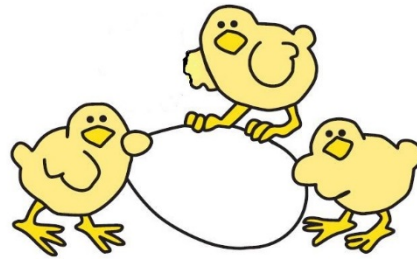


POULTRY

Newton County 4-H



Level 1 – Grades 3-4-5

What you will do in this project:

- Complete the project by answering one of the activities in this activity sheet and record sheet and turn it in by 6pm on the evening prior to the show. Complete a different activity each year.
- Attend County 4-H Poultry workshops when offered.
- Refer to the Newton County Periscope for a complete listing of all regulations concerning this project.
- Each exhibitor may enter four birds in each class and may exhibit in more than one class for Poultry. In Turkeys, a member may exhibit 1 Young Tom, 1 Mature Tom, 1 Young Hen, and 1 Mature Hen in the same breed. In Geese, you may exhibit one each in Heavy, Medium, and Light: 1 Young Goose, 1 Young Gander, 1 Mature Goose, and 1 Mature Gander. For Waterfowl, a member may exhibit one of each in Heavy, Medium, and Light: 1 Young Hen, 1 Young Drake, 1 Mature Hen, and 1 Mature Drake.
- All birds must be in your possession by May 15 with the exception of broilers that are hatched at the end of May.

Management Tips:

- Provide clean, freshwater to your birds at all times. In the winter, warm (but not hot) water will be needed. Birds on average will drink 1-2 cups a day. Check their water at least twice a day – more often on hot days.
- One chicken eats about 2 pounds of feed each week. 12 chickens eating two pounds a week would eat 24 pounds week. (12 birds x 2 lbs = 24 lbs)
- A feed ration of at least 16% protein for the mature chicken is needed.
- Put at least a 4 inch layer of bedding on the floor for your birds and keep dry. Spread fresh bedding on the top. Clean area completely at least once a year with a solution of 2 table spoons of chlorine bleach into 2 gallons of boiling water. Scrub with a broom. Ventilate well to dry.
- Birds should be washed before bringing to the fair with a solution of warm water and 2 table spoons of chlorine bleach in a five gallon bucket.

4-H Member: _____ 4-H Club: _____

Grade in School (Jan. 1.): _____ Years in this project: _____

Signature of 4-H Member verifying that you have completed these activities:

Signature of Parent that you have reviewed this information:

4-H Animal Care:

The Indiana 4-H program strongly supports positive animal care and strongly opposes animal abuse. 4-H is also dedicated to the mission of developing youth and volunteers through "Learning by Doing" programs.

4-H livestock projects teach life skills such as acquiring knowledge, making decisions, and applying leadership skills.

- When working and caring for animals, it is important to insure that appropriate safety measures are in place for both the animals and the persons who care for them. Therefore, there is no substitute for knowledge, common sense, and experience.
- Animal handlers should study and learn to anticipate an animal's reaction and try and avoid problem situations. It is most important that 4-H members understand an animal's behavior so one can "outsmart" not "out-muscle" an animal. Foremost in the 4-H'er mind should always be safety of the handler and the animal. Moving animals is more of an art than a science. Movement of animals requires planning and knowledge to accomplish it with the least amount of time, effort and stress to the animal.
- An animal's good health is often directly related to the environmental factors associated with its living space. The presence of predators, dust, odors, pests, temperature, and humidity has a direct effect on an animal's well-being.
- Animals react favorably to daily care and comfortable housing. Consideration should also be given to specific animal needs such as size of their housing space, lighting, and ventilation. The best facilities and equipment cannot and should not be a substitute for daily observation and careful attention to signs of illness, injury, and/or unusual behavior.
- Frequent consultation with your veterinarian is a must. Reasonable attention must always be given to the use of drugs and their approved withdrawal times.



Welcome to the fantastic world of poultry. With so many different shapes, sizes, colors and personalities of chicken, ducks, and geese, you will have fun learning new poultry words. This activity will introduce you to the language commonly used in talking about "poultry".

Little Known Poultry Facts

- Male chickens come in many sizes from 12 pounds down to 22 ounces.
- There are over 150 breeds of poultry and 340 different color combinations.
- Chickens may have either 4 or 5 toes depending on the breed.
- Chickens are probably the most common bird in the world and are raised on every continent.
- Humans started keeping chickens over 10,000 years ago.
- Roosters not only crow in the a.m. but crow at various times during the day. The crow is a symbol of territory.

Chickens crow to mark their territory.

- It takes 23-32 hours 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 number over a million birds are in commercial egg production each year.

Chickens play a big part of our old folk tales. Have you heard the Little Red Hen, Henny Penny and Chick Little.

Crack the Case

Match the words in the left column with the definitions in the right column. When you think you know all the words, put the correct definition with the correct term.

___ 1. Hen	a. A collection of eggs that are hatched together.
___ 2. Cock	b. Anything short of perfection or a small problem, which can be corrected with breeding.
___ 3. Pullet	c. Female chicken over one-year old.
___ 4. Cockerel	d. A collective term applied to domestic chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys.
___ 5. Variety/Color	e. A place where poultry are housed or exhibited.
___ 6. Broody Hen	f. Standard sized fowl.
___ 7. Defect	g. Male chicken under one-year-old.
___ 8. Disqualification	h. Stiff, horny projections on rear innermost section of the shank (leg).
___ 9. Breed	i. A hen that sits on a clutch of eggs
___ 10. Clutch	j. Female chicken under one year-old.
___ 11. Comb	k. Term applied to a major defect or deformity, which causes problems with the fowl.
___ 12. Spur	l. Recognized group of poultry which when bred together produce the same offspring.
___ 13. Bantam	m. Male chicken over one year-old.
___ 14. Large Fowl	n. Subdivision of a breed according to color, comb type, beard or feathering.
___ 15. Coop	o. The fleshy part of the chicken's head with many different forms.
___ 16. Fowl	p. Miniature chickens usually 1/4 to 1/5 the size of a regular or large fowl.

Crowing time

- What new words did you learn?

- How did you find the answers?

Grinding out what's important

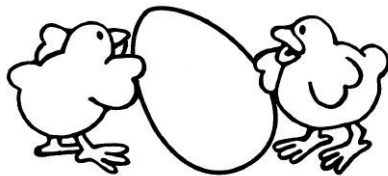
- How will knowing poultry words help you in the poultry project?

Hatching ideas

- How do games make learning easier?

Flapping your wings

- What games can you create to help you learn new information you encounter?





Feathers act as a protective covering for fowl, protecting it from cold, rain, sun and injury. It is important for the feathers to be relatively broad, with a web of good firm texture, a strong shaft, the barbs, barbules, and barbicels closely and tightly knitted together. This is the desired feather type for most breeds; however, there are some exceptions.

Feather patterns and color serve as a valuable aid in identifying numerous varieties of fowl. This is used in conjunction with skin and leg color, body shapes, combs, and beaks.

The descriptions for the various colors and color patterns are described in the following paragraphs.

The plumage for a fowl classified as "white" is white in all sections. While the surface of a fowl classified as "black" is a lustrous, greenish black with an under color, except where otherwise specified dull black in dark-legged varieties and slate in yellow-legged varieties. Fowl that are "buff" are a medium shade of orange-yellow color with a rich golden cast, but not so intense as to show reddish cast, nor so pale as to appear lemon or light yellow.

Feather colors help to differentiate between males and females in most fowl.

Barring is the alternate transverse markings of two distinct colors on a feather. It may be regular or irregular depending on the breed.

Frizzle feather is a term used to identify feathers that curl and curve outward and forward.

The **laced feathers** have a border of contrasting color around the entire web of a feather.

A **double laced feather** has two contrasting colors around the entire web of the feather.

Mottled feathers have a variable percentage of black feathers that are tipped with white.

Penciling applies to several types of lines or marking on female feathers, the crosswise bars on feathers, the narrow concentric linear marking inside the edge on the web of the feathers. This should be characteristically narrow, uniform in width, sharply defined and continue in an unbroken line following the contour of the feather. When multiple, they should be equidistant from each other, conform to the contour of the feather. Each feather in the back, breast, body, wing bows and thighs should have three or more penciling. The penciled variety male is more colorful than the female.

Peppered feathers are sprinkled with small dots of black or gray and are a defect.

The **spangled feather** has a distinct marking of contrasting color at the extremity of a feather, proximally shaped like a well-defined 'V' with a rounded end in some varieties and curved sides or pear-shaped in other varieties. Others are half-moon shaped. The spangle always are black in color and are found in combination with silver or gold ground color or white in color and separated from bay or brown ground color by a black bar. Spangling can be diagonal elongated black marking on the web.

Edging is a narrow band or lacing of contrasting color around all or part of a feather, as is characteristic of the hackle feathers of the Columbian varieties.

Here is a collection of nine different types of feathers. Label each of the feathers using the descriptions given above.



1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.

What do the feathers do for the birds?

What type of feathers do your birds have?



Have you ever heard this saying” See one, do one, teach one”? That’s what you will do in this activity – you will find someone to help you learn to wash a bird, then you will wash one yourself and then you will help someone else learn how to do it. This is a useful model for learning and then passing on what you know to others. It’s also a way to understand the famous (and fitting!) saying “One hand washed the other”.

Wash That Bird

1. Use three tubs of luke warm water: Suds (mild soap) in the first and rinse water in the second and third.
2. Rest the bird on one palm and restrain the bird with the other hand over its back.
3. Soak and wash the feathers thoroughly in the same direction as the feathers lie using your hand or a sponge.
4. Rinse carefully in luke warm water, then remove and press as much water as possible from the feathers. Do this twice to be sure no soap remains.
5. Press the bird dry (don’t rub) with a towel or cloth and place in a clean coop or cage in a warm room (70°F) until completely dry. A blow dryer on a warm setting may be used.
6. Trim excess length on toenails and beak using a nail trimmer.

Just prior to judging, clean the shanks and toes. Rub a small amount of mineral oil or petroleum jelly with a Q-tip or cotton ball on the beak, comb, wattle, shanks and feet to give these areas a polished appearance.

Crack the Case

Find someone (perhaps your helper or an older youth) who knows how to properly wash a bird. Make sure this person learned to wash a bird according to the same system you will be expected to follow. Work closely with the “expert” so you learn by doing each step involved in washing a bird. You may want to take some notes and perhaps photos too. Next, wash a bird yourself following the steps you learned. Finally, help someone else learn how to wash a bird. Record the equipment and steps you used to wash a bird.

<h3>Washing a Bird</h3>	
Equipment Needed	

Poultry Washing Steps	
1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____
4.	_____
5.	_____
6.	_____
7.	_____
8.	_____
9.	_____
10.	_____
Name of the person who helped me learn how to wash a bird:	

Name of the person whom I will help learn how to wash a bird:	

Special safety concerns:	
For myself	

For my bird	

Crowing time

What are some of the important things to remember when washing a bird?

Grinding out what's important

Why do you need to learn how to wash a bird properly?

Describe how you might need to modify what you learned depending on the species of bird to be washed.

Hatching ideas

What other things do you know well enough to teach others?

Flapping your wings

How could you improve what you did when you helped someone else learn how to wash a bird?

