 

**KENTUCKY 4-H**



**PULLET PROJECT**

**WHAT IS PULLET PROJECT?**

The Pullet Project is a 4-H program where you receive ten (10) pullet chicks to raise and then you bring two (2) to the county 4-H pullet show to be judged and auctioned off. You are also judged on your showmanship skills. The proceeds from the auction will go to the 4-H Pullet Project.

**WHY PARTICIPATE IN A PULLET PROJECT?**

The 4-H Pullet Project will teach you recommended management practices for growing and raising laying hens. You will do the following:

* Develop poultry management skills.
* Learn how to produce healthy egg-laying chickens.
* Develop awareness of business management.
* Develop record-keeping skills (income and expenses).
* Contribute to your home food supply.
* Realize the pride of accomplishment.

**WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN A PULLET PROJECT?**

Any youth between 9 and 18 years of age as of January 1 can participate. You do not have to be a current 4-H member, but you will need to complete a 4-H enrollment form if you are not already a member. Before receiving your chicks, you and a parent must attend a mandatory training session. At this meeting you will receive valuable information to assist you in preparing for and raising your pullet chicks. You will also be given a date and location for receiving your chicks.

As a participant in the Pullet Project, you will purchase ten chicks in the spring. The chicks will be pullets (females) that are 1-2 days old. All the chicks will come from a hatchery participating in the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP). The choice of available breeds will be decided upon by the club members. You will feed and care for these pullets for approximately 20 weeks. At the end of this time you will bring two of your pullets to your county’s 4-H Pullet Show and Auction. The pullets become the property of the Extension office to sell. The proceeds from the auction will go to fund the Pullet Project Program. You will have the remaining pullets at home, which you can use to start an egg laying business.

**WHAT WILL YOU NEED TO PARTICIPATE?**

Supplies you will need:

* Shelter (Figure 1)
  + Must project chickens from the weather and predators
  + Must provide adequate floor space (at least 1 square foot per chicken, 2 square feet preferred)
  + Must provide adequate ventilation
* Feeders (for chicks and older birds)
* Waterers
* Thermometer
* Heat source
* Bedding material (dry wood shavings)
* Light
* Nest boxes (for when they start laying eggs)
* Perches
* Feed

**WHAT WILL IT COST?**

*Price of the chicks*: 10 x \_\_\_\_\_

*Price of feed*:

* Each chick will consume about 18 lb. of feed before the show
* Feed for 10 chicks = 10 X 18 lb./chick X $\_\_\_\_\_/lb. feed = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_