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VIRGINIA'S 4-H POULTRY PROGRAM

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VIRGINIA'S 4-H POULTRY PROGRAM

Purpose: The Virginia 4-H poultry program has two primary purposes. The first is to assist and strengthen the Cooperative Extension Service's total efforts to provide boys and girls of club age useful learning experiences and opportunities to continue to develop desirable leadership talents, character, and citizenship traits. The second is to construct a program that will aid in preparing many more young men and women for careers in the poultry industry.

Objectives: The following objectives have been selected to fulfill the purposes of this program.

1. Offer a program of study that will afford 4-H club members wide and varied opportunities to:
 - a. Learn the importance of the poultry industry in the state and national economy.
 - b. Acquire information and skill in the efficient production of poultry and poultry products.
 - c. Improve their knowledge of grading, marketing, and merchandising of poultry and poultry products.
 - d. Improve their knowledge of the nutritive value of poultry meat and eggs and their contribution toward health.
 - e. Appreciate and use scientific information in poultry production and marketing.
2. Assist 4-H members in exploring career opportunities in poultry and allied industries.
3. Show 4-H members the need for trained personnel in the poultry industry and challenge them to prepare themselves for roles of leadership and service in this industry.
4. Develop poultry projects and activities related to them that will provide opportunities for the development of leadership, character, and citizenship.

I. Sears Pullet Chain

- A. Availability - Limited - A maximum of 12 counties can carry this project at present. This is the total number that have been approved by the Sears-Roebuck Foundation which sponsors the project.
- B. Requirements
1. A county must have at least one chain. A chain for this project is defined as 10 4-H Club members or a major fraction thereof.
 2. Each club member is generally expected to buy 100 straight run (male and female) chicks or 50 pullets. However, agents and leaders are asked to adjust the number of chickens to suit the member facilities. No member shall take less than 25 birds.
 3. The county will receive approximately \$150 per chain as a Revolving Fund with which to make the entire purchase of the chicks for all club members. This permits the agent in charge of the chain to order and pay for the chicks at one time. Club members receiving chicks reimburse the Revolving Fund by one of the following ways:
 - a. Agents and leaders are to organize a county show and auction sale. Club members return 10 pullets to the show to be exhibited and sold at auction. The proceeds of the auction are deposited to the Revolving Fund.
 - b. The member repays for chicks by October 1, after he or she has received some income from the project.
 4. Each project must be scored to determine the award each member is entitled to receive. A field score of the project, a record book score, and an exhibit score are combined to determine this award. Those in charge of the county program shall determine the weight to be given to the above factors. This can differ from county to county and chain to chain, as the needs dictate.

The field score may be given when the pullets are 12 to 20 weeks of age. The older the flock, the better. Exhibit scores are given at the time of exhibition and the record book scores are given at the end of the project year.

C. Some Suggested Lessons to be Taught

1. Breed - Standard and Commercial
2. Housing for Poultry
 - a. 4-H projects
 - b. Commercial enterprises
3. Poultry equipment and its use
4. Cleaning and disinfecting
5. Major feed ingredients and their function
6. Feeding programs
7. Lights and lighting programs
8. Egg Quality and care
9. Health of the poultry flock
 - a. Sanitation
 - b. Vaccination
 - c. External parasites
 - d. Internal parasites
10. Judging pullets and hens for egg production qualities
11. The poultry industry
 - a. Amount of poultry produced
 - (1) In your county
 - (2) State
 - (3) Nation
 - b. The various phases of the poultry industry
 - c. Allied industries
12. How to keep records

NOTE: Some of the lessons will have to be broken down into two or more lessons in order to do an effective teaching job.

D. Knowledge and skills to be acquired -

Projects involving production of live animals cannot be broken down into units whereby the younger members may study the simple

first and then the more complex. For example, a pullet matures in 6 months and has finished her useful life in 20 months. The club member can be exposed to a maximum of 6 to 10 lessons during the same period of time. Yet, because he started with a baby chick, he is confronted with all the problems from brooding the chicks to caring for eggs. The member is confronted by both the simple and complex in a very short time. Therefore, teach all of the basics (simple and complex), but carefully gauge the depth that the subject is taught. How to wash and disinfect a feeder can be taught in detail (all there is to know) to 10-12 year old members. Whereas you would only teach how many hours light a layer is supposed to have to this group; the effects of light and lighting systems would be taught to older members.

The teaching objective, therefore, is to train the 4-H member in skills and assist him to acquire knowledge and understanding as his abilities and training time will permit.

After 4 or more years in this project, a club member should:

1. Be proficient in managing a flock of chickens
2. Be proficient in caring for and marketing eggs
3. Be proficient in determining a good and poor layer
4. Have a good understanding of the poultry industry
5. Explore career possibilities in the poultry industry

E. Materials needed to conduct project

1. Revolving fund
2. Record book #40
3. Teaching materials
 - a. Lesson plans with visual aids; specialist will prepare several but not a complete set

F. Activities and awards

1. Participate in poultry judging, egg grading, demonstrations and any other educational events in connection with this project.

2. Awards are as follows:

a. Cash awards for completion of project:

Blue Ribbon	\$8.00
Red Ribbon	\$6.00
White Ribbon	\$4.00

Prize money and ribbons are awarded on the Danish System. The club member will receive the award to which the score entitles him or her. The agent and leaders in each county are to determine the minimum score for each award. This is necessary in order to allow for variation by different individuals doing the scoring and for conditions that cause variations in the quality of the projects from county to county.

3. 4-H Club members who are 14 on or before January 1, and will not have their 18th birthday before January 1 of the contest year may compete for:

a. In-state trips

- (1) District and state contests as a county team in poultry judging, egg grading, or demonstrations
- (2) State Poultry Federation Convention because of achievement

b. Out-of-state trips

- (1) State Poultry judging team goes to Chicago to compete in the National Contest
- (2) First place achievement winner goes to Chicago to participate in Club Congress
- (3) Egg grading team and second and third achievement winners go to Kansas City to participate in the Junior Fact Finding Conference.
- (4) The second state poultry judging team and state winner in the Demonstration Contests attend the NEPPCO Convention to participate in the Youth Program of NEPPCO.

NOTE: There are many 4-H poultry members who do not live in counties which have the Sears sponsored Pullet Chain but do carry projects of a similar nature. These, of course, are bona fide 4-H projects. The Sears sponsorship does not apply. However, such members are eligible to compete for all other awards. Any bona fide 4-H member who meets the specific requirements can participate in poultry judging contests. Demonstration contests, however, require the member to carry a qualifying project.

II. Sears Chick-N-Que

- A. Availability Unlimited - This is another Sears sponsored project which requires the funding of money for educational expense money. This is a consumer oriented project that is applicable to any 4-H member.

- B. Requirements
 1. A county should strive to have 10 or more in the Chick-N-Que Project.
 2. Each club member is required to:
 - a. Conduct a minimum of three chicken barbecues during the project year, at which not less than five persons are served.
 - b. Construct his or her own barbecue pit, grill, etc., from plans available from Extension Agents or buy the necessary equipment for conducting the required chick-n-ques if the club member's family does not own equipment already.
 - c. Keep the meat consumption record for the family for one month. The record for this is included in the record book (Record Book #46).
 - d. Each club member must receive at least one field score on his equipment, methods, and finished product. This score will be given by the supervising Extension Agent, a local leader, or some other qualified person. The score sheet is in the record book.

C. Some suggested lessons to be taught

1. Inspection of poultry meats for wholesomeness
2. Grades and grading of poultry meats as described by USDA standards for quality
3. Percent of yield for squabs, broilers, and turkeys
4. Prices - live poultry, wholesale of ready-to-cook poultry and retail of whole carcass and parts
5. Cut-up parts expressed as percentages of the whole carcass
6. Nutritive values of poultry meats
7. Tour of large production and processing operations and a large grocery store

D. Knowledge of skills to be acquired

1. Become proficient in barbecuing chicken, turkey, and other meats
2. Become skilled at cutting up chicken and turkey in a safe manner
3. Acquire knowledge about the poultry industry and other industries allied with poultry
4. Explore career opportunities in the poultry industry as a possible life vocation

E. Materials needed to conduct project

1. Record book #46
2. Sears-Roebuck Foundation funds and approval from the poultry specialist
3. One set of slides showing U.S. grades
4. Agriculture Handbooks #31 and #75 for each 4-H Club member and leader
5. Lesson plans with visual aids on the above subjects

F. Activities and awards

1. Activities are the same as for the Pullet Chain
2. Awards - County: Ribbons (Blue, Red, & White) awarded on the Danish System
District: Two \$20.00 scholarships to State 4-H Congress per district or the equivalent
State: Radio to winner of the State Contest

III. Commercial Poultry

A. Availability - Unlimited - However, this project is designed to assist those 4-H members who are sons or daughters of commercial producers.

B. Requirements

1. Have a written father and son (or daughter) agreement which will specify the club member's duties and compensation for the performance of these duties. The young member would perform only simple chores the first few years and progress in responsibility as he or she can assume them
2. The project may be broilers, commercial layers, turkeys, hatchery supply flocks, or any combination of these
3. Prepare a project report (report form is under study for this project to make it more suitable to the needs of the 4-H members). Until such is available, use Record Book #40.

C. Some suggested lessons to be taught

1. Breeds - standard and commercial
 - a. Chicken and turkeys
2. Commercial housing for turkeys or chickens
3. Poultry equipment suitable for large units for chickens and turkeys
4. Feed ingredients and their proper use
5. Feeding programs for chickens or turkeys
6. Light and lighting programs for poultry
7. Egg quality and care
8. Health programs
 - a. Sanitation
 - b. Vaccination
 - c. Internal parasites
 - d. External parasites
9. Cost of production of the enterprise
10. Record keeping and analyzing them
11. Explore other phases of the poultry industry

D. Knowledge or skills to be acquired

1. Many skills will be acquired while assisting parents with their enterprise. Some of the skills will be cleaning and sanitizing house and equipment, vaccinating, culling, moving large numbers of birds, setting the timeclocks, cleaning and grading eggs, and keeping records.
2. Knowledge acquired may consist of the meaning of such things as rate of growth, feed conversion, cost per unit, light intensity and its effects, effect of various feed ingredients, etc.
3. Learn of the opportunities for a vocational career in the many phases of the poultry industry.

E. Materials needed to conduct the project

1. Father and son agreement
2. Record book
3. Teaching material
 - a. Lesson plans with visual aids

F. Activities and awards

1. May participate in all 4-H activities listed under the project.

IV. Rabbits

A. Availability - Unlimited - This project is available to all 4-H Club members.

B. Requirements (revised from Record Book #49)

1. Project should consist of a minimum of a buck and doe. However, one buck can service 10 does. Therefore, two or more 4-H members in one neighborhood may find it more profitable to purchase one buck between them.
2. Keep records (Record Book #49)

C. Some suggested lessons to be taught

1. Housing or hutches for rabbits
2. Equipment for rabbits
3. Feeding rabbits
 - a. Dry does
 - b. Pregnant and nursing does
 - c. Herd bucks
 - d. Young rabbits
4. Health
 - a. Sanitation
 - b. Disease and health control
5. Marketing
 - a. Slaughtering and skinning
 - b. Curing skins
 - c. Selling meat and skin
 - d. Selling live rabbit

D. Materials needed to conduct project

1. Record Book #49
2. Agriculture Handbook #309 - "Commercial Rabbit Raising"
3. Lesson plans with visual aids
4. Blueprints of rabbit hutches
5. A copy of the Standard of Perfection for breeds of rabbits

E. Activities and awards

1. No special activities or awards have been established for this project. However, those activities open to 4-H members generally are available to members in this project. County medals are available to 4-H members.

V. Fancy or Hobby Poultry

A. Availability - Unlimited

B. Requirements

1. Must have an adult volunteer leader(s). Virginia Poultry Breeder Club members will assist with project.
2. Size of project - 1 male and 2 females of the breed of the 4-H member's choice as a minimum to quality as a bona fide project. Three females are recommended.
3. Exhibit in at least two shows
4. Complete record book #40 or #41 which ever applies to the individuals project.

C. Some suggested lessons to be taught

1. Any of the lessons suggested under the Sears Pullet Chain project are suitable.
2. Force molting
3. Training show birds
4. Feeding show birds
5. Breeding for show

D. Knowledge or skills to be acquired

1. Become skilled in the techniques of artificial insemination
2. Become skilled in managing the hobby poultry project - breeding, feeding, incubation, sanitation, and housing
3. Become skilled in marketing live poultry and eggs
4. Become skilled in the techniques of exhibition
5. Gain knowledge in the sciences of breeding, feeding, managing of the flocks and incubation.

E. Materials needed to conduct project

1. Record Book #40 or #41
2. Copies of the Standard of Perfection of standard and bantam breeds
3. Housing plans suitable for this type of project

F. Activities and awards

1. May participate in all 4-H activities listed under the Pullet Chain project except the cash awards for that project.

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