

4-H Poultry Project Annual Cost and Care

Introduction

- The cost for poultry will vary greatly, depending on the type of bird purchased. However, as a rule of thumb, the following prices will serve as a guideline:
 - Chickens:
 - Egg laying hens (feed store quality – non show) \$1.50 - \$1.75
 - Show quality hens \$15.00 – 25.00
 - Show quality cocks \$20.00 and up
 - Show quality trio (one cock and two hens) \$50.00 and up
 - Ducks:
 - Non-specific breeds (feed store quality – non show) \$5.00 - \$7.00
 - Show quality single \$50.00 and up
 - Show quality pair \$100.00 and up
- While show quality birds are necessary to be competitive for the exhibition events at fair, feed store quality birds are more than adequate to learn the care and feeding of the species.
- Remember, 4-H is an organization that promotes hands-on learning and is based on parent and volunteer participation

Housing

- Poultry need a clean place to get out of the sun and rain and at night they need a safe place to sleep. Poultry housing can be as simple (free range during the day and kept in a small protected pen at night) or as elaborate (custom pen resembling a house) as an individual chooses. However, the enclosure you choose will need to provide the following:
 - A container for fresh water \$7.00
 - A container for food \$5.00
 - A perch (1.25” dowel) for sleeping
 - Nest (wooden box) for laying eggs
 - Protection from the elements

Nutrition

- Feed – approximately 1.5 pounds per bird per week \$12.00 per 50# sack
- Scratch – supplemental \$9.00 per 50# sack
- Bedding \$7.00 per 12 yard bail (pine shavings)

General Requirements

- Chicks should be fed a starter ration until approximately 20 weeks old. At this time a lower protein/higher calcium ration can be introduced.
- The birds must always have clean water to drink.
- Bedding must be kept clean and dry.