

4-H Poultry Project



SNAPSHOT 4H1612

CURRICULA & RESOURCES

Michigan 4-H Curricula

<http://4h.msue.msu.edu/>

- » 4-H Poultry Fitting & Showmanship Leader's Guide (4H 1521)

Curricula — Other States

- » National 4-H Poultry Judging (4H460) (Nebraska): <http://4h.unl.edu/web/4hcurriculum/4h460>

National 4-H Curricula

- » Embryology in the classroom
 - Hatching Classroom Projects (Helper's Guide Beginner Grades 2-5): <http://lake.ifas.ufl.edu/4-h/Record%20bks%20animals/Embryology%20LDR.pdf>
 - Experiments in Poultry Science (Helper's Guide Advanced Grades 6-8): <http://lake.ifas.ufl.edu/4-h/Record%20bks%20animals/Embryology%20LDR%20advanced.pdf>
- » Poultry: <http://www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/>
 - Scratching the Surface: Level 1 (06363)
 - Testing Your Wings: Level 2 (06364)
 - Flocking Together: Level 3 (06365)
 - Poultry Helper's Guide (06366)

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WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

The 4-H poultry project can provide youth with the opportunity to learn about selection, management, health, marketing and careers in the poultry industry.

- » Learn the basic principles of animal science by owning, caring for and keeping records on one or more birds.
- » Explore knowledge of sound breeding, feeding and management practices.
- » Investigate marketing and project expansion, and discover how you can start a career in the poultry business.

THE BIG PICTURE

Starting Out:

- » Learn the different types of birds and their uses.
- » Produce a healthy and safe meat product.
- » Identify different breeds.
- » Locate and name the parts of birds.
- » Be a good sport when showing your animals.

Learning More:

- » Learn more about nutrients and poultry products.
- » Compare poultry carcasses and grading.
- » Explore the difference between class, breed and variety.
- » Discover how eggs are made.
- » Learn about candling eggs.
- » Describe the signs of a healthy bird.
- » Learn effective advertising.

Expanding Horizons:

- » Conduct a judging clinic.
- » Manage your flock.
- » Investigate DNA and genetics.
- » Learn how to process your poultry.
- » Learn food safety from farm to table.
- » Explore proper cooking techniques.
- » Examine ethics in the poultry business.
- » Start a career in poultry.

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Curricula & Resources Continued...

Other Resources

- » American Egg Board: <http://www.aeb.org/educators/educator-overview>
- » Michigan Allied Poultry Industries, Inc.: <http://poultryteam.msu.edu/MichiganAlliedPoultryIndustry/tabid/644/Default.aspx>
- » Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development: <http://www.michigan.gov/mdard>
- » National Poultry Improvement Plan: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_dis_spec/poultry/
- » American Poultry Association: <http://www.amerpoultryassn.com/>

FOCUS ON POULTRY

Science

- » Observe the 21-day incubation period and track the development of a fertilized egg.
- » Monitor the effect of environmental conditions on your birds.
- » Track genetic traits in your breeding birds.

Citizenship & Leadership

- » Hand out food samples at your local grocery store or farmers market.
- » Volunteer to help at a local poultry show.
- » Teach others how to handle birds safely.
- » Lead a poultry selection and feeding clinic.

Communication

- » Design a poster on the parts of a bird.
- » Participate in the contests at the Michigan State 4-H Poultry Palooza.
- » Explain the use of birds for meat and egg production.

Life Skills

- » Use critical-thinking, problem-solving and decision-making skills to help you make good decisions about project management.
- » Keep records on your project expenses and income.
- » Practice personal resiliency through successes and challenges in your project.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- » Contact your local Michigan State University (MSU) Extension office for workshops, activities and events.
- » Tour a poultry producer's farm.
- » Attend a poultry show and observe the judges and their techniques.
- » Attend a 4-H poultry project meeting.
- » Design a business card or marketing brochure for your farm.
- » Write an educational article about some aspect of poultry production for your local newspaper.
- » Participate in a poultry quiz bowl, judging contest or other contests.
- » Organize a poultry showmanship contest.
- » Attend the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference.
- » Job shadow a local veterinarian to learn about animal health.
- » Attend the Michigan State 4-H Poultry Palooza.
- » Show at your county fair.
- » Complete a poultry project record book to track your income, expenses and experiences in your poultry project.
- » Contact your local MSU Extension 4-H staff to be nominated to serve on the State 4-H Poultry Committee.
- » If you are interested in a college education in animal science or veterinary medicine, visit Michigan State University's website at www.msu.edu to explore those majors.

Adapted with permission from "4-H Poultry Project," by Iowa State University Extension, 2011, *Iowa 4-H Project Hot Sheet*. Retrieved from <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/>

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