



FLORIDA 4-H RECORD BOOK

Poultry Project



Credit: Anastasiia Magonova/gettyimages.com

Name _____ Age (as of Sept. 1) _____

County _____ 4-H Club _____

Breed(s) of Poultry _____

Record Started _____
Month Day Year

Record Closed _____
Month Day Year

I hereby certify that as the exhibitor of this project, I have personally kept records on this project and have personally completed this record book.

Signed _____
Member Date

This youth is an active member of the 4-H Club. This record book has been completed by the youth and is an accurate record of the project.

Signed _____
4-H Club Leader Date

Written by Chris Decubellis, dairy/animal sciences, 4-H state specialized agent, Florida 4-H Youth Development Program; UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL 32611. The original version of this record book was written by L. W. Kalch.

An Equal Opportunity Institution. 4-H is the nation's largest youth development organization. Over 230,000 members in the State of Florida help to make up the community of more than 6.5 million young people across America. 4-H is a non-formal, practical educational program for youth. Florida 4-H is the youth development program of Florida Cooperative Extension, a part of the University of Florida/IFAS.

Youth Poultry Project Agreement

(to be completed at the beginning of the project)

The youth is responsible for caring for the birds, which will include feeding, basic health care, providing fresh and clean water, providing a proper pen or housing, washing, and exhibiting the animals. The youth will use this project as an educational tool to learn skills needed in the livestock industry. This project will also help the youth to accept success and failure as a learning experience. The youth will keep accurate records on their project birds.

I accept these responsibilities _____
Member Date

The parent/guardian is responsible for providing financial help, if needed, along with assistance and encouragement while the youth is raising the birds.

I accept these responsibilities _____
Signature of Parent or Caretaker Date

Drug Statement

I hereby certify that any drug, antibiotic, or biological substance that may have been administered by myself or any other person was done in strict compliance with the manufacturer's label requirements.

Signature of Youth Date

Signature of Parent or Caretaker Date

Purpose

The purpose of the 4-H poultry project is to achieve the following:

- To acquire an understanding of poultry production by preparing for, purchasing, breeding, caring for, and keeping records on one or more chickens or other poultry species as a part of a 4-H project.
- To be able to identify the types and breeds of poultry and employ efficient methods of production and marketing.
- To understand the business aspects and economics of purchasing poultry animals, feed, facilities, and equipment for a poultry project.
- To develop life skills and workforce preparedness skills such as responsibility, integrity, sportsmanship, development of a strong work ethic, and cooperation.
- To develop leadership abilities, build character, and become responsible citizens.
- To apply science, engineering, and technology skills to their projects.
- To develop science literacy.
- To pursue education and careers related to science

Why Keep Records

- To have an account of all of your 4-H accomplishments in one place.
- To point out the advantages and disadvantages of projects.
- To reflect your interest as a 4-H club member.
- To show self-improvement and service to others.
- To publicize.
- To show others what you have done.
- To train yourself for future work.
- To qualify for camp, 4-H University, contests, and awards.

General Rules for 4-H Club Members Participating in the Poultry Project

1. Members must be at least 8 and not over 18 years of age as of September 1 of the project year.
2. Members must do as much of the work themselves as possible.
3. Members must complete record books as instructed.
4. Members must write a story of the year's work in record books.
5. Members must attend all meetings and as many county-level events as possible.
6. Members must take or send record books to 4-H Youth Development Agent when requested.
7. All members must make exhibits or give demonstrations when they can.
8. The 4-H Youth Development Agent will state how small a project may be in the county.
9. The 4-H Youth Development Agent supervises 4-H project work in the county. He or she may be assisted by the local leader.

How to Keep This Poultry Record

1. At the start of the project:
 - a. The first thing you should do is study this record book carefully.
 - b. Fill in the cover page, poultry project agreement, and the drug statement on page 2.
 - c. Fill in figures under "Beginning of Record" at top of page 5.
 - d. Fill in information under "Day-Old Chicks Started" on page 5 when you purchase or start baby chicks.
 - e. List all equipment, feed, and other expenses to date on pages 7–9.

2. Each time you buy or are given feed, medicines, or equipment, be sure to enter it in the record under expenses on pages 7–9.
3. Each time you sell or use on the farm any eggs, chickens, manure, etc., be sure to enter it under income on page 11, or products used on page 12.
4. After chickens start to lay, enter the necessary figures on page 10, and also on pages 11 and 12.
5. At close of project:
 - a. Fill in figures under “Close of Record” at top of page 5. This includes the Total for Year, all of the expenses on pages 7–9, and all incomes and value on pages 11 and 12.
 - b. Fill in the Financial Summary on page 13.
 - c. Answer questions on page 15.
 - d. Be sure to write a story about yourself and your poultry project on page 16, and include photos on page 17.

Suggestions

Every club member is expected to study bulletins and other instructions, furnished by the agent to the member. Remember you are in club work to learn how “to make the best better.” Read all you can about the type of birds you are raising. Study your birds, watch how they grow, and try to find out which feed gives best results. Learn how to condition your birds and then show them at poultry shows and exhibits. Learn how to select, exhibit, and judge eggs.

Remember that the agent is in your county to help you. If you have any trouble, such as your chickens getting off feed or getting sick, let your agent know and he or she will help you.

Opportunities in the 4-H Poultry Project

There are a number of events and activities available to youth in the 4-H poultry project. These include the 4-H poultry judging contest, the chick chain events, poultry shows, poultry barbecue contest, egg preparation contest, avian bowl, and other educational opportunities.



Credit: Chris DeCubellis, UF/IFAS



Credit: Elizabeth Moore, UF/IFAS

Day-Old Chicks Started

Use this section to keep a record of birds started and raised in the project.

What type of brooder did you use? _____

Stock and Equipment	Beginning of Record		Close of Record	
	Number or Amount	Total Value	Number or Amount	Total Value
Hens		\$		\$
Pullets				
Males for Breeding				
Birds for Meat (Broilers)				
Chicks under 8 Weeks Old				
Total (Stock)				
Houses/Pens				
Feeders				
Waterers				
Feed				
Supplies				
Miscellaneous				
Total (Equipment)				

What types of feed did you use? _____

Date	Breed and Variety	Number Started	Number Raised
3/12/20	Example: Plymouth Rock, Barred, Pullets	8	7
Total \$			

Did you buy straight-run or pullet chicks? _____

Did you buy any mature birds? _____

Summary of Origin and Disposal of Layers

Month	# Layers Beginning of Month	Sales During Month	Deaths During Month	Eaten During Month	Layers Added During Month	On Hand End of Month	Average # for Month*
January							
February							
March							
April							
May							
June							
July							
August							
September							
October							
November							
December							
Total for Year	----					----	

*The average number of layers for each month is obtained by adding the number of birds on hand at the beginning and end of the month and dividing by two (2). For the yearly average, add the twelve monthly averages and divide by twelve (12). The number of layers at the end of each month is the number at the beginning of the month, minus the layers sold, died, or eaten, plus any that might have been added during the month.

KEEP AN ACCURATE RECORD OF ALL LAYERS ADDED, SOLD, DIED, OR EATEN.

Equipment Expenses

Enter here a record of all of the items and equipment you purchased (except feed) including equipment, medicine, veterinary care/items, and other supplies. Make copies of this page as needed.

[illegible]

Total to be carried forward to **Project Financial Summary** Total \$ _____

Feed Expenses

Enter here a record of all of feed and nutritional supplement expenses. Include weights in the description. Make copies of this page as needed.

[illegible]

Total to be carried forward to **Project Financial Summary** Total \$ _____

Other Expenses

Enter here a record of all other expenses. Include the purchase of birds/fertile eggs. Make copies of this page as needed.

[illegible]

Total to be carried forward to **Project Financial Summary** Total \$_____

Daily Egg Record

Use this page to record how many eggs your birds produced each day of the project year.

DATE	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
1												
2												
3												
4												
5												
6												
7												
8												
9												
10												
11												
12												
13												
14												
15												
16												
17												
18												
19												
20												
21												
22												
23												
24												
25												
26												
27												
28												
29												
30												
31												
Total # Eggs												
* Av. # of Birds												
** Av. # of Eggs Per Bird												

*The average number of birds is shown on page 5.

**Divide average number of birds into total number of eggs.

Income

Record all items sold related to the project during the year here. This includes eggs sold, birds sold, manure (for fertilizer) sold, or any equipment sold. Also include any show premiums or cash prizes. Make copies of this page as needed.

[illegible]

Total to be carried forward to **Project Financial Summary** Total \$_____

Value of Items Produced and Used or Not Sold

Use this area to record the value of items produced and used or not sold. Do not include animals retained; this is captured in the closing inventory. Make copies of this page as needed.

[illegible]

Total to be carried forward to **Project Financial Summary** Total \$_____

Project Financial Summary

Fill this out at the end of your project

Expenses

Value of animals on hand at start of project \$ _____

Value of equipment on hand at start of project \$ _____

Total equipment expenses \$ _____

Total feed expenses \$ _____

Total other expenses \$ _____

Total Expenses:

Income

Value of animals on hand at end of project \$ _____

Value of equipment on hand at end of project \$ _____

Income from items/products sold \$ _____

Value of items used or not sold \$ _____

Total Income: \$ _____

Total Profit or Loss

Total Income – Total Expenses \$ _____

National Poultry Improvement Program (NPIP)

The National Poultry Improvement Program is a national, voluntary program that is a cooperative between federal and state agencies and the poultry industry. It utilizes disease control and prevention strategies in an effort to help improve poultry products produced by NPIP-certified participants. This program was established in the 1930s, and approximately 95% of all poultry-breeding operations and hatcheries in the United States participate in the NPIP program.

One benefit of the program is that all poultry and poultry products produced under NPIP can be shipped interstate and internationally with fewer restrictions.

If you plan to produce poultry for a number of years, you might consider getting your flock/operation enrolled in the NPIP program. In Florida, contact the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services at (352) 745-2544, or email PoultryPrograms@FreshFromFlorida.com. For more information, visit the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services NPIP website at <https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Business-Services/Animals/Chickens-Poultry/National-Poultry-Improvement-Plan-NPIP>, and the national NPIP website at <http://www.poultryimprovement.org/default.cfm>.

Information on Limited Poultry and Egg Operation Requirements

In Florida, people who want to sell a small number of eggs or dressed poultry, defined by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as less than 30 dozen eggs per week, or fewer than 384 dressed poultry in one week, can apply for an application and request an inspection for permitting. These small operations must have fewer than 1,000 laying hens annually and/or up to 20,000 birds produced for the production and sale of dressed poultry. Currently this permit costs \$110.00 annually and allows the sale of shell eggs and dressed poultry within the state of Florida without further

inspection. Eggs must be washed and air-dried using an egg-washing machine or a sink with three compartments, then kept below 45°F before sale. Eggs can be sold in open flats, not cartons, and a sign at least 7 inches by 7 inches must say “These eggs have not been graded as to quality and weight” at the point of sale.

For those wanting to sell dressed broilers or other dressed poultry, producers have to keep these birds below 41°F before sale. Producers have to include their name, farm address, the statement “Exempt P.L. 90-492” and required safe food-handling instructions:

- Some food products may contain bacteria that could cause illness if the product is mishandled or cooked improperly. For your protection, follow these safe handling instructions.
- Keep refrigerated or frozen. Thaw in refrigerator or microwave.
- Keep raw meat and poultry separate from other foods. Wash working surfaces (including cutting boards), utensils, and hands after touching raw meat or poultry.
- Cook thoroughly.
- Keep hot foods hot. Refrigerate leftovers immediately or discard.

For more information to get permitted as a small-scale producer of eggs or dressed poultry, visit https://www.freshfromflorida.com/content/download/64357/1523661/Limited_Poultry_and_Egg_Operation_Requirements.pdf and <http://nwdistrict.ifas.ufl.edu/phag/2017/05/25/what-are-the-requirements-to-sell-eggs-and-dressed-poultry-from-florida-small-farms/>.

Questionnaire

Fill this out at the conclusion of your project before submitting your record book.

1. Were your birds bothered by, or did you have to treat, any of these issues? Check all that apply.

Coccidiosis		Lice	
Fowl Pox		Fleas	
Newcastle		Mites	
Bronchitis		Ticks	
Leucosis		Worms	
Pullet Disease		Colds	
Other Issues			

2. Is your flock NPIP certified? _____ If so, what is your NPIP number? _____

3. Did you market any eggs wholesale or retail?

4. Did you market any meat/broilers wholesale or retail?

5. Did you sell any fertile eggs for others to hatch?

6. Did you sell any live birds? _____

7. What skills did you learn through participating in the 4-H poultry project?

8. Do you plan to have a 4-H poultry project next year?

9. List any community service you did as part of the 4-H poultry project:

10. Did you do a demonstration on your 4-H poultry project? _____ At what levels (club, county, district, or state)? _____

11. List any county, district, state, or national shows or 4-H events you participated in during this project year.

12. Have you been on a poultry judging team? _____

13. Have you attended 4-H Summer Camp? _____

14. Have you attended 4-H University? _____

Project Story

Write a complete story of your year's work. Relate your experiences in taking care of your chickens. Include brooding, feeding, marketing, and anything else about your flock. Include what you have learned about your animal, what safety practices you used in your project, what you could do to improve your project, and the different skills that you used in your project.

[illegible]

PROJECT PICTURES

Show the beginning and end of your project along with different skills that you learned while participating in this project. This should include a minimum of four pictures and a maximum of eight pictures. Include a caption with each picture. These captions should tell a story. Make copies of this page as needed.

Glossary

Broiler—a fast-growing, muscular chicken used for the production of tender meat.

Broody Hen—a hen that wants to sit on her eggs in order to incubate them.

Capon—a male chicken that has been castrated, usually to improve meat quality.

Chick—a baby chicken of either sex that is recently hatched and still covered in down.

Cockerel—a young male chicken that is not yet mature.

Dual-Purpose—poultry breeds that are useful for both egg production and to be utilized as meat birds.

Flock—a group of poultry living together at one location.

Hen—a fully grown female poultry animal such as a mature female chicken, duck, or turkey.

Pullet—a young female poultry animal that is not yet mature and not old enough to lay eggs.

Non-Setting or Non-Broody Hen—a hen that has no inclination to sit on her eggs in order to incubate them.

Rooster—a mature male chicken.

Straight Run—chicks that have not been separated by sex at hatching and thus are a natural mix of males and females.

Suggested Resources

Florida 4-H Poultry Curricula Resource Page:
<http://florida4h.org/programs/Poultry.pdf>

Care of Baby Chicks (DeCubellis, 2007):
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an182>

Common Poultry Diseases (Butcher, Jacob, & Mather, 1999): <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ps044>

External Parasites of Poultry (Kaufman, 2019):
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ig140>

Factors Affecting Egg Production in Backyard Chicken Flocks (Jacob, Wilson, Miles, Butcher, & Mather, 2017):
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ps029>

Intestinal Parasites in Backyard Chicken Flocks (Butcher & Miles, 1992): <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vm015>

Small Flock Poultry Nutrition (Davis, 2003):
<https://ufdc.ufl.edu/IR00008667/00001>