

4-H Poultry Chain Project Record Book



EXTENSION

Poultry Science





Contents

Introduction.....3

Setting Goals.....4

Goals Agreement Form.....6

Letter of Commitment.....7

Equipment and Supply Inventory.....8

Poultry Inventory.....9

Animal Care and Management.....10

Feed Records and Expenses.....12

Feed Tag Information.....13

Health Record.....14

Mortality Record.....15

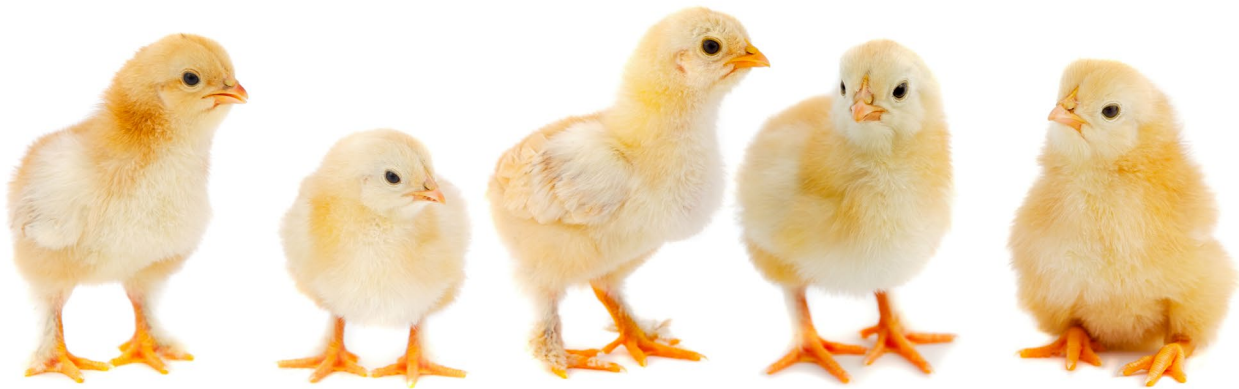
Miscellaneous Expenses.....16

Total Expenses.....17

Summary of Accomplishments and Goals.....18

Record Book Scoring Sheet Sample.....19

Pictures.....20



Introduction

What's the 4-H Poultry Chain Project all about?

The 4-H Poultry Chain Project is a way for 4-H'ers to learn how to produce and manage poultry. Participants also will gain a better understanding of proper care and biosecurity.

What is a record book and why is it important?

A record book is a way for you to keep track of everything that goes on in your project. It is a fun way for you to learn about your project, and it is half of the overall score at the state show. With your record book, you can set goals for your project, record information, keep track of expenses, and more!

What should my record book include?

Your record book gives others an inside look at your project and everything you have accomplished. When deciding what goes into your record book, think about everything you completed during your project (purchases, feeding and watering programs, veterinary care, and so forth). Be sure to look at the Record Book Scoring Sheet Sample on page 19 to see what judges will be looking for.

This publication includes examples of several items you can include in your own record book. You do not have to include all these items in your record book. You get to decide what you want to include. But remember, you are judged on creativity and content!

Getting started on your record book

- Start out by signing your letter of commitment (page 7). Include this letter at the front of your record book.
- Next, complete your biosecurity training. Participants are required to make an 80 percent or greater on the embedded quiz for the system to generate the certificate of completion. Be sure to include the certificate in your record book.
 - <http://extension.msstate.edu/content/poultry-biosecurity>
- It is **very important** that your record book includes the delivery and shipping information, including the date. This information helps us confirm whether all the birds are the same age and were delivered in the same week. Failure to provide this information will result in automatic disqualification from the state show.
- Finally, start getting creative and preparing your record book. Be sure to review the Record Book Scoring Sheet Sample. Creativity is a major part of your book. Show that you had fun and learned along the way!

Record book tips

- Make sure you include everything from the Record Book Scoring Sheet. But you can include other things, too! This publication includes some example charts and tables you might want to include in your record book. Remember—your record book should be unique and creative with a bunch of pictures!
- Be consistent so your book will look neat and professional. If you start out writing with a pen, continue using a pen throughout the book.
- Record books are judged in age categories. Older participants are expected to have neater and more detailed books than younger participants.
- A table of contents at the beginning of your record book is helpful and makes the book more organized.
- Correct dates of records are important.
- Receipts (or copies) show real and valuable data, and they serve as proof of purchase for your project items.
- Your record book must include updated weights for accurate records!
- Organization is important—it should be clear what you did and when you did it.
- Judges can see the amount of time you have taken to create your record book.
- Judges like to see individual work. Remember—the participant must complete this record book, not their parent/guardian.
- At the end of this publication, we have included pictures as examples to help you get started. You will include pictures from your activities in your record book.

Setting Goals

Before starting your project, it is important to set goals.

- What would you like to accomplish in this project?
- What do you want to learn from this project?

Discuss your goals with your mentor, parent, guardian, or agent to help you along your journey. You can also use this chart to organize your goals and set objectives/steps to reach your goals. Knowing your goals will help you decide what items to include in your record book.

My Goals	Steps to Reach My Goal

Once you have your goals written down, complete the Goals Agreement Form on the next page.



Goals Agreement Form

I, _____, have set my goals for this project.

I understand that to achieve these goals I must:

- Take action to reach my goals.
- Take responsibility for my actions and results.
- Not lay blame when things go wrong, but instead find a solution.
- Turn mistakes into lessons and never give up.

I will do my best to achieve my goals throughout this project.

Participant signature

Guardian/Mentor/Agent signature

F1203 (04-25)

Copyright 2025 by Mississippi State University. All rights reserved. This publication may be copied and distributed without alteration for nonprofit educational purposes provided that credit is given to the Mississippi State University Extension Service.

Produced by Agricultural Communications.

Mississippi State University is an equal opportunity institution. Discrimination is prohibited in university employment, programs, or activities based on race, color, ethnicity, sex, pregnancy, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, or any other status to the extent protected by applicable law. Questions about equal opportunity programs or compliance should be directed to the Office of Civil Rights Compliance, 231 Famous Maroon Band Street, P.O. 6044, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

Extension Service of Mississippi State University, cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture. Published in furtherance of Acts of Congress, May 8 and June 30, 1914. ANGUS L. CATCHOT JR., Director



Letter of Commitment

Please complete the letter of commitment below.

I, _____, promise to follow all the instructions and guidelines given to me by the Extension agents and specialists who are assisting with the Mississippi State University Extension 4-H Poultry Chain Project. I will care for my chicks and follow welfare and biosecurity practices to the best of my ability. As a 4-H Poultry Chain Project participant, I understand that, once I receive my chicks, I am dedicated to the project. I will participate fully in the county fair and, if given the opportunity, the state fair. I have also watched the required training videos.

Participant signature

Date

Witness signature

Date

F1201 (03-25)

Copyright 2025 by Mississippi State University. All rights reserved. This publication may be copied and distributed without alteration for nonprofit educational purposes provided that credit is given to the Mississippi State University Extension Service.

Produced by Agricultural Communications.

Mississippi State University is an equal opportunity institution. Discrimination is prohibited in university employment, programs, or activities based on race, color, ethnicity, sex, pregnancy, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, or any other status to the extent protected by applicable law. Questions about equal opportunity programs or compliance should be directed to the Office of Civil Rights Compliance, 231 Famous Maroon Band Street, P.O. 6044, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

Extension Service of Mississippi State University, cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture. Published in furtherance of Acts of Congress, May 8 and June 30, 1914. ANGUS L. CATCHOT JR., Director

Equipment and Supply Inventory

Throughout your 4-H Poultry Chain Project, it is important to keep track of all the equipment purchased and used. Use the chart below to help keep track of this.

Equipment	Date Purchased	Price	Quantity	Purchased At

*Tip: Remember to keep your receipts from all purchases and include them in your book.

Poultry Inventory

It is important to keep a record of the birds used for your project. Use the chart below.

Breed	Flock Purpose	Date of Hatch	# of Cocks	# of Hens	Date of Purchase	Purchase Price	Value of Birds	# of Birds Lost & Date

Animal Care and Management

Throughout your project, it is a good idea to keep track of everything you do for your birds. Explain what you do for or with your bird on a daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly basis.

Make sure to include:

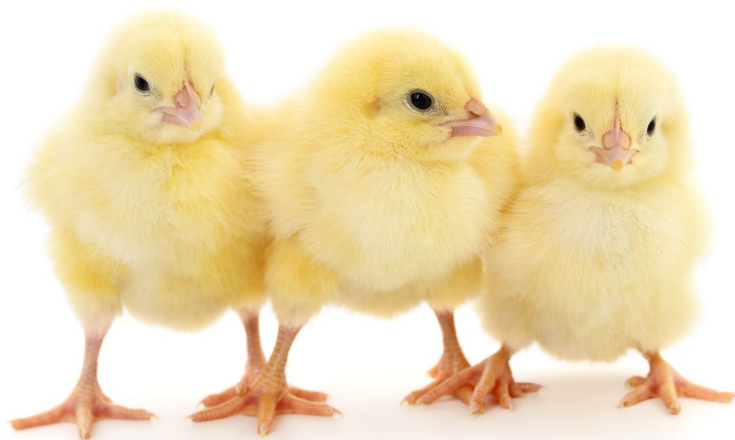
- Feeding and watering methods
- Biosecurity (disease prevention, ventilation, housing)
- Cleaning practices (feed and water containers, removing manure, coops)
- Repairs and maintenance
- Veterinary care

Daily

Weekly

Monthly

Yearly



Feed Records and Expenses

Keep an accurate record of your feed records and expenses! Writing down your records as you go is a good way of to keep track of how much money you put into the project.

Date of Purchase	Amount Purchased	Type of Feed	Cost or Value

Total Pounds Purchased: _____

Total Feed Cost: \$ _____

Feed Tag Information

Attach a feed label or feed bag tag to this page. If you used a homemade mix, list what ingredients were used.

List the top 5 main ingredients in the feed used for this project.

How much feed did you feed daily to all the birds? How many birds were you feeding?

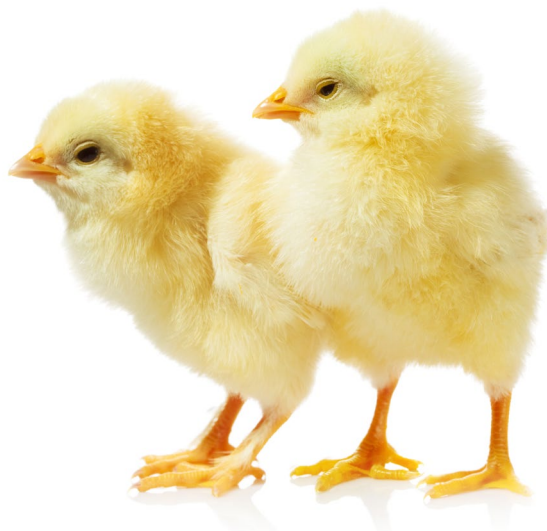
Describe your feeding method in detail:



Health Record

Use this chart to record information on sick birds that must be treated.

ID #	Breed	Sex	Age	Symptoms or Illness	Treatment	Date Treated	Cost of Treatment



Mortality Record

It is important to keep an accurate record of mortality during your project!

ID #	Breed	Sex	Age	Date of Death	Cause



Miscellaneous Expenses

There will always be miscellaneous expenses that do not fit in any of the charts above.
Record those here.

Date	Description	Cost



Total Expenses

Use this chart to record all your expenses throughout the project.

Expense	Cost
Animals Purchased	
Equipment Expenses	
Feed Expenses	
Health Expenses	
Miscellaneous Expenses	
Total:	



Summary of Accomplishments and Goals

Did you achieve your goals for the 4-H Poultry Chain Project? If you did not achieve your goals, explain why. What did you learn from this project? Did you enjoy this project? What would you change for future projects? What do you plan to do with your project birds now that the project is complete?

Record Book Scoring Sheet Sample

Contestant #							
Placing							

CONTENT (50 pts)

Does the book consist of:

Goals agreement form (5 pts)							
Letter of commitment (5 pts)							
Biosecurity and welfare training certificate (25 pts)							
Do they have vaccination and feeding schedules, explanations of why procedures occurred, shipping/delivery information, etc.? (15 pts)							

NEATNESS (20 pts)

Is the book well organized, easy to follow and understand?							
Are the pages legible and easy to read?							

CREATIVITY (20 pts)

Is the book unique?							
Does it have pictures, illustrations, color, etc.?							

TIME AND EFFORT (10 pts)

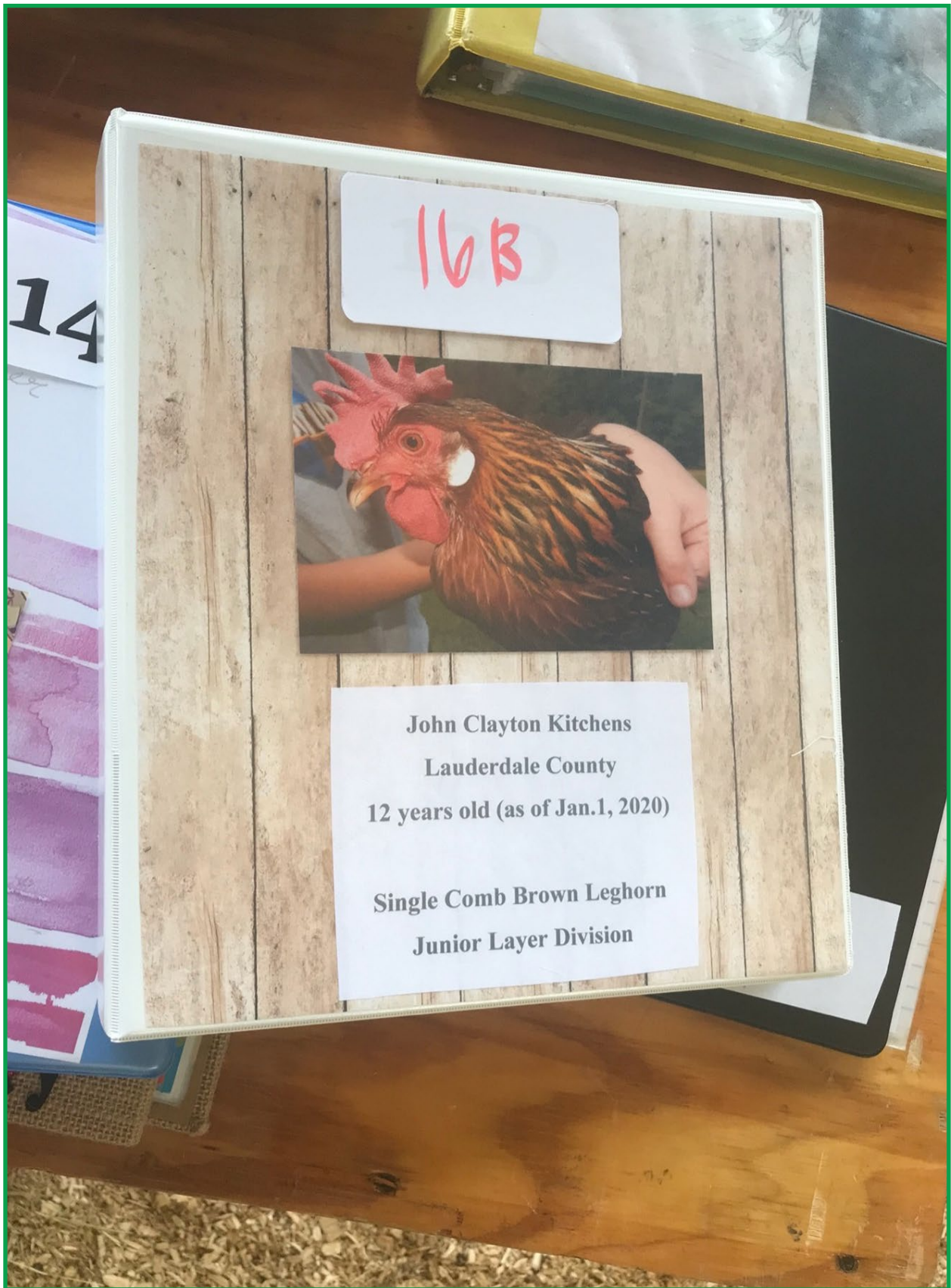
Was an ample amount of time and effort put into the project?							
Is the book appropriate to the age of the participant?							
TOTAL (100 pts)							

Pictures

These are example pictures. Use pictures from your project to illustrate what you did!







**John Clayton Kitchens
Lauderdale County
12 years old (as of Jan.1, 2020)**

**Single Comb Brown Leghorn
Junior Layer Division**



Publication 3934 (POD-03-25)

By **Tannah Christensen**, Extension Instructor, Poultry Science; Peyton Taylor, former Graduate Student; and Marissa Powell, former Graduate Student.

Copyright 2025 by Mississippi State University. All rights reserved. This publication may be copied and distributed without alteration for nonprofit educational purposes provided that credit is given to the Mississippi State University Extension Service.

Produced by Agricultural Communications.

Mississippi State University is an equal opportunity institution. Discrimination is prohibited in university employment, programs, or activities based on race, color, ethnicity, sex, pregnancy, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, or any other status to the extent protected by applicable law. Questions about equal opportunity programs or compliance should be directed to the Office of Civil Rights Compliance, 231 Famous Maroon Band Street, P.O. 6044, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

Extension Service of Mississippi State University, cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture.
Published in furtherance of Acts of Congress, May 8 and June 30, 1914. ANGUS L. CATCHOT JR., Director