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Chick Chain Application & Contract

2021 Breed Selection: Golden Comet or Barred Rock
Arrival: Mid-March **Quantity:** 12 **Fee:** \$45.00

Make CHECKS payable to
 Macon County Extension

• Member involvement will be limited to 40 total youth. *This is a first come, first serve basis* •

Sign up day: Wednesday, February 17
 Beginning at 7:45am at Macon County Extension Office
 113 E Locust Street, Lafayette
NO applications will be accepted prior to this date & time
Do NOT take this form to school.

NOTE: Only 20 participants for each breed. Selections will be given on a 1st come, 1st serve basis at sign-up.
SIBLING participation: Each 4-H member must purchase their own set of 12 pullets. There will be no sharing sets.

By signing this contract, you are agreeing to:

(a) Pick the pullets up on the day they arrive in March. (b) Feed, water, care for, and provide appropriate housing for the chicks (at my expense) to the best of my ability. (c) Enter three (3) of my best pullets in the 4-H Poultry Show & Sale held in conjunction with the Macon County Fair in August 2021. (e) Sell my 3 pullets shown in the poultry sale, if selected as Champion or Reserve Champion.

 4-H Member's Signature

 Parent's Signature

4-H'ers Name: _____ School: _____ Grade: _____

Address: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Text: _____yes _____no

Secondary Phone: _____ Text: _____yes _____no

E-mail (if available): _____ We primarily make contact via email.

Parents' Names: _____

Breed Preference: Barred Rock _____ OR Golden Comet _____

We are unable to combine breeds to make up your 12.

Suggested websites for research/assistance:

www.mcmurrayhatchery.com/chickcare.html: good resource for caring for chicks from the start

www.backyardchickens.com: great website with lots of info in forums as well as an excellent source for chicken coop or chicken tractor plans.

<https://extension.tennessee.edu/Pickett/Documents/GrowingBlueRibbonPulletsPB915.pdf>

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

Both the Barred Rocks and Golden Comets are excellent brown egg layers. Please research both breeds prior to submitting your application to see which breed you think would be a better fit for you. There will only be 20 participants per breed. We will do our best at providing your first choice however, breeds will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis at sign-up.

How do I raise chickens? If you have never raised chicks before, do not be afraid - give it a try! You can attend our educational chick chain meeting to learn all about raising chicks, (date to be determined). You will receive 12 chicks that will arrive in Mid- March. The chicks must be raised and cared for through-out the summer in preparation for the Poultry Show & Sale.

Expenses? Expenses will include the cost of the chicks, feed, water, housing, and other materials needed to promote good healthy chickens, as you see fit.

Poultry Show: In August, you are expected to bring 3 of your hens to the 4-H Chick-Chain Poultry Show & Sale, held in conjunction with the Macon County Fair. Hens will be judged in comparison to other participant's hens of the same breed. Prize money & ribbons will be awarded to each participant per breed & lot. A Grand Champion and Reserve Champion will be announced in each grade division per breed. An overall Grand and Reserve Champion will be chosen as well, per breed.

Poultry Sale: Should your hens receive a grand champion or reserve grand champion prize from their lot, your hens will be sold to the highest bidder immediately following the show at the poultry sale. Money received from the sale of your hens will be yours to keep. Your remaining hens are yours to keep, sell or eat.

Selling of other pullets: If your 3 chickens are not eligible for the poultry sale, or if you choose to sell any other of your chickens, arrangements to sell these will need to be made on your own. You may contact possible buyers at the show.

“Food for thought”: (1) Proper housing & shelter for your chickens from the weather, is a **must** have. Baby chicks will need a good heat source until their feathers develop. (2) By the time your pullets are 20 weeks old, each will require 4 square feet of floor space. (3) 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. (4) During the first 20 weeks, you can expect each pullet to eat about 20 pounds of feed. (5) 70% of the cost of raising chickens is due to feed cost. (6) Raising chickens is a great way to provide eggs for your family. (7) Selling eggs is a great way to off-set the cost of feed.

How do I sign up?

First, talk to your parents and get their permission. Then, complete the Chick Chain order form & contract on the front page and return it with cash or a **check made payable to MACON CO. EXTENSION for \$45** to our office, 113 E Locust Street across from The Lafayette Police Department on **Wednesday, February 17, 2021, beginning at 7:45am**. If 2 siblings of 4-H age choose to participate, each youth will have to purchase their own set of 12. There will be no sharing of sets.