



## POULTRY PROJECT AREA

*In the poultry project area, you can learn about the selection and raising of your birds, but you can also dive into learning about health issues, poultry products, and careers!*

### Ideas for Project Area Learning

- Learn the basic principles of animal science by owning, caring for, and keeping records on one or more head of poultry.
- Explore the knowledge of sound breeding feeding and management practices.
- Investigate current issues facing the industry and how you can start a career in poultry.
- Learn the different types of birds and what they are used for.
- Produce a healthy and safe meat product.
- Identify different poultry breeds.
- Locate and name the parts of a bird.
- Learn proper feeding techniques.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship when showing your animals.
- Learn more about nutrients and poultry products.
- Compare poultry carcasses and grading.
- Explore the difference between class, breed, and variety.
- Discover how tags are made.
- Learn how to candle eggs.
- Describe the signs of a healthy bird.
- Learn effective advertising.
- Learn different housing systems.
- Conduct a judging clinic.
- Manage your flock.
- Investigate DNA and genetics.
- Outline the steps of poultry processing.
- Discover proper food safety techniques from farm to table.
- Learn proper cooking techniques.
- Investigate ethics in the poultry industry.

### APPLY WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED

#### Communication

- Design a poster on the parts of a bird.
- Participate in a judging contest providing oral reasons.
- Explain the cuts of meat and how to prepare them.

#### Civic Engagement

- 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 youth to tour your farm.
- Teach others how to handle poultry safely.
- Lead a poultry selection and feeding clinic.

#### Entrepreneurship

- Write a business plan for managing hens and selling eggs to local businesses and community members.
- Market and sell free-range meat products.

## Goal Setting and Record Keeping

Goal setting is an ongoing process that guides your project area learning. Having goals is like having a road map to show you how to get you to where you want to go. Record keeping is also an ongoing process and another important life skill. In 4-H, you are encouraged to select from a variety of record keeping formats to meet your own personal needs and your preferred learning style. Keeping records of your learning experiences helps you determine how well you met your goals. Goal setting and record keeping improve your skills in organization, communication, planning, and evaluating.

## Iowa 4-H Event Opportunities

- Participate in **county and state fair** exhibit classes.
- Check with your local county 4-H youth development staff to see if there are special events or **workshops in your county** that you want to attend to learn more about your project areas.
- Iowa 4-H members in grades 9–12 can apply for **State Project Area Awards** at State Recognition Day. Applications are open December through January.
- Meet young people from around the state who have completed grades 8–12, and share your interests at the **Iowa 4-H Youth Conference** held at Iowa State University in late June. Apply for an in-depth hands-on learning experience on the Iowa State University campus during the three-day **Animal Science Roundup** late June. Youth in grades 8–12 are welcome to apply.

## Share Your Learning With an Exhibit

- Participate in a 4-H poultry show. You may show chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, exotic poultry, market broilers, layers, or showmanship.
- Make a display on the nutritive value of poultry.
- Explain various meat cuts and proper preparation.
- Create an exhibit on feeding rations.
- Create an exhibit with photos of different breeds.
- Create a journal outlining your daily routine in caring for your animals.
- Do an educational presentation showing proper grooming techniques.

## CAREER CONNECTIONS

- **Broiler managers** perform administrative duties and maintain records, review reports, and prepare a production budget.
- **Small animal vets** diagnose diseases, give vaccinations, prescribe medication, and treat wounds for pets and livestock.
- **Livestock judges** provide evaluations of livestock and advocate for the industry.
- **Agricultural education teachers** teach students about livestock production, lead activities, and get students involved in the community.

## EDUCATION CONNECTIONS

- Students in **animal science** focus on the management of livestock species, as well as meat science, reproduction, and nutrition.
- If you enjoy microbiology, chemistry, and genetics, studying **biology** may interest you.
- Learn **veterinary technology** if you're interested in animal health, anatomy, and disease transmission.
- Study **zoology** if you enjoy working with wild animals in controlled environments and studying animal lifestyles.

Written Iowa 4-H Youth Development 2013. Revised in 2019 by Bonnie Dalager, 4-H Product Development Specialist, and Payton Sash, 4-H Student Office Assistant, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.