

4-H LIVESTOCK

POULTRY

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Below you will find resources for your poultry project:



The Geauga County 4-H page has some great resources for getting started understanding the basics of poultry anatomy and how to keep them healthy. See the link for more information: <http://www.geauga4h.org/poultry/index.htm>

BASIC SPACE NEEDS (CHICKEN)

- 3-4 sq. ft. of enclosed housing area
- 10 sq. ft. pasture area
- Enclosed barn set back 50 ft.
- Chicken Wire

BASIC SPACE NEEDS (TURKEY)

- 6 sq. ft. of enclosed housing area
- 100 sq. ft. pasture area
- Enclosed barn setback 50 ft.
- Chicken Wire

For more information, see the recommended Housing and Space Guidelines:

https://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource000471_Rep493.pdf

BASIC NUTRITION NEEDS:

- Commercially available feed available for species and production type
 - Starters

- Growers
- Finishers
- Layers
- Turkeys
- Game Birds
- Protein Supplements
- Oyster Shells for laying hens
- Males should not receive high calcium diets

For more information about feeding your poultry see this guide to raising poultry: <http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/CoopExt/Adams/cabas/pdf/Poultry%20production.pdf> or the Guide to Raising Healthy Chickens: <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/assets/pdfs/A3858-01.pdf>

BASIC HEALTH NEEDS

- House poultry species separately to minimize spread of disease
- Vaccinations and influenza testing may be necessary

For more information about poultry health, see the section regarding disease prevention in this poultry fact sheet: https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/2902/2902-1099/2902-1099_pdf.pdf

Additionally, learning about common poultry diseases and how to recognize them may be helpful, so see this link: <http://www.geauga4h.org/poultry/poultry-diseases.pdf>

CHOOSING A PROJECT ANIMAL

- Determine how much money you are willing to invest and how much you project the materials and equipment needed will cost
- Check and ensure there are no city or county ordinances where you will be keeping your bird
- If you live in the country, you may be able to make a poultry project partnership with another 4-H member or family member
- Keep in mind that day-old chicks are less of a disease risk than older chickens
- Buy from a reliable source- you may be able to get them from a hatchery

For a complete list of chicken breeds, see: http://www.geauga4h.org/poultry/chicken_breeds.htm

PRE-SHOW PREPARATION

- Tame or train the bird to being accustomed to being handled or examined by the judge
 - Familiarize the bird to being caught and examined
- Get the bird accustomed to being in a show cage
- Handle birds 2-3 times a day

