

# 4-H poultry project offers teens chance to earn money

COLLEGE PARK, MD — Most U.S. teen-agers work at part-time jobs these days because they like the independent feeling they get from earning their own money. But those living in rural areas — whether farm or non-farm residents — should investigate the opportunity to be their own boss, and earn money, too.

One way to do this is by enrolling in a 4-H poultry project.

Charles J. Wabeck, Extension poultry products specialist for the University of Maryland, reports that the 4-H poultry program offers a worthwhile learning experience. Dr. Wabeck notes that there are a number of projects from which to choose, and most can be handled in a relatively small amount of space.

The 4-H broiler project began in March. Participants may enroll in either the small flock or commercial phase.

In the small flock program, each person rears from 25 to 100 birds — carrying them from baby chicks to market weight at seven weeks of age. Only a limited amount of space is needed, and the cost of rearing each broiler averages about \$1.

Records are kept. At the end of the project, the record book is judged. Selected dressed birds may also compete for prizes at a district 4-H broiler show.

Young persons living on commercial broiler farms may enroll in the commercial 4-H broiler project. Each participant assists with rearing of a large commercial flock, learns about the commercial broiler industry, and submits a commercial flock record book. Individual dressed birds may also be entered for judging in a county or district 4-H broiler show.

Interested in rearing meat birds for the holiday season? The 4-H capon and turkey meat projects offer an excellent opportunity to rear birds that can be sold on the

fresh market at holiday time. There is nothing more appealing than a fresh capon or turkey on the table for Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner.

Producing fresh eggs for home use, or for sale to friends and relatives, is a direct benefit of the year-round 4-H egg project. It can also be a bonus from the 4-H purebred poultry program.

Female chicks may be purchased in the spring from a reliable hatchery. By fall, with proper management, the birds will be producing eggs. Started pullets at 20 weeks of age can be purchased on a limited basis for persons who may not wish to rear the chicks themselves.

In the 4-H purebred poultry project, participants can purchase chicks of many shapes and sizes. Surplus birds may be sold for meat, and the remainder utilized as a show flock for competition at county and state fairs. Hens in the show flock also provide a reliable source of fresh eggs on a year-round basis.

If you have limited space, keep in mind that a 10 x 10-foot area will house up to 50 bantam chickens or 25 large birds. The "Maryland 4-H Purebred Poultry Project" manual, published just last year, gives detailed instructions on housing and management.

For those who like the unusual, specialty birds can provide an interesting 4-H project. Rearing pheasants, quail, ducks, geese or peafowl can be both profitable and educational.

Want more information? Check with 4-H agents representing the University of Maryland's Cooperative Extension Service in every Maryland county and in Baltimore. They can provide free literature and project books as well as sources of stock for 4-H poultry projects.

## Do your own farm profile

NEWARK, DE — "Much of the information available on farm financial management is either too simple to be of much use, or far too complex for anyone but an accountant to understand," says University of Delaware extension economist Gerald Vaughn. "But I think we've found a financial tool for farmers that's just right. It's the best I've seen."

The tool Vaughn's talking about is called a "Farm Financial Profile" — a 34-page do-it-yourself aid which can help farm operators understand their farm businesses more fully. The document was adapted to Delaware conditions from a publication under the same title prepared by extension agricultural economists at the University of Georgia.

The "Farm Financial Profile" is intended to be self-teaching and can be completed in only a few days. "With it," says Vaughn, "farmers can determine their economic status and its trend over time. They can project their expected income and outflow of cash from their current operation and evaluate alternatives which may improve their economic situation. They'll have a more realistic view of their current financial status.

And they'll be in a better position to work with their lender when borrowed capital is necessary to keep the farming operation going and to make needed changes.."

Copies of the Delaware "Farm Financial Profile" are available from county extension offices in Newark (451-2506), Dover (736-1448) and Georgetown (856-7303).

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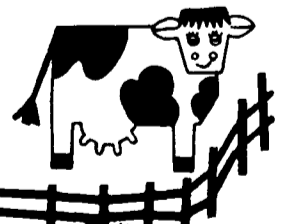
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