



Poultry  
**1**

# Scratching the Surface



## Poultry Project Activity Guide



Name \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_



REVIEWED & RECOMMENDED  
National 4-H Curriculum



**C**ongratulations! A young person has asked you to be his/her poultry project helper. As a helper you are in a great position to help youth grow and develop in positive ways as they learn about poultry and about themselves. You can nurture and cultivate their interest in this project by guiding their planning, helping them carry out their projects and recognizing them for a job well done.

## Your Role

- Become familiar with the material in this activity guide and the Helper's Guide
- Support youth in their efforts to set goals and complete each achievement program
- Date and initial the activities on the Poultry Achievement Program as the youth completes them and the two of you discuss them
- Help them to get to know themselves, including their strengths and weaknesses
- Encourage the use of the experiential learning cycle described on this page

## The Poultry "Skills for Life" Series

This guide, *Scratching the Surface*, is the first in the series of three for youth, that also includes Poultry 2 *Testing Your Wings*, Poultry 3 *Flocking Together* and the *Poultry Group Activity Helper's Guide*. The three youth guides have been designed to be developmentally appropriate for grades 3-4, 5-7 and 6-9 respectively, but may be used by youth in any grade based on their project skills and expertise.

All activities have several parts: A description of the skills to be practiced, discussion questions, suggestions for additional activities and other helpful information. The "Success Indicator" for each activity is an excellent way to evaluate the youth's success. Each of the guides also includes an achievement program to encourage youth to learn more about poultry while developing important life skills. In the Helper's Guide you will find another evaluation piece titled "Evaluating the Impact." Use this before beginning each level and after the youth has completed each level; this tool will help you assess the educational impact of each book of activities.

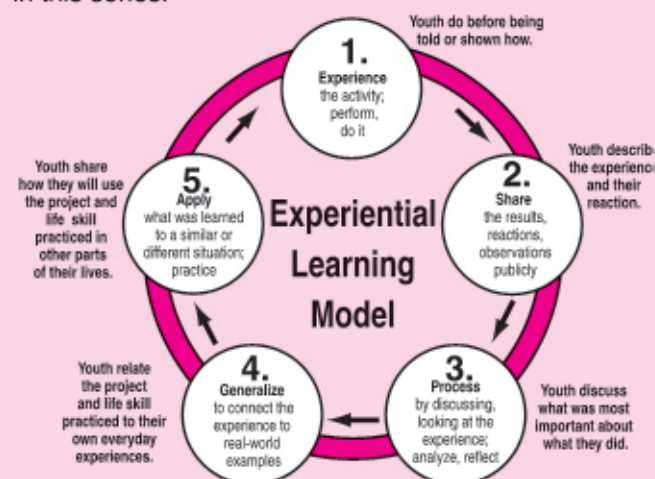
Each activity is designed so the young person has an opportunity to learn by doing before being told or shown how. Your challenge is to "sit on your hands" while the youth explores the activity and learns from the experience, even when it doesn't work the way it's expected to. You can help most effectively by listening as the young person considers the questions and draws conclusions. At times the activity may call for you to be a resource person for content or ideas.

## Poultry Helper's Guide

The fourth publication in this series, Poultry Helper's Guide, provides additional learn-by-doing activities that can be adapted to the family, the classroom, after school child care, 4-H project groups, clubs or other groups. You'll also find helpful hints about characteristics of youth, life skill development, teaching experientially, club meeting ideas, as well as answers to many of the activities in the youth guides.

## Experiential Learning Model

This five-step model is utilized in each activity in this series.



Pfeiffer, J.W., & Jones, J.E., "Reference Guide to Handbooks and Annuals" © 1983 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. Reprinted with permission of John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

As you can see, the youth first attempt the activity on their own. After the youth do as much as they can and answer the questions, you then meet together and discuss: What did they do? What was important about what they did? How does what they did relate to their lives? And finally, how might they use the life and project skills practiced in the future? Your ability to ask

additional thought-provoking questions and to clarify and expand the youth's ideas will add to the educational experience.



## Acknowledgements

**Revision Team:** This revision of the four poultry activity guides was accomplished by the Poultry Design Team comprised of Susan Kerr, DVM, PhD, WA, Coordinator; Phillip J. Clauer, PA; Richard Reynnells, PhD, WA, DC; Dennis Jeney, WA; Linda J. Williams, WA; Emily Troyer, KY; Francine Bradley, PhD, CA; David Owen, WA; Carl Richards, PhD, PA; Fred Zillich, MO; Lynanne DeGarmo, KS; Jeff Buhr, GA; Jesse Lyons, PhD, MO; Mary Delany, CA; and Tom Zurcher, PhD, MI.

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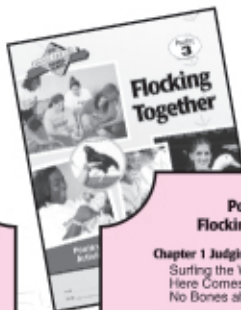
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For more on poultry...look for these other guides in this set.



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Higher and Hiner
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#### Poultry Helper's Guide

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Poultry Meeting Ideas
Poultry 1, 2 and 3 Answer Key
Evaluating the Impact





**A**re you ready to learn more about poultry? Whether you raise birds for eggs, meat or show, this activity guide is for you!

Through the activities in this guide, you will have many interesting and exciting challenges. You'll learn about poultry parts, breeds, cost of raising poultry, how to care for your poultry and much, much more. If you don't already have poultry, some of the activities will help you decide whether or not you want to take poultry as a 4-H project.

Here are some things you'll get to do in Poultry 1-*Scratching the Surface*:

- Identify parts of a bird
- Describe breeds of poultry
- Select an appropriate breed
- Select pullets
- Examine an egg
- Prepare an egg recipe
- Identify feather patterns
- Discuss values and ethics
- Design poultry housing
- Expand your poultry vocabulary
- Handle a bird properly
- Practice playing poultry judge
- Select poultry rations



Each activity asks you to do something. Don't be afraid to jump in, and don't give up if the activity doesn't work the first time. You're still learning, right? The most important thing is to try. Once you try, talk with your helper about what happened or didn't happen and why.

Learning about poultry isn't all you will be doing. You'll also be learning about yourself. Many of the things you'll learn are skills you'll use in other areas of your life such as decision making, communicating with others and being an effective leader.



## Poultry 1 Project Guidelines

- Set your goals and record project highlights.
- Do a minimum of seven activities in the *Scratching the Surface* Poultry Achievement Program each year and complete the Program within three years.
- Participate in a minimum of three of the learning experiences listed on the Planning Guide each year.
- Practice and develop the life skills of relating to others, making decisions, learning to learn and communicating with others and other life skills.
- Increase your poultry knowledge and skills.

## Poultry Achievement Program

While you are having fun doing the activities, you'll also be completing Level 1 of the Poultry Achievement Program. A level is included in each of the poultry project activity guides. This program will help you set goals, record your successes and be recognized for your good work.

## Your Project Helper

On your team supporting you and making learning more fun is your project helper. This person may be a parent, poultry breeder, project leader or advisor, a neighbor or an older friend who knows about poultry. The choice is yours. As you do the activities, you'll discuss with your helper what you did and the questions in the "*Share with your helper*" part of each activity. Sometimes your helper will work with you to identify resources, including people, Internet sites, organizations, events, magazines and books necessary to complete an activity. Once you have successfully completed each activity, your helper will date and initial your achievement program. Write the name, phone number and E-mail address of your project helper here:

My Project Helper \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

**Good luck and have fun with Poultry 1 –  
*Scratching the Surface***

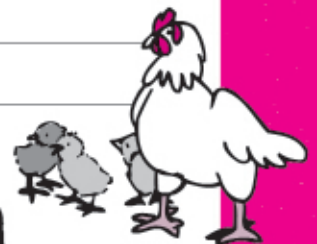


# Scratching the Surface Planning Guide

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Year	Year	Year	Activity
			Give a demonstration
			Tour a poultry farm
			Attend a poultry project meeting
			Attend a poultry show
			Exhibit at a fair
			Attend a poultry clinic
			Participate in a poultry skillathon
			Be a member of a poultry quiz bowl or judging team
			Hatch eggs
			Participate in poultry showmanship
			My choice

Handwriting practice lines with three large pink arrows pointing left, indicating the direction of writing.



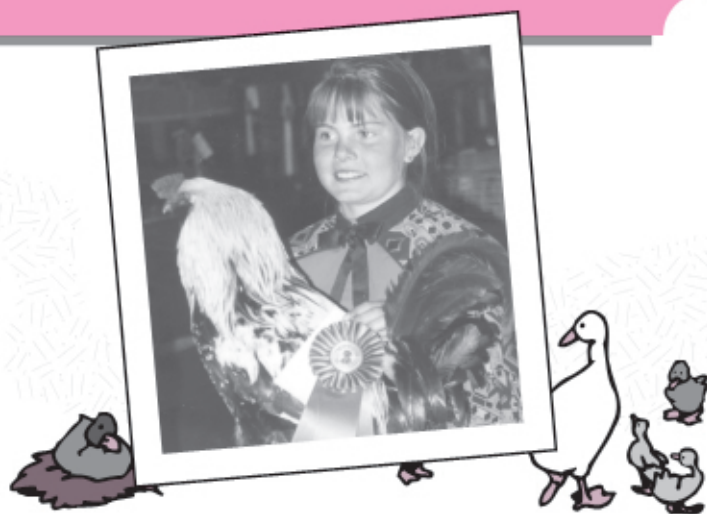


### Directions

1. Do at least seven of the *Scratching the Surface* and Eggstra Challenges activities each year.
2. Complete at least 21 of the *Scratching the Surface* and Eggstra Challenges activities within three year to complete this achievement program.
3. Have your project helper date and initial the activities as you complete them and discuss them.

## Scratching the Surface Activities

	Date Completed	Helper's Initials
<b>Chapter 1 – Selecting and Judging Poultry</b>		
Snood or Spur?		
Pickin' Poultry		
Fine Feathered Fowl		
Most PotHENTial		
<b>Chapter 2 – Investigating Poultry Products</b>		
This is No Yolk		
Green Eggs and Ham		
Light As a Feather		
<b>Chapter 3 - Raising Poultry</b>		
Coming Home to Roost		
Talk the Talk		
Chicken Feed		
<b>Chapter 4 - Showing Poultry</b>		
A Bird in the Hand		
It All Comes Out in the Wash		
Starring in Showmanship		



## Eggstra Challenges

Select and do any of the Eggstra Challenges activities in *Scratching the Surface* or make up your own. For each one you complete show the page and number and your helper's initials.

[illegible]

Write your own activity here.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Helper's Initials \_\_\_\_\_

Write your own activity here.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Helper's Initials \_\_\_\_\_

Write your own activity here.

Date	Helper's Initials
------	-------------------



Level 1  
Completion

# Scratching the Surface

## Completion Certificate

I certify that



\_\_\_\_\_

has completed all requirements of the  
*Scratching the Surface* Achievement Program in the  
4-H "Skills for Life" Series.

Helper's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Place a picture of you  
with your poultry here.





# Snood or Spur?

## Life Skill:

Learning to learn through games

## Poultry Project Skill:

Identifying poultry parts

## Success Indicator:

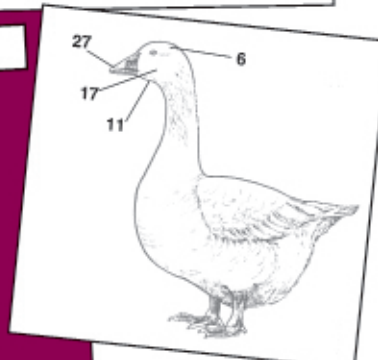
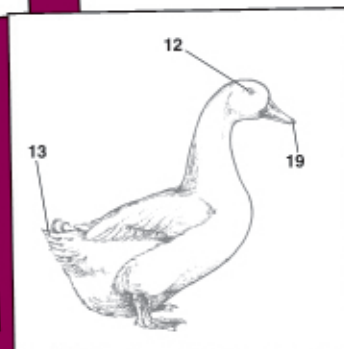
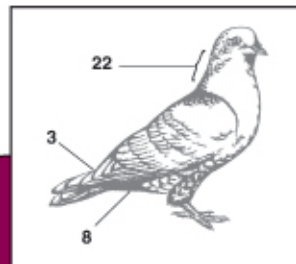
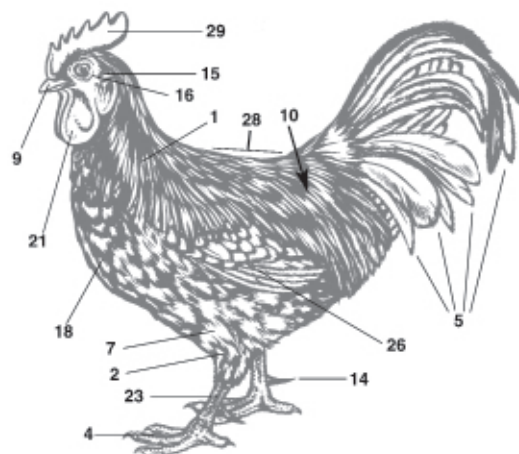
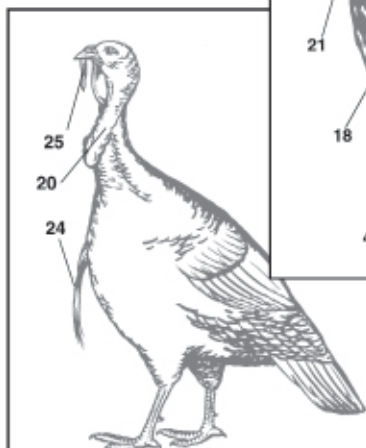
Completes the poultry parts crossword puzzle.

**O**n which end of the bird is its vent? Should you be more wary of a spur or a snood? How many toes should a bird have? After completing this activity, you'll be able to answer these questions, point

to the correct part when a judge asks you and understand what parts are being discussed. You'll also be able to answer the famous question, "Do chickens have lips?"

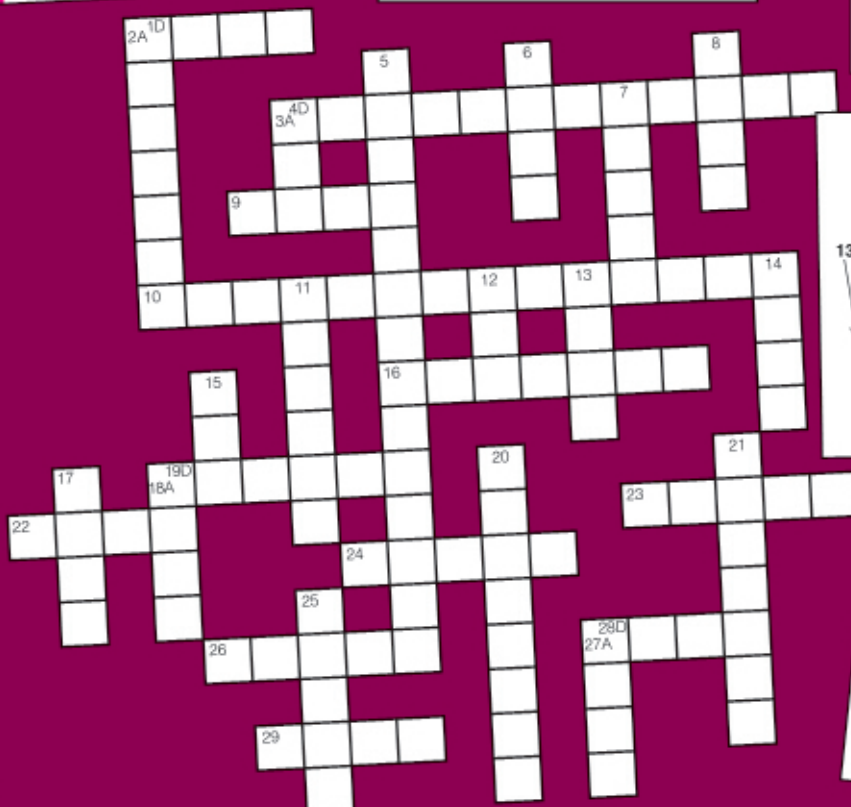
## Crack the Case

Complete the crossword puzzle using poultry parts terms found in the Poultry Parts Word Bank. Each word corresponds to one of the numbered parts on the various bird diagrams. Find the correct number on the puzzle and write the word in. Before you know it, you'll know all about bird parts!



## Poultry Parts Word Bank

back  
beak  
bean  
beard  
bill  
breast  
caruncle  
comb  
dewlap  
ear  
eye  
eye ring  
face  
hackles  
head  
hock  
nape of neck  
saddle  
feathers  
shank  
sickle  
feathers  
snood  
spur  
tail  
tail feathers  
thigh  
toe  
vent  
wattles  
wings



### Crowing time

- What parts are the same on all species?
- What parts are different?

### Grinding out what's important

- How did you learn the parts you didn't know?
- Why is it important to know the name of each part of a bird?

### Hatching ideas

- How do you remember new things?

### Flapping your wings

- How will you learn about other aspects of poultry?

**Bird Words** • Caruncle • Snood • Vent

### Bird Banter

- There are seven types of combs: single, rose, pea comb, V-shaped, strawberry, buttercup and cushion.
- The hock of a bird corresponds to a person's heel.
- Birds have a single opening for the excretion of both feces and urine.
- Goats have wattles, too!

**Resources:**  
Poultry Standard of Perfection  
See Poultry Resources, page 36



Explore more at  
[www.4-hcurriculum.org](http://www.4-hcurriculum.org)

National 4-H Curriculum



## Fowl Facts

### Parts of a Bird

When you are getting started with poultry one of the first things to learn is the parts of birds. This is an important foundation for the rest of your poultry-related learning. Also, knowing the parts of birds gives you a common language with others when they talk about birds. Knowing poultry parts and terms is especially important when you are reporting a problem to a veterinarian, talking with a poultry breeder or reading the *Poultry Standard of Perfection*. Also, showmanship judges will often ask you questions such as "Where is the vent?" "Where is the shank?" and "Does your bird have a caruncle?" You must know the names of parts to answer these questions and many others to excel at poultry showmanship.



Do chickens have lips?



### Eggstra Challenges

1. Make a poster of the parts of a bird and use it to give a demonstration
2. Obtain a *Poultry Standard of Perfection* and read what it says about each part of your bird.



# Pickin' Poultry

**Life Skill:**

**Poultry Project Skill:**

**Success Indicator:**

Learning to learn

Identifying breeds of poultry

Identifies different breeds of poultry.

**S**pecies, breeds, varieties...wow, there sure are lots of types of birds to learn about! How do you tackle learning about something new? In this activity you'll discover

resources that will help you learn about various breeds of poultry. This fun and important activity will help you gain knowledge that will serve you well throughout your poultry career.

## Crack the Case

Write the number of each of the breeds of poultry shown here on the Poultry Breeds list. Then find and circle the names of the 19 breeds found in the Poultry Kinds and Breeds Word Find. Also on the list of breeds, put a B, C, D, G, P, Q, or T in front of each breed to indicate what species each breed is. (B=Bantam, C=Chicken, D=Duck, G=Goose, P=Pigeon, Q=Quail, T=Turkey).



1.

## Species and Breeds of Poultry

#	Species	Breeds
_____	Q	Bobwhite
_____	_____	Broad White
_____	_____	Bronze
_____	B	Cochin (Buff)
_____	_____	Cornish
_____	_____	Embden
_____	_____	Guinea (Species)
_____	_____	Houdan
_____	_____	Leghorn
_____	_____	Booted (Mille Fleur)
_____	_____	Muscovy
_____	_____	New Hampshire
_____	_____	Peafowl (Species)
_____	_____	Pekin
_____	_____	Racing Homer
_____	_____	Rouen
_____	_____	Runner
_____	_____	Toulouse
_____	_____	Wyandotte



5.



2.



6.



3.



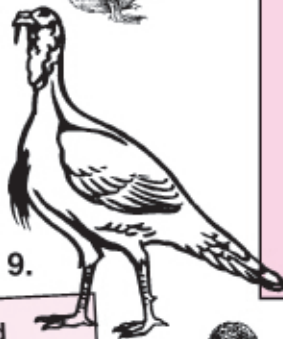
4.



7.



8.



9.



10.



12.



11.



13.



15.



14.



16.



18.



19.



17.

## Poultry Kinds and Breeds Word Find

Q B R O A D W H I T E R C A  
R M C P E K I N P N O O E W  
E I B U F F R E E N R U G Y  
S L F G H O A D A N H E U A  
U L I J H F B D I K L N I N  
O E M G O M U S C O V Y N D  
L F E W E O H B R O N Z E O  
U L L E H R U N N E R N A T  
O E R I H S P M A H W E N T  
T U O P Q R B O B W H I T E  
S R A C I N G H O M E R T V

## Crowing time

- What breeds did you already know?
- How did you find the names of breeds that you didn't know?

## Grinding out what's important

- Why do you think there are so many different breeds of poultry?

## Hatching ideas

- Why does it seem easier to learn something new if you can make a game out of it?

## Flapping your wings

- How can you use what you learned in this activity to learn about another new topic?

## Bird Banter

- In some eastern countries, an egg was given to a couple when they had a male child.
- Ostriches and emus are ratites, not poultry.

## Egg-stra! Egg-stra!

The American Standard of Perfection published by the American Poultry Association, Inc. contains information and pictures of over 300 breeds and varieties of chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys including comb types. See page 36.

Bird Words • Variety • Breed

Bird Babble! You



## Fowl Facts

## Breed or Variety?

A breed of poultry is a group of birds that have common distinctive characteristics.

A variety is a subdivision of a breed. Varieties may have different feather colors, comb types, sizes, beards, muffs and/or feathers on legs.

From four original "wild types" (naturally occurring) of chickens, breeders have developed more than 60 distinct breeds.

Check the resources below for pictures and information on each breed and variety of poultry.



What breed is this one?



## Eggstra Challenges

1. Use the Poultry Species and Breed list the next time you go to a fair or show and see how many you can identify. Be careful! Many of the breeds have different varieties.

2. Give a presentation or interview a breeder about a breed of poultry that is new to you.

3. Identify the following comb types and name as many breeds as you can that have that comb type.

4. Interview a breeder of a rare breed of poultry.

5. Make a list of twenty-five breeds of chickens (or ducks or geese or other poultry) and their country of origin.



Comb Types:

Single, V-shaped, Rose, Pea comb, Buttercup, Cushion and Strawberry



# Fine Feathered Fowl

**Life Skill:**

**Poultry Project Skill:**

**Success Indicator:**

Decision making

Selecting a poultry project

Selects an appropriate poultry breed.

**O**wning and caring for poultry is a big responsibility. Your birds will depend on you for all their needs. The time to decide whether or not you want the responsibility of caring for poultry is long before you get the birds. Knowing yourself, your interests and the time you have available to take care of poultry will help you realize how responsible a poultry raiser you will be.

With so many breeds of poultry to choose from it is important to understand what you want. What are you looking for: Birds to lay eggs? Birds that are used for meat? Both? Birds to show? This exercise will help you decide which birds are right for you.

## Crack the Case

From all the many breeds of poultry available for you to raise, select one. Answer all the questions below for your #1 choice. Use the *Standard of Perfection*, supply catalogues or any other resource to help you make your choice and to answer the questions.



### My Choice

What's its breed and variety?



**Species** \_\_\_\_\_

**Breed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class** \_\_\_\_\_

**Variety** \_\_\_\_\_

**Purpose for raising** \_\_\_\_\_

☐ show

☐ eggs

☐ meat

☐ hobby

☐ profit

☐ breeding stock

How much time I have each day? \_\_\_\_\_ Who will help me? \_\_\_\_\_

Facilities available: \_\_\_\_\_ How many birds I plan to raise: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons I made this choice: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



### Crowing time

- What different breeds of poultry did you learn about?
- What resources did you use to learn about various breeds?

### Grinding out what's important

- What breed(s) are you interested in and why?

### Hatching ideas

- How did you use this activity to help you make a decision?

### Flapping your wings

- How can you use the decision-making skills you gained in this exercise in other situations?



## Fowl Facts

## Being a Responsible Poultry Raiser

Raising poultry is fun, but as with caring for any other living creature, there is a lot of responsibility involved! Birds need to be fed and watered daily; cages or pens must be cleaned regularly; birds must be examined for illness or injury; and eggs should be collected daily. The birds also need shelter and protection from weather, temperature extremes and predators. Being responsible means making sure all of these necessities have been completed.

What kind of birds should you get? There are meat types, egg types, dual-purpose types, show types and rare breeds. Only you can decide what you are interested in. If it would bother you to harvest your birds, select an egg or show type. If you want a bird for a market project, select a meat type. Consider selecting, breeding and promoting one of the rare or endangered breeds. You will learn a great deal as well as help preserve an endangered breed.

As you prepare for, select and care for your birds, you will be demonstrating responsibility. It is one of the most important life skills you will ever gain. Caring for your birds' daily needs will help demonstrate that you have learned how to be responsible.

Bird Babble! Give a little

### Bird Banter

Turkeys are produced in over 32 states—the top three turkey producing states are North Carolina, Minnesota and California.



## Eggstra Challenges

1. Go to a show and look at all the breeds of poultry. Take notes on the different types of poultry you see. Give a presentation to a group about all the breeds of poultry that you saw at the show.
2. Ask one of the breeders at a poultry show questions about the breed(s) they raise and why they raise that breed.