



Oconto County 4-H Poultry Project

2015

Poultry Resources

Oconto County 4-H Project

<http://oconto.uwex.edu/4-h-youth-development/4-h-projects/>

Oconto County Youth Agriculture Programs

<http://oconto.uwex.edu/agriculture/youth-agriculture-programs/>

Wisconsin 4-H Project Page

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/onlinpro/poultry.cfm>

Wisconsin Poultry Page

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/poultry/>

4-H Project Literature

<http://www.4-hsmall.org/Category/4-hcurriculum-poultry.aspx>

American Standard of Perfection (Breed Handbook)

<http://www.amerpoultryassn.com/>

Oconto County Fair

<http://www.ocontocountyfair.org>

Check out the Requirements

<http://oconto.uwex.edu/agriculture/youth-agriculture-programs/>

Welcome to the 4-H Poultry Project

The 4-H Poultry Project provides youth a fun and hands-on learning experience that develops life skills, as well as teaches valuable information about properly caring for their birds.

Subjects such as general care, nutrition, housing, and health care are presented in the curricular materials, through workshops and activities such as poultry judging, and in preparation of an exhibit.

Youth also have the opportunity to develop responsibility, decision-making, nurturing, and communication skills through active participation in the 4-H Poultry Project.

Signing Up for a 4-H Poultry Project

Youth in the Poultry Project enroll in one or more of the following projects. To enroll in 4-H, visit the 4-H On-Line site at <https://www.4honline.com/> If you need help with the online enrollment, check with your club advisor or call the Extension Office for guidance (920-834-6845).

- Poultry 1 (Grades 3 -5)
- Poultry 2 (Grades 6 – 8)
- Poultry 3 (Grades 9-12)
- Waterfowl (Grades 3 -12)
- Turkeys (Grades 3-12)
- Bantams (Grades 3 -12)
- Pigeons (Grades 3-12)

NOTE: Animal Project sign-up is done by grade, not skill level.

Best Place to Get Started?

Plan on attending Fall Project Kickoff (see calendar) to meet your project leader and pick up a January Thaw project challenge. You can access project challenges anytime at <http://oconto.uwex.edu/4-h-youth-development/4-h-projects/project-days/>



Poultry Leaders

Please feel free to contact your county-wide 4-H poultry leader for more information on your project.

Keith Schardt
920-590-0397
Keith.schardt@gmail.com

Victoria Hull
715-850-1789

Josh Reed
920-590-1011

Contact Us

UW-Extension Staff

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4-H Youth Development Agent
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Agriculture Agent
920-834-6845
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Looking for out-of county educational experiences*?

Area Animal Science Days

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/events/animalscience.cfm>

4-H and Youth Conference –For youth in 7th -10th grade

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/events/youthconf/index.cfm>

State Fair

West Allis, Wisconsin

**Funding for 4-H youth may be available from 4-H Leaders Association*

4-H Poultry Project Calendar 2015-16

Fall Kickoff	October 10, 2015	Gillett Schools Gillett
<i>Meet your project leaders and pick up a poultry challenge for January Thaw</i>		
January Thaw	January 9, 2016	Washington Middle School Oconto Falls
Spring Fling	April 30, 2016	Washington Middle School Oconto Falls
Pullorum Testing	June 11, 2016 9 AM - Noon	Oconto County Fairgrounds Gillett
Poultry Clinic	July 26, 2016 7:30 PM	Oconto County Fairgrounds Gillett
Oconto County Fair	August 18-21, 2016	Oconto County Fairgrounds Gillett



4-H Poultry Project

Getting Started with Chickens

2015

Hint:

For a quick start in the Poultry Project, attend Fall Project Kickoff, January Thaw, and Spring Fling.

PLANNING

- Determine your goal.
Are you raising chickens to show at the fair?
Would you like to raise chickens for eggs?
Are you raising your chickens for market?
- Check out the 4-H project books on poultry, and the other resources (listed in blue on first page).
- Plan your facilities and feed options.
Brooder Box (for the chicks)
Chicken Coop or Pen Plans
- What breed of chicken best suits your goals and your experience level?
You will probably want an easygoing bird if you're new to the project.
Your project leader can give you great advice!

How many of these parts of a chicken do you know?

- Beak
- Ear
- Eye ring
- Hackles
- Hock
- Nape of neck
- Saddle feathers
- Vent
- Wings
- Wattles

PREPARING FOR BIRDS

- Order your chicks
Obtain day-old or hatchling chicks between Jan 1st and mid-February
(The date will vary depending on the species and your goal – market or show.)
- Make sure your brooder box is ready.

NUTRITION and BIRD HEALTH

- Keep in mind that the right feed and a reliable source of water is important to raising healthy birds.
- Around 4 -6 weeks old (or when fully feathered) take chicks from brooder box and move to either bigger brooder box or to coop
- Around late April or early May start checking for mites/bird lice; if they have them you can spray with a dog and cat flea/tick spray, or wash them with a dog and cat flea/tick shampoo. Dust the coop and next boxes throughout the summer.



Disease Prevention

Biosecurity is a set of practices designed to reduce the risk of spreading disease from sick birds to healthy ones. We recommend adding these practices to your routine:

- Restrict access to your property and keep your birds away from other birds.
- Keep a designated pair of shoes to wear around your birds, wash clothing after visiting your birds, and use disinfectants correctly.
- Clean and disinfect cages, poultry equipment and car tires after visiting a farm store, poultry swap, or other location with birds present.
- Keep new birds separate from your flock for 30 days; quarantine returning birds from the rest of your flock after visiting a poultry swap, exhibition or other event.
- Do not share equipment or supplies with others, but if you must, disinfect it first.
- Wash hands before and after bird handling.
- If you are raising both turkeys and chickens, keep the turkeys separate from the chickens to prevent the spread of disease.
- Accurately identify and maintain current records on all your animals.
- Look for unusual signs in your herd, such as odd behavior; sudden and unexplained deaths; large numbers of sick animals; or a large number of dead insects, rodents or wildlife. Contact your veterinarian immediately if any of these occur.

Enrolling in 4-H and Signing up for the Oconto County Fair -- - It's Two Different Things!

When you enroll in 4-H at **4HOnline.com**, you are signing up to be a part of Oconto County 4-H. As part of the enrollment process, most youth choose one or more 4-H PROJECTS. You can do that right on 4-H online, and you can go back and do it now if you didn't before.

If you want to put an EXHIBIT in at the Oconto County Fair, you must be signed up in that corresponding 4-H project (through **4Honline.com**). This project signup must be completed by **APRIL 30TH**.

We share our list of 4-H youth who have signed up for projects with the Oconto County Fair. The Fair is a separate entity and has its own guidelines for exhibitors.

Each youth who is signed up in a PROJECT through 4-H, will receive a FAIR ENTRY FORM. Those Fair Entry Forms will be delivered by a Fair representative to club advisors at the 4-H Leaders Association Meeting in May.

To sign up to take an EXHIBIT to the fair, you must fill out the Fair Entry Form, using the Oconto County Fair premium book. The Fair Entry Forms are due to Stacie Pienta by the fourth Monday in June.



If you are planning on showing your animals at the Oconto County Fair:

- Before April 30th: Be sure you are signed up in the Poultry project through 4-H Online.
- Make plans to attend one of the many Meat Animal Quality Assurance (MAQA) workshops in the county. This is required of all exhibitors to be eligible to sell at the Sale of Champions.
- July: Plan on attending the summer Poultry Showmanship Clinic.
- July: Get your flock tested for Pullorum. There is one all-county testing date offered at the Fair Grounds in Gillett.
- July: Fair Entries due. You will get them from your 4-H Club Advisor.
→ Look over the Premium Book for the Fair carefully. Ask your project leader or Club Advisor for help to make sure you are entering in the correct category.
- August: Watch the Friday Notes for the announcement about Cage Counts for the Fair.
- August: Get your show box and your white showmanship jacket ready for the Poultry Show.
- August: Wash your birds at least 3 days before Check-in Day at the fair and carefully inspect for parasites.
- Check the Fair Premium Book to find out the date and time of Poultry Check-in Day at the Fair.

→ Youth who are selected to sell their animals in the Sale of Champions at the Oconto County Fair must have 3 documented Educational Points, one of which must be MAQA training, and one must be species specific. There are plenty of opportunities to get those points at the 4-H project days (either as a participant or as a youth leader), summer workshops, and other events throughout the county and state.