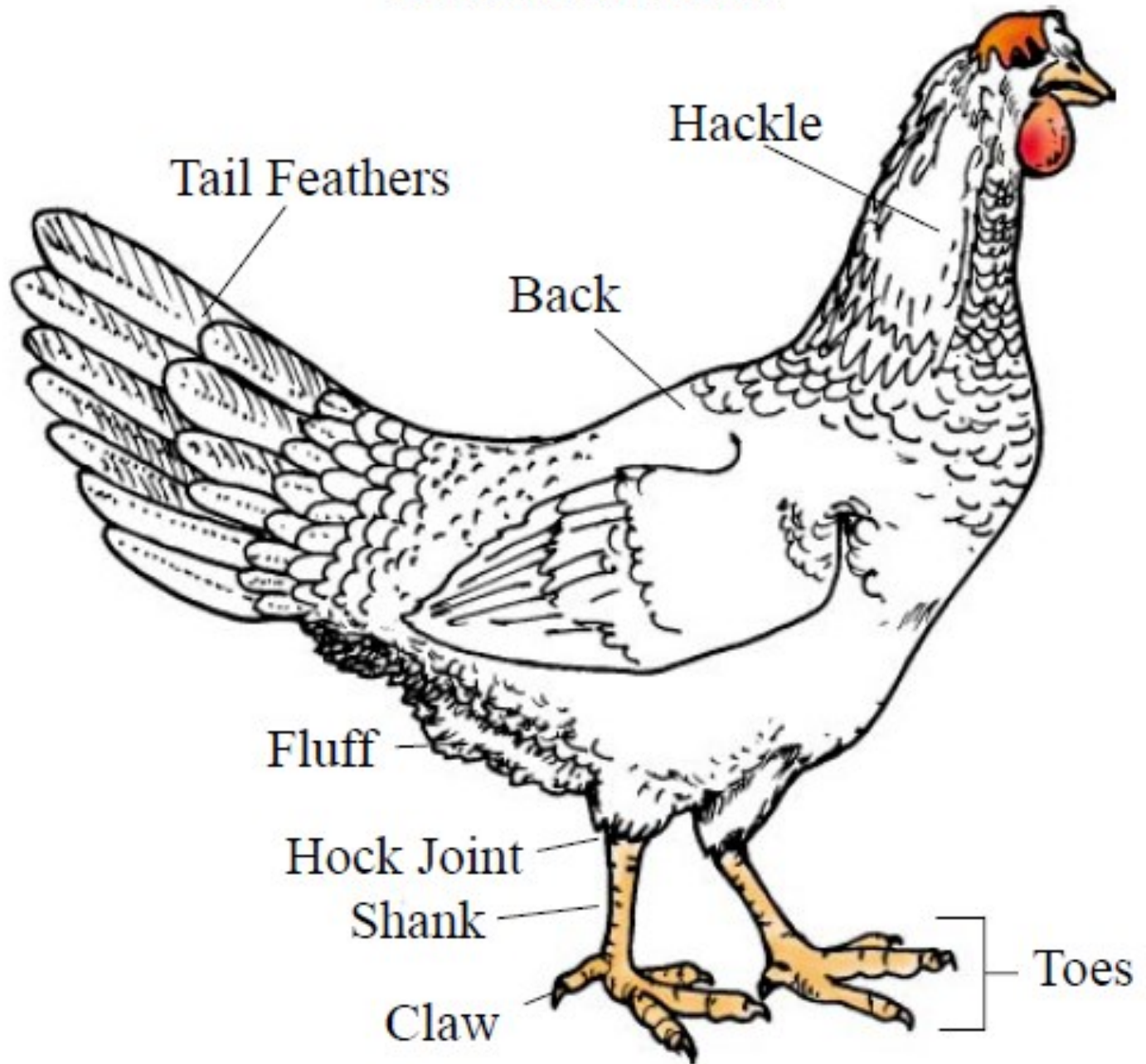
ACTIVITY:

On the following page, study what the different parts of the chicken are called.

On the next page, fill in the blanks with the parts of the chicken, seeing how many you can remember without looking back at the first page. If needed, have an adult help you with reading the names of the chicken parts and writing them in the blanks.

Have a parent or an adult help you learn the names of the different parts of the chicken.

Parts of a Hen

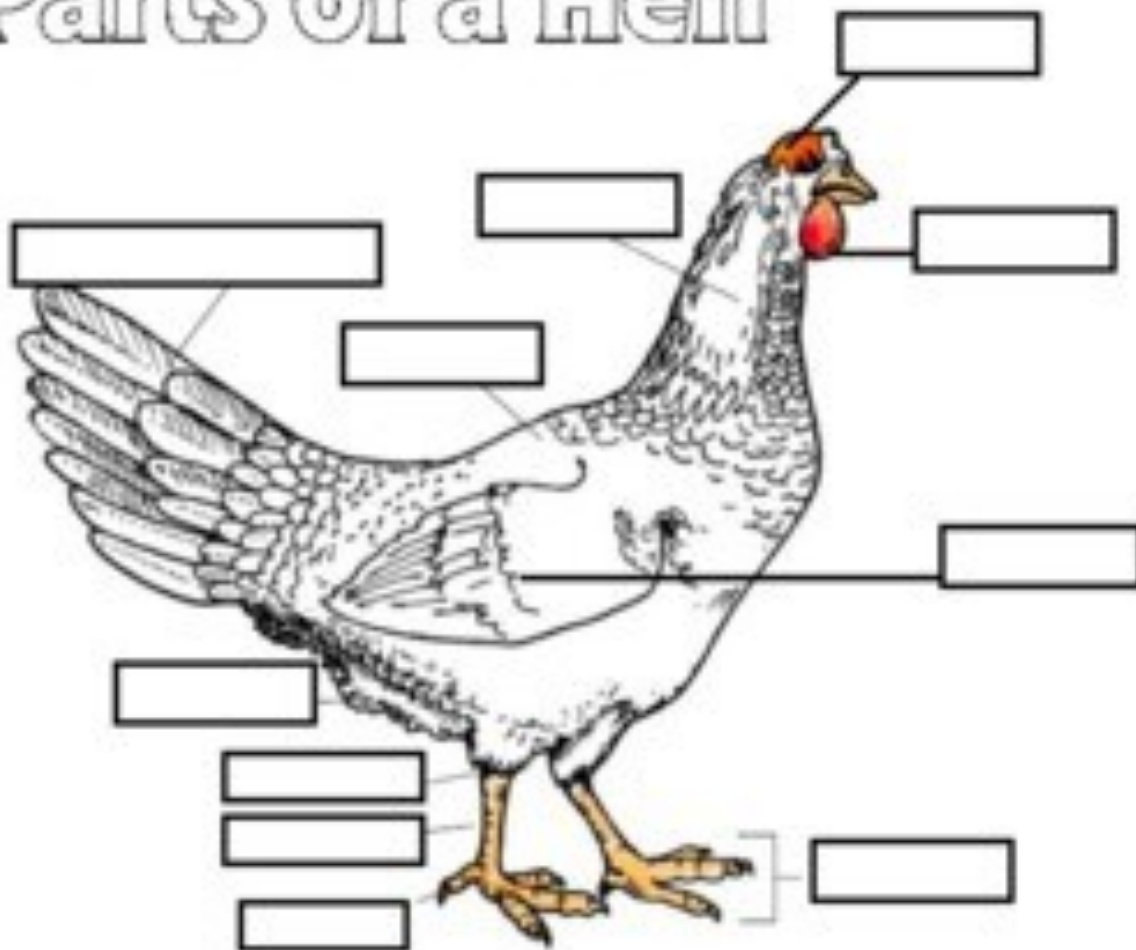


Label the parts of the chicken.

You may use this page to turn in as a Mini 4-H Project entry at the fair.

Parts of a Hen

Clew
Wattle
Wing
Back
Comb
Tail Feathers
Fluff
Toes
Hock Joint
Shank
Hassel



Name: _____

4-H Club: _____

Grade: _____

Name that Stage!

Use the Word Bank to fill in the blanks.

Turkeys and chickens are both poultry — domestic birds raised for eggs or meat. They have similarities and differences throughout their lifecycle. Use the word bank to name the stage of life. Some answers may be used twice!

Chicken

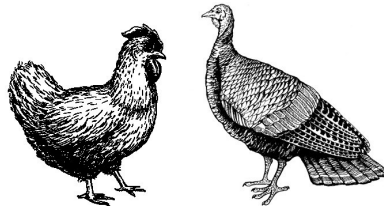
Turkey

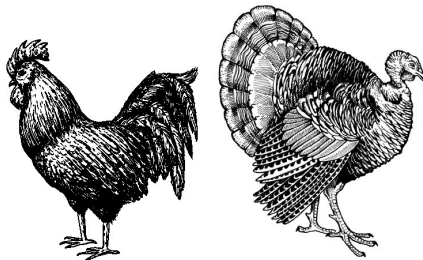
Word Bank:

Gobbler
Hen
Egg
Poult
Chick
Rooster









Did you know? Fun facts about poultry:

- Eggs are not solid — they have thousands of tiny holes in them called pores. These help the egg “breathe” as the embryo develops!
- The color of a chicken egg reflects the color of the chicken’s earlobe!
- Wild turkeys can run up to 25mph and fly as fast as 55mph! Domestic turkeys cannot fly.
- There are more chickens in the world than any other bird species

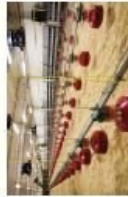
© Copyright 2019 American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture®

Poultry & Eggs

Chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, and other fowl are considered poultry. Chickens are the most plentiful type of poultry raised for meat and egg production in Kentucky.



Most meat-type chickens, or broilers, enter a temperature controlled house when they are 1 day old.



The chicks are provided a diet of corn and soybeans and plenty of water until they are grown. Kentucky poultry eat between 25 and 35% of locally-grown corn and soybeans!

Chickens are able to convert their feed to high-quality protein that provides us essential amino acids, B vitamins and minerals, such as iron and zinc.



Broiler or Layer?

While all chickens can be raised for meat, and all female chickens (hens) lay eggs, certain breeds of chickens are better suited for each purpose.

Broilers:

- Grow quickly and will reach their full size in less than 8 weeks - between 3 and 7 pounds depending on their use.
- Are not raised in cages, but are allowed to roam temperature-controlled houses, yards, or on pastures.
- Are never given hormones or steroids.

Layers:

- Hens will begin to lay eggs when they are 18 to 26 weeks old.
- May be kept in cages for ease of feeding and collecting eggs, or they may be kept in open houses, yards, or on pastures with laying boxes near by.
- Commercial laying hens are typically used for meat after they have reached 2 years of age or when egg production begins to decline.
- Are never given hormones or steroids.



Egg Nutrition Facts

For only 70 calories each, eggs are rich in nutrients. They contain, in varying amounts, almost every essential vitamin and mineral needed by humans as well as several other beneficial food components. Egg protein is the standard by which other protein sources are measured. A large egg contains over six grams of protein.



Commercial egg production is quite automated and works to improve food safety and sanitation. Houses also protect birds from predators and many diseases.



Turkeys are raised similarly to broilers, but they will grow for 3 to 6 months and weigh 15 to 30 pounds.



In the past many households kept chickens for eggs and an occasional dinner. The modern chicken industry, however, produces nutritious, wholesome, high quality products that become more affordable year after year.

\$ Eggs are the most economical high-quality protein available. Chicken meat is third, behind cow's milk.

The average laying hen lays 286 eggs per year.



FEEDING YOUR POULTRY

NUTRITION

There are many feed companies that provide chicken feed for every stage of life; from chicks to productive hens or a market ready meat bird. Chick starter can be medicated or non-medicated. Medicated chick starter should be fed immediately after hatching to reduce the risk for coccidiosis in chicks which have not been vaccinated for the disease at the hatchery prior to shipment. Coccidiosis, one of the most common diseases of chickens, may be caused by ingesting soil or other bird droppings. Non-medicated feed may be used for vaccinated chicks; however, medicated may be preferred for extra protection against the disease.

Feeds are designed specifically for each type of production bird. The demand for protein will be higher in the starter ration and depending on whether you are raising egg producing birds or broilers your chick starter will be different. Starter feed is specifically formulated to meet chicks' protein, energy, vitamin, and mineral requirements. Growth and developmental issues may be noticed in birds that are not receiving a proper diet, examples are crooked wings or toes.

It is important to follow the instructions on the feed bag for how long your birds should be fed which feeds. If it is a custom ground feed from your local feed mill, ask the mill nutritionist or call your county Extension agent for guidance.

Minimum Nutrition Requirements:

Type	Protein%	Calcium %	Phosphorus %
Broilers- Starter (0-6 weeks)	23	0.9	0.5
Broilers- Finisher (6 weeks to market)	10	0.8	0.5
Pullets- Starter (0-8 weeks)	20	0.9	0.5
Pullets- - Developer (8 to 20 weeks)	14	0.8	0.5
Laying Hens- Layer	16	3.0	0.5

Source: Mississippi State University Extension

<https://www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/extension/publications/beginners-guide-raising-chickens>

POULTRY SAFETY TIPS

Some small and large cities allow raising chickens in backyards. Be sure to check the local city/housing ordinances for regulations on the number of birds, enclosures and space requirements per chicken.

Chickens carry germs, which may cause minor to serious health issues, ranging from skin infections to serious illnesses, such as salmonellosis. Anyone handling chicks or other poultry should wash their hands thoroughly immediately after touching the birds, collecting eggs, or touching food or other equipment used for the poultry.

As a general practice, wash your hands after being in the area even if you did not touch the birds or equipment. If soap and water are not readily available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

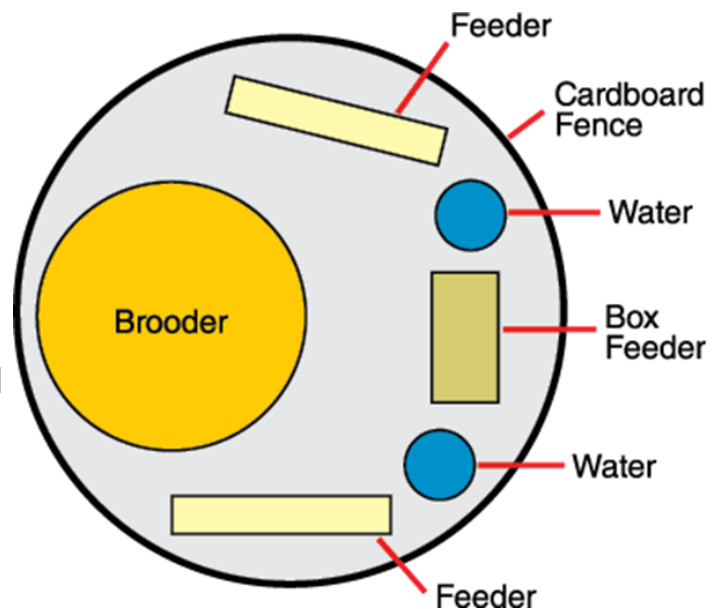
It is important to supervise children as they wash their hands after being around poultry. Young children have immune systems that are still developing and are more likely to become ill from germs carried by poultry, such as Salmonella, Campylobacter and E. coli.

Poultry may peck you with their beaks, and germs can enter the scratches or wounds causing infections. Be sure to wash any scratches thoroughly with soap and water. Seek medical attention for serious wounds or signs of infection.

HOUSING YOUR POULTRY

HOUSING

A special brooder house or a building can be used for rearing chickens. If chicks are purchased in winter or early spring, make sure the building has enough insulation and minimal drafts to maintain the chicks heat requirements. If such facilities are not available, use an area of another building, such as a garage or basement which can be penned off. An area within the brooder house or room should be sectioned off with a chick guard and a light placed in the center of the area. Use roll roofing metal or something similar to make a circle around the light. Do not make square corners because the chicks will pile up in these corners. Stock water tanks also work well for brooding chicks.



Suggested chicken housing

For the first month, confine chicks to the brooder area by using a 24-inch-high chick guard. The guard keeps the little birds from straying away from the heat and prevents floor drafts. Keeping the brooding area large enough to allow chicks to escape one another and

allow them to choose their comfort zone around the light is important; however, the brood area should not be so large that a proper temperature cannot be maintained. Chicks in general will require $\frac{1}{2}$ square foot of housing or brooder space per bird up to six weeks of age. Depending on the breed, growing pullets require $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ square feet of confined floor space per bird.

For used housing, be sure to clean and sanitize thoroughly, including all surrounding walls, troughs, perches, and nests before receiving chicks. Scrub the walls and floor with a good disinfectant. Ensure all cracks are cleaned and all old litter removed. Mix one tablespoon of bleach to one-gallon of boiling water to make a disinfectant solution. Also, be sure to clean and disinfect all feed and watering equipment.

Once the housing is dry, put down a quality bedding litter. Pine wood shavings are good litter and absorb well. Expanded vermiculite or mold-free straw can also make good litter. Remove wet spots and apply fresh litter as needed. Chick starter paper or newspaper may be placed over the litter during the first five days to prevent the chicks from eating the litter. Ensure the paper is not slick.

Proper spacing is important as cannibalism may occur from overcrowding, too little space, poor nutrition, poor ventilation, too much light or injured birds. Keep new chicks isolated from older birds until they are fully feathered out to prevent injury and disease spreading to younger chicks. Make sure chicks are confined to areas that will not allow access for predators such as dogs, cats, coyotes, racoons, skunks, and weasels.

Below are listed a few sources (websites) with some good information on taking care of your chickens, building a chicken coop and chicken run. Check them out.

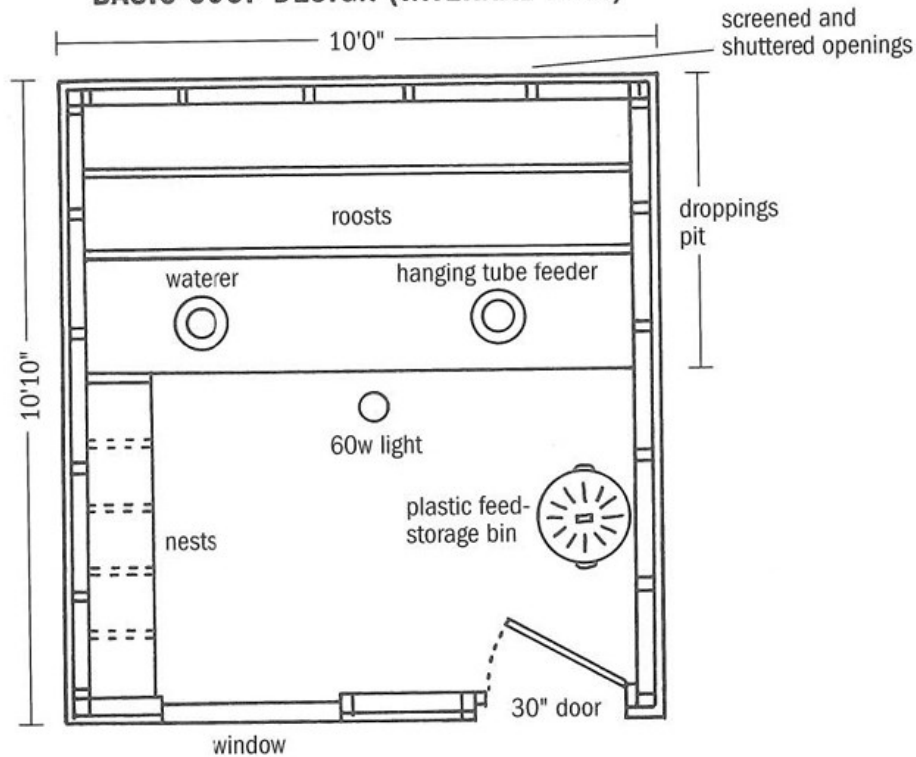
<https://www.almanac.com/raising-chickens-101-how-build-chicken-coop>

<https://www.chickensandmore.com/chicken-coop-plans/>

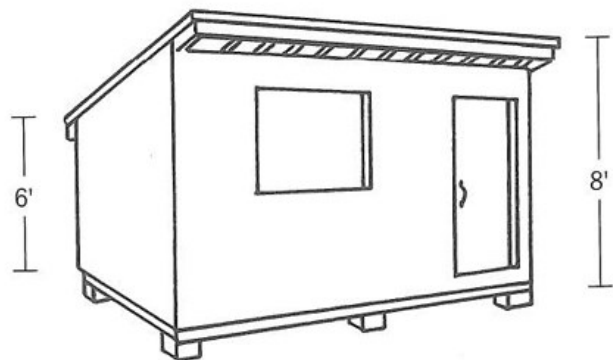
https://run-chicken.com/raising-chickens-101-beginners-guide-to-backyard-chickens/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwtJKqBhCaARIsAN_yS_n1hUs4lEFcL2UhXlvzaBjX6pizodX8cCShF8qGnhpdtYQcvys48UcaAhJIEALw_wcB

The next page has a sample diagram of a chicken coop.

BASIC COOP DESIGN (INTERNAL VIEW)



BASIC COOP DESIGN (EXTERNAL VIEW)



This basic coop plan features roosts over a droppings pit for good sanitation, a window for light, and screened and shuttered openings on the north side to control ventilation. To expand the interior floor space, build the nests on the outside of the coop.

EASY TO CLEAN

Reach every inch of this coop with the help of multiple access points

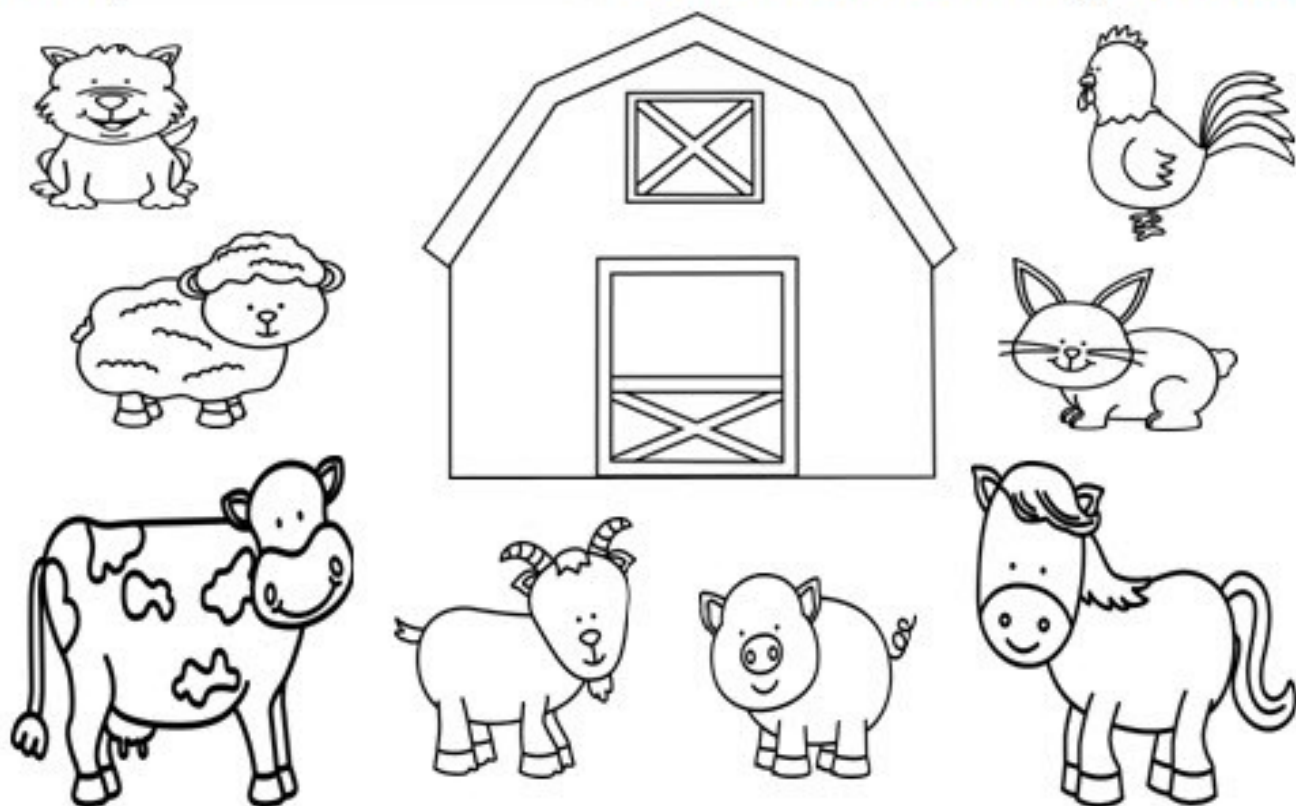


3 Access Areas

one of front accesses could be a ladder for chickens to enter and out easily



Name _____ Farm Animals: Following Directions



1. Color the horse brown.
2. Color the cow black with white spots.
3. Color the pig pink.
4. Color the goat orange.
5. Color the sheep white.
6. Color the rabbit gray.
7. Color the chicken orange.
8. Color the dog yellow.
9. Color the barn's window and door yellow.
10. Color the barn red.
11. Circle the words that name farm animals.

For a complete farm unit, check out the "First Grade" tab at
www.creativeclassroomconnections.com

Connect the dots to draw your chicken. Then neatly color your chicken.



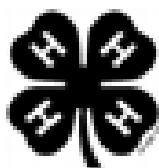
POULTRY BANDING

4-H Tag/Banding Requirements: All poultry must be banded. All birds will receive a leg band at a banding meeting set by the Poultry superintendent. Any poultry that will be brought to the fair and shown must be banded. The banding information must be accurately listed in the 4-H Online System by May 15th. Participating 4-H members will be required to list the breeds and tentative classes they intend to show in. It is realized that some birds may not make it to the show or be fit to show by show date, (there will be no penalty for bird(s) not coming to the fair, unless you don't fill all of the cages you reserve and pay for on the Grounds Fee form for poultry.



RECORD KEEPING FOR YOUR POULTRY

The following pages have some sample record-keeping sheets that you may use if you have a beginning flock of poultry. Once you are in 4-H, you will receive record sheets for poultry and egg-laying to keep track of your flock.



Poultry Worksheet

FEED COSTS (corn, poultry feed, miscellaneous)

Date Purchased	Type of food	Amount	Cost

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES

Purchased	Item	Cost














































































Monthly Egg Collection Records

Month & Year _____ Monthly Feed & Misc. Expenses _____ Monthly Egg Income _____

[illegible]

EGGS Sales Record

DATE	EGG COST	NUMBER SOLD	TOTAL INCOME	EGGS PRODUCED BY <i>circle egg type</i>				
				CHICKEN	DUCK	GOOSE	QUAIL	BUTTERFOWL
	per <input type="checkbox"/> EACH dozen <input type="checkbox"/> HALF DOZEN dozen <input type="checkbox"/> DOZEN		\$					
	per <input type="checkbox"/> EACH dozen <input type="checkbox"/> HALF DOZEN dozen <input type="checkbox"/> DOZEN		\$					
	per <input type="checkbox"/> EACH dozen <input type="checkbox"/> HALF DOZEN dozen <input type="checkbox"/> DOZEN		\$					
	per <input type="checkbox"/> EACH dozen <input type="checkbox"/> HALF DOZEN dozen <input type="checkbox"/> DOZEN		\$					
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	per <input type="checkbox"/> EACH dozen <input type="checkbox"/> HALF DOZEN dozen <input type="checkbox"/> DOZEN		\$					

Name: _____ Date: _____

Raising Chickens

Word Search

DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the
vocabulary words
in the grid. Look
for them in all
directions including
backwards and
diagonally.

BACKYARD

BROODER

CHICKEN

CHICKS

COOP

CORN

CRACK

CROW

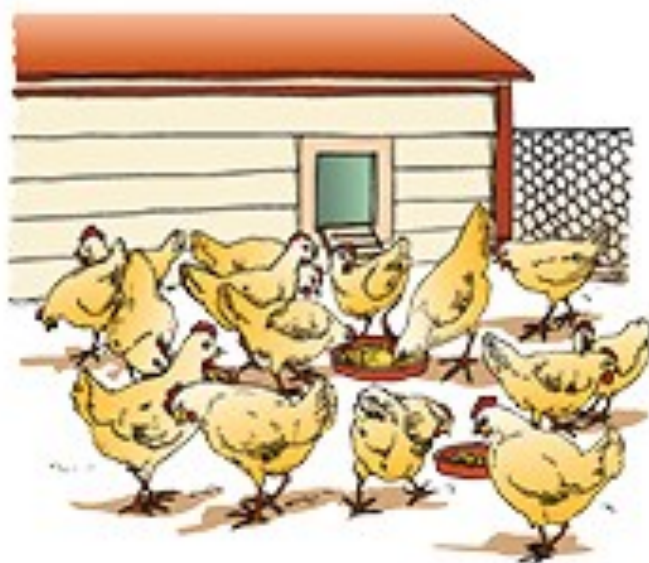
EGGS

FEATHER

FEEDER

FLOCK

L	H	V	F	E	E	D	E	R	S	P	A	R	C	S	N	N	U	R	W	O
Y	Q	D	C	X	B	G	Q	J	U	F	K	C	A	R	C	R	X	O	V	V
R	F	V	K	Q	O	J	E	L	H	W	E	O	E	X	P	G	R	E	U	T
K	M	Z	K	J	M	B	L	B	P	Z	P	A	Y	R	H	C	N	C	Q	A
V	O	S	G	S	E	E	Z	A	R	G	F	E	T	C	N	Q	M	E	R	Q
L	L	C	D	X	T	H	C	E	C	H	R	A	T	H	Q	W	U	R	S	H
I	T	O	J	P	S	N	D	D	L	D	V	A	W	J	E	K	Z	O	Y	T
Q	I	R	X	W	J	O	T	I	O	R	H	F	F	Z	B	R	T	O	A	Z
U	N	N	U	R	O	C	N	T	K	X	X	V	U	O	X	S	T	S	Y	K
H	G	W	C	R	E	S	M	G	I	W	L	O	J	Y	Q	Q	P	T	E	V
E	X	O	B	T	E	L	G	J	R	Z	A	P	M	A	L	T	A	E	H	Q
N	O	U	O	C	I	M	G	M	C	K	K	U	L	M	A	G	C	R	X	W
P	U	R	T	I	L	B	X	R	N	K	E	R	Q	B	X	I	N	K	W	P
K	P	S	D	R	A	Y	K	C	A	B	R	E	S	S	S	E	A	R	L	R
Y	G	D	G	H	Z	Z	N	K	D	F	U	T	A	N	K	Z	Z	I	L	E
E	K	W	I	N	L	L	Z	C	G	X	N	A	J	C	J	J	W	X	S	E
C	G	C	H	I	C	K	S	E	K	S	A	W	I	U	H	W	S	K	K	N
L	H	G	A	T	H	E	R	P	C	Z	M	H	N	G	N	B	A	U	B	I
Y	I	V	S	I	Y	G	R	G	O	B	C	U	B	V	G	X	N	O	J	N
J	O	Q	H	G	B	D	L	W	L	D	X	S	L	C	G	G	D	F	Y	G
W	C	T	K	V	I	Y	V	O	F	Q	I	X	I	B	K	R	M	D	Q	S



GATHER

HATCH

HEAT LAMP

HEN

INSECTS

MANURE

MOLTING

NEST

PECK

PREENING

PROTECT

PULLET

ROOSTER

RUN

SAND

SCRAPS

SQUAWK

WATER

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POULTRY PROJECT IDEAS

1. Your main requirement for this project is to participate in the Mini 4-H Poultry show during the Decatur County Fair. Check in at the Poultry Barn with the poultry leaders or superintendent to find out when the show will be held. You do not bring your own chicken. You will use a chicken belonging to a sibling, relative, or other 4-Her for the show. They will assist you in learning to hold the poultry correctly. You will answer some simple questions asked by the poultry judge. It is optional to do any of the following project ideas.
2. Make a poster (or a notebook) with photos of you taking care of your poultry. Next to each photo, tell what you do to help take care of the poultry. Enter the poster for judging Cloverbud (Mini 4-H) projects.
3. Color the picture, or do one of the other activity pages in this booklet. Take it out of the booklet, put one of the exhibit name tags on it and turn in for judging of Cloverbud projects.
4. Do a poster with photos of helping a family member build or prepare a chicken coop/run for your chickens. Describe each step next to the photo. Put an exhibit name tag in the bottom right corner and turn in for judging of Cloverbud projects.
5. Turn in a notebook or binder showing your record-keeping (with an adult's help) for your chickens. How many eggs do you gather each day? What do you feed your chickens and how often? How much did you spend purchasing chickens? Have any chickens died? Be sure to place an exhibit name tag on your notebook before turning in for judging.
6. Any other good ideas you may have for a project are fine. If you have any questions about the project, call the Extension Office at 812-663-8388 for help.

FARM BIRDS



Pigeon



Quail



Chicken



Rooster



Goose



Drake



Duck



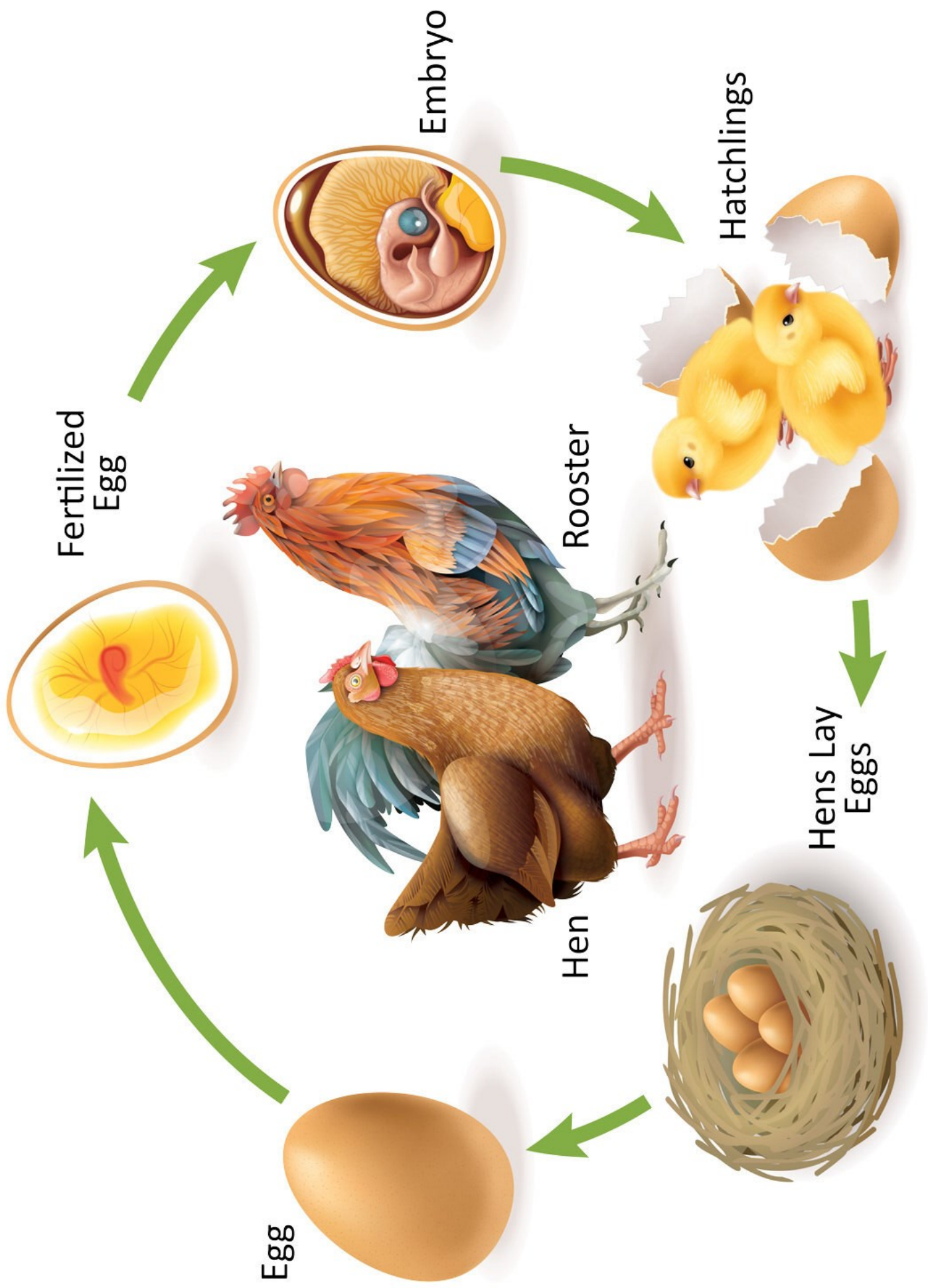
Ostrich



Pheasant



Turkey



Name: _____

Date: _____

Cut out the squares below and paste them to the correct boxes for the life cycle of a chicken.

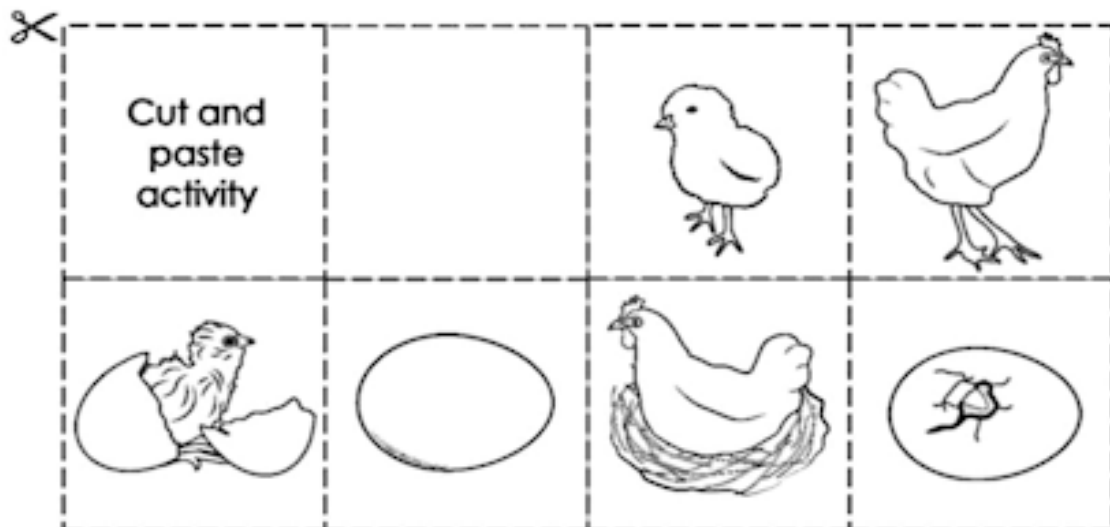
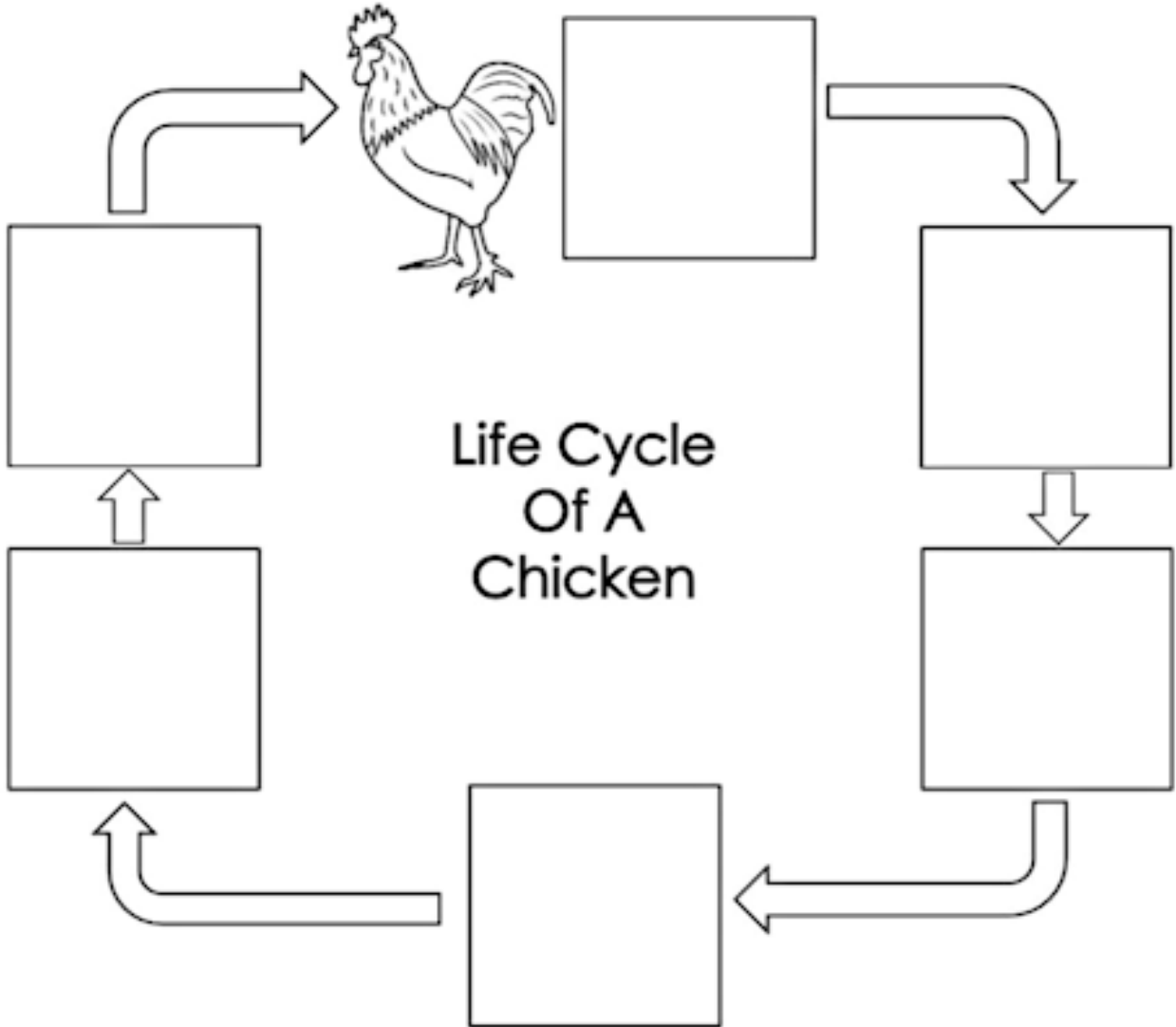


Exhibit Name Tags

Below are name tags for you to cut out and attach to the project that you will be exhibiting at the fair. Attached the tag to the bottom right-hand corner of your poster or project. If you have another type project such as a model farm, attach the tag to the tack with the tag hanging down where it can be seen at the bottom right corner of the project

DECATUR	
_____	Name
_____	Club
_____	Project
_____	MINI 4-H/CLOVERBUDS
Grade	

DECATUR	
_____	Name
_____	Club
_____	Project
_____	MINI 4-H/CLOVERBUDS
Grade	

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MINI 4-H



————— I pledge —————

my *head* to clearer thinking,
my *heart* to greater loyalty,
my *hands* to larger service,
my *health* to better living,
for my club, my community,
my county, and my world.

DECATUR COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

545 S County Road 200 W

Greensburg, IN 47240

Phone 812-663-8388

Nora Bruns, 4-H Extension Educator and Youth Development

Email: stacyn@purdue.edu