Do you love animals? Do you have a little extra space in your yard? Would you like to learn about money management? The 4-H Chick Chain may be right for you!

4-H POULTRY PROJECT CHICK CHAIN PROGRAM

The Chick Chain Program is designed to give an opportunity for new and existing 4-H members 3rd grade and above in the Poultry Project to learn more about raising backyard chickens. Youth have an opportunity to learn life skills while having fun learning about chickens and the poultry industry.

This year, the Poultry Club, along with sponsors, will be awarding 10 brown egg layer chicks to five 4-H participants that qualify for the program. Chicks will be purchased from Hoover Hatchery and will be properly vaccinated.

Registration will need to be received by March 10, 2016.

“The Chick Chain is basically a poultry-raising project for youth, but it’s more than that. It’s an excellent program to introduce youngsters to animal agriculture, and it teaches them discipline and a variety of production skills as well: poultry management basics, business management fundamentals, record-keeping skills, and home food production techniques, not to mention pride of accomplishment.”
HOW DOES THE CHICK CHAIN WORK?

- Each child will receive 10 Brown egg layer chicks in March after application is accepted.
- Your child and at least one parent will have to attend the orientation and pick-up meeting about how to raise your chickens at home.
- Through the 4-H Poultry Club, you will receive information and training on how to properly care, show, and process your chickens.
- You will feed and care for your chicks until the 2016 Crow Wing County Fair. At the fair, you will return with 2 of your birds to show in the proper 4-H class.
- After the fair, you may choose to keep your birds, process, or sell them - the choice is yours.
- Part of your responsibility to the chick chain is that you agree to show birds at the fair, unless there is an accident or illness, and contact is made with the chick chain administrator to update the status of your birds.

WHY CHICKENS?

A 4-H Chick Chain is a fun, easy, and inexpensive way to get started with chickens. Chickens are easy to raise. The concept of a chain using Brown egg layer chickens means:

1. These are a long term bird to keep for years to come if you decide.
2. You and your child will learn how to grow eggs in your own back yard.
3. If you choose not to keep your chickens, we have access to an excellent poultry processor in the area that will work closely with you to help make the poultry processing easy and stress free.
4. Isa Brown and Black sexlink/star chickens are easy to keep, show, and are gentle.

WHEN DO I GET MY CHICKS?

Chick pick up and orientation day will be sometime in March. We are working with a hatchery to determine the exact day.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Fill out attached Application. The Registration deadline is March 10, 2016.

OTHER 4-H STATES AND COUNTIES THAT HAVE CHICK CHAIN PROGRAMS, LINKS AND INFO:

https://extension.tennessee.edu/hamilton/Pages/Chick-Chain.aspx
http://www.poultry.msstate.edu/extension/4h.asp
http://www.aces.edu/4-H-youth/AL4-H/4hprojects/animalscienceprojects/poultry/index.php
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Northeast-Alabama-4-H-Chick-Chain/484045071657363
http://wake.ces.ncsu.edu/2014/02/4-h-chick-chain-poultry-project/
http://www.clemson.edu/extension/county/bamberg/programs/4h/4h_projects/poultry-project/
2016 COUNTY 4-H CHICK CHAIN REGISTRATION FORM

- I would like to participate in the 2016 4-H Chick Chain and receive 10 Brown egg layer chickens. By signing this application, I agree to attend the orientation/chick pick-up, raise the chicks to the best of my ability, and return 2 chickens to show during the Crow Wing County Fair 4-H Poultry show. I also agree to join and attend the CWC 4-H Poultry Club meetings (at least 3) for proper education and support on the 1st Tuesday of each month @ 6:30pm.

- I also agree that I will contact the Poultry Club if any unforeseen incident or illness should prevent my bringing 2 chickens to the CWC Fair 4-H Poultry show. I understand that if I do not follow through with this agreement that I will not be eligible for the Chick Chain program next year and I will need to reimburse the Poultry Club for the cost of my chicks.

4-H Member’s Name:______________________________________________________________
Address:___________________________________________________________________________
City:______________________________  Zip:___________________________________________
Home Phone:______________________  Cell Phone:____________________________________
Daytime Phone (a number to be reached during day when chicks arrive)____________________
Birthdate:__________________________  Grade:_________________________________________
Email Address: ____________________________
4-H Member’s Signature:____________________________________________________________
Parent’s Signature:_______________________________________________________________

Return by March 10, 2016 to: CWC Poultry Club 7305 Dressage Rd. Brainerd, MN 56401
or by email: michellebernatsky@gmail.com or to the 4-H office.

Please check these qualifications:

_____ I am enrolled in 4-H. (New members welcome! To join 4-H contact the Extension office)
_____ I am enrolled in the Poultry Project and the CWC 4-H Poultry Club. (Attending 3 meetings)
_____ I am the appropriate age. (Cloverbuds are not old enough to show, therefore not old enough for the chick chain.)