

# 4-H Poultry Record Guide



*Check Project Taken:*

Scratching  
the Surface

Testing Your  
Wings

Flocking Together

Your Animal's Photo Here!

Year 20 \_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Years in 4-H \_\_\_\_\_ Date project completed \_\_\_\_\_

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## Six Ways to Keep Poultry Diseases “Cooped Up”

- ✓ *Clean and disinfect vehicles and equipment.*  
Clean manure spreaders, tractors, truck tires, and undercarriages with a strong detergent. Then apply disinfectant to kill avian influenza and other viruses that can linger on surfaces.
- ✓ *Wear sanitized coveralls and boots.*  
Make sure everyone who enters your premises wears them too! Poultry disease viruses can be spread by clothing and shoes of people who come into contact with infected flocks.
- ✓ *Practice “all in – all out” poultry management.*  
Avoid skimming flocks – birds left behind are exposed to work crews and equipment that may carry poultry disease viruses. Process each lot of birds separately, and clean and disinfect poultry houses between flocks.
- ✓ *Keep out unnecessary visitors and equipment.*  
Allow only essential personnel onto your farm. Secure entry gates and lock all poultry buildings. Avoid lending or borrowing equipment – it can carry avian disease viruses. Don’t visit other poultry farms.
- ✓ *Avoid contact with game birds and migratory waterfowl*  
Don’t raise, keep, or allow contact with pet birds, ducks, geese, or other game birds. They are suspected carriers of poultry diseases. If possible, avoid visiting duck ponds and hunting waterfowl.
- ✓ *Know the warning signs of major avian diseases.*  
Higher death losses; sudden drop in egg production; swelling of head, eyelids, combs, and hocks; diarrhea; purplish-blue coloring of wattles and combs; bloody nostril discharge; loss of appetite; incoordination.

Report suspicious cases to your WVU Extension Service Office or to a local or state veterinarian.

Information provided by the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), May 2002.

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## Emergency Phone Numbers

West Virginia Department of Agriculture (Commissioner of Agriculture) ..... 1-304-558-2201  
APHIS Veterinary Service ..... 1-614-469-5602  
APHIS Web site ..... [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov)



Revised in 2006 by the 4-H poultry curriculum development committee: David J. Workman, Hardy County Extension Agent; Janice Heavner, Pendleton County Extension Agent; Leanne Moorman, Hancock County Extension Agent; Carol R. Schuller, Senior Project Coordinator; and Jean M. Woloshuk, Extension Specialist, 4-H Youth Agriculture. Revised in 2004 by the 4-H poultry curriculum development committee. Developed and written in 1998 by the 4-H poultry curriculum development committee.

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## Introduction

The 4-H poultry project is for individuals wanting to learn how to raise poultry for meat, eggs, or show. The project's objectives are to teach individuals to (1) feed and manage poultry, (2) exhibit poultry, and (3) record project activities and finances. **You are encouraged to work closely with your adviser on the production, exhibition, or marketing specifics for the class of bird on which your project is based.**

### **Poultry Projects – check area of emphasis for this 4-H year.**

- Broiler Production Project:** 4-H'er raises 25 or more broiler chickens for meat production. This is a short-term project lasting six to eight weeks. Broilers raised for this project are bought as 1-day-old chicks. Record your project activities on pages 2, 3, 4, 15, and 16 of this guide.
- Turkey Production Project:** 4-H'er raises 15 or more turkeys for meat production. Project duration is 14-18 weeks. Turkeys raised for this project are bought as 1-day-old poults and should be of commercial white broad-breasted variety. Record your project activities on pages 2, 3, 4, 15, and 16 of this guide.
- Egg Production Project:** 4-H'er raises a flock of 25 or more laying hens for egg production. This long-term project generally lasts six months or more. Hens used for this project may be bought as pullets (young hens) or raised from 1-day-old chicks. The eggs produced can be used at home or sold to a local market. Record your project activities on pages 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15, and 16 of this guide.
- Exhibition Bird Project:** 4-H'er raises 15 or more birds to be exhibited at county, regional, or state poultry shows. All birds exhibited must be raised from 1-day-old chicks. Exhibit birds must be purebred and may be standard bred or bantam (miniatures). Record your project activity on pages 10, 11, 15, and 16 of this guide.
- Other Bird Project:** 4-H'er raises other bird types (ex. ostrich, emu, etc.) for meat production or breeding purposes. Eggs, meat, or breeding stock produced can be for home or commercial use. Record your project activities on pages 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 of this guide.

### **Purchasing Birds**

Buy all birds from a reliable hatchery or breeder. The hatchery or breeder you choose should be a member of the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) or should practice a blood testing program to produce birds that are pullorum and typhoid clean.

Birds purchased for egg production or exhibition should be started in the first quarter of the year.





## Performance Summary

	Projected	Actual
1. Date project was started		
2. Date project was closed		
3. Number of birds started		
4. Number of birds at finish		
5. Total lbs. of meat marketed		
6. Total days in the feeding period		
7. Total gain		
8. Total lbs. feed consumed		
9. Total feed cost		
10. Average weight at market		
11. Feed efficiency ratio (feed consumed [8] $\times$ meat marketed [5])		
12. Percent livability (birds at finish [4] $\times$ birds started [3] $\div$ 100)		



## Financial Summary

### Income

Poultry on hand at the end of the project at current value \_\_\_\_\_

Income (eggs, meat, live birds sold or used) \_\_\_\_\_

Other income (premiums won, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

### Total Income

### Expenses

Poultry started with or bought during project \_\_\_\_\_

Total feed costs \_\_\_\_\_

Total housing costs, if any \_\_\_\_\_

Total equipment costs, if any \_\_\_\_\_

Total fuel costs, if any \_\_\_\_\_

Total other expense (medicine, bedding materials, water) \_\_\_\_\_

### Total Expenses

Total Income \_\_\_\_\_

Total Expenses \_\_\_\_\_

(Total income minus total expense) **Profit or Loss** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Circle one)

## Merchandising Summary

List any potential buyers contacted before your show/sale.

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe any other methods used to sell your poultry. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who purchased your poultry/poultry products? \_\_\_\_\_

At what price? \_\_\_\_\_

*Please include a copy of your thank-you letter.*



# Egg Production Record/Mortality Sheet

Month \_\_\_\_\_ (Make a copy of this chart for each month.)

Day	No. Eggs	Feed Added	No. Birds	Died/Culled	Remarks
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					
<b>Total</b>			*		

Current Month Egg Total \_\_\_\_\_ + Total Eggs from Past Months \_\_\_\_\_ = Total Eggs to Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*Total No. of Birds per Month = No. of Birds at Start + No. of Birds at End ÷ 2.





## Performance Summary

	Projected	Actual
1. Date project was started		
2. Date project was closed		
3. Number of birds started		
4. Number of birds at finish		
5. Total days in laying period		
6. Total no. eggs produced		
7. Total no. dozen eggs marketed		
8. Total lbs. feed consumed		
9. Lbs. feed/dozen eggs (total lbs. feed consumed [8] × total no. dozen eggs marketed [7])		
10. Percent livability (birds at finish [4] × birds started [3] ÷ 100)		
11. Eggs/hen housed (total no. eggs produced [6] × no. of birds started [3])		
12. Peak production percentage (See Egg Production Chart, page 6)		





## Financial Summary

### Income

Poultry on hand at the end of the project at current value \_\_\_\_\_

Income (eggs, meat, live birds sold or used) \_\_\_\_\_

Other income (premiums won, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Income** \_\_\_\_\_

### Expenses

Poultry started with or bought during project \_\_\_\_\_

Total feed costs \_\_\_\_\_

Total housing costs, if any \_\_\_\_\_

Total equipment costs, if any \_\_\_\_\_

Total fuel costs, if any \_\_\_\_\_

Total other expense (medicine, bedding materials, water) \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Expenses** \_\_\_\_\_

Total Income \_\_\_\_\_

Total Expenses \_\_\_\_\_

(Total income minus total expense) **Profit or Loss** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Circle one)

## Merchandising Summary

List any potential buyers contacted before your show/sale.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe any other methods used to sell your poultry. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who purchased your poultry/poultry products? \_\_\_\_\_

At what price? \_\_\_\_\_



## Exhibition

Birds(s) Name/Breed	Exhibition			Ribbons Won	Premiums Won
	Name	Date	Place		
<b>Totals</b>					

## Performance Summary

	Projected	Actual
1. Date project was started		
2. Date project was closed		
3. Number of birds started		
4. Number of birds at finish		
5. Total lbs. feed consumed		
6. Percent livability (birds at finish [4] × birds started [3] ÷ 100)		





## Other Bird Project

Bird type \_\_\_\_\_

Month	No. Birds Died/Culled	Feed			Other Expenses	Comments
		Type	Lbs. Fed	Cost		
<b>Totals</b>						





## Performance Summary

	Projected	Actual
1. Date project was started		
2. Date project was closed		
3. Number of birds started		
4. Number of birds at finish		
5. Total lbs. or no. of product units (meat, eggs, birds, etc.) marketed		
6. Total lbs. of feed consumed		
7. Average weight at market		
8. Feed efficiency ratio (total lbs. feed consumed [6] $\times$ total lbs. or no. of product units [5])		
9. Percent livability (birds at finish [4] $\times$ birds started [3] $\div$ 100)		
10. Price or value per unit of product marketed		



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## Record of Demonstrations, Talks, and Activities During the 4-H Year

Record your participation in events such as judging contests, project workshops, visits to farm operations and demonstrations.

Date	Location	Activity	Comments





## 4-H Project Evaluation

Now that you have finished this project, it is time for you to think about what you have learned. We also would like to know what you have learned and if the project needs to be improved. Your comments will help the people write the projects. Please write answers to the following questions. Then give this form to your 4-H leader or mail it to:

**Project Evaluation**  
**State 4-H Office**  
**Knapp Hall, PO Box 6031**  
**Morgantown, WV 26506-6031**

Title of Project \_\_\_\_\_

Girl    Boy    (circle one)    Age \_\_\_\_\_    Grade in School \_\_\_\_\_    Years in 4-H \_\_\_\_\_

1. Was this your first project in this subject? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Why did you pick this project? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

3. What was your favorite part of this project? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

4. By doing this project, what did you learn that you didn't know before? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

5. Did you do the activities in the project book? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

6. What activities did you like doing? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

7. How would you change this project to make it better? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

8. Would you tell others to take this project? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

9. What other 4-H projects have you taken? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

10. If you have something else to say, write it on the back.





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# Poultry Project Score Sheet

- ★ If you are taking this project without an animal, check with your Extension agent for approval. It is suggested that the Self-Determined project be used with the National 4-H Cooperative Curriculum System (4HCCS) poultry project book as a resource. Consult with your Extension agent to plan your project work.

## Poultry Project Book

- ✓ Complete seven activities in the Poultry Achievement Program of the National 4-H Cooperative Curriculum System Project Book \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Each activity is worth 5 points ~ Total 35 possible points)*
  
- ✓ Complete Planning Guide in National 4-H Cooperative Curriculum System Project Book on pages 3-5 \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Worth 5 points)*

## Exhibit/Production Score *(Total 20 possible points)* ★

- ✓ This may be the actual exhibition of your animal or other designated project or service determined with your Extension agent.

## Poultry Record Guide

*(Worth 20 points)* \_\_\_\_\_

## Activity Record

*(Worth 20 points)* \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

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