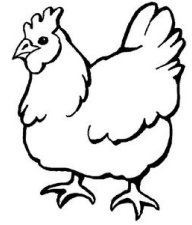


2026 4-H Chick Chain Program

This project requires that 4-H members have a place to raise and care for 14 chickens. Have you ever wondered what it takes to raise chickens from being a day old to when it can lay an egg? Do you want to try raising some chickens on your own? How does starting your own egg-selling business as young as a 4th grader sound? These are all things that 4-H'ers have been doing for DECADES with the 4-H Chick Chain!



Who can participate?

Any **4-12th grader** enrolled in 4-H through public school, virtual/remote learners, or the home school program.

Why participate in the 4-H Chick Chain Program instead of purchasing birds on your own?

- ✓ Includes 14 Pullets
- ✓ Includes a Bag of Feed
- ✓ Includes an Introductory Class, Care Skill-a-thon
Virtual Meetings, Showmanship Clinic
- ✓ Builds a community of young farmers
- ✓ Learn about raising birds from those who show
- ✓ Understand Poultry Varieties: Egg Layers vs. Meat Birds
- ✓ Raises more money for future 4-H farmers

How Does the Chick Chain Project Work?

1. If you want to participate in the chick chain, **mail a copy of the 2026 application with your deposit.**
 - **\$55 for Rhode Island Blue, Silver Laced Wyandotte, Speckled Sussex, Buff Orpington Breeds**

Your deposit will be refunded to you upon **successful completion** of the program (bring 3 birds to auction).
2. A minimum of 15 4-H members must apply to have the 2026 Chick Chain Program. If we fail to meet the minimum requirement, **we will refund all deposits.**
3. **First-time participants are required to participate in the poultry introduction class on Friday, February 6th.**
4. **Below are the dates for this program:**
 - **February 6th, 2026:** Intro Class- former graduates of the program do not have to attend.
 - **March 6th, 2026**— Pre-Chick Arrival Planning and Skill-a-thon
 - **Week of March 23rd: Tentative** Pick up chickens at COOP, date TBA
 - **April 7th, 2026;** Virtual Meeting Care and Skill-a-thon
 - **May 15th, 2026:** Skill-a-thon
 - **June 5th, 2026:** Showmanship In-Class
 - **July 7th, 2026:** Overton County Fair Show Review
 - **August 14, 2026: MANDATORY** Pre-auction Meeting
 - **September 12th:** Auction **TENTATIVE**
5. All 4-H'ers will receive **14** chicks to raise, around March 23-27th, 2026. All birds will be properly vaccinated.
6. All 4-H'ers will bring a **minimum** of **three** chickens to the show and sale on September 12th, 2026, or **be penalized \$50 in addition to forfeiting their deposit.**
7. **If the show is canceled due to outstanding circumstances, we will keep the deposit to be able to have the chick chain in future years.**
8. **The Chick Chain Auction will be held approximately 24 weeks after the birds are received, September 12th (tentative).** *The 4-H'er MUST BE PRESENT FOR THE ENTIRE SHOW to receive their deposit back. You will be required to RSVP.*
9. **If your birds die,** contact us **ASAP** for an alternative plan to earn your deposit back.
10. 4-H'ers will compete to receive the highest award for their breed of bird, Grand Champion. **The auction donations and bids are for future year programs.**

When and how do I register?

While you are encouraged to turn it in early, you must turn in your deposit by December 2nd, 2025. MAIL OR RETURN THE APPLICATION AND DEPOSIT TO THE UT/TSU EXTENSION OFFICE.

DO NOT TURN IT IN AT YOUR SCHOOL UNLESS YOU ARE AT WILSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. IF YOU ATTEND WILSON ELEMENTARY, YOU WILL BE PERMITTED TO TURN IT IN TO ANITA PHILLIPS.

Questions? Visit M-F 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM at 312 W. Broad St, STE 6, Livingston, TN 38570.

Call our office at 931-823-2735. E-mail aande107@tnstate.edu

2026 Chick Chain Application

By filling out this application, you understand the requirements of the chick chain project. **If a 4-H'er does not bring back their 3 pullets, they will forfeit their deposit PLUS an additional fee of \$50.** Failure to comply with the agreements will result in the 4-H'er being ineligible to participate in future chick chain programs. The income from the pullet sale is used to buy chicks for the next year and keep the chain going. Failure to meet these conditions will result in disqualification from future chick chains and other paid 4-H programs. **We require all blanks to be filled.** *If something does not apply to you, please write N/A.*

Don't miss out – SIGN UP for chick chain reminders:
<https://www.remind.com/join/oc4hchicks>

**DUE NO LATER
THAN Tuesday
December 2nd,
2025**

4-H'er's Full Name: _____

Preferred Name for Publicity Purposes: _____

Gender: _____ **Race or Ethnicity:** _____

Grade as of January 1, 2026: _____

Checks must be made out to TN 4-H Foundation

If you do not have internet or the ability to text, please check here: ☐

The program is open to all Overton County people in 4-12th grade. If you are from outside of the county, you may register, you will not be allowed to participate in other county's 4-H programs:

☐ Homeschool ☐ AHRES ☐ AES ☐ WES ☐ HES ☐ RES ☐ LMS ☐ LA
☐ OTHER _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____ **CITY, ST:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Guardian's Name & Phone Number: _____

2ND Guardian's Name Phone Number: _____

Guardian's Email Address: _____

4-H MEMBER'S Phone #: _____

4-H Member's Birth Date (MM/DD/YEAR): _____

Please select one breed of birds you desire (\$55).

____ Rhode Island Blue ____ Silver Laced Wyandotte ____ Speckled Sussex ____ Buff Orpington

You are welcome to purchase one additional lot of birds but will still be required to donate an additional 3 birds.

The 4-H'er needs to initial after each statement:

I agree to follow the terms of the contract. _____

I agree to return 3 birds to the sale and understand that if I do not, I will be fined \$50 and banned from future chick chains and other 4-H paid programs if I don't pay \$50. _____

I agree to attend the showmanship and care, and conditioning class. _____

I agree to make a display board to showcase my family's poultry farm. _____

I understand that I will not be given my deposit back until after the auction/show. _____

4-H'er's Signature _____ **Date:** _____

Parent's Signature _____ **Date:** _____

Programs in Agriculture and natural resources, 4-H Youth Development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development. University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, US Department of Agriculture, and county governments cooperating. UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

