

Points to Ponder...

One of the most important things to remember is that you must provide a proper house or shelter to protect your chickens from the weather. Baby chicks have down, not feathers, so they need a heat source until feathers develop.

By the time your pullets are 20 weeks old, each will require 4 square feet of floor space.

Do not give your chickens scratch grain or table scraps. Birds that are fed scratch grain will not lay as many eggs as birds that are fed a well-balanced complete feed.

You can expect each pullet to eat about 20 pounds of feed during the first 20 weeks.

70% of the cost of raising chickens is due to feed cost.

Raising chickens can be a great way to provide eggs for your family and friends, and livestock projects teach youth important life skills like responsibility and the value of hard work.

Consider exhibiting your pullets at local fairs, like the Smith County Fair on the River!

4-H Activities

Raising your chicks is just the start of the many exciting experiences 4-H has to offer! You may be interested in some of our other fun activities like judging teams, animal shows, camps, conferences, and more!



For questions about raising chicks or more information about the 4-H Chick Chain Project, please contact:

Rachel Petty
4-H Extension Agent
615-735-2900
rpetty@utk.edu

4-H Chick Chain Poultry Project



Project Information & Registration Form



SMITH COUNTY
UT EXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

tsu **COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION**
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

How Does the Chick Chain Project Work?

Livestock projects help teach youth responsibility. The Chick Chain is a good beginner 4-H livestock project because the care for chicks is not as costly as the care for a horse or a calf. However, chicks still require space, time, and money. Raising chickens is fun and rewarding, but be prepared to care for them!

The Chick Chain project is for 4-H members who have a place to raise and care for chickens at their home. **The 4-H'er must purchase *either 12 or 24* baby chicks to raise. By purchasing chicks through the Chick Chain, the 4-H'er is also agreeing to exhibit and sell at least 3 hens at the 4-H Chick Chain Show and Sale in the fall.** The money from the sale of the birds will be given directly to the 4-H'er from the buyer.

For information on the breeds and to find resources on raising chickens, visit our website at smith.tennessee.edu and click on 4-H Chick Chain, or call the UT-TSU Extension office at 615-735-2900.

This year, you can choose from two breeds: **Black Star** and **Red Star**. The minimum purchase is 12 chicks of one breed for \$40. The maximum purchase is 24 chicks for \$80. If you purchase 24 chicks, you can order 12 chicks of each breed or 24 chicks of one breed.

We will send out information once we order the chicks to let you know the expected arrival date and information regarding their pickup.

If you are interested in receiving chicks this year and raising them for a 4-H Project, please mail the attached order form and payment to:

**Smith County 4-H
67 Cookeville Highway, Suite 102
Carthage, TN 37030**

You may also bring your form and payment to the UT-TSU Extension Office at the address above.

This year, 4-H'ers can order **Black Star** and/or **Red Star** chicks.

Chick Chain orders are due by

Friday, February 20, 2026.

Please have your orders turned in on or before this date in order to be included in the project this year.

**Do *NOT* take your Chick Chain form and money back to school!
Please turn it in to the 4-H Office.**



4-H Member's Name: _____

Grade: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

School: _____ Teacher: _____

Circle which breed you want: **Black Star** **Red Star** Minimum purchase is 12 chicks of one breed.

If purchasing 24 chicks, please indicate how many of each breed you want to order. (*12 of each breed or 24 of one breed*)

Black Star # _____ Red Star # _____

Total Number of Chicks Needed: _____ Total Amount Enclosed: **\$40 for 12 chicks** **\$80 for 24 chicks**

Parent Signature: _____ 4-H'er Signature: _____