

# Poultry

## 4-H Project Newsletter

*This newsletter will be updated in December of each year, if necessary, based on changes made to the project at the 4-H Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting in November.*

Welcome to the 4-H Poultry Project! This newsletter will give you an overview of the Poultry project, answer some of your questions concerning expectations of the project, and provide you with project ideas and some resources. Project newsletters are an excellent reference to keep on hand to refer to throughout the year. Enjoy your year in the Poultry project and when working on your project, remember to "Learn to do by Doing." If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Agriculture Leadership Coordinator (ALC).

### GENERAL 4-H INFORMATION

#### **Ages for Members:**

Junior Members: 9 - 13 years of age as of January 1, as of the current year.

Senior Members: 14 - 21 years of age as of January 1, as of the current year.

4-H members may register in the club and county of their choice, but must only be registered in one club, in one province. Members may register in one club and access projects in a neighboring club if that club is willing to assist with leadership of a certain project.

#### **Project Completion:**

All 4-H members must complete 'project requirements', for each of their projects, at their club Achievement Day. If you are unable to attend your own club Achievement Day, please make prior arrangements with your Regional ALC. Completion of your project qualifies you to move on to any further county, provincial, or national 4-H competitions relating to that project in the current 4-H year. School projects are not permitted to be used as 4-H projects. Each member must complete and display their own project work (i.e., two members cannot share a project for project completion).

#### **What is Achievement Day?**

Achievement Day allows members to display their project work to the public and have their projects evaluated, non-competitively. Project completion at Achievement Day is based on the following system:

A <b>Green</b> project completion sticker will be given to a member who has completed:	A <b>Silver</b> project completion sticker will be given to a member who has completed:	A <b>Gold</b> project completion sticker will be given to a member who has completed:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Record Sheet</li> <li>• Project Work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Record Sheet</li> <li>• Project Work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Record Sheet</li> <li>• Project Work</li> </ul>
Plus <b>one</b> of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Club Contribution</li> <li>• Judging</li> </ul>	Plus <b>two</b> of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Club Contribution</li> <li>• Judging</li> </ul>	Plus all <b>three</b> of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Club Contribution</li> <li>• Judging</li> </ul>

**RECORD SHEET** – Each member must complete a satisfactory record sheet. Record sheets may be hand written or typed. *For more useful information, refer to Record Sheet Guidelines.*

**PROJECT WORK** – Each 4-H project (e.g., woodworking, dairy, etc.) has specific project work requirements. Each members’ project work will be evaluated on the quality of the work, degree of difficulty for experience/age, the way articles are displayed/presented, and whether all requirements are met. A 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place ribbon will be given for each project. Please review project requirements for each project carefully. In non-livestock projects, members must complete the required number of items as outlined, unless prior approval is given by the Regional ALC. This request should be made in advance of the member’s Achievement Day. Consideration of an item counting as additional items will be given based on members age, degree of difficulty, time required to complete, etc.

**COMMUNICATIONS** – Members who participate in public speaking and/or demonstrations at club level will receive recognition on their Achievement Day Certificate. Each club has its own standards for communications, so members should confirm with the general club leader.

**CLUB CONTRIBUTION** – Members are encouraged to be actively involved in their club, county, province, and community. The club contribution aspect is an assessment on such things as a member’s attendance at meetings and events, attitude, effort, cooperation, and self-expression. Each club has its own standards for club contribution. Evaluation of this Achievement Day component is done by the Club General Leader and / or project leader(s). The standard for club contribution should be communicated clearly to all members by club leaders at the beginning of the 4-H year.

**JUDGING** – In each project, members are asked to compare four (4) articles or livestock (e.g., 4 wooden shelves in the woodworking project or 4 heifers in a dairy class), then evaluate them to place the class in order from first (closest to the ideal), to fourth (furthest from the ideal). Oral reasons, using proper terminology, are given to an official judge for the project to support those choices. There are many useful judging resources available through your Regional ALC, as well online at the [Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture](#) website. In each county, a judging box is also available to borrow to help practice judging skills. It includes judging information

and cards as well as judging classes, with reasons. Clubs may book these supplies through the Regional ALC.

At 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show, 4-H animals participating in the 4-H Nova Scotia Show competitions are used to make up livestock judging classes (e.g., 4 intermediate Holstein calves). Members are responsible for notifying their Regional ALC by September 15 by email if they do not wish to have their animal used. Please keep in mind that judging classes can only be provided if members are willing to offer their animals for a judging class. As such, 4-H members are encouraged to let their animal be used in a judging class if possible.

## **Poultry Project Work Requirements**

On Achievement Day, Poultry members must complete showmanship with one of their registered 4-H Poultry birds, generally the rooster. Members must have a trio of birds (two hens and a rooster). Conformation and Showmanship classes will be held at all other shows i.e. exhibitions and 4-H Nova Scotia Show. Members should bring their own carpet for showmanship, as it will not be provided. A size has not been standardized but 24" x 24" is adequate.

4-H members must complete their project at Achievement Day to compete in, or to participate in, any further county, provincial, or national 4-H competitions relating to that project in the current 4-H year. (e.g. judging, project competitions, etc.)

The **dress code** for all poultry showmanship and conformation classes is a white lab coat or a white shirt and pants. Sneakers may be worn in poultry classes, but in grand champion livestock classes hard soled boots are encouraged for members' safety. A tie is optional. Members can wear sun-safety hats when showing livestock in an outdoor area. The dress code will be enforced at the 4-H Nova Scotia Shows.

## **Livestock Registration**

4-H members must select their 4-H animals by May 1st of the current 4-H year, and must submit livestock registration information to the Regional ALC by May 15th of the current 4-H year. This information is necessary to assist with county show/exhibition planning, including judges, class schedules, awards, etc. The following information must be submitted for Livestock Registration requirements: name of member, junior member/senior member, conformation class entered, sex of animal, breed of animal, and date of birth of animal.

4-H animals may be substituted between the registration deadline of May 15th and Achievement Day in the case of injury, sickness, disease or death of the animal. If an animal is to be substituted prior to Achievement Day, pre-approval from the Regional ALC is necessary. A vet certificate may be required. After Achievement Day, no substitutions are permitted. 4-H members who complete their livestock project with their own registered/approved animal on Achievement Day may use another 4-H member's 4-H animal in a showmanship class at county show/exhibition and the 4-H Nova Scotia Show.

## **Conformation Classes**

Although conformation is not an Achievement Day requirement, livestock conformation classes are commonly held at county level competitions and 4-H Nova Scotia Show. 4-H members are required to exhibit three (3) birds - (2 hens and 1 rooster).

- Junior Poultry Hatching Range: January 1<sup>st</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup>, of current 4-H year
- Senior Poultry Hatching Range: before January 1<sup>st</sup>, of current 4-H year
- Members are permitted to exhibit a minimum of 1 entries and a maximum of 2 entries in any breed sections listed below for poultry.
- Each county is eligible to send the top trio from each section (as per the 4-H NS AGM) that qualify for the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial show.
- 4-H Nova Scotia does not provide chicks for purchase. It will be the responsibility of members to provide their own birds.

Poultry Conformation classes are divided by the breed sections below and judged on breed standards. They will not be separated by age of birds.

### **BREED SECTIONS:**

**Section 1: American:** Rhode Island Red, Rocks, Columbian Rock, White Rock, Partridge Rock, Barred Rock, Silver Laced Wyandottes, Pencilled Wyandottes, Gold Laced Wyandottes, etc.

**Section 2: English:** Australorps, Speckled Sussex, Buff Orpington

**Section 3: Continental/Other Standard Breed:** Phoenix, (Black Breasted Red, Silver), Silver Spangled Hamburg, Andalusian

**Section 4: Bantam:** Buff Brahma Bantam, White Wyandotte Bantam, Gold Seabright

### **CAGE GUIDELINES**

Below is a list of cage guidelines from the SPCA. Please read this section carefully. The perfect cage should:

- Be structurally sound and in good repair (i.e. No sharp edges or abrasive surfaces in contact with the animal);
- Allow freedom of movement for normal postural changes Be escape proof;
- Allow food and water to be provided so that spillage is not a problem;
- Be easy to clean;
- Allow adequate view of the animal both for exhibit purposes and for general observation to prevent problems (i.e. birds becoming ill, no food or water, heat stressed).

## **CAGE SIZES**

The suggested minimum cage sizes to allow for easy movement and protection of feathers for a trio of birds are to use one cage divided into two sections:

- Mature Male Bird – 24" x 24" x 24" feet **or** 61 x 61 x 61 cm
- Pair of Mature Female Birds -24" x 24" x 24" feet **or** 61 x 61 x 61 cm

## **Preparing for Chick Arrival**

No matter if you purchase or hatch your own birds, it is essential that you are prepared for the arrival of your chicks. How much room you will need for the chicks will depend on whether you plan to raise the chicks in the same pen that they have been brooded. For twenty chicks, 4.6 square meters (50 square feet) is enough space to see them through to maturity. The area should be free from drafts and inaccessible to dogs, cats and any rodents. If the birds are to be raised and brooded in the same pen, they will not require the entire space for the first week or two. You can plan on enclosing a circular area within the pen so that heat from the brooder is efficiently used.

Once you have selected an area, it should be sanitized. Brush all dust and cobwebs off the ceiling and walls. The floor should be scraped clean. If the area has been heavily soiled, it should be washed with a germicide/water mixture. When the pen is clean, it should be sanitized with an iodine-based sanitizer mixed in water. Both the germicide and sanitizer can be applied by dipping a broom in the mixture and brushing it over the entire surface. Straw and wood shavings can be used for bedding. It should be spread so it is 5-8 cm (2-3 inches) deep.

An infra-red heat lamp should be hung so it is about 30.5 cm (12 in) above the litter surface. It can be adjusted as the weather changes. A thermometer should be placed beneath the lamp to see if the desired temperature 35-36 degrees C (95-98 degrees F) has been reached two inches above the litter. To adjust the heat lamp, watch the behaviour of the chicks. If chicks are directly under the heat source, drop the light a bit. If they are in the corners, raise the lamp a bit so there is not too much heat. To stop the chicks from wandering away from the heat source, a cardboard ring can be built. It should be about 0.9 meters (3 feet) in diameter. The heat lamp should be in the center of the circle.

Water should also be put out before the chicks arrive, so it is not ice cold. A powdered vitamin premix should be added to the water. Put the water close to the heat lamp so the chicks can find it easily. Feed should also be made easily available. The chicks should be fed 20 % medicated chick starter for the first six weeks, and then change to 16 % chicken grower. The first few days of brooding are important. You should visit the pen often to prevent any problems. Be sure there are no drafts as baby chicks are very sensitive to drafts.

## **MARKET TURKEY**

- Below is the *Market Turkey Guidelines* that have been adopted (4-H NS AGM)
- Member must complete two years in the poultry project to be eligible to apply for the project.
- Members must be currently enrolled in the poultry project.
- Members must secure their own turkeys but there are no restrictions on the breed of birds used.
- Turkeys must weigh between 20-35 lbs. at the time of the sale. Turkeys not falling in this weight range may be selected at the discretion of the committee.
- All turkeys in this competition will be hens.
- There will be 12 turkeys selected for the sale at the NS 4-H Show.

(Market Committee)

The Market Turkey Project is a separate project and applications are due to 4-H NS office by March 1<sup>st</sup> of the current 4-H year. There is a Market Turkey Newsletter for additional information and rules regarding Market Turkey. Market Turkey members must do a record sheet and showmanship for Achievement Day completion.

## **CONTAGIOUS/INFECTIOUS DISEASE & QUARANTINE:**

4-H members, leaders, parents and livestock owners are reminded that 4-H shows are showcases for the 4-H program, and the agricultural industry in this province. They are reminded that infectious diseases can be transmitted during transport, as well as at the show. As such, it is strongly recommended for the protection of the public, participants, and the animals at the show, that animals having or showing signs of infectious diseases not be brought to shows. As well, livestock exhibitors and owners must understand that in attending 4-H Shows, there is a risk of their animal contracting disease regardless of the best efforts of all involved.

If you suspect that your animal has a contagious/infectious disease, please contact your local vet immediately and learn more about the consequences, treatment, and transmission of the disease.

Livestock Health Checks will be done at the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. Members, leaders, parents and livestock owners are cautioned that decisions made during Livestock Health Checks at the 4-H Nova Scotia Show are based on visual analysis and the professional opinion of those doing the health checks. Their decision is final. Further, all animals that are put in quarantine cannot be shown; those responsible for Livestock Health Checks reserve the right to re-examine animals.

A brochure providing additional information on "Infectious and Contagious Diseases Affecting 4-H Livestock" is available. It will also be posted on the 4-H Nova Scotia website, as well as the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture website. If you wish to receive a copy by mail or email, please contact your ALC for this information. It contains important information for all livestock members on this topic and will be critical to review with 4-H Clubs, livestock owners, and your

local veterinarian when making decisions about attending 4-H shows. This is the brochure that those responsible for Livestock Health Checks at the 4-H Nova Scotia Show will be using as a guideline in their decisions regarding quarantine. All animals that are put in quarantine at the 4-H Nova Scotia Show by the Provincial Show Vet will not be permitted to exhibit or show. The 4-H Nova Scotia Show Vet reserves the right to re-examine quarantined animals.

### **SPORTSMANSHIP – Be a Good Sport!**

In 4-H, Sportsmanship plays a key role in living by the motto of 'Learn to Do by Doing'. Please take the opportunity to consider good sportsmanship when at 4-H events. Here are some key factors to good sportsmanship:

**GOOD CONDUCT** – Demonstrate and maintain high standards of personal behaviour and conduct. You are representing your family, your club, your community and the 4-H program.

**FAIRNESS** – Learn and follow the rules. Be objective and honest. No matter what the results try your best by using your true skills without cheating. Treat others fairly.

**HONESTY** – Be a reliable person, do not lie or deceive. Be straightforward in everything you say and do. Understand your abilities and skills, accept the fact that you cannot do everything perfectly, but you still can do many things well.

**COMPETITION** - Competition experiences enhance positive youth development and prepare youth with competitive knowledge, skills and attitudes. Take pride in your accomplishments and in improving your skills – you are all winners, even if the ribbon color doesn't appear to reflect this.

**COURTESY** – Be well-mannered in your conduct. Be respectful, thoughtful, considerate, cooperative, friendly, and cheerful, no matter whether you do well or not. When you have concerns, questions, or suggestions, be polite in expressing them. Be pleasant and nice toward other participants, spectators, program officials, judges, the media, your leaders, parents and others. Give others the benefit of the doubt. Treat people and animals kindly. Keep your emotions under control.

**GRACEFUL ACCEPTANCE OF RESULTS** – Accept judges' results and suggestions with a positive attitude. The judge's decision is final. Regardless of the outcome; thank all that were involved in helping you put forth your best effort. Thank the organizers for their efforts; Sponsors for their generous donations; Agriculture Leadership Coordinators for their wisdom and guidance; Judges for their skilled eye and time given to the 4-H program; and anyone else who has helped you along the way.

The work in any 4-H project should always be done by the members. Hiring, or the use, of professionals and/ or adults to prepare projects for 4-H shows are not acceptable. Using these

people as resources provides 4-H members with the information and skills to do the job on their own.

4-H Nova Scotia has a Code of Conduct in effect for all members and leaders. It is to be followed always throughout the year. If you would like a copy of what are acceptable practices in the 4-H program, please visit <http://novascotia4h.ca/codeofconduct/>.

## You might also be interested in...

**4-H POSTER CONTEST** – Deadline and evaluation is normally at county rally. [Visit 4-H Nova Scotia's website for more information!](#)

**4-H THEME CONTEST** – Put on your thinking cap and be the one to come up with next year's 4-H theme! (i.e., *Let the Clover be Seen in 2017*). [Visit 4-H Nova Scotia's website for more information!](#)

**WOOL COMPETITION** – Open to all 4-H members. These articles must be made from 100% wool and members must exhibit a Wool Competition Report with their entry. For more information, please visit the [Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture](#) website.

**RECYCLABLE COMPETITION** – Open to all 4-H members. These articles must be made from a minimum of 75% recycled materials and members must exhibit a Recyclable Competition Report with their entry. For more information, please visit the [Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture](#) website.

**GIANT VEGETABLE COMPETITION** – Each year a new vegetable is selected for the Giant Vegetable competition held at 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. Each county can send one junior and one senior giant vegetable entry to the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. For more information, please visit the [Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture](#) website.

**TRACTOR DRIVING COMPETITION** – The tractor competition is open to teams of 3 members (1 driver and 2 assistants); the driver must hold a valid class#5 driver's license or tractor license. The driver will drive a tractor and trailer through an obstacle course. The score is calculated based on safe operation and judge's evaluation. One team per county will advance to 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. For more information, please visit the [Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture](#) website.

**RECORD KEEPING COMPETITION** – An entry will be one record sheet for a project completed in the current year by that member, with a detailed analysis included. Entries in this competition must include a 1 - 4 page analysis of the work and costs in the project for the given year to be eligible. Entries should be displayed in a binder/folder. The top two senior and top two junior record sheets per county will be eligible for the Record Keeping Competition at the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show, but entries must first qualify at county level. All county entries must be forwarded to Truro by September 15th of the current 4-H year for judging prior to the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show." For more information, please visit the [Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture](#) website.

**AWARDS, TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES, AND SCHOLARSHIPS** – Each year, 4-H Nova Scotia covers the registration fee to National and International travel opportunities for members awarded such travel experiences. Also, there are several scholarships available to 4-H members in Nova Scotia. For



more information, interested members should speak to the Regional ALC and check out the [Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture](#) website and Visit [4-H Nova Scotia's](#) website.

**JUNIOR LEADER PROJECT** – This project is designed to build leadership skills by providing members with the opportunity to lead any aspects of their club which interest them (e.g., projects, recreation, communication, etc.).

**GRADE 10 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT CREDIT** – Members must achieve gold completion and document at least 110 hours of 4-H related work to qualify. For more information visit the [Nova Scotia Department of Education & Early Childhood Development Personal Development Credit website](#) and the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture website.



# Poultry/Waterfowl/ Market Turkey Project RECORD SHEET

Name of club member \_\_\_\_\_ 4-H age \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of club \_\_\_\_\_  
Years in 4-H \_\_\_\_\_ Years in the project \_\_\_\_\_  
Project \_\_\_\_\_ (Poultry, Waterfowl, or Market Turkey)

## PROJECT INFORMATION

Breed of birds \_\_\_\_\_  
Numbers: Roosters/Drakes \_\_\_\_\_ Hens/Ducks \_\_\_\_\_ Turkeys \_\_\_\_\_  
Date birds hatched: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date birds received: \_\_\_\_\_

**General Health Record** – Describe bird’s development and any health problems.

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**MORTALITY RECORD** – Give date and number of birds lost and reasons if known.

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**WHY I TOOK THIS PROJECT**

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**WHAT I LEARNED**

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## MONTHLY EXPENSES

(Please include monthly costs for each section listed for all animals to be exhibited)

Month	Feed		Vet Costs		Materials		Misc.		TOTAL
	Amount	Cost	Problem	Cost	Item	Cost	Item	Cost	
<b>TOTAL</b>									

Animals owned by farmer    or     Animals owned by 4-H member/family

### Meeting Summary

How many general club meetings did you attend this year? \_\_\_\_\_

How many project meetings did you attend this year? \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any other club/county activities that you may have participated in during the past year:

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