

Poultry

4-H Project Newsletter

This Poultry Project Newsletter contains information specific to the Poultry Project. Please use it in conjunction with the General 4-H Information Bulletin, so that you are aware of Achievement Day completion requirements as well as general opportunities and information pertaining to all 4-H members. This Project Newsletter, as well as the General 4-H Information Bulletin, will be updated in December of each year, if necessary, based on changes made at the 4-H Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting.

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).

Poultry Project Work Requirements

On Achievement Day, Poultry members must complete showmanship with one of their registered 4-H poultry birds. Members are **permitted** to exhibit to a maximum of 3 single birds. Any single bird combination of rooster or hen will be permitted. 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 61 cm x 61 cm is adequate.

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

Members will be permitted to exhibit a maximum of 3 single birds. Any single bird combination of rooster or hen will be permitted. Members must use one of their 3 registered birds as their showmanship bird. Although conformation is not an Achievement Day requirement, livestock conformation classes are commonly held at county level competitions and 4-H Nova Scotia Show. Each county is eligible to send the top bird from each section to the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. A poultry conformation judging card will be developed to provide feedback from confirmation judging per the 2018 poultry resolution.

- All poultry must be hatched by May 1st, of current 4-H year. A great resource for poultry breeds and standard classification is the American Standards of Perfection for poultry.
- 4-H Nova Scotia does not provide chicks for purchase. It will be the responsibility of members to provide their own birds.
- Members are encouraged to explore different breeds but are not excluded from showing in only one section exclusively.
- Poultry single bird conformation classes are divided by sections below and judged on breed standards.

Class # 30: Poultry

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| Section 1: | Hen- American: Rhode Island Red, Rocks, Columbian Rock, White Rock, Partridge Rock, Barred Rock, Silver Laced Wyandotte, Penciled Wyandotte, Gold Laced Wyandotte, etc. |
| Section 2: | Rooster- American: Rhode Island Red, Rocks, Columbian Rock, White Rock, Partridge Rock, Barred Rock, Silver Laced Wyandotte, Penciled Wyandotte, Gold Laced Wyandotte, etc. |
| Section 3: | Hen-English: Australorps, Speckled Sussex, Buff Orpington |
| Section 4: | Rooster- English: Australorps, Speckled Sussex, Buff Orpington |
| Section 5: | Hen-Continental/Other Standard Breed: Phoenix, (Black Breasted Red, Silver), Silver Spangled Hamburg, Andalusian, Cochin, Houdan |
| Section 6: | Rooster- Continental/Other Standard Breed: Phoenix, (Black Breasted Red, Silver), Silver Spangled Hamburg, Andalusian, Cochin, Houdan |
| Section 7: | Hen-Bantam (Cleaned legged, all comb): White Wyandotte Bantam, Gold Seabright, Rose Comb, Japanese, Sumatra, Houdan, Sussex, Belgian D'Anver. |
| Section 8: | Rooster- Bantam (Cleaned legged, all comb): White Wyandotte Bantam, Gold Seabright, Rose Comb, Japanese, Sumatra, Houdan, Sussex, Belgian D'Anver. |
| Section 9: | Hen-Bantam (Feathered legged/ game): Buff Brahmas, Silkie, Cochins, Belgian D'Uccle (or Mille Fleur). |
| Section 10: | Rooster-Bantam (Feathered legged/ game): Buff Brahmas, Silkie, Cochins, Belgian D'Uccle (or Mille Fleur). |

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 bird in a single cage sized 61 x 61 x 61 cm.

Please note that the National Farm Animal Code of Practice should be followed when housing animals for 4-H events.

These standards can be found at: <http://www.nfacc.ca/>

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 deep.

An infra-red heat lamp should be hung so it is about 30.5 cm 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 has been reached two inches above the litter. To adjust the heat lamp, watch the behavior 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 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 PROJECT FOR POULTRY MEMBERS:

Members who have completed two years in the poultry project may be interested in the Market Turkey Project. Members must be currently enrolled in the poultry project. This project will be overseen by the Market Committee and will provide new opportunities and experiences to 4-H members who wish to pursue a more entrepreneurial side of the project. Please review the Market Turkey Newsletter for specific details about this project and any additional information or deadlines/guidelines. Members wishing to enroll and complete the Market Turkey Project must also be enrolled and complete the Poultry Project. Market Turkey members must do a separate record sheet and showmanship for Achievement Day completion.

POULTRY PROJECT MEETING IDEAS:

- Have a session on nutrition, management, and showing, judging; ask a guest speaker to come in to discuss one of these topics.
- Visit a poultry farm, a poultry show, or local poultry organization.
- Take on a special project promoting the poultry products. Arrange to have a club/community try these projects at your Achievement Day. Try recipes with poultry and egg products.
- Invite a veterinarian to discuss poultry health care.
- Learn about traceability and the Provincial Identification Programs at <https://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/industry-protection/PID/>

CONTAGIOUS/INFECTIOUS DISEASE:

4-H members, leaders, parents and livestock owners are reminded that 4-H achievement days and 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 veterinarian immediately and learn more about the consequences, treatment, and transmission of the disease.

A brochure providing additional information on "Infectious and Contagious Diseases Affecting 4-H Livestock" is available. 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 achievement days and shows.

ANIMAL MOVEMENT REPORTING – Regulations around moving animals to and from Fairs, Exhibitions, Achievement Days, Pro Show and other events are changing. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is re-writing the regulations around the identification of animals and how livestock owners report moving animals on and off the farm. The new regulations are expected soon, and will apply to cattle, sheep, and goats. Other livestock will also be affected in the future, so a general awareness of these changes is good to have. These animals will require individual animal ID tags. Those tag numbers in turn will be used in reporting the movements of animals. Tag numbers are to be reported by the owner/operator of a premise when the animals enter, and then by the farmer/owner when the animals are brought back to the farm or where they are housed.

MOVEMENT DOCUMENT – A Movement Document is to travel with the animals. This document will record the departure premise and destination premise, as well as the quantity of livestock being transported. These documents will be made available by CFIA once the regulation changes come into effect.

There are three things 4-H members can do to prepare for these changes.

1. **Identify your livestock premises** by applying for or confirming a premises identification (PID) number with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture. www.novascotia.ca/agri/pid
2. **Voluntarily report receipt (move in) event data** to your CLTS database account for livestock arriving at your livestock premises using the individual animal identification, within seven days of receipt.

The NS Department of Agriculture has a Traceability Coordinator that reviews Premises ID (PID) applications and can be reached at 1 (902) 890 9840 or daniel.muir@novascotia.ca to answer any questions surrounding these changes.