

## Scioto County 4-H Poultry Projects 2015 plan in response to the Ohio Department of Agriculture ban on poultry exhibitions

Avian influenza continues to be a significant concern in the Midwest. We recognize the importance of Ohio's poultry industry to the state's economy, including the livelihood of individuals, families and businesses. We also fully support the difficult decision the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) made to cancel all live poultry exhibitions this year. This includes all junior fair, open shows and exhibitions, and all other gatherings of birds for show or for sale, including auctions and swap meets. We also recognize the importance of our longstanding partnership with Ohio's fairs and the educational opportunities they provide to youth and their families.

### Switching 4-H Projects

- Enrollment and project possession deadlines are made and enforced at the local level, with many considerations that go into making those decisions. Given the cancellation by ODA of live poultry exhibition, *substituting or changing 4-H projects is not an option that is supported by the Ohio 4-H Youth Development program.*

### Completing the 4-H Poultry Project

- We recognize that many young people involved in 4-H poultry projects are impacted by this necessary decision and will not have an opportunity to exhibit their live poultry projects. It is important to give young people the support they need to ensure they have a productive learning experience as they complete their poultry projects. While completion of a 4-H project is not contingent upon exhibition at a fair, it is recognized that this is a meaningful part of the experience for many 4-H members.
- Since Poultry Resource Books are not yet available, there will be project/study packets available for youth. These packets will be available after June 16. Youth with all poultry projects other than Market, will proceed with their project as planned. They should complete the project and record book as usual.

### County Fair Participation

- In order for youth to complete their project an educational display such as a poster, diorama, brooder box, exhibit, etc. *something more than just a completed book* (featuring a topic related to the project i.e., parts of the animal, learned techniques, etc.) must be signed in on Sunday, August 9 between 8 a.m. and noon or 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. These exhibits must remain in the poultry barn all week.
- Showmanship classes will begin at 9 a.m. on Monday, August 10. Youth must sign up for showmanship during project check in on Sunday. The Senior Showmanship winner will represent poultry during the Showman of Showmen contest Friday evening. A suitable prop will replace the live bird for all showmanship classes.
- Poultry skillathon will NOT be in July, instead it will begin immediately following the Showmanship classes on Monday of the fair with separate stations for different poultry species.
- Educational displays will be judged by the hired judge. These displays will receive trophies and ribbons for placings.
- Award premium placing will be paid for the skillathon and showmanship.
- Outstanding Exhibitor will be based on showmanship, display and skillathon scores.

**Market chick money will be mailed back or used to purchase next year's order.**

**If you want to be reimbursed, you will need to call the office by June 19, 740-354-7879.**

**If you do not call, your money will be kept to purchase your chicks for 2016.**

