



**A Guide to your First Year as a  
Poultry Leader**

**Prepared by  
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**Emerald Star Project 2002**

# First Meeting of your New Poultry Project

Written by Morgan Kirkland 2002

## Choosing a breed

**Production breeds-** Production breeds are known for the number of eggs they lay in a year and the quality of the eggs. Leghorns are the most common breed found for egg production.

**Meat breeds-** Chickens raised for meat are called broilers, fryers, or roasters. Meat breeds are bigger and grow faster than other breeds. Jersey Giants, Cochins, and Cornish are all examples of good meat birds.

**Ornamental breeds-** Ornamental breeds are used for showing. Such birds should not be crossbreeds. To show them at sanctioned shows they must be purebred. Any breed can be used for showing. The birds that are classified as ornamental include; Brahmas, Cochins, Polish, White Face Black Spanish and Frizzles.

**Dual-purpose breeds-** Dual-purpose breeds are used for both egg and meat production, they can be crossbred or purebred. Many breeds are bred for both meat and eggs, some include; Plymouth Rocks, Orpingtons, and Wyandottes.

**To show at sanctioned shows birds must be purebred.**

## Where to buy chicks

**Feed Store:** The chicks normally available at feed stores are not show quality. They are normally bred for meat or egg production.

**Breeders:** Breeders usually carry show quality birds. To find breeders you might want to subscribe to a poultry publication such as; the "Poultry Press" or attend one of the shows held locally, or statewide. Buying from breeders is your best bet for getting show quality birds

To subscribe to the "Poultry Press" call 1-765-827-0932

**Mail Order:** Mail order sources carry many breeds of chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, and quail. Check with the hatchery to see if they carry show quality birds. Two good mail order sources are "Murray McMurray Hatchery" and "Stromberg's Unlimited". The phone number to order a catalog from "Murray McMurray Hatchery" is 800-456-3280 or visit their website at [www.mcmurrayhatchery.com](http://www.mcmurrayhatchery.com). To order a "Stromberg's Unlimited" catalog call 1-800-720-1134 or online at [www.strombergschickens.com](http://www.strombergschickens.com).

## How many chicks to buy:

Determine the size of your housing space. A full grown, standard size chicken needs approximately 4 sq. ft of space. A grown bantam needs about 2 sq. ft. When the pen is the right size your poultry will be happy and healthy.

Determine how much equipment you can afford to obtain. Equipment can get expensive depending on the size of your flock. For your flock you need to have shelter, feeders, water containers, roosts and brooding boxes.

Figure out the cost of feed. Chickens waste much of their food, and they are almost always hungry. You will go through lots of feed with your fowl. An adult chicken eats 85-110 pounds of feed per year.

Will the fowl be for personal use or marketing? If you are using them for eggs for your family you probably will not need very many birds. About 1 bird per family member. If you plan on selling the eggs or meat for a profit you will need many chickens. Plan to replace your laying flock every 18 months or so.

Determine how much time you are willing to devote to your project. Chickens take a lot of time to care for, they need to be fed, watered, and cleaned up after. If you plan on showing your chickens you need to clean them up for shows and practice showmanship. For approximately 240 sq. ft. of pen, it takes 3 hours per week for cleaning.

**Before you get your chickens all these things need to be thought through.**

## When to Buy Chicks

**Spring or Fall for egg layers.** Your chickens will begin to lay when they are 4-8 months of age, so plan to purchase replacement pullets accordingly. We like to add chicks each spring to keep our flock continually laying. These spring chicks will start laying in the fall and continue through the winter while the older hens will slow down.

**Anytime for meat type birds-plan for 6-8 weeks to market.**

## Brooding Your Baby Chicks

Newly hatched chicks aren't entirely helpless, but until they grow a full complement of feathers, you'll need to keep them warm and dry, and protect them from dogs, cats, and other animals.

**Brooders-** A brooder is a place where chickens are temporarily raised until they have enough feathers to keep themselves warm. A brooder should provide:

- ~Adequate space
- ~Protection from predators
- ~Protection from moisture
- ~A reliable heat source
- ~Freedom from drafts
- ~Good ventilation

Brooders come in many sizes and styles. The style that is best for you will depend on how often you plan to raise chicks and how many you wish to brood at once.

**Heat-** A chick's body has little in the way of temperature control until the bird is about 20 days of age, when down starts giving way to feathers. Chicks tend to feather out more quickly in cooler weather, but if air temperatures are quite low, they may need auxiliary heat longer than chicks brooded in warmer weather. Chicks hatched in winter or early spring require brooder warmth for 8-12 weeks. Chicks hatched in late spring or early summer need 6-8 weeks.

Start the brooder temperature at 95 degrees and reduce it approximately 5 degrees each week until the brooder temperature is the same as room temperature. Chicks that aren't

warm enough, due either to insufficient heat or to draftiness, will crowd near the heat source and peep loudly. In an effort to get warm while they sleep, the chicks will pile up and smother each other. Chicks that are too warm move away from the heat, spend less time eating, and as a result grow more slowly. They'll pant and tend to crowd to the brooder's edges, perhaps smothering one another. Chicks that are warm and cozy wander freely throughout the brooding area and sleep side-by-side to create the appearance of a plush down carpet. (For more information on this topic refer to "A Guide to Raising Chickens" by Gail Damerow.)

## Housing Requirements

**You must provide shelter for your chickens.** Chickens need to be sheltered from rain and sun. Too much sun can cause discoloring of the feathers (called sunburn) and heat stroke. Your shelter does not need to be elaborate or expensive. Shelters need to have draft free ventilation and the fowl should have easy access to food and water. In our mild climate the shelter can be as simple as a tarp attached to a wooden fence. Your shelter and yard will probably need to be changed or added to as your flock grows.

**Food, water, and shelter are the 3 most important needs of a fowl.**

## Cleanliness

**Disinfect water containers-** Drinking containers need to be disinfected monthly and the water should be changed at least once a week. You can disinfect your containers by washing them in a mild bleach solution and rinsing thoroughly.

**Clean feeders-** When food sits in the feeder it can get wet and mold. The food needs to be disposed of if it gets moldy. Try to feed only what your chickens will eat daily. The feeders should be disinfected monthly.

**Clean pens and bedding-** Pens and bedding should be cleaned weekly. If the pens are not cleaned it can lead to many health problems for your flock. Two to three times a year your pens should be deep cleaned and all your equipment cleaned and disinfected. The more birds you have the more time it takes to clean.

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Poultry Meeting of your Poultry Project

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## Classes, Breeds, and Varieties

### Class

“The classifications for large breeds indicate their places of origin: American, Asiatic, English, Mediterranean, and Continental. Each large breed is listed in only one class. Bantams are classified according to certain characteristics: by whether or not they are game breeds, by their comb style, and by the presence or absence of leg feathering. Among bantams, the same breed may be represented in different classes by distinctive varieties.” (A Guide to Raising Chickens Gail Damerow pg.2) In poultry there are 6 classes of large standard chickens, and 5 bantam classes. There are 4 classes of ducks, 3 classes of geese, and 1 turkey class.

The 6 classes of standard size chickens are:

- American Class
- Asiatic Class
- English Class
- Mediterranean Class
- Continental Class
- All Other Standard Breeds Class

The 5 bantam classes include:

- Game Bantam Class
- Single Comb Clean Legged Class
- Rose Comb Clean Legged Class
- All Other Combs, Clean Legged Bantam Class
- Feather Legged Bantam Class

### Breed

“A breed is a group of related chickens having the same general size, shape, and carriage. Some bantam breeds are miniature versions of a corresponding large breed; others are distinctive breeds in their own right.” (A Guide to Raising Chickens” Gail Damerow pg.1)

### Variety

“Most breeds are broken down into varieties, categories based on color but sometimes on feather placement or comb style. Leghorns are an example of a breed that comes in different colors and different comb styles. Among the possibilities are buff, black, or silver with either single or rose combs.” (A Guide to Raising Chickens” Gail Damerow pg.2) A variety is a subdivision of a breed.

When filling out show entry forms, it is especially important to know the difference between class, breed, and variety. If you enter your birds in the wrong division you can be disqualified. Please familiarize yourself and your members with 'The APA Standard of Perfection.'

## Cock, Cockerel, Hen, and Pullet

Cocks are male chickens 1 year of age and older. Cockerels are male chickens under one year of age. Hens are female chickens 1 year of age and older, and Pullets are young female chickens under one year of age.

## Grading Eggs: A Demonstration

Take a store bought egg and a fresh egg from your flock. Break the eggs onto different plates. What are the differences? The first difference you should notice is the color of the yolk. The store bought egg's yolk is probably a yellowish color while the fresh egg's yolk is probably an orange color. Another difference is the way the yolk of the fresh egg stays on top of the white, and the white stands up on the plate. Now take a look at the shells, the healthier the bird the thicker the shell. What other differences do you see?

Ask your members to think of other demonstrations they could give for your next meeting. They need to do four demonstrations to receive credit towards their bronze star.

## Breeds in Classes

### Large Breeds

#### American Class

Plymouth Rocks – Dominiques – Wyandottes – Javas – Rhode Island Reds – Rhode Island Whites – Buckeyes – Chanteclers – Jersey Giants – Lamonas – New Hampshires – Hollands – Delawares

#### Asiatic Class

Brahmas – Cochins – Langshans

#### English Class

Dorkings – RedCaps – Cornish – Orpingtons – Sussex – Australorps

#### Mediterranean Class

Leghorns – Minorcas – Spanish – Andalusians – Anconas – Sicilian Buttercups – Catalanas

#### Continental Class

Continental (North Europe)

Hamburgs – Campines – Lakenvelders – Barnvelders – Welsummers

Continental (Polish)

Polish: Bearded – Non-Bearded

Continental (French)

Houdans – Faverolles – Crevecoeurs – La Fleche

#### All other Standard Breeds Class

Oriental

Malayes – Sumatras – Aseels – Shamos – Yokohamas – Phoenix – Cubalayas

Miscellaneous

Sultans – Frizzles – Naked Necks – Araucanas – Ameraucanas

Games

Modern – Old English

### Bantams

#### Game Bantam Class

Modern – Groupings

#### Single Comb Clean Legged Other than Game Bantam Class (SCCL)

Anonas – Andalusians – Australorps – Catalanas – Campines – Delawares – Dorkings – Dutch – Frizzles – Hollands – Japanese – Javas – Jersey Giants – Lakenvelders – Lamonas – Leghorns – Minorcas – Naked Necks – New Hampshires – Orpingtons – Phoenix – Plymouth Rocks – Rhode Island Reds – Spanish – Sussex

#### Rose Comb Clean Legged Bantam Class (RCCL)

Anconas – Belgian Bearded d'Anvers – Dorkings – Dominiques – Hamburgs – Leghorns – Minorcas – Red Caps – Rhode Islands – Rosecombs – Sebrights – Wyandottes

#### All other Combs, Clean Legged, Bantam Class (AOCCL)

Ameraucanas – Araucanas – Buckeyes – Chanteclers – Cornish – Crevecoeurs – Cubalayas – Houdans – La Fleche – Malays – Polish – Shamos – Sicilian Buttercups – Sumatras – Yokohamas

#### Feather Legged Bantam Class

Booted – Brahmas – Cochins – Faverolles – Frizzles – Langshans – Silkies – Sultans

# Chickens

By: Morgan Kirkland

Do you know how many breeds and varieties of chickens there are in America? Like most animals, chickens are categorized into classes, breeds, and varieties. There are six different classes and many breeds. Identifying chickens by class, breed, and variety becomes most important when showing chickens.

The American class has thirteen breeds and thirty-one varieties. The first breed in the American class to be admitted into the American Poultry Standard was the barred variety of Plymouth Rocks. Barred Plymouth Rocks were officially recognized in 1874.

Brahmas, Cochins, and Langshans; those are the only three breeds in the Asiatic class. The Asiatic class is the smallest class with only 3 breeds and fifteen varieties.

Next is the English class with six different breeds. Out of those six breeds, there are seventeen varieties. The reason the class is called the English class is because the breeds originated from England.

The Mediterranean class does not have very many breeds, but what it doesn't have in breeds it makes up for in varieties. In the Mediterranean class, there are seven breeds and twenty-seven varieties! The Leghorn breed alone has sixteen varieties.

The Continental class is broken down into three groups; Continental-North European, Continental-Polish, and Continental-French. In the North European section there are five breeds and eleven varieties. The Polish section has one breed and eleven varieties. There are four breeds and six varieties in the French section. So in the entire Continental class there are ten breeds and twenty-eight varieties.

All Other Standard Breeds is the last class. It, like the Continental class, is broken down into three groups. They are; All Other Standard Breeds-Game, All Other Standard Breeds-Oriental, and All Other Standard Breeds-Miscellaneous. There are a total of fourteen breeds and sixty-six varieties, making it the largest class!

There are fifty-three breeds and 184 varieties of large fowl officially recognized in America and you could raise and show any of them. Just make sure that when you go to show chickens you put them in the right breed and in the right class!



# Third Poultry Meeting

## Health

There are many ways to tell if a chicken is healthy. By watching for seven basic signs you can keep your flock healthy.

Watch for:

- ~Bright red combs and wattles
- ~Bright alert eyes
- ~Clean nostrils
- ~Clear breathing
- ~Full meaty breast
- ~Eating and drinking regularly
- ~Shiny Feathers

There are eight basic ways to tell if your chicken is sick.

They are:

- ~Dull colored comb and wattles
- ~Dull eyes
- ~Watery eyes
- ~Not eating or drinking
- ~Runny Stool
- ~Listless or unsteady walking
- ~Thin around breast
- ~Wheezing or difficulty breathing

## Eggs

A good laying hen produces about 20 dozen eggs in her first year. At about 18 months, she'll take a break to molt. After the molt, she'll lay bigger eggs than before, but fewer of them. During her second year, she'll average between 16 and 18 dozen. A healthy hen should lay for a good 10 to 12 years. As a general rule, hens with white ear lobes lay white eggs and hens with red ear lobes lay brown eggs. Exceptions to the red ear lobe rule are Crevecoeur, Dorking, Lamona, Redcap, and Sumatra, which lay white-shelled eggs and Araucana, and Ameraucana, which lay blue-green eggs. The average incubation period of a fertilized egg is 21 days.

## Feed

Rations for chicks contain a high amount of protein. As birds grow, they gradually need less protein and more starch. The choices you have in rations will depend a good deal on where you live. Some choices include:

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| ~Chick rations        | ~Lay rations       |
| Medicated starter     | 16 percent protein |
| Non-medicated starter | 18percent protein  |
| ~Broiler ration       | ~Breeder ration    |
| Grower                |                    |
| Finisher              |                    |
| ~Pullet ration        | ~Scratch grains    |
| Grower                |                    |

Chick starter is for newly hatched chicks. The medicated version is designed to prevent coccidiosis, the most common cause of death among chicks.

Broiler grower is designed for meat birds 3 to 4 weeks of age; finisher helps with their final fleshing out.

Pullet grower and developer are designed to help replacement pullets grow into top-notch layers.

A balanced lay ration for mature hens contains 16 percent protein, plus all the other nutrients layers need to keep up with egg production. In areas where temperatures soar during summer, an 18 percent formulation helps keep hens laying when hot weather causes them to eat less.

While lay ration is sufficient for egg production, it does not contain all the nutrients necessary for good hatchability. Breeder ration contains the high protein and other extra nutrients needed for production of hatching eggs.

Chickens love scratch – A mixture containing at least two kinds of grain, one of them usually cracked corn. Scratch has many functions. It may be used as a training device: throw down a handful while saying “here chick, chick, chick” and your chickens will soon learn to come when you call. Scratch can be used to trick chickens into stirring up their coop’s bedding to keep it loose and dry. Scratch gives range-fed layers an extra energy boost and helps to raise plump, tasty corn-fed broilers. It can also be used to reduce the protein content in a maintenance diet for cocks, thus reducing the cost of feeding them.

Like people, chickens have preferences for the food they eat. When you feed your flock a mixture of scratch grains, some may eat it all, some may leave the milo, and some may pick out only the corn. Avoid mixtures containing barley. Even if your chickens eat it, they will find it hard to digest. During the winter when a flock needs more energy to stay warm, increase the scratch ration. In summer when energy needs go down, reduce the scratch or switch to whole oats. Preliminary studies in Nebraska and elsewhere show that feeding oats to hens minimizes heat stress and improves egg production in hot weather.

## First Aid Kit

When going to shows it is always important to take a first aid kit for your birds. You never know just what your bird may get into at a show. It could fight with the bird in the next pen or get caught on something that isn’t supposed to be in its coop. There are a few supplies that should go in your first aid kit.

Peroxide or alcohol: To clean wounds

Q-tips: For any little clean up or for applying the peroxide

Antibiotics

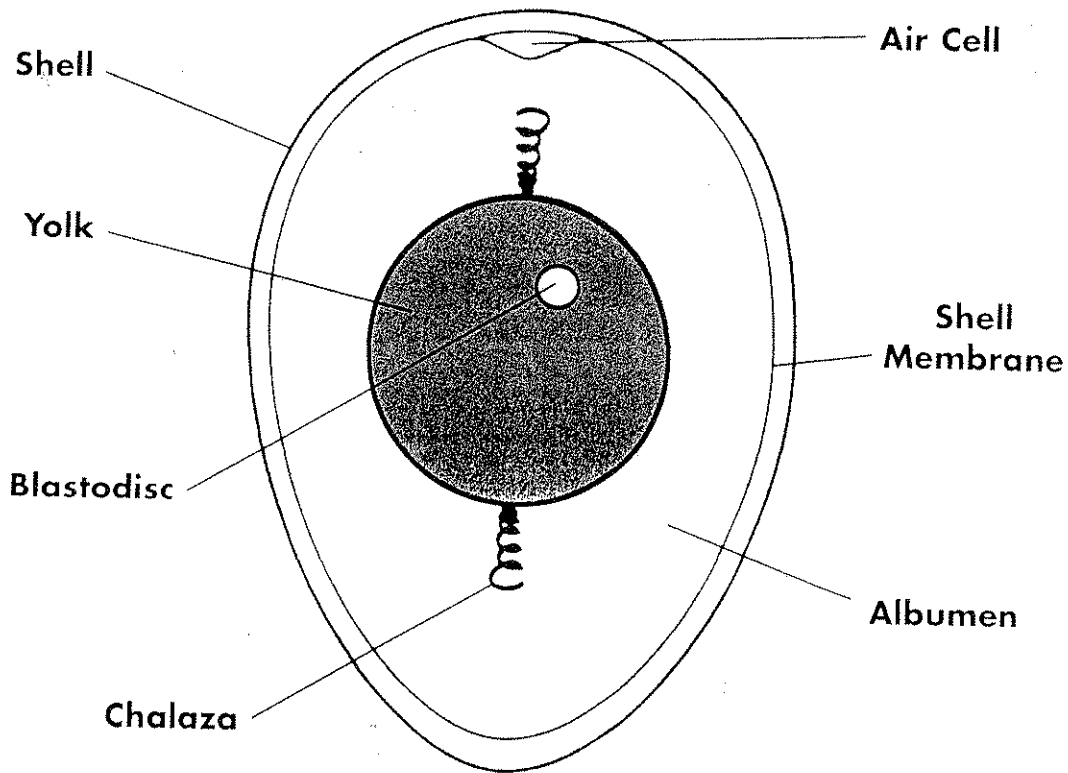
Toenail clippers: For long overgrown toenails.

Bandages: For unexpected cuts

Blood Stop: For when you cut the toenails too short or the bird gets cut and the bleeding won’t stop.

Rag: To clean up the bird

# What's Inside an Egg?



**Shell:** Outer covering of egg, composed largely of calcium carbonate. Provides protection to the rest of the egg.

**Yolk:** Yellow portion of egg. Major source of vitamins, minerals and fat.

**Blastodisc:** Location in which an embryo will develop if the egg is fertilized. If fertilized, called a blastoderm.

**Chalaza:** Cord-like strand in albumen. Anchors yolk in center of egg.

**Air Cell:** Pocket of air formed at large end of egg. Caused by contraction of the contents during cooling after laying.

**Shell Membrane:** Two paper-like membranes. Protective barriers against bacterial penetration.

**Albumen:** Clear-like portion of egg. Major source of egg riboflavin and protein. Provides protein to the growing embryo and cushions the embryo during the development. Also protects against microbes.

California Egg Commission  
1150 N. Mountain Ave., Suite 114  
Upland, CA 91786  
Phone (909) 981-4923  
Fax (909) 946-5563  
E-Mail DYEB99A@Prodigy.com  
<http://www.cagc.com>

# Fourth Poultry Meeting

## Grooming your fowl

Grooming your fowl is important to keep your flock healthy. Bathing your fowl helps get rid of bugs, such as; lice, ticks, and mites. Grooming your fowl is something that should be done about 1 week before a show. If you do not plan on showing it should be done every few months. Here are instructions on grooming your fowl,

### Supplies:

3 wash tubs or large buckets	Terry Towels
A mild detergent (Dog shampoo works well)	Soft Brush
½ cup of vinegar	Toothpicks
Bluing agent for whitening ( <b>only for white birds</b> )	Vaseline
A sponge	

**Tub #1:** Add water and mild detergent. Use a sponge; washing in the natural direction of the feathers to prevent breakage. Immerse the bird, but not the head, in the water. Use the sponge to wash the birds.

**Tub #2:** Add water and ½ cup of vinegar. Immerse the bird in the same way as before and rinse completely in this water. The vinegar is used to cut the soap. If soap is left on the feathers the feathers will become very dry and will not fluff.

**Tub #3:** Add water and bluing (enough to color the water.) Or you may use a little Clorox. This is to whiten feathers. **DO NOT USE THIS ON COLORED BIRDS.**

### Drying:

Using a terry cloth towel can speed up drying your poultry. Dry by patting the feathers. If it is extremely warm birds can be placed in a clean pen and will dry naturally.

### Legs and Feet:

To clean legs and toes use a soft toothbrush being careful not to tear scales. A toothpick may be used to remove dirt impacted under the toes.

### Dressing Up:

To make their beaks, combs, wattles, and legs more attractive, apply Vaseline and rub it on gently.

When the bird is completely dry it is sometimes a good idea to dust them with a poultry approved insecticide.

(This makes a great demonstration!)

## Ducks

Ducks are divided into 4 classes. There are a total of 14 breeds, and many varieties.

### Heavy Weight Class

Pekin.....	White
Aylesbury.....	White
Rouen	
Muscovy.....	White
	Black
	Blue
	Chocolate

### Medium Weight Class

Cayuga.....	Black
Crested.....	White
	Black
Swedish.....	Blue
Buff.....	Buff

### Light Weight Class

Runner.....	Fawn & White
	White
	Penciled
	Black
	Buff
	Chocolate
	Cumberland Blue
	Gray
Campbell.....	Khaki
Magpie.....	Black & White
	Blue & White

### Bantam (Duck Class)

Call.....	Gray
	White
	Blue
	Snowy
	Buff
	Pastel
East Indie.....	Black
Mallard.....	Gray
	Snowy

## Drakes and Ducks

The name for a male duck is a drake, and females are called ducks. Young ducks are called ducklings.

## Turkeys

There is only 1 breed of turkey.

### BREEDS

Turkey.....

### VARIETIES

Bronze

Narragansett

White Holland

Black

Slate

Bourbon Red

Beltsville Small White

Royal Palm

## Tom vs. Hen

Toms are male turkeys, and hens are female turkeys. Young turkeys are called poults.

## Geese

There are 3 classes of geese, and a total of 11 breeds.

### Heavy Class

Toulouse.....Gray

Buff

Emden (Emden).....White

African.....Brown

White

### Medium Class

Sebastopol.....White

Pilgrim.....Sex-linked

American Buff.....Buff

Saddleback Pomeranian.....Gray

Buff

### Light Class

Chinese (China).....Brown

White

Tufted Roman.....White

Canada.....Eastern (Common)

Egyptian.....Colored (Brown)

## **Gander and Goose**

A gander is a male goose, adult if over one year of age, young if under one year. A goose is specifically, a female specimen of domestic geese. Young geese up until feathers have completely replaced their down are called goslings.

Example: Old Gander            Young Gander  
          Old Goose            Young Goose

## **Protecting your birds from heat and cold**

To prevent frostbite:

- ~Reduce humidity by improving ventilation and removing damp patches of litter.
- ~Eliminate drafts by filling cracks and crevices in walls.
- ~Install perches in the least drafty part of the coop.
- ~ Lower the ceiling to within 2 feet of perches to keep body heat close to the birds *or* install a heat lamp. Enclose the heat lamp in a sturdy wire guard so it can't be damaged in the event of a collision with an airborne chicken.
- ~Feed a small amount of scratch in the morning to kindle body warmth.
- ~Coat combs and wattles with petroleum jelly as insulation against frozen moisture in the air.

Remember to check water dishes often to make sure they have not frozen.

To reduce the risk of heat stress, just follow a few simple precautions:

- ~As water consumption goes up, increase the number of watering stations.
- ~Frequently fill water dishes with cool water.
- ~Keep water cool by placing water containers in the shade.
- ~Open windows and doors or install a ceiling fan to increase air movement.
- ~Do not confine birds to hot spaces such as trapnests or cages in direct sunlight or where ventilation is poor.
- ~Provide plenty of shade where birds can rest, if necessary, put up an awning or tarp.
- ~Hose down the coop roof and outside walls several times a day.

~Lightly mist adult birds (never chicks) when the temperature is high and humidity is low. You can set up a mister system for this.

When temperatures reach 104 degrees Fahrenheit or above, chickens can't lose excess heat fast enough to maintain the proper body temperature, and deaths occur.



# Handout

## Ducks

“Ducks are not only popular for exhibition purposes, but useful and profitable for the production of meat and eggs. The many variations in size, type, and color patterns give breeders of ducks a wide range from which to choose a variety most suited to their desires. From the large, heavily-meated White Pekin to the racy Runner or from the large White Aylesbury or the massive, beautiful Rouen to the tiny Call and the East Indie, there is ample variety from which to choose.

The Crested ducks capitalize on a unique feature to give them a distinctive appearance. While not considered a top commercial duck they do offer their owners a breeding challenge with good recovery for the family table.

The Muscovy originated in South America. It is a distinct race, and when crossed with other races of ducks its progeny is sterile. The period of incubation for eggs of this variety is thirty-five days instead of twenty-eight, as other races of ducks. The difference in size of drakes and ducks is remarkable, as the males are much larger than the females. The Runners are very distinctive in type, in fact, type is the most important characteristics of the breed. In judging Runners the typical shape must be given first consideration. A ringed-in enclosure may be used when judging a Runner so they can be judged “on the move” for correct carriage and gait. Runners move with quickstep, quite unlike the waddle of other ducks.

East Indies and Calls are the bantams of the duck family. They should be small in size, although type should not be sacrificed for smallness.

During the summer, old drakes with the color pattern of the Gray Runner, Mallard, Rouen and Gray Call shed their showy male plumage and take on a plumage resembling that of the female. In the fall, they molt again and take on the adult plumage. Young drakes also carry the less showy female color before they take on adult plumage. English Magpie Ducks are quite similar in type to Khaki Campbells, share their English origin and like the Campbells are high-egg yield, triple-purpose breed.

The skin of all domesticated races of ducks is more or less yellow, with the possible exception of the Aylesbury and Muscovy, the skins of which are pinkish white.

Indian Runners produce white eggs, although tinted eggs are common in some strains. Runner ducks are the greatest layers, known for the weight and number of eggs produced yearly. The Cayuga and the Black East Indie lay a very characteristic egg. When production begins the eggs are practically black, but as production progresses the black pigment more or less disappears and the eggs are blue. The Rouen egg is blue-shelled, although white-shelled eggs are not uncommon.

The larger breeds of ducks are noted for their market and table qualities.”  
(American Standard of Perfection 1998 pg.305)

## Fifth Poultry Meeting

During this meeting you will be using information taken from two different sources. Fowl Pox as written by Gail Damerow in her book "The Chicken Health Handbook" and a drawing by an unknown artist that will help you teach chicken anatomy.

Fowl Pox is a common avian disease in the San Joaquin Valley. Knowing prevention techniques and incubation periods can help prevent and control this disease.

This is also the meeting where you should teach chicken anatomy. I have enclosed a drawing by an unknown artist to help you with this. This is the same drawing that is used for the Silver Level Testing process in Kern County.

### **Selecting Poultry for Exhibition**

Handle the birds in your flock to get them used to being handled. When picking up the bird you will need to cradle the body in your palm with your index finger between the legs. Your thumb should be on one side of the body and your pinky on the other side.

Examine each bird for signs of health, freedom from lice and mites, conformation and maturity. A cockerel or pullet must be at least 6 months old for exhibition. When putting your bird in a cage always put the head in first and when taking the bird out of the cage always bring the head out first.

# Fowl Pox

Taken from The Chicken Health Handbook by Gail Damerow

## Pox

Pox in chickens (not at all the same as chicken pox in humans) occurs when the pox virus gets into wounds caused by insect bites, dubbing, fighting, cannibalism, or injury on poorly designed equipment. Fowl pox appears in two forms: dry pox affecting the skin (cutaneous form) and wet pox affecting the upper respiratory tract (diphtheric form).

Dry pox causes clear or whitish bumps on the comb, wattles, and other unfeathered portions of the body. The bumps eventually come together to form scabs, fall off, and leave scars. Wet pox causes yellowish bumps in the mouth, throat, and windpipe, sometimes affecting the bird's ability to breathe so that it dies from suffocation. In either case, survivors recover in 4 to 5 weeks.

In pox prone areas, disease may be controlled through vaccination and by controlling mites and mosquitoes.

Page 296. Dry Pox incubation -- 4 to 14 days; Spreads slowly and lasts 3 to 5 weeks in individual birds.

*Cause* -- pox virus that affects a wide variety of birds and survives for many months on scabs and feathers of infected birds.

*Transmission* -- Through skin wounds (due to insect bites, dubbing, fighting, cannibalism, or other injury); spreads by means of feathers and scabs from infected birds; spread mechanically by mites, mosquitoes, and wild birds; may spread from infected breeders to chicks through hatching eggs, causing disease when infected birds come under stress.

*Prevention* -- defies good management; control mites and mosquitoes; vaccinate where pox is prevalent (on day-old chicks, use only vaccine designated for chicks); if large number of vaccination sites do not swell and scab over within 7 to 10 days, revaccinate with new batch of vaccine; since pox spreads slowly, it may be checked by vaccinating while disease is in progress.

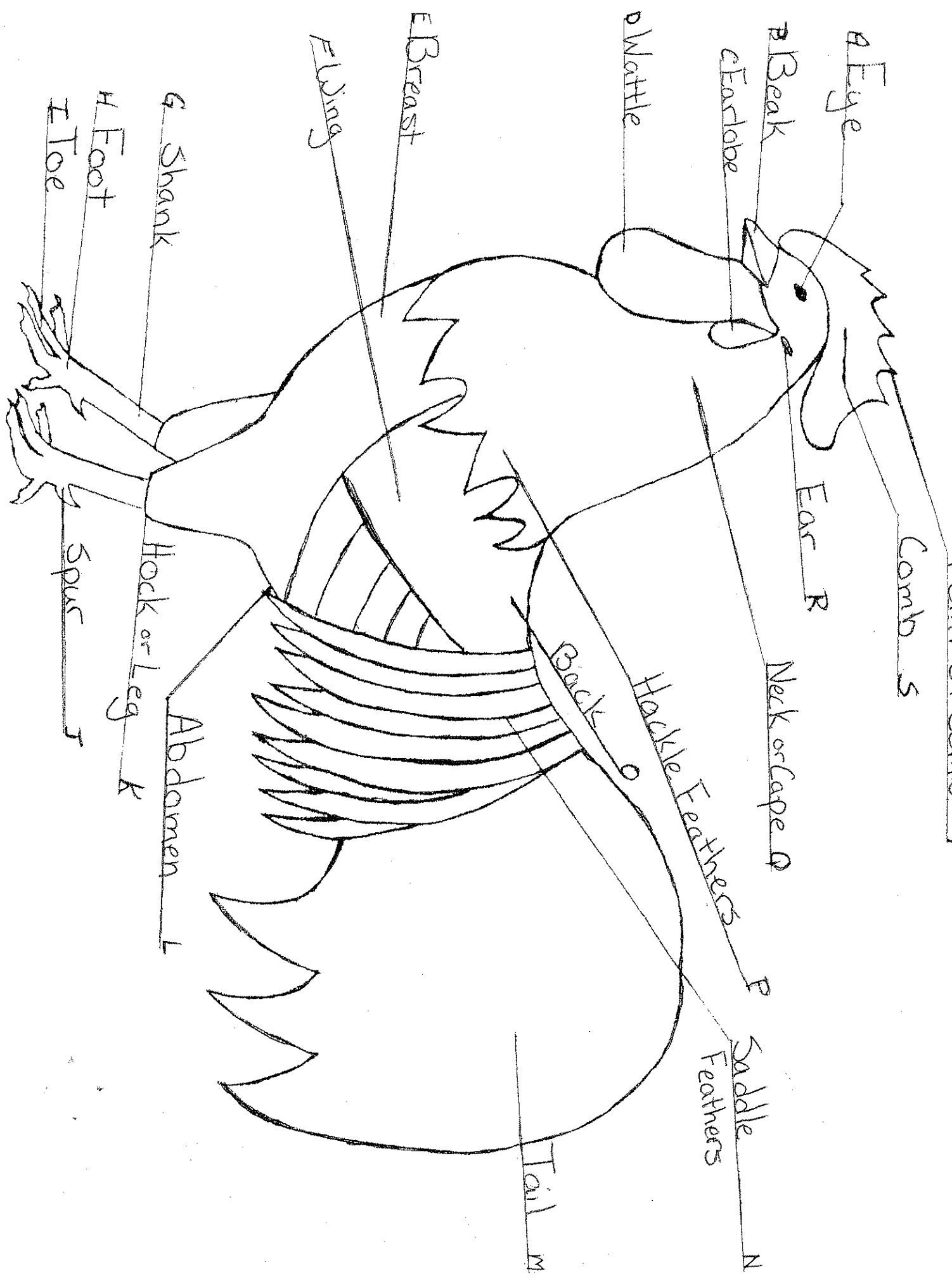
*Treatment* -- none; isolate infected birds in uncrowded housing; removes scabs around mouth and eyes so birds can eat; prevent secondary infection with 300 mg oxytetracycline (Terramycin) per gallon of drinking water for 3 days followed by vitamin supplement in water; infected birds naturally recover in 2 to 4 weeks and are immune (but some remain carriers and may become reinfected during molt and other times of stress); thoroughly clean housing after outbreak to remove all infected scabs.

Chicken Anatomy



Answer Sheet

Point of Comb T



## 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Your Poultry Project

Your sixth meeting should be used to help members complete their records for their record books. 4-H Rules require members to submit a record book to their community leader in order to be eligible to show livestock at the fair. The form Kern County has developed for the Poultry Project is 7 pages long. This report form is mandatory for all senior members. Junior members may submit the regular Project Report Form if they wish. Remember that it is wise to get your members started out keeping good records.

The first page should just list the date of the project meetings, what they did and learned at these meetings. Try to have them list at least one thing they learned at each meeting. For example:

9-17-02 Project Meeting- I learned how to brood baby chicks.

Page number 2 is for keeping track of how many hours they spend on their project. Have them keep a working copy of this form somewhere handy so that they can update it frequently. List any shows, including fairs and field days that they enter birds or compete in showmanship.

Page 3 is for expenses and income on their project. Raising poultry costs money. Everything spent on their food, water or shelter should be included here. They should also include expenses for the birds themselves. The income section should include birds sold and eggs sold. They can include the eggs used by the family in this section. Just figure the amount that would have been spent at the market on each dozen and use Mom and Dad as the customers.

Page 4 is where you list the assets. Watering cans and feeders are assets as well as the coop. Remember that equipment loses value as it gets older.

Page 5 is your record for recording how many eggs you get each day. They can keep this on the refrigerator and update it as they put away the eggs.

Page 6 is where you list disease, worming, etc. This page also includes a breeding report. If you have not done any breeding, write "Not Applicable" in one of the boxes.

Page 7 is the 'be creative' section. This is where you can put stickers, drawings, creative memory type photos, just stay within the lines on the page. Do not confuse this page with the three pages of labeled pictures that you can add at the end of your yearly records. Those CANNOT be done in memory book fashion. They must not be cut into fancy shapes, etc.

# Kern County Annual 4-H Poultry Report

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Year in Project \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **PROJECT MEETING RECORD**

Date	Explain what you did and learned at these project meetings.

Will you take this project again next year?    YES \_\_\_\_\_    NO \_\_\_\_\_

If YES why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





**MONTHLY EXPENSE RECORD**

Date	Description	Amount
<b>Total Amount Spent</b>		

**MONTHLY INCOME RECORD**

Date	Description	Amount
<b>Total Amount Earned</b>		

<b>Total Amount Earned</b>	
<b>Minus Total Amount Spent</b>	
<b>Total Profit or Loss</b>	

**TOTAL ASSETS**

Description	Amount Paid	Years Owned	Value Today
<b>Totals</b>			

**DAILY EGG RECORD**

*Month*

*Year*

Date	Eggs Laid	Eggs Lost	Eggs Sold	Hatching Eggs	Hens Died	Hens Added	Hens Sold	Total Hens
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								
21								
22								
23								
24								
25								
26								
27								
28								
29								
30								
31								
<b>Totals</b>								

Average number of laying hens (Divide)

$$\frac{\text{Total number of hens first day of month} + \text{Total number of hens last day of month}}{2} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Number of eggs per hen (Divide)

$$\frac{\text{Total number of eggs laid}}{\text{Average number of laying hens}} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Percent Production (Divide)

$$\frac{\text{Total number of eggs laid}}{\text{Average number of laying hens} \times \text{days in month}} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$



**PROJECT SUPPLEMENTARY RECORD**

**Organize this section in your own style to fit your project. *Be Creative!***

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