

4-H Chick Chain Poultry Project

What to Do Before Your Chicks Arrive

Congratulations!

You are a participant in the 4-H Chick Chain project and will soon be receiving day old chicks. There are several things you need to do BEFORE your chicks arrive to have a successful project.

Setting Up For Success

First, please review the Growing Blue Ribbon Pullets Book on our website:

<https://extension.tennessee.edu/Overton/Pages/Chick-Chain.aspx>. This manual covers important points such as housing, brooding, equipment, feeders and waterers, and nutrition.

Heat Source

This can be 100 to 250 watt infrared lamp. Whatever type of heating system is used, be sure to turn it on 2 days before to get the environment to 95 degrees.

Water Source

Use two 1 quart fountain-type waterers the first week. Dip their heads into the water so they learn where to get the water from. If they are not drinking a lot, add a spoon of sugar to the water to encourage them. Add larger waters as the weeks go on.

Feeders

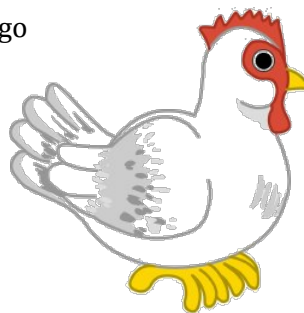
Small feeders to start. One inch of space per bird. For birds age 206 weeks, use trough feeders or tube type feeders with 2 inch space per bird. At 6 weeks, provide 3 inch per bird.

Housing

Before the chicks arrive, the house should be cleaned and disinfected. Then after the house is dry, cover the floor with 3 inches of clean dry litter. A day or two before, the heat source should be turned on and checked to see that it is operating properly.

Almost Ready

- Each pullet will eat around 20 pounds of feed if fed properly. Buy in bulk to save money.
- Make sure you have a box to get the birds with.
- Bring food with you for the birds.
- Arrive to the Extension Office first thing in the morning on arrival day. Pair up with other participants to make it easier.
- Review the Record Book ahead of time. Have it in the car with you before or after school to update to save time.



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