



Introduction to the New Hampshire 4-H Poultry Project Fact Sheet

4-H Poultry project members learn about basic care and feeding, health and housing of poultry. Many 4-Hers choose to raise chickens, however the poultry project may include quail, waterfowl, turkeys and more. Members may raise meat or eggs. There are opportunities for showing if they choose to do so.

Egg laying chickens are called “layers” and meat producing chickens are known as “broilers”. A male chicken is a rooster. The female is a hen. A female under one year of age is a pullet. Chickens are probably the most common domestic bird in the world and are raised on every continent. Humans started keeping chickens over 10,000 years ago. It takes 23-32 hours for a hen to form an egg. The common commercial egg flocks of hens in the United States lay an average of 260 eggs per hen in a year, and over a million birds are in commercial egg production each year. In the 1930’s, two billion broilers were produced in the United States. Today billions of broilers are raised.

Required Participant Age: 5-18 as of January 1 of the current year

Required Animal Age: Birds must have fledged (have fully formed feathers with no baby down) in order to be shown at a 4-H fair or event.

Recommended Animal Vaccinations: New Hampshire Poultry over five months of age must have been blood tested within one year for and found negative to Salmonella Pullorum and avian influenza or come from negative tested flocks and identified by an official leg band. All birds must be progeny of Pullorum-free stock. Entry permits are required for any out of state birds.

Required Animal Identification: Permanent ID – If over five months of age the chicken must have the above official leg band. The leg band number needs to be on the member’s Intent to Show form or Online animal registration. If the chicken is too young for a band, the member should attach a picture to the form.

Forms

Intent to Show Forms/4-H Online Animal Registration: Must be complete with all information and verification.

Due Date: June 1st

Borrowing Form: Borrowing form (if applicable) must be complete with animal information and all signatures.

Due Date: June 1st

Questions or for More Information

Contact your County 4-H Office or contact Mary Davis, NH 4-H Animal and Agricultural Science Education Coordinator at (603) 862-2188 or Mary.Davis@unh.edu.

Visit our website: extension.unh.edu

*UNH Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer.
University of New Hampshire, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and NH counties cooperating.*

March 2021