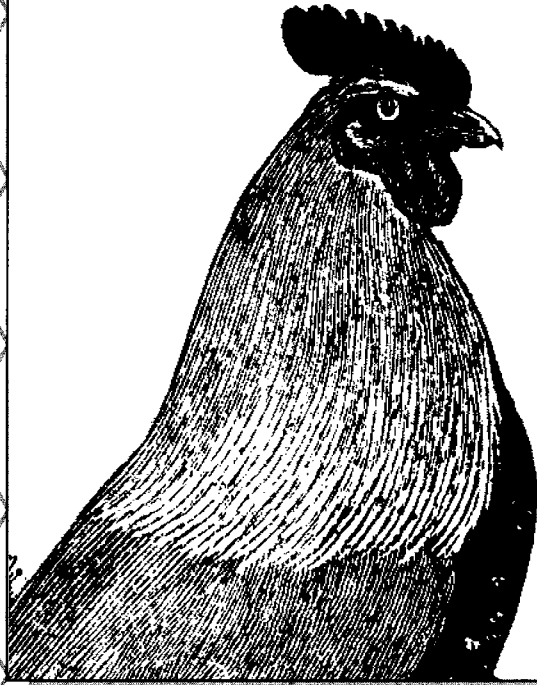
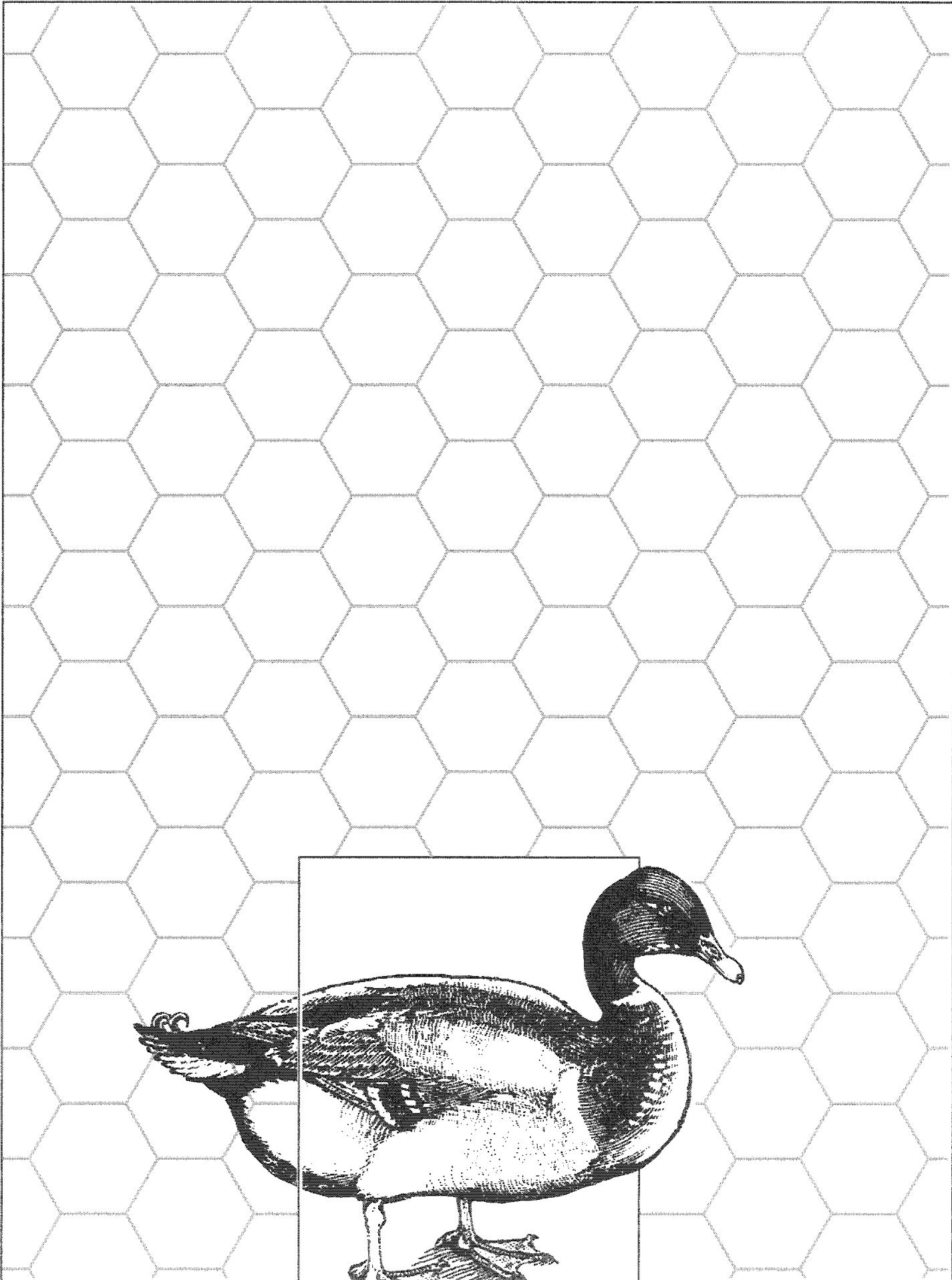


# 4-H Backyard Poultry Care

**MEMBER'S GUIDE AND RECORD**





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## HUSBANDRY

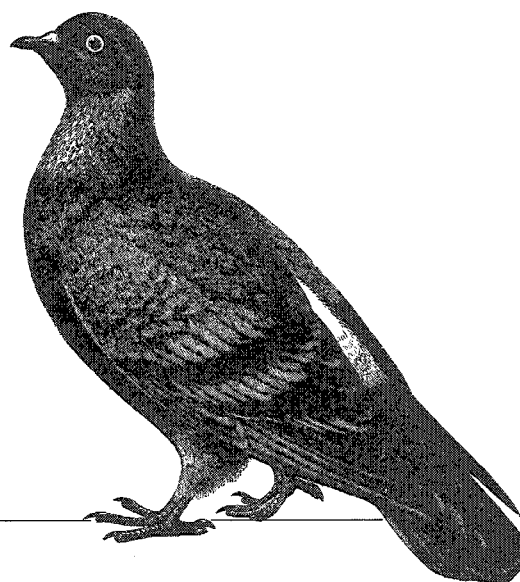
Husbandry is the stewardship of one bird's care. Many people in the poultry industry care for many thousand birds in one flock at one time. One bird requires the same essentials of care as do many thousand birds.

## PURPOSE OF THE BACKYARD POULTRY CARE PROJECT

Four-H members will learn proper ways to care for birds of any legal gamebird or domestic species. The youngsters will share the needs of birds with their parents and other people. A bird's needs are what it must have to live, grow, or reproduce normally. The 4-H members may also learn to love and manage birds. They will learn to keep birds secure and healthy. If a bird becomes ill, for instance, the 4-H'er must nurse it back to health. Members should take part in other 4-H activities, too. We hope every member in this project will take it seriously.

## OBJECTIVES OF 4-H

The aim of 4-H is to give young people opportunities to learn by doing. They will form habits of healthful living and get information and direction in the wise use of time. Participation in 4-H should stimulate a desire for a better quality of life. It should help prepare members to take part in the activities of their communities.



## DO THESE THINGS TO COMPLETE YOUR PROJECT THIS YEAR

### 1. Plan your project.

Talk about what you want to do for your project this year with your parents, 4-H advisor, teen leader, or other knowledgeable person. Write your plan in your project record book.

### 2. Obtain one or more birds.

Choose guineas, chickens, ducks, turkeys, geese, pheasant, quail, pigeons, doves, or other poultry which are healthy. Select birds from a state blood tested pullorum-free hatchery or a clean flock of birds. If you prefer, you may work with birds from your own breeding flock. If you will breed the birds hatched from your breeding flock, have your breeding flock blood tested.

### 3. Care for the birds.

Take care of them for at least three months. Provide feed, water, housing, cleanliness, sanitation, health care, and plenty of fresh air.

### 4. Keep records.

Write your plans and what you do with your birds in your record book. Include the kinds and numbers of your birds. Tell what you do to care for them and keep them healthy. Write down dates when you spend money and when important events happen. Record the amounts of money you spend and receive. Write down the kinds, amounts, and costs of feed and other items you use. Include grit fed, toys bought, and cage or housing changes.

### 5. Learn the right way to handle birds.

Prove that you can handle your bird properly. Do this for your parent, 4-H advisor, or other person who knows how to handle birds. Show how to examine the bird's parts for molt, growth, health, and reproductive condition.

### 6. Read about poultry.

Find books, pamphlets, magazines, or other references on care of your species of poultry. Read, study, and learn from them. Follow practices mentioned in them.

### 7. Give a presentation.

Show or tell others about something you learned or did. Give a demonstration, illustrated talk, or oral report at a club meeting, presentation contest, or other event.

### 8. Exhibit your poultry or make a display.

Before the show learn to wash a bird in warm water containing a small amount of mild soap. Exhibit healthy, clean, and vaccinated birds, only. You may vaccinate the birds you show for Marek's Disease, Laryngotracheitis, Newcastle Disease, and Infectious Bronchitis or Fowl Pox. Get advice on vaccination from a qualified person before you vaccinate. If you cannot exhibit a bird, you may exhibit a poster or display, instead.

### 9. Write a story or report.

Tell about what happened and what you did with your project. If you like, you may include pictures of your birds.

### 10. Do three or more beginning, intermediate, or advanced level activities.

Choose from the activities which follow. If you were in this project last year or another year, try to do activities which you have not done before.

## BEGINNING LEVEL ACTIVITIES (YEARS 1 AND 2)

Do at least three of these activities per year. Put a check mark beside the ones you do.

- \_\_\_\_\_ View an approved film to learn more about your kind of birds or poultry in general.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Visit a business or person with poultry experience. Talk about what is done with poultry.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Learn if and for what diseases you should vaccinate your birds. Get advice on vaccination from a qualified person before you vaccinate.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Learn to recognize normal and abnormal behavior in your kind of bird. Watch your bird or birds carefully for about an hour at three different times. Good times to watch are in the morning, at night, at feeding time, and when you handle them. Write down the kinds of behavior you saw. Discuss what you saw with your parents, leader, or other club members.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Show or describe how to prepare your bird for a show. Include the steps to follow and what you should do to groom, condition, and bathe it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Show or describe the correct way to pick up, handle, carry, and present your bird in a showmanship contest.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Participate in a showmanship contest for your kind of bird.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Name and identify the parts of your kind of bird on a live bird or picture.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Name and learn to identify at least five ingredients in the feed of your bird. Examples are corn and soybean meal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Make a poster or display about something you learned about your kind of bird.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lead a game, song, the 4-H Pledge, or the Pledge of Allegiance at a 4-H meeting or event.

## INTERMEDIATE LEVEL ACTIVITIES (YEARS 3 AND 4)

(Do at least three of these activities per year. Put a check mark beside the ones you do.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Participate in one or more poultry judging clinics, workshops, practice sessions, or contests.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Participate in an avian bowl practice session or contest.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Participate in a poultry skill-a-thon.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Make a poster or display about something you learned about your kind of bird.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Find out how amount of living space affects a bird. Small birds need 4 square feet per bird. Large birds need 10 square feet per bird. Game birds need 30 square feet per bird. Write or present a report or make a poster or display about what you learn.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Find out where and how your species or kind of bird was developed. Write a report about the life history of the species. Be sure to include what continent it came from and how selective breeding has developed it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Describe how and explain why to perform each of these types of surgery on birds:
  - wing feather clipping
  - beak trimming
  - toe nail trimming
  - spur trimming\*
- \_\_\_\_\_ \* (Once each year in Pennsylvania an adult male chicken with a spur on its leg attacks and injures a child. Beware of this and prevent it.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Breed one of more of your birds. Incubate and hatch the eggs. Brood the young birds that hatch.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Make a diagram of the digestive system of your kind of bird. Explain how feed moves through it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prepare a report, talk, demonstration, poster, or display about how to control external or internal parasites in birds.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prepare a report, talk, demonstration, poster, or display about a poultry disease. Show or tell how to prevent or control it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Make a picture story, slide set, or videotape about a topic related to your kind of bird.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Learn to identify at least six of the different species, breeds, or strains of poultry or game birds.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pick another topic about poultry that interests you. Prepare a report, talk, demonstration, poster, or display about the project.

## ADVANCED LEVEL ACTIVITIES (YEARS 5 AND UP)

(Do at least three of these activities per year. Put a check mark beside the ones you do.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Participate in one or more poultry judging clinics, workshops, practice sessions, or contests.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Participate in an avian bowl practice session or contest.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Participate in a poultry skill-a-thon.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Participate in a poultry speech or demonstration contest.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Choose a topic about poultry that interests you. Locate at least three references about that topic. Write a report about the topic. Also prepare a talk, demonstration, poster, or display about your topic.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Breed one of more of your birds. Incubate the eggs and hatch and brood the chicks, ducklings, squabs, or goslings, etc. from the mating.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Learn to use a computer to keep records about your birds.
- \_\_\_\_\_ List career opportunities in the poultry industry. Interview two people with different careers in the poultry industry to find out more about those careers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Teach a skill related to poultry to another 4-H member in your club.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Help to organize a poultry event, such as a show, field day, clinic, or contest.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Attend a clinic, workshop, conference, field day, or educational meeting for poultry producers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Join the junior or adult breed, fancier, or commodity organization for your bird, if one exists. Participate in one or more of its activities.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do another activity of your choice.



## QUESTIONS TO ANSWER

Instructions: Write responses to each of these questions. To find information, consult the reference materials listed at the end of this book or other books, magazines, or pamphlets about your bird. Talk with people who have experience with your bird, also.

What does a judge look for when judging your kind of bird? List at least four desirable characteristics of your bird.

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What are the characteristics of a healthy bird? List at least four.

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What steps should you follow to properly vaccinate a bird? Describe a proper procedure for vaccination of your bird.

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For your bird, how do the parent birds care for their young birds after they hatch? Describe at least three things the parent birds do to care for their young.

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Learn to see beauty in every part of your project each day. List at least two things that are beautiful about your project. Next, list two things that are ugly about your project.

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Why is it important to provide birds with fresh air?

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What is imprinting? Find out and describe how birds imprint to a mother hen. Compare this with the way birds imprint with a human.

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Why and how can you show affection for your bird?

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If we can love an animal, we may feel more love for one type of animal than for another. For example, a human may love a horse more than a rat. Compare the amount of love a human gives a chicken with the amount of love a human gives another kind of animal. Is the amount of love given to a chicken more or less than the amount given to the other animal? You may choose any two species.

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Why do birds need to eat granite grit (insoluble grit)?

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Why do laying birds need to eat calcium grit (oyster shell)?

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Poultry need nutrients contained in their feed to live. Nutrients have functions in the bird's body. The kinds and amounts of nutrients a bird needs are different from what a cow needs. Describe why or if poultry need each of these nutrients or parts of feeds. Name a feed ingredient which is a good source of each:

Energy (fat and carbohydrates) \_\_\_\_\_

Protein (amino acids) \_\_\_\_\_

Vitamins \_\_\_\_\_

Minerals \_\_\_\_\_

Electrolytes \_\_\_\_\_

Water \_\_\_\_\_

Fiber (roughage) \_\_\_\_\_

Green grass factor for breeders \_\_\_\_\_

Unidentified factor in fishmeal \_\_\_\_\_

# PROJECT RECORD

## Information about your project

Number of years you have completed the Backyard Poultry Care Project \_\_\_\_\_

Project level (Beginning, Intermediate, or Advanced) \_\_\_\_\_

Date project was started \_\_\_\_\_ Date project was completed \_\_\_\_\_

## Information about your bird (Fill in only those that apply to your bird)

Species (kind) \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Variety \_\_\_\_\_

Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Bird's nature (mean or tame) \_\_\_\_\_ Hatch date: (month/day/year) \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address of where your birds were obtained \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If your birds are registered with a registry association, list which one \_\_\_\_\_

The birds that I am caring for in my 4-H project are owned by (check one)

me \_\_\_\_\_ my family \_\_\_\_\_ someone else \_\_\_\_\_

How many birds: died \_\_\_\_\_ were raised \_\_\_\_\_ were marketed \_\_\_\_\_

## Biological information about your birds

Age at maturity \_\_\_\_\_

Normal length of life \_\_\_\_\_

Age at first flight \_\_\_\_\_

Reproductive behavior \_\_\_\_\_

Age of first egg or mating behavior noticed \_\_\_\_\_

Size of clutch \_\_\_\_\_ Number of eggs \_\_\_\_\_ Number of days \_\_\_\_\_











## **Project photographs**



## REFERENCES

You may wish to get or consult these references. Also check your dictionary or encyclopedia.

Free packet of information on poultry manure conversion to energy, fertilizer, or feed. Order by writing to Poultry Science Extension, Department of Poultry Science, The Pennsylvania State University, 213 Henning Building, University Park, PA 16802.

*From Egg to Chick : A 4-H Manual of Embryology and Incubation*, A0911C, College of Agricultural Sciences. Order from Publications Distribution Center, 112 Agricultural Administration Building, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802. Also check your county extension office.

List of poultry publications. Order from Publications Distribution Center, 112 Agricultural Administration Building, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802.

National Pigeon Association. For information, write to Jerry McCalmon, P.O. Box 875, Riverton, UT 84065.

*Pigeons* (Circular 4-H 135), order from John L. Skinner, Extension Poultry Specialist, University of Wisconsin, Animal Science Building, Madison, WI 53706.

*Poultry Keeping*, Correspondence Course 5176 (formerly 92), Order from Department of Independent Learning, The Pennsylvania State University, P. O. Box 3207, 128 Mitchell Building, University Park, PA 16802 (\$22.00; send a check or money order payable to The Pennsylvania State University).

*Poultry Management Reference Manual*, AGRS - 38. Order from Publications Distribution Center, 112 Agricultural Administration Building, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802 (\$5.00 per copy; send a check payable to The Pennsylvania State University).

*Poultry Production Task Sheets*, Teacher Education Series, Volume 23, Number 2. Order from Publications Distribution Center, 112 Agricultural Administration Building, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802.

*Production of Market Turkeys*, Correspondence Course 5177 (formerly 106), Order from Department of Independent Learning, The Pennsylvania State University, P. O. Box 3207, 128 Mitchell Building, University Park, PA 16802 (\$16.00; check or money order payable to The Pennsylvania State University).

*Summary, Game Bird Conference* - 1976, 1975, 1974, 1973, 1971, 1969, 1968. Order by writing to Poultry Science Extension, Department of Poultry Science, The Pennsylvania State University, 213 Henning Building, University Park, PA 16802 (\$4.00 per summary; specify year of summary wanted; make check payable to The Pennsylvania State University).

Technical data sheet on small egg production flocks. Order by writing to Poultry Science Extension, Department of Poultry Science, The Pennsylvania State University, 213 Henning Building, University Park, PA 16802.

*The Game Bird Bulletin* (\$2.00 per copy, bi-monthly). To order, write to Membership Chair, Pennsylvania Game Breeder's Association, 1011 West Main St., P.O. Box 122, Valley View, PA 17983-0122.

*The Pigeon*, by Wendell Mitchell Levi, Levi Publishing Company, Sumter, SC 29150.

The United States Department of Agriculture printed the following publications. They are no longer available from the U.S. Government Printing Office. You may be get photocopies of the originals from the historical file at Penn State by contacting Linda Houtz, 213 Henning Building, University Park, PA 16802.

- \* *Farm Poultry Management*, Farmers' Bulletin No. 2197
- \* *Raising Ducks*, Farmers' Bulletin No. 2215
- \* *Raising Geese*, Farmers' Bulletin No. 2251
- \* *Raising Guinea Fowl*, Leaflet No. 519
- \* *Small Poultry Flocks*, Farmers' Bulletin No. 2262
- \* *Turkey Production*, Ag Handbook No. 393

# PROJECT SCORE

	Highest score	Score yourself	Score from your leader
<b>Care and management of birds</b>			
(To be scored by leader at any time after first month and before round-up, fair, or scheduled judging)			
Do the birds show evidence of proper care and handling?	10	_____	_____
Has the member provided the birds with adequate fresh air, feed, water, cleanliness, health care, and housing?	15	_____	_____
Does the member have knowledge of the birds' feed and care requirements?	10	_____	_____
Subtotal	35	_____	_____
<b>Project record book</b>			
Are plans clearly stated?	5	_____	_____
Are records up-to-date, complete, and neat?	10	_____	_____
Are questions answered satisfactorily?	10	_____	_____
Are project experiences described adequately in member's story	5	_____	_____
Subtotal	30	_____	_____
<b>Performance of member</b>			
Did member do what was planned to meet goals?	5	_____	_____
Did the member care for his or her own birds when possible?	5	_____	_____
Did the member attend meetings regularly?	5	_____	_____
Did the member complete the activities recommended for project completion?	10	_____	_____
Subtotal	25	_____	_____
<b>Project exhibit</b>			
(Bird, poster, or educational display)	10	_____	_____
Total	100	_____	_____

Project scored by \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# 4-H ACTIVITIES REPORT

This report will help you keep a better record of your club activities. Fill it in as you complete each assignment. Refer to this record when you are entering county, state, and national programs. Ask your local leader to explain these programs to you.

My 4-H Activities Report for the 19 \_\_\_\_\_ Club Year

Projects taken \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Offices held \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Club \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

“Show-and-tells” given to

Family \_\_\_\_\_

Friends \_\_\_\_\_

Local club \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

Regional \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

News articles \_\_\_\_\_

Radio \_\_\_\_\_

TV \_\_\_\_\_

Things done to improve my health \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Community service or citizenship work done

By myself \_\_\_\_\_

With club \_\_\_\_\_

Number of meetings my club(s) held this year \_\_\_\_\_

Number I attended \_\_\_\_\_

Number of new members I encouraged to join 4-H \_\_\_\_\_

Number of boys and girls I helped with projects \_\_\_\_\_

In what way? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Check those attended and tell how you helped

\_\_\_\_\_ 3- or 4-day camp

\_\_\_\_\_ 1-day camp

\_\_\_\_\_ Club or county tours

\_\_\_\_\_ Club picnic

\_\_\_\_\_ Countywide picnic

\_\_\_\_\_ 4-H Sunday

\_\_\_\_\_ County fair

\_\_\_\_\_ Achievement programs

\_\_\_\_\_ Roundup

\_\_\_\_\_ Teen Leader Retreat

\_\_\_\_\_ State 4-H Capital Days

\_\_\_\_\_ Camp Leadership Training

\_\_\_\_\_ Penn State 4-H Achievement Days

\_\_\_\_\_ Pennsylvania Farm Show

\_\_\_\_\_ National 4-H Week

\_\_\_\_\_ State Ambassador Conference

\_\_\_\_\_ Judging training

Others:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of club \_\_\_\_\_

Leader's name \_\_\_\_\_

**4-H Club Motto**

“To make the best better”

**4-H Club Pledge**

I pledge  
my head to clearer thinking,  
my heart to greater loyalty,  
my hands to larger service, and  
my health to better living, for  
my club,  
my community,  
my country, and  
my world.

**4-H Club Colors**

Green and White



Prepared by Herbert Jordan, formerly associate professor of poultry science, and Robin B. Keyser, assistant professor, agricultural and extension education, 4-H and youth development.

Where trade names appear, no discrimination is intended, and no endorsement by Penn State Cooperative Extension is implied.

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