



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University



4-H POULTRY PROJECT

Livestock Projects



Projects Available

- Show Chickens
- Market Chickens
- Breeding Chickens
- Breeding Turkeys
- Market Turkeys
- Geese
- Ducks
- Pigeons
- Game Birds



The poultry project is designed to help you learn about chickens, turkeys and other poultry. Through your work in this project, you will acquire an understanding of scientific poultry management and marketing practices. You will gain business experiences and insight into the values and principles of purchasing, marketing, financial record keeping and obtaining

Resources

- MA2101 Raising Turkeys
- MA2001 Raising Fancy Poultry
- MA2002 Poultry Prod: Raising Broilers
- MA2003 Poultry Prod: Raising Pullets
- MA2102 Duck/Goose
- Pigeon and Dove Manual
- Livestock e-Record
- Livestock e-Record Guide
- Poultry Egg Production Supplement
- Meat Quality Assurance
- University of Kentucky Poultry 101
- Showmanship Guide (Michigan State)

Tips

- Poultry require around 2-6 square feet per bird depending on species.
- They need a pen or a shelter from the weather and from predators.
- Poultry for fairs are usually born between January 1st and April 30. Market Chickens may be born later.
- Good nutrition is critical for the success of the project. Visit with your Extension Agent and your local feed store for feeding help.
- Clean water daily is essential for poultry.
- Parasite control is necessary to promote poultry growth and health. Visit with your veterinarian for a parasite plan.
- Egg production

| Starting Out Beginner | Learning More Intermediate | Learning More Intermediate |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about poultry • How to produce a safe, wholesale product • Identify the parts of a chicken, duck, goose, turkey • Different types of feed • Evaluating poultry • Learn about nutritional requirements for poultry • Learn about a chicken's digestive system • Identifying common poultry diseases • Learn how to keep records • Learn how to assume responsibility | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate technology's impact on poultry production • Exhibit animal on tour, achievement day or at a fair • Purchase, feed and care for birds • Evaluate project with leader • Learn about goal setting • Gain knowledge of sound management practices • Develop sportsmanship • Develop public speaking skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to deal with current issues relating to raising poultry • Gain leadership skills by helping others learn about poultry • Explore career opportunities in the poultry industry • Build lifelong friendship • Raising your own birds. |

