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.

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://viewer.zmags.com/publication/20f038a6#/20f038a6/1

» 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)

Continued on back...
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.

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.

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.

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.

Curricula & Resources Continued...

Other Resources
» American Egg Board: http://www.aeb.org/egg-industry/related-links
» Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development: http://www.michigan.gov/mdard
» National Poultry Registry: http://www.nationalpoultryregistry.com/


MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Thomas G. Coon, Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned. The name “4-H” and the emblem consisting of a four-leaf clover with stem and the “H” on each leaflet are protected under Title 18 U.S.C. 707. (4H1609 1P-WEB-12:2011-LP) Produced by ANR Communications.