Coastal Plains Chicken Project

Show: May 5th, 2026

Lenoir County Livestock Arena

Registration Deadline: December 10th, 2025

Registration form is due to your local Extension Agent by this date.
Check for updates at our project website
go.ncsu.edu/chicken-project-website

Name of 4-H'er: _____

FFA Organization _____ EC Class _____

FFA/EC classes will be asked to provide a list of student names & ages due by the chick pick-up date

Address: _____

Parent/Advisor Name: _____ Phone: _____

Contact email: _____ County of participation:_____

Date of Birth of 4-H'er: _____Age as of January 1, 2026: _____

Each bird cost $5. Minimum of 2, maximum of 5 hens. FFA chapters please include the total number of birds for your students.

Quantity	Breed
	Broiler (meat bird)
	Red Star Hen



Please check the boxes below:

- I/We have read and understand all rules and regulations for the Regional Chicken Project and submitted the registration fee.
- I have the option to complete a provided Poultry Project book- due by May 1, 2026. This gives youth the opportunity to win prize money.
- I will attend an orientation and showmanship training. (Only required for first time participants.)

Youth signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Make checks payable to NCCE-Onslow County. Please state "2026 Chicken Project" on the memo line. Return form and check to YOUR county Extension Office December 10th, 2025.

Regional Chicken Project Rules

1. Youth ages 5-18, as of January 1, 2026, may participate in the program. They must be a 4-H member, a student who is taking an agriculture education class, or an FFA member of a participating school. Youth can enroll in their county 4-H program to participate.

2. All first time participants of the Coastal Plains Chicken Project must attend an orientation training and a showmanship/project book training hosted by Cooperative Extension or a High School Ag Ed Program. These meetings will be held in multiple locations. Along with general information about raising birds, participants will be expected to follow the National 4-H Poultry Standard for showmanship, which will be covered at these meetings.

3. **Bring all purchased broilers to the show (including birds you do not exhibit). Broilers are meat birds and are bred to live a short period of time. Keeping the bird for home use is an animal welfare issue. The Coastal Plains Chicken Show committee will process the birds and the meat will be donated to local food banks.**

4. Families and agricultural education classes can split birds, but every child must have their own bird they are responsible for.

5. Participants will raise the chicks until the show, under the supervision of the guardians or agricultural education class, with help from Extension Agents and teachers.

6. The project will be canceled if a ban on showing chickens is in effect, due to the threat of Avian Influenza or other communicable diseases.

7. Youth must choose to show **either a broiler or a hen** to exhibit at the show (however, you may use a different bird for showmanship) on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at the Lenoir County Livestock Arena in Kinston, NC. A qualified adult will judge the show. A NC Department of Agriculture Poultry Inspector will inspect/test the birds for parasites/disease.

8. If you have a disaster (loss of multiple birds), you **must** contact your local county Extension Agent or Agricultural Education Teacher immediately (within 24 hours) so they may verify the situation and/or provide photographic evidence.

9. Optional Poultry Project Books must be turned-in by 5:00pm on May 1, 2026 to your Extension Agent or FFA Advisor. The content of the books should be activities done from January-May 2026.

10. There will not be an auction. Hens are the responsibility of the youth after the show. Broilers must be returned to show committee (see #3).

11. All decisions by the judge are final. Direct criticism or interference with the judge, show or livestock show management, other exhibitors, breed representatives, or show officials before, during, or after the competitive event is prohibited. In the furtherance of their official duty, all judges, show, and livestock show management, or other show officials shall be treated

with courtesy, cooperation and respect and no person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them. Potential disqualification from future events after review is possible.

12. Anticipated bird arrival date is the 2nd week of February for laying hen chicks and 2nd week of March for broilers.

13. Any special considerations not covered in the rules will be decided by the Coastal Plains Chicken Project Committee.

SHOWMANSHIP:

Cloverbud Ages 5-7, Junior Ages 8-10, Intermediate Ages 11-13, Senior Ages 14-18

Awards for each age division:
1st-5th place ribbon and others will receive participation ribbons.
1st- $25, 2nd- $20, 3rd- $15, 4th- $10, 5th- $5

RECORD BOOKS:

Ages 5-7: all receive a ribbon
4-H Division 8-10, 11-13, 14-18: 1st- $15, 2nd- $10, 3rd, $5

BREED SHOW & BROILERS

Grand Champion (1st) per breed: $25
Reserve Champion (2nd) per breed: $20

Poultry Proficiency

Youth will have the opportunity to test their knowledge of chickens and compete in the poultry proficiency contest at the show. Awards will be given for each age group.

Important Dates

December 10th, 2025 – Registration & money due
Week of February 2nd- PROJECTED chick pick-up for laying hens
Mid March 2026 – PROJECTED Broiler pick-up
May 1st - Project Books Due

Show Day - May 5, 2026

Check-in for FFA/Ag Classes: 10:00am - 11:00am
Show Time for FFA/Ag Classes: 11:15am

Check-in for 4-H: 3:00pm -4:30pm
Show Time for 4-H: 5:00pm

County Extension Offices

Carteret - 252-222-6375

Craven - 252-633-1477

Duplin - 910-296-2143

Greene - 252-747-5831

Jones - 229-402-2403, Office 252-448-9621

Lenoir - 252-527-2191

Onslow - 910-455-5873

Pamlico - 252-745-4121

Pender - 910-663-0449

Pitt - 252-902-1703

Wayne - 919-731-1525

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