



POULTRY PROJECT

WELCOME

Welcome to the 4-H Poultry Project! Please read through this Guide carefully, as it contains information and suggestions that are important for your project. **4-H leaders can obtain a Leader Project Guide and other resources from the PEI 4-H Office.** Hopefully you, as a member, will “Learn to do by Doing” through hands-on activities that will encourage learning and enjoyment. If you have any questions, contact your District 4-H Officer or your project leader.

4-H YEAR COMPLETION

You complete a project by:

- completing the project Achievement Day requirements
- completing a communication project
- completing a community project
- completing an agriculture awareness project
- taking part in Achievement Day

You must complete all of the listed aspects in order to show at Fairs and Exhibitions.



ACHIEVEMENT DAY REQUIREMENTS

Conformation	30
Poster	20
Home Inspection *	20
Judging Seminar *	10
(Attendance, Participation & Oral reasons)	
Special Project	<u>20</u>
Total	100 Marks

EXHIBITION REQUIREMENTS

Conformation Class Category:

- Maximum of 4 birds can be shown at any 4-H exhibition or fair. Example: 3 Standard Chickens and 1 Bantam Chicken or you could have one bird in each of the 4 classes.
- **Turkeys can only be shown in the Market Turkey Project**
- **Conformation Class Categories are:** Standard Chickens, Bantam Chickens, Waterfowl & Pigeons.
- You are allowed only one substitution for all classes. When registering at exhibitions, let them know of any changes.

PLEASE NOTE!

- * In this project, you are required to raise chicks or adults whichever you prefer.
- * All birds shown at exhibitions must be vaccinated for Infectious Laryngotracheitis (I.L.T.) This is a highly contagious respiratory disease for which there is no cure. Flocks found to have this disease must be destroyed. NOTE: Your birds cannot be shown at exhibitions unless they are vaccinated.
- * The 4-H member is responsible for ordering the chicks from a supplier. Orders are usually placed in April.
- * **Animal Identification Form Deadline: July 15 of each year!**

Ages for 4-H members as of January 1st of the 4-H year:

Junior:	9-11 years
Intermediate:	12-14 years
Senior:	15-21 years

Check out the PEI 4-H Web Site

www.pei4h.pe.ca

BE A GOOD SPORT!

In the spirit of learn to do by doing, all those involved in 4-H are encouraged to practice good sportsmanship, use common sense at all 4-H activities and the work in any 4-H project should be the member's own work.

HELPFUL RESOURCES!

www.canadianpurebredpoultry.com
www.chicken.ca
www.feathersite.com
www.amerpoultryassn.com
www.thepoultrysite.com
www.poultry.ad.ca.uk
www.poultryclub.org

Some books and videos are also available at the PEI 4-H Office which can be borrowed for a two week loan period. To book these, call 368-4833 or drop by the PEI 4-H Office at 40 Enman Crescent, Charlottetown.



POULTRY INSPECTION

(Achievement Day Requirement)

Your Poultry Leader is responsible for inspecting your chickens. Your leader should let you know when the inspection is to occur so that you will be able to demonstrate to your leaders the handling of your poultry.

In the inspection, your Leader will be looking for evidence of care and interest in your poultry, i.e. handling, lack of health problems, presence of adequate housing and presence of adequate feed and water.

The inspection will also include a verbal quiz of approximately 10 questions about the chickens and/or information you have learned in the project.



POSTER

(Achievement Day Requirement)

This project requires you complete a poster. See "Achievement Day Requirements" Create a poster displaying the idea...

"My Poultry Project"

Be sure to:

- Use "4-H Poster Book" as a guide
- Use a whole sheet of Bristol board
- Use quality not quantity information
- Use your imagination, drawing or photographs/pictures and creativity
- Write your name, club and age on the back of the poster



Special Project Options...

(Achievement Day Requirement)
(Members must complete one of the following for their Achievement Day)

- Design & build a functional poultry feed station to display at your Achievement Day.
- Make a display describing candling, complete with diagrams and an explanation of the process.
- Create a display related to poultry illness and explain methods of prevention and cure.
- Write a two page report on grading eggs and packing for them market.
- Put on a judging clinic for other members of your club at your Achievement Day.
- Make a display or write 2 pages demonstrating and describing proper manure handling and sanitation procedures for poultry on PEI.

EXHIBITING POULTRY

In recent years there has been a renewed interest in showing poultry as a 4-H project. Most people enjoy the poultry exhibits at fairs but few are aware of the complex nature of judging the birds. Birds are generally judged according to the American Poultry Association Standard of Perfection. This book provides a comprehensive guide to type, colors and characteristics of most of the birds shown in North America as well as descriptions of the features that make each breed distinct from any other.

This section is intended to assist members in understanding some of the nomenclature associated with showing poultry. It will not deal with specific terms (i.e. color patterns) that pertain to individual birds or with the judging aspect. Once the member is comfortable with understanding their own birds and learning about the characteristics of each breed they can better assess the quality of the birds and aim to improve the performance of their chosen birds.

Most exhibitions and fairs have a number of divisions for the entries. There are STANDARDS (sometimes called largefowl or large landfowl) and BANTAMS. BANTAMS are generally a miniature of the STANDARDS size. Normally they are 1/5 to 1/4 the size of their standard counterpart. The most important thing to remember is that the breed characteristics are the same. There are some BANTAMS that do not have a standards counterpart. They will be listed later. Also, there will be a number of waterfowl shown. They are shown as: HEAVY, MEDIUM and LIGHT. In the case of ducks there are also BANTAMS.

EXHIBITING POULTRY (continued)

To the average spectator, a poultry show is nothing more than a display of colorful and unusual looking birds. There is a method to the way the birds are arranged for the judge. There are a number of birds that have similar characteristics. Generally speaking, they originate from the same part of the world. They are shown together as a CLASS. Within each CLASS there are a number of BREEDS. In each BREED there are a number of VARIETIES. A VARIETY refers to a color pattern. In all cases each VARIETY is judged for its overall BREED characteristics. Sometimes the cards on cages will have AOV or AOC written on them. If there are not enough entries to judge a breed separately (usually 5 birds) then birds with similar characteristics will be judged together. AOV stands for All Other Varieties and AOC stands for All Other Colors. For chickens there are six classes for STANDARDS. For BANTAMS there are FIVE classes.

STANDARDS POULTRY CLASSES

1) AMERICAN CLASS

Includes the following breeds: Plymouth Rocks (many varieties), Dominiques, Wyandottes (varieties), Javas, Rhode Island Reds, Rhode Island Whites, Buckeyes, Chanteclers (2 varieties), Jersey Giants (2 varieties), Lamonas, New Hampshires, Hollands, Delawares

2) ASIATIC CLASS

Includes the following: Brahmas, Cochins and Langshans. All have a number of varieties.

3) ENGLISH CLASS

Includes the following: Dorkings (varieties), Red Caps, Cornish, Orpingtons (varieties), Sussex (varieties), Australorps

4) MEDITERRANEAN CLASS

Includes the following: Leghorns (varieties), Minorcas (varieties), Spanish, Andalusians (varieties), Anconas, Sicilian Buttercups, and Catalonas.

5) CONTINENTAL CLASS

North Europe—Includes the following: Hamburgs (varieties), Campines, Lakenvelders, Barnevelders, Welsummers.

Continental(Polish) - Includes the following: Polish Bearded and Polish Non-breaded (varieties)

French—Includes the following: Houdans, Faverolles, Crevecoeurs, LaFleche.

6) ALL OTHER STANDARD BREEDS CLASS

GAMES—Includes the following: Modern and Old English (varieties)

ORIENTAL—Includes the following: Malays, Sumatras, Aseels, Shamos, Yokohamas, Phoenix, Cubalayans.

MISCELLANEOUS—Includes the following: Sultans, Frizzles, Naked Necks, Araucanasa and Ameraucanaa.

WATERFOWL CLASSES

1) DUCK CLASS

Heavy—Includes the following: Pekin, Aylesbury, Rouen, Muscovy

MEDIUM—Includes the following: Cayuga, Crested, Swedish, Buff

LIGHT— Includes the following: Indian Runner, Campbell, Magpie

2) Geese Class

HEAVY—Includes the following: Toulouse, Emden, African

MEDIUM—Includes the following: Sebastopol, Pilgrim, American Buff, Saddleback Pomeranian

LIGHT—Includes the following: China, Tufted Roman, Canada, Egyptian

BANTAM POULTRY CLASSES

Bantam classes are divided somewhat differently than the standards. They are judged by BREED and COMB TYPE. Comb types include SINGLE COMB which is the traditional pointed comb usually having 5 points and a blade; ROSE COMB which tends to be flatter to the head and have a spike trailing to the rear and; ALL OTHER COMBS, CLEAN LEGGED BANTAMS (AOCCL). These may be Pea Combs, Cushion Combs, Buttercup Combs, Strawberry Combs, V Shaped Combs. There is also a class for GAME BANTAMS and for FEATHER LEGGED BANTAMS.

1) GAME BANTAMS CLASS

Included the following: Modern and Old English Games.

2) SINGLE COMB CLEAN LEGGED OTHER THAN GAME BANTAM CLASS (SCCL)

Includes the following: Anconas, Andalusians, Australorps, Catalanans, Campines, Delawares, Dorkings, Dutch*, Frizzles, Hollands, Japanese*, Javas, Jersey Giants, Lakenvelders, Lamonas, LEghorns, Minorcas, Naked Necks, New Hampshires, Orpingtons, Phoenix, Plymouth Rocks, Rhodes Island Reds, Spanish, Sussex.

3) ROSE COMB CLEANED LEFFED BANTAM CLASS (RCCL)

Includes the following: Anconas, Blegian Beared d Anvers*, Dorkings, Dominiques, Hambeurgs, Leghorns, Minorcas, Red Caps, Rhond Island Reds, Rosecombs*, Sebrights* and Wyandottes. Note: many of the breeds (ie: Leghorn) come in either SINGLE or ROSE COMB.

4) ALL OTHER COMBS, CLEAN LEGGED BANTAM CLASS (AOCCL)

Includes the following: Ameraucanas, Araucanas, Buckeyes, Chanteclers, Cornish, Crevecoeurs, Cubalayans, Houdans, LaFleche, Malays, Polish, Shamos, Sicilian Buttercups, Sumatras, and Yokohamas.

5) FEATHERED LEGGED BANTAM CLASS

Includes the following: Booted, Brahmas (Mille Fleur)*, Cochins, Faverolles, Frizzles, Langshans, Silkies*, Sultans.

NOTE: *Denotes bantams that have no standard size counterparts.

Preventing Disease

A healthy bird is eating, drinking, and moving around. How would you recognize a sick bird? You could ask it but in case your birds don't talk, look for these tell-tale signs: a drop in water or feed consumption, droopy feathers, birds that don't move around...etc.

If you were a poultry producer back in the 1950's or 1960's, raising healthy birds could have been harder than today. Since that time, many poultry diseases are under control because of vaccinations, medicated feed and better disease prevention.

Prevention is the easiest and most economical way to combat disease and parasites. Always follow these guidelines:

1. Select healthy, vigorous, disease free chicks.
2. Keep birds of different ages well isolated from each other.
3. Isolate poultry from other livestock.
4. Provide adequate commercial feed or carefully formulated home mixed feeds.
5. Provide a continuous supply of clean water for birds of all ages.
6. Don't crowd poultry.
7. During brooding, regulate temperature, humidity and ventilation to the comfort of the chicks and poults.
8. Keep unauthorized people out of the poultry house.
9. Incineration is the most satisfactory and economical method of dead bird disposal.
10. Change litter and thoroughly clean and disinfect barn and equipment after each group of birds.
11. In disease outbreaks, promptly obtain a reliable diagnosis. Then use the best treatment for control of that particular disease.

Poor management is the greatest single cause of losses to poultry. Most diseases caused by nutrient deficiencies should not occur if premixes are added to feed in the proper amounts. Feeding your chicks correctly will create healthier birds that are able to fight off infectious diseases.

PREPARING POULTRY FOR SHOW

Exhibiting poultry doesn't begin when you enter the judging ring. It starts at least several days before with these steps.

1. Choose your bird for show. Start by taking in all parts or the bird as a whole picture. What you want is a blending of all parts of the bird viewed as a whole—a quality called symmetry.
2. Now go over your bird carefully. Go over each part carefully so you don't miss some defect or disqualification that the judge will probably find.
3. Your bird should be coop trained if it is to show itself to advantage to a judge. Place it in a coop for a week or so before you wash it or show it and teach it to stand quietly and properly to show itself to the best advantage. Handle it daily, moving it gently about the cage. After it has quieted down and doesn't get excited easily, begin to take it out and handle it quietly, smoothing down its feathers and extending the wing much as a judge will do. In taking it out, a large fowl especially, turn it to face the door and then gently take hold of the left wing with your right hand and at the same time place your left hand under the bird to grasp the legs between your thumb and fingers. If properly done, it will not struggle too much.
4. Most colored birds will not need washing unless dirty. Washing consists of three parts: washing, rinsing and drying. Each is very important to a good finished job. It will help, especially in the case of large birds, to have someone to help with the washing job.

For large fowl, you will need four fairly large tubs and in the case of bantams, small tubs or large pails will do nicely. You will need mild liquid soap, or detergents and several towels or soft absorbent cloths to wrap the birds in after the wash.

In the first tub, make lots of suds. The water should be about the temperature of your arm. Keep your bird upright and push it up and down in the water to get it thoroughly soaked right down to the skin. Wash it carefully always working your fingers with the feathers, never against, so as to not break any feathers. See that the legs are clean and that there is no dirt under the scales of the leg. Use a toothpick carefully to get the dirt out from under these scales.

After it has been well soaped and washed, it should then go through the rinse process in the next two tubs. Be sure to get all the soap out of the feathers. If you don't, (1) the bird will be streaky and look worse than before washing, and (2) the feathers just won't work.

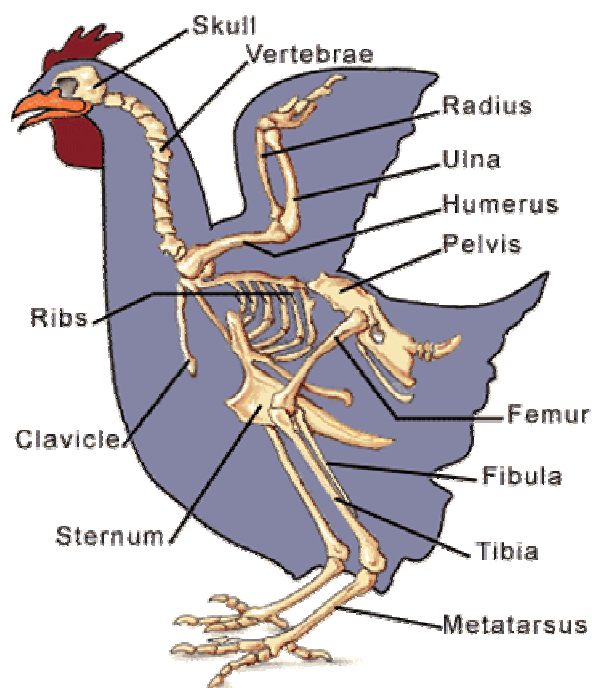
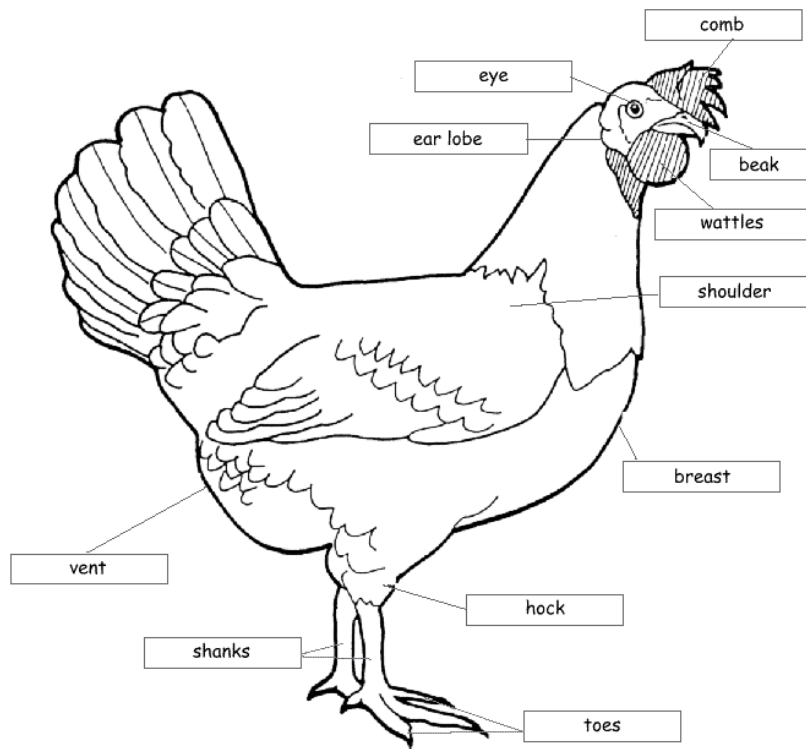
The last tub should be cooler but not cold. It helps to put 1/2 cup of lemon juice in this water as it will help to cut any soap left. After rinsing, wrap the bird loosely in a towel to soak up as much wetness as possible before placing it in a clean coop to dry. Have the temperature warm enough so that the bird will not shiver but so that the feathers will not dry too fast. The washing should be done in the morning so that the bird will not sleep on its damp feathers and get them out of shape.

Birds should be watched as they dry to make sure that the feathers smooth out and do not curl. Dusting the bird with cornstarch when they are nearly dry will tend to whiten as well as help the drying process.

Colored birds can be improved by gently rubbing the feathers with your hands or a silk cloth at least once a day to give them a nice gloss.

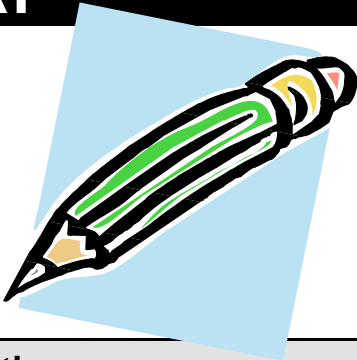
Poultry Showmanship

Before you can show poultry properly, you need to know the parts of the bird. Here are two views of a chicken, inside and out.



PROJECT MEETINGS DIARY

Most projects will require at least six to eight project meetings to complete the project.



Meeting Date	Location	Time	At this meeting, we...

Community and Agriculture Awareness Projects

COMMUNITY PROJECT

Each year you are encouraged to provide a service to your community as a 4-H member. This introduces you to the responsibilities of citizenship. You must participate in your club's plan for a community project and you should have a role to play. Describe your involvement with your club's community project this year.



Our Community Project was _____

I helped by _____

It was beneficial because _____

I learned _____

AGRICULTURE AWARENESS PROJECT

Agriculture is one of PEI's main industries. You are expected to participate with your club to complete a project (or provide a service) which helps your club or others become aware of the importance of agriculture in our lives. As in the community project, you should actively participate.



Our Agricultural Awareness Project was _____

I helped by _____

It was beneficial because _____

I learned _____