

2025 Gallatin County 4-H Poultry Project Contract

Member Name: (Please Print Clearly) _____

Circle your level of participation: Senior Junior Cloverbud

** (Keep a Copy for your records—Contract is due March 20, 2025)

As a 4-H Member in the Poultry Project, I agree to the following:

- 1) **Membership:** I will be enrolled in 4-H and poultry project(s) and follow all Gallatin County 4-H rules, fair book rules and the following project rules and guidelines. In order to participate at the fair, I will be signed up for the poultry project AND turn in my signed Poultry Contract by March 20, 2025. If I am going to participate in the market sale portion of the poultry project then I will be enrolled in the market project by January 1, 2025 (or upon the max cap of 40 participants) and have my birds either in my possession or ordered by March 20, 2025 (a confirmation of delivery date is required to be shown to one of the leaders by this date). All other birds must be in my possession by May 1, 2025.
- 2) **Workshops:** I will attend a minimum of **three workshops** as shown on the poultry schedule of events. Please also remember that all poultry project members (above a cloverbud level), will need to attend the Animal Quality Assurance (AQA) session once as a junior (ages 8-13 years old) and once as a senior (ages 14 to 19 years old as of October 1, 2024). If you have already taken AQA in the past couple of years please confirm with the 4-H office directly if you need to retake AQA this year. If this is your first year in poultry you might also need to meet the AQA workshop requirement in order to show at the fair. All workshop requirements must be met by **June 25, 2025**. Dates and times for the AQA workshop will be announced by the 4-H office. Additionally, the meeting on January 9, 2025 at 6:30pm is required for all market members to attend. Please note that if you attended the Rocky Mountain Fall Show in Great Falls in the Fall of 2024 you may count that attendance as one of your workshop requirements for this new 4-H year.
- 3) **4-H Participation Discounts:** There are some businesses around the area that offer discounts to 4-H members. Please ask about these discounts when purchasing feed and supplies for your projects. One business in particular (Murdoch's Ranch and Home Supply) offers a discount to 4-H members but you need to get the discount card directly from this business. You can apply for the card at the store. Other businesses may have a frequent buyer card available for feed purchases.
- 4) **Fair Participation:** I understand that I must follow all the requirements for the poultry project as outlined within this contract and within the fair book to be eligible to participate in the poultry area of the fair. I have also signed the Gallatin County Code of Conduct presented at the time of enrollment and I agree to abide by the code of conduct when representing 4-H.

- a) **Fair Posters:** ALL poultry members (with the exception of senior members exempt by poultry leaders committee) **must** complete a poster on a poultry topic of the member's choice. Cloverbud members are not required to complete a poster, but will have a different activity book that would need to be turned in prior to fair. The poster is to be collected at poultry check in and must be able to be hung inside the livestock barn. It is very helpful if you can attach hangers (large paperclips) to the back of the poster so that we can hang them easily on the lattice boards. Also, please do not put your name on the front. **Write your name on the back** and indicate if you are a Jr. Sr. or Cloverbud. Please refer to rubric to be presented at a workshop and discussions on posters when developing your finished product.
- b) **Record/Project Activity Books:** All regular members participating in the fair must complete their record book prior to the fair. The record book must include the following pages: My 4-H Year, Poultry Project Journal (Animal Project Journal) and your project activity book (levels one and two) or selected project activities (levels two or three). The record book must be submitted to the 4-H office by **June 25, 2025 by 5:00pm** in order to participate in the fair. Signatures from the leaders will be applied after being submitted. The record book is required at the time of the interview. You can pick up your record book before your interview or at the time of the interview. Cloverbuds will have a special record/activity book that they are encouraged to submit for review and to be used in their interviews. Each year you are also required to complete seven activities in your book (which need to be completed after October 1, 2024).
- c) **Interview at the Fair:** 4-H members will be required to participate in an animal project interview during the fair. Interviews are not required for Cloverbuds, but again participation is highly recommended. Interviews will be held on July 10 and 11, 2025 (time TBD). You will be able to sign-up for a time slot prior to fair.
- d) **Judged Events:** The poultry project also offers additional fun events to be entered and judged during the fair. Keep in mind these items are also encouraged for fair.
- 1). Photo Contest: each participant is limited to submitting three photos. Photo sizes are 5X7 or 8X10 mounted or un-mounted. Please put your name on the back of each photo.
 - 2). An egg decorating category. Paint eggs, add clothes, make a scene, and be creative. Please remember to put your name on the back of each entry.
 - 3). Submit an egg carton with six eggs. Eggs will be judged on quality and uniformity. Please put your name on the back of each entry.

- e) **Dusting:** All birds will be **dusted seven days prior to being taken to the fair**. You can find dusting powder at all of the feed stores as well as from Amazon. Some common brands are: Ytex Gardstar, Garden/Poultry Dust, and Organic Diatomaceous Earth for Poultry. It does not hurt your bird, rather protects them from lice and mites. We will discuss this process during the June fair prep workshop.

- f) **Vet Checks/Herdsmanship:** All animals must pass a vet check before being placed into their judging cage/areas during the fair. A sign up for the vet check times will be available prior to the fair and the vet check itself will be done at check in. Additionally, all members are expected to take care of their animals daily and in accordance with animal quality assurance practices. Cages must be presentable and cleaned daily during the fair and animals must be feed/watered daily. During the fair, as a member you will also participate in the overall barn duties.

- g) **Barn Duty:** All members will participate in barn duty as designated by the poultry leaders. A signup sheet for duty times will be presented prior to fair. It is required to have a parent, guardian or someone over 18 years old present during each duty time. When on barn duty it is your responsibility to watch over the entire barn, answer the public's questions and take care of the animals and situations as needed. Hours are generally 10am to 9pm but may differ depending on the official layout of fair week. Please also note that the last day of fair is generally Sunday and the barn hours may change that day depending on fair policy. Sign-ups will be sent closer to fair.

- h) **Fair Entry Fee:** Each member of the poultry club will pay a flat rate fee of \$15.00 to participate in the fair. (A limit is on the amount of birds shown will be stated closer to fair but generally is 10 entries per member) An exception, if you are bringing a trio/pair it is considered 1 entry and each of the market pens are also considered to be 1 entry. Additionally, if you are in the market poultry project you may be subject to pay a separate fee for each pen of three birds. Depending on where we process the birds at this year, the fee may need to be altered and therefore it will be announced prior to entries being due. In prior years, the fee has been around \$15.00 per market pen. In general, the fair entry fee is used to cover the cost of the judge(s), vet check fees, exhibit costs, and the awards. The market fee covers the transportation/handling costs associated with the processing of the animals. It is anticipated that fair entries will be due the first part of June.

- i) **Deposits/ Fair Set Up/Tear Down:** You must participate in barn set-up duties in order to have your animals at the fair. Fair set-up will occur on Saturday July 12, 2025. Each member will also need to submit a deposit for \$20.00 (via check) during vet checks. You will be refunded your deposit upon check out on the last day of the fair after your pens and area have been cleaned properly and inspected by a poultry leader. You cannot remove your birds earlier than the last day of the schedule fair time or you forfeit your awards and deposit. We will all take down the barn, have an awards ceremony for all poultry members during the week of fair.
- 5) **Dress Code:** All members participating in the fair and during workshops must follow the 4-H dress code as defined in the county standards. **During the showmanship event at fair, you will be required to have a white dress shirt, black pants and a closed toe shoe (boots encouraged).** You can get these items at Murdoch's or a similar clothing store. Members are encouraged to bring any items you may have outgrown to the last meeting to help others during our June workshop.
- 6) **Ethical Disclosure:** Please remember that 4-H promotes the fact that the projects are the work of the 4-H member themselves with assistance from parents/guardians (as needed for safety and education). In the event that our show may become virtual or by photography exhibit, no professional assistance is allowed.
- 7) **Community Service/Donation Opportunity:** We will also have the opportunity this year for all 4-H poultry project members to raise market poultry for donation to the Montana Veterans Meat Locker program. Birds donated must be market type breeds of mature age and weight. They will also be subject to vet checks. More details on this opportunity will be presented in the year.
- 8) **Market Poultry Project Members:** In addition to the requirements stated above, market poultry members will participate in all areas of the market project. This includes the following:
- You must be enrolled in the poultry market project by January 1, 2025 (or upon max cap of 40 market project participants). Members will also be responsible for completing the Gallatin County 4-H Livestock Project Contract by **March 20, 2025**. The additional livestock project contract will be submitted to the 4-H office directly.
 - There will be minimum weights that your market pen must meet in order to show/sale for the market program. Chickens will need to have a combined pen weight (three animals per pen) of at least 12 pounds, turkeys at 45 pounds and ducks at 15 pounds. The official weights will be done at fair and the leaders may need assistance during this process from the market members.

- There is also a minimum amount of days of ownership/possession that must be met for all poultry market animals. The amount of days for chickens is 42 (by June 2), turkeys 112 (by March 24) and ducks 49 (by May 26). The amount of days is calculated based on the check in date of fair which is July 14, 2025.
- Each market poultry member will be able to have up to 15 animals designated for your market projects. However, you will only be able to sell a max of two animal units for the market sale if you have participated in a market project previously. If this is the members first year in the market project, they will be only allowed to sell one pen of market birds at the fair. If you do not sell any other market animals, your two animal units will be a max of six birds or two pens of three. The remaining birds could be raised for personal use or donated to the Montana Veterans Meat Locker community service/donation project stated previously.
- Members will be responsible for marketing their market project to potential buyers prior to fair. Marketing is going to local businesses, creating flyers, and trying to set-up a potential buyer for your project prior to the fair. Members are responsible for selling your animals at the market sale and helping others with their animals. Each market member must be present at the start of the market sale regardless of when you actually are on the sale order. Immediately after the sale of your animals you need to hang a “Thank You” poster on your pen. You will need to have this poster made before the sale and ready to fill in the name of your buyer after you sale. This poster must be hung the night of the auction.
- Members must be available to take your market photos at designated times. Pictures are taken during a set time at fair and given to you after fair to deliver to your buyers for your buyer thank you and are also used for the market livestock sale tab that is published by the local paper after fair. If you are selected as the grand or reserve overall poultry market pen a separate session for photos will also occur at fair for our champion row banners.
- Members will also be required to have adequate transport crates/cages for your market pens. No boxes will be allowed and no birds will be placed on the processing trailer unless they are secured in appropriate crates/cages. For those with turkey pens, please plan to have a crate/cage potentially for each separate bird. Further details on this will be discussed at the workshop on January 9, 2025.

ALL members and parents will be respectful to all project members, leaders, adults, guests etc.

Members will help others. Members will respect the facilities and pick up after themselves at each workshop and during the fair week. Above all, members will have fun and help others have a good time as well!

By signing below, I have read and agree to the terms and conditions of this contract. This contract must be submitted to the 4-H office or emailed to poultrygallatin@gmail.com by March 20, 2025. Any questions please contact one of the poultry leaders. Please note that the livestock project market contract must be submitted directly to the 4-H office only.

Member Name: (Please Print Clearly) _____

Member's Signature/Date: _____

Parent/Guardians Signature/Date: _____

Circle your level of participation: **Senior** **Junior** **Cloverbud**