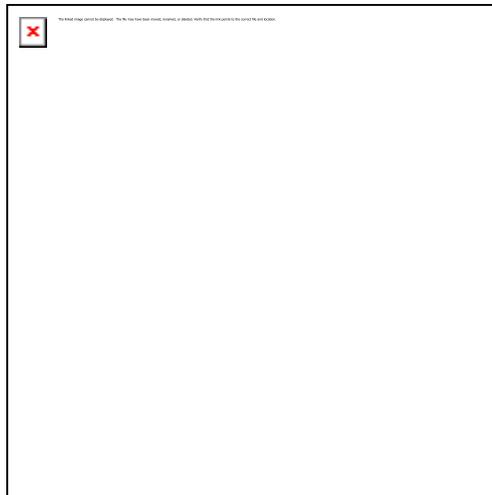


# Allegan County 4-H Poultry Program

## OBJECTIVES

The Allegan County 4-H Poultry Program will help youth to:

1. Experience the pride and responsibility of leasing/owning and caring for poultry.
2. Learn how to feed, fit, show, breed and raise poultry.
3. Learn proper handling procedures to prevent injuries to 4-H members and their Poultry projects.
4. Become good citizens by working together in groups and supporting 4-H Poultry Project activities and events.
5. Develop leadership initiative, self-confidence, sportsmanship and other desirable character traits.
6. Promote a greater love of animals and a humane attitude towards them.
7. Develop and define career choices.



# Allegan County 4-H Poultry Program

## Getting Started

### **The Leaders Role**

As a leader in the 4-H poultry project, you should be knowledgeable in the care and management of poultry. The leader's goal should be to help the 4-H members fulfill as many of the objectives outlined by the member and leader.

### **Market or Breed Project**

Determine if the project is going to be breeding or market. After the project type is decided, than choose the type of poultry suitable for the project. Resource books can help determine the breed just right for the member. Pay close attention to the attitude, rather than the size, of the poultry for a 5-8 year old 4-H Cloverbud member.

### **Housing**

Proper housing is necessary to raise healthy and productive poultry. Make certain there is proper shelter from the elements as well as ventilation.

### **Nutrition**

Proper nutrition is a must to be successful. Poultry need good commercial feed. Don't overfeed or underfeed. Both will affect the weight and condition of the poultry, causing it to be unfit for the show ring for breed or market. Always provide fresh, clean water. Make certain it is always available during hot weather as well as freezing weather.

### **Management**

Housing and nutrition are basic parts of proper management of poultry. Also included is the general care of poultry. Ensure that there is clean dry bedding available. Routine health care is a must.

### **Fitting and Showing**

Use proper handling techniques from the beginning of your project. Learn fitting and showing.

# Allegan County 4-H Poultry Program

## PROJECT LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES

The adult 4-H Poultry project leader is expected to assist members, through a project learning experience, to grow and develop into responsible, emotionally mature young adults. This goal can be achieved in the following specific areas:

### **Project administration**

- Secure project literature and other relevant materials from the Extension Office and other sources.
- Provide Administrative leader of the club with information on new 4-H members.
- Work with 4-H members and other leaders to decide on meeting dates, locations, times and duration.
- Encourage 4-H members to keep records and assist them in understanding and following all guidelines in projects.
- Keep 4-H members informed about local, county and state events and activities.
- Complete required 4-H Market Chicken and Turkey Band forms and submit to office by August 15.

### **Communication**

- Communicate with the club administrative leader as well as other club leaders.
- Make an effort to get acquainted with parents of members. Inform parents of meeting dates, times & places set by the group.

### **Project Education**

- Plan the project experience based upon the needs and interests of the 4-H members, using a variety of teaching techniques, demonstrations, illustrated talks, tours, trips, audio-visual material, resource people, etc.
- Meet periodically with the project group to provide instruction in subject matter and to help members achieve the goals which, together and individually, they have set.
- Assist 4-H members in setting goals, and developing a realistic self-evaluation program checking their progress periodically and helping kids develop a positive self-image through regular encouragement and sincere praise.
- Involve 4-H Teen leaders with specific tasks and/or other responsibilities, which have been developed in consultation with teens.

### **Leadership**

- Attend and participate in countywide 4-H Small Livestock and 4-H Livestock Leaders meetings and leader training.
- Participate in regional, statewide and national leader training when possible.

# Allegan County 4-H Poultry Program

## RESOURCES

**Allegan County MSU Extension is located in Suite 101 on the Lower level of the Human Services Building at 3255 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Allegan. The Phone number is 269-673-0370. The fax number is 269-673-7005.**

***Publications*** - The Allegan County MSU Extension Office has 4-H and Extension Poultry publications available for purchase by clubs.

***Website*** - Use the Allegan County MSU Extension office website [www.msue.msu.edu/Allegan](http://www.msue.msu.edu/Allegan) to find out what's happening in the county and throughout the state in Poultry programming. You can also connect to Michigan State University through our site.

***Other Resources*** - Breed Associations and State/National Poultry Organizations.

## Suggested Activities

### ***Club & County Activities***

- Guest speakers, such as a Veterinarian, Extension Staff, judging team.
- Try a Quiz Bowl to make learning fun.
- Visit a poultry farm, Hatchery, Egg Farm, Egg Processing Plant, Turkey processing plant, research farm, neighboring County Fair Show, Open Shows, etc...
- County wide clinic
- Allegan County Fair in September

### ***Participate in State and National Activities:***

- 4-H Communications Contest in February at MSU for 9 - 19 year olds.
- ANR Week in March at MSU for youth and adults.
- 4-H Exploration Days at MSU in June for youth 12-19 years old.
- Michigan State Fair held in August.

Contact the Allegan County 4-H Staff for more information on state and National 4-H Poultry Activities.

# Allegan County 4-H Poultry Program

## SUGGESTED LEARNING PLAN

### Members should learn:

1. To recognize kind and breed of their poultry project.
2. Proper show attire.
3. How to select a good project animal
  - A. Breed & characteristics of Breed
  - B. Age
  - C. Confirmation
  - D. Registered or grade
4. Principles of proper feeding, housing and health requirements.
5. Proper handling skills.
6. Basic anatomy of their poultry project.
7. Basic fitting and showmanship.
8. How to keep accurate records:
  - A. Expenses of project animal (animal, feed, housing equipment, etc.)
  - B. Length of project.
  - C. Income of project -animal sold, product sold (ex. eggs)
9. In-depth knowledge of their project animal(s).
10. Principles of judging.
11. Principles of public speaking.
12. Career possibilities in the Poultry Industry.

# Allegan County 4-H Poultry Program

## GENERAL 4-H POULTRY PROJECT RULES

### Membership

1. Allegan County 4-H Poultry Projects are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, or family status.
2. Youth must be enrolled in a 4-H club to participate in 4-H Poultry project activities.
3. A youth may enroll in a 4-H club at any time during a project, however, activity/event deadline dates must be adhered to, in order to maintain eligibility in those areas.

### Projects

1. 4-H members must work with their Poultry projects becoming familiar with them by caring, fitting, and learning how to show their animals.
2. 4-H Members are responsible for 80% of their project animal's care.
3. Project animals must be kept clean.
4. Each project animal must meet State Health guidelines. *(All poultry except waterfowl, pigeons and doves, must either have originated from a U.S. pullorum-typhoid clean flock or have a negative official test certificate for salmonella pullorum-typhoid within 90 days of exhibition).*
5. 4-H Members should keep a 4-H Poultry Project Record Book.
6. 4-H members are encouraged to make a 4-H Poultry Notebook.

# **Allegan County 4-H Poultry Program**

## ***4-H MARKET CHICKEN PEN PROJECT***

### **GOALS**

1. Teach youth the business of raising market chickens.
2. Youth will actively participate in the care and management of a market chicken pen project.
3. Youth will learn about the financial issues regarding marketing chickens.

### **PROJECT RULES**

1. All market chickens must be banded and in the youth's possession by August 15.
2. A 4-H Market Chicken Pen Band Form must be completed, signed by the 4-H Leaders and in our Extension Office by August 15<sup>th</sup> (on the Friday before if the 15<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend).
3. The 4-H Leader is responsible for knowing that the animal banded is the animal the youth brings to the fair to complete the project.
4. Youth may band 4 chickens - but only 2 will be able to be at the fair.
5. Market chicken pens must consist of 2 cocks OR 2 pullets (meat breed varieties).
6. There will be two meat pen classes:  
    Broilers 8 - 14lbs. pen weight (Min. 4# ea.) and Roasters 14lbs and up pen weight (min. 7# ea.).
7. 4-H members must view the 4-H Quality Assurance Video and turn in a signed 4-H Market Animal Agreement form at weigh in.

## ***4-H MARKET TURKEY PEN PROJECT***

### **GOALS**

1. Teach youth the business of raising market turkeys.
2. Youth will actively participate in the care and management of a market turkey pen project.
3. Youth will learn about the financial issues regarding marketing turkeys.

### **PROJECT RULES**

1. All market turkeys must be banded and in the youth's possession by August 15.
2. A 4-H Market Turkey Pen Band Form must be completed, signed by the 4-H leaders and in our Extension Office by August 15<sup>th</sup> (on the Friday before if the 15<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend).
3. The 4-H Leader is responsible for knowing that the animal banded is the animal the youth brings to the fair to complete the project.
4. Youth may band 4 turkeys - but only 2 will be able to be at the fair.
5. Market turkey pens must consist of 2 males OR 2 females.
6. Minimum pen weight is 30 pounds (15# min. per bird)
7. 4-H members must view the 4-H Quality Assurance Video and turn in a signed 4-H Market Animal Agreement form at weigh in.

# **Allegan County 4-H Poultry Program**

## ***4-H BREED POULTRY PROJECTS***

**Includes Chickens, Turkeys, Ducks, Geese,  
Pigeons, Quails, Pheasants**

### **GOALS**

1. Teach youth the business of raising poultry.
2. Youth will actively participate in the care and management of poultry farms.
3. Youth will learn how to select a sire for their breeding program.

### **PROJECT RULES**

1. Poultry that are breeding projects must have bands and if showing at the Allegan County Fair must have their band numbers recorded at the Fair office. Do not turn in tattoo numbers to the MSU Extension Office.
2. Poultry should be owned by the 4-H member.
3. Poultry may be grade or purebred.