



DeKalb County 4-H Chick-Chain



Poultry Project

How the Chick-Chain Works:

Livestock projects help teach youth responsibility while having fun. The chick-chain is a good 4-H project because the care for chicks is not as costly as the care for a horse or a calf. However, the chicks still require space, time, and money. Raising chickens is fun and rewarding, but be prepared to care for them.

If interested, you will be required to pay \$40.00 and receive 15 one day-old female chicks (there may be 1-2 roosters). You may purchase 2 groups of 15. The chicks will arrive in late spring, depending on the hatchery. You must care for the chicks and raise them throughout the summer. In October, you are expected to bring 3 pullets (young, female chickens) to a 4-H Chick-Chain Show and Sale. 4-H will keep monies from the sale, but you will get your deposit (\$40) back along with ribbons and prize money from the show. The remaining 12 pullets are yours to keep, sell, or even eat.

You will have 2 breed options: Golden Stars and Barred Rock. Both breeds lay brown eggs. You are encouraged to research both breeds before ordering!

If you fail to bring in 3 pullets to the show and sale, you forfeit your prize money and may not get to participate next year. We ask that you hold up your end of the deal so this project will continue.

Other 4-H Activities

Raising your chicks is just the start of your experiences in 4-H. You may be interested in some of our other fun activities like judging teams, animal shows, camps, conferences, and more!

For questions about raising chicks or more information on the 4-H Chick-Chain Project, please contact:

Leigh Fuson
615-597-4945
lfuson2@utk.edu



Points to Ponder....

- One of the most important things to remember is that you must provide a proper house or shelter to protect your chickens from the weather. Baby chicks have down, not feathers, so they need a heat source until feathers develop.
- By the time your pullets are 20 weeks old, each will require 4 square feet of floor space.
- Scratch grain and table scraps are not recommended. Birds fed scratch grains will not lay as many eggs as birds that are fed a well-balanced, complete protein feed.
- During the first 20 weeks, you can expect each pullet to eat about 20 pounds of feed.
- 70% of the cost of raising chickens is due to feed cost.
- Raising chickens can be a great way to provide eggs for your family and friends!
- Consider exhibiting your pullets at local fairs!



If you are interested in receiving 15 chicks this year and raising them for a 4-H Project, please mail the attached order form and deposit to:

**DeKalb County Extension
722 S. Congress Blvd
Smithville, TN 37166
615-597-4945**

You may also bring it by the Extension office at the address above. The chicks will be ordered on **Friday, February 4th, 2022.** Please have your orders placed before this date to be included in the project this year.

Do not take your chick-chain form and money back to school!



4H EXTENSION **TSU** **COOPERATIVE**
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

4-H Member's Name: _____ Grade: _____ School: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Email Address: _____

Phone 1: _____ Phone 2: _____

I would like to receive _____ group(s) of 15 chicks for my 4-H Chick-Chain Project for 2021 at a cost of \$40.00 for each group. (Limit 2 groups per 4-H member)

I would like (circle one): Golden Star Barred Rock One of Each (\$80)