



December 17, 2020

## 4-H Chick Chain Project

Dear 4-H'er enrolled in the poultry project, you are eligible to participate in the 4-H **Chick Chain Project**. Here is how it works:

1. At a cost of **\$72.00** you will receive 24 one-day-old chicks or you can select **12** birds for **\$36.00**. Another option is to select 12 of one breed and 12 of another breed for **\$72.00** which you agree to raise until they are about five months old. They will arrive sometime in March. These birds are all production egg layers. All orders will receive two extra birds of a special breed at no cost thanks to donors of the Knox County Poultry Project.
2. You would then bring six of your 24 pullets or 3 of your 12 to our county show in July 24, 2021; where they will be judged and prize money awarded according to **Grand, Reserve, Blue** and **Red** placing.
3. The show pullets would then be auctioned off with the money going to you. The remainder of your pullets are yours to keep. Many 4-H'ers start selling eggs as a business or sell off extra birds.
4. This is an interesting, fun, and fairly simple project to do if you follow the directions you will receive. We will have an orientation meeting on how to raise and care for your birds. You will receive more information after we receive your order form.
5. Questions about raising birds? These are volunteer leaders in this project and have many years experience with the poultry project who will be glad to help you.

### IF INTERESTED, WHAT YOU NEED TO DO!

1. Fill out the enclosed form.
2. Return the form to our office by **Monday, February 1st, 2021**. Sooner is better, there is a limit to the number of 4-H'ers allowed to take this project.
3. Enclose a check in the amount of \$72.00, or \$36.00, per option shown above. Make checks payable to UT Extension Knox County.
4. Attend a mandatory orientation meeting, (4-H'ers, and at least 1 adult). The time and date will be announced at a later date.
5. Check the "Do You Qualify for the 4-H Chick Chain Project" enclosed flyer before you apply.

Sincerely,

Sharon Ann Davis, Extension Agent  
cc: Danny Bullington, David McDaniel

**Barred Rock:** Developed in New England in the early 1800's by crossing Dominique and black Java, it has spread to every part of the U.S. and is an ideal American chicken. Prolific layers of brown eggs, the hens are not discouraged by cold weather.

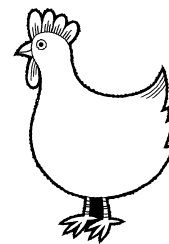
**Red Sex Link:** The Red Sex Link is the result of crossing a white heavy with a red heavy breed. Pullets hatch out red or buff and can mature out to a red or buff with white tinted under color depending on the cross. Red Sex Links are extremely rugged brown egg layer.

**Black Sex Link:** The Black Sex Link is the result of crossing two purebred heavy breeds. Mature females will be black with some red or gold feathering around the neck and breast. Sex Links are extremely rugged brown egg layer.

**Rhode Island Reds:** Developed in the early part of this century, in the state of the same name, they have maintained their reputation as a dual purpose fowl through the years. They have outstanding production qualities.

**RETURN TO:**

Sharon Ann Davis  
City County Building  
400 Main Street, Suite 560  
Knoxville, TN 37902



**RETURN BY Monday, February 1, 2021**

I would like twenty-four (24) chicks which I will raise to the best of my ability and will return six (6) pullets to the show on July 24, 2021. I promise to feed and care for the chicks according to the 4-H recommendations.

I would like twelve (12) chicks which I will raise to the best of my ability and will return three (3) pullets to the show on July 24, 2021. I promise to feed and care for the chicks according to the 4-H recommendations.

I prefer the following: (if you are selecting 12 of one breed and 12 of another, write 12 in front of the breeds you want). \*You cannot split an order of 12 chicks.

\_\_\_ Barred Rocks \_\_\_ Black Sex Links \_\_\_ Red Sex Links \_\_\_ Rhode Island Reds

I have enclosed **\$72.00** \_\_\_ or **\$36.00** \_\_\_ (Order without payment **will not** be processed.)

**Make Checks Payable To: UT Extension Knox County 4-H**

4-H Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# Do I Qualify for the Knox County 4-H Chick Chain Project?

Below is some FAQ's that 4-H'ers and parents have about the Knox County 4-H Chick Chain Project. If you need more information, please call Sharon Davis at 215-2340.

## Can You Raise Chickens Where You Live?

A 4-H'er who lives in the county can own as many chickens as they can comfortably house (2 square feet per bird), feed, and water. Chickens must not be a nuisance with noise, damage to others property, etc. and therefore must be properly contained to your property. Homeowner association rules supersede this policy so check with your homeowners association if you have one. A 4-H'er who lives within the city of Knoxville limits may only have six full grown hens. An annual permit is required to keep these hens at a cost of \$25.00. A one-time \$50.00 fee is required for the construction of a henhouse and its inspection. If you have questions, please call the City of Knoxville Animal Control at 215-8640. 4-H'ers who live within other city limits need to check with the proper authorities.

## Housing

Your chicks will require sufficient housing from 1 day to about four weeks to six weeks in a brooder. A brooder can be constructed out of a box with a heat lamp and the chicks can be moved to the henhouse only when they are fully feathered. Your henhouse needs to provide 2 square feet of floor space per bird. Therefore, 24 birds will require a henhouse around a seven by seven foot henhouse that is well ventilated and provides sunlight. Your henhouse will need to be cleaned regularly to prevent disease.

## Food

Starter/Grower feed is required until the pullets start laying eggs at around 4-5 months of age. A 50 pound bag costs around \$17.00. During the first 4 months each pullet will eat around 20 pounds of feed. So if a 4-H'er received 24 birds, that would be around 480 pounds of feed or about 10 bags of starter/grower for a feed cost of about \$170 over the first four months.

## Water

Your pullets will require fresh water at ALL TIMES! This means you will need to make sure their waterer(s) are full each day. Will you be able to feed and water your pullets every day especially in extreme cold or hot temperatures?

## Time

The best laying hens are the calmest ones. This means you will need to spend time with your chicks especially when they are young getting them used to being handled. Pullets who are not handled regularly become timid and stress easily. They typically do not do well at the show and sale which means less money for you when you sell your birds!

## Where Can I Get Help With My Chick Chain Project?

Before your chicks arrive, we will have a meeting to help you prepare for your baby chicks. After that, we will have monthly meetings to update you on what to prepare for next. We have wonderful volunteers in this project who are dedicated to making this project fun and exciting for you! Also, you will be provided with phone numbers of the volunteers to call when you have questions.

