Poultry Projects
What is required for Poultry Projects?

- **BREEDING POULTRY** must be registered with the county 4-H office by June 1\(^{st}\), if you plan on showing at State Fair. If you don't plan on showing at State Fair they are due August 1\(^{st}\). (The registration form is in Appendix D)
- **BROILERS** are ordered in early spring through your county 4-H office. If you have any questions about when you can get broiler chicks please call your local 4-H office. When you order chicks you must tell the county 4-H office when and from which hatchery you ordered chicks. At least 25 birds must be ordered by the individual; no family projects are allowed. Must turn in record to the county 4-H office upon completion of project.
- **Poultry MUST be registered with the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) and a premise id number should be assigned to your home or where you keep the chickens.** (The flock registration form can be found in Appendix D.)
- The 4-H is required to complete Quality Assurance courses online and in the county. These classes are required if you are beginning the poultry project and when you go from one age category to the next (Junior to Intermediate, Intermediate to Senior.) The website to complete Quality Assurance is https://webtools.moo.umd.edu/AHQA/.
- At the end of the year the 4-Her should complete a Project Record Book. (The form can be found in Appendix D.)

Do I have to own my Own Poultry?

Yes, you must own and raise the chicks you intend to use for the broiler and/or breeding poultry projects.

What is required to take my poultry to a fair or show?

- Within 90 days of the show poultry must be tested for Salmonella Pullorum-Typhoid in order to go to a show in Maryland. Call your county Extension office to find out when, where, and how to get your poultry tested.
- 4-Her must have valid proof of flock registration from MDA.
- A Self-Certification form must be completed prior to taking your poultry to the show. (The form can be found in Appendix D.)
- If showing poultry out-of-state check with the state’s regulations on what is needed for poultry.
What is Available to further my Knowledge on Poultry?

- Poultry Judging- Learn to evaluate poultry for performance characteristics. Learn the different cuts of chicken (thigh, neck, breast, etc.) You will judge dressed poultry, quality of poultry, and egg quality. You will also give a set of oral reasons. You can participate as an individual or as a team or you can participate to learn more about the poultry project. Seniors have the opportunity to attend the National Contest if they place high enough at the State Contest, held at State Fair.

- Avian Bowl- This contest is set up like “It’s Academic.” You work on a 4 person team and your knowledge is tested through questions. Your team will buzz in to give an answer. The State contest is usually held in the spring.

- Egg Preparation Demonstration- Senior 4-H members can present a demonstration on the preparation of an egg dish during the Maryland State Fair. The State winner will be eligible to represent Maryland in the National Egg Demonstration Contest in Louisville, Kentucky in November and is expected to work with the designated State 4-H Coach in preparation for the national contest.

If you are interested in getting involved with Poultry Judging, Avian Bowl, or Egg Preparation Demonstrations, contact your county 4-H Office to discover when and where the county practices meet and how to join in the fun!