

# 4-H

## Avian Science Proficiency Program

### A Member's Guide

#### OVERVIEW

The 4-H Avian Science Proficiency program helps you learn what you need to know about your 4-H project. Your project leader will assist you in setting and achieving your goals. Through your project, you will learn animal care basics and good management practices. You will also learn about the size and scope of the animal industry as it relates to your project.

There are many resources to help you learn more about your project:

- The University of California Davis has free resources available online by visiting: <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/4HYouthDevelopment/>. This site lists a variety of project materials and resources recommended for use in your project.
- The Shasta County 4 - H Resources and Lending Library at our county 4-H Office includes other books, videos, and reference materials that can be checked out by members and leaders.
- Check to see if there is a breeder's organization in your community that conducts educational activities and shows. Local breeders are excellent sources of help and information.

There are five levels in the Project Proficiency Program. You may choose how many levels you wish to complete:

- ◆ Level I – “Explorer”, you begin to learn about many different aspects of avian science.
- ◆ Level II – “Producer”, you practice and refine the many skills involved in learning about avian science.
- ◆ Level III – “Consumer”, you become an experienced avian raiser.
- ◆ Level IV – “Leader”, allows you to show your own leadership potential.
- ◆ Level V – “Researcher”, you carry out a demonstration or experiment on some aspect of avian science, and prepare a paper or portfolio.

As you work through the proficiency program, your leader will date each skill item as you complete it. When all items in a proficiency level are completed, your leader will sign the Certificate of Achievement.

**AVIAN SCIENCE**  
**Level I - Explorer**

Date  
Completed

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Identify and describe three types of avian species.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Identify three sources of stock.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Identify and explain purpose of breed being raised in the project.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Describe the requirements of a good house and list the equipment it should have.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Explain what feeds are important for the project.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Discuss the brooding young birds, presenting information on preparation of management of the feed, water, and lights, and care of the young birds.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Demonstrate how to catch, carry and hold a bird.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Point out and name the following parts of a bird: comb, beak, eye, ear, hackle, wings, breast, keel, tail, legs, feet, toes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Describe several methods of differentiating males from females.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Discuss several procedures by which picking can be stopped or minimized.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Submit 60 days of management records and parental verification of members care of his or her flock.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Give a demonstration at County Presentation Day.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**AVIAN SCIENCE**  
**Level II - Producer**

Date  
Completed

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Name and describe six breeds of avian species.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Give one or more examples of birds raised for meat, for white and brown egg production, for showing, for special purposes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Describe desirable characteristics of birds in your project.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Participate in a judging or showmanship contest.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Build a piece of equipment for your showmanship contest.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Indicate the bird characteristics that should be observed during care of birds as sign of developing health problems.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Describe in detail the feeding of project birds through one production cycle.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Discuss protection of birds during periods of extreme hot and cold weather.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Demonstrate sanitation of equipment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Describe and give control methods of three different insect or disease problems. Example: mites, flies, Newcastle Disease, Coccidiosis, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Visit an approved Avian Science operation, reporting on how the birds are housed, brooded, fed, watered, cared for, and how the eggs or birds are prepared for market and marketed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Present a demonstration covering information on your project at a county 4-H event.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**AVIAN SCIENCE**  
**Level III - Consumer**

Date  
Completed

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Demonstrate value of Standard of Perfection.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Describe and demonstrate successful incubation of eggs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Instruct project members on culling.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Discuss the use of lights with baby chicks, growing birds, laying hens and meat birds.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Describe use of force molting procedures with adult birds.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Report on three diseases of birds, giving characteristics of disease and procedures for control.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Attend two Avian Science exhibits.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Describe grades and sizes of eggs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Invite and introduce a guest speaker to one of your club meetings. Example: a local poultry man, builder, feed man, farm advisor, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Keep production records for entire year's time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Develop a reference library of Avian Science information that can assist you in your projects. This may include clippings, bulletins, books, pictures etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Describe the different ways birds in your project are used and how they are marketed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Give a demonstration at County Field Day.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**AVIAN SCIENCE**  
**Level IV - Leader**

Date  
Completed

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Serve as Junior or Teen leader in this project for one year.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Assist younger members in designing and constructing needed equipment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Prepare teaching materials for use at project meetings.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Develop and put on a demonstration or judging event or train a junior team for a judging activity.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Speak on a project-based subject before an organization other than your 4-H group.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Assist at a show as a clerk, secretary, recorder, assistant to the judge, ring master or with set up, registration, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Teach younger members about learning a specific topic in the project.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Develop your own special project related activity. Chart your progress, plan the activities, analyze successes and problems, and report on your accomplishment to your club.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**AVIAN SCIENCE**  
**Level V - Researcher**

Date  
Completed

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Report on the results of a demonstration comparing measurable differences in management procedure. (Experiment)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Prepare a paper of 300 words or more on one of the following topics:
  - Management of birds.
  - Feeds, feeding, and nutrition.
  - Diseases, prevention and control, and general sanitation.
  - Markets and methods of marketing.
  - Reproduction, breeding and genetics.
  - By-product preparation for market, how marketed, and used.
  - Keeping and using records as a basis for improving your avian project.
  - Other
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Prepare a speech or illustrated talk to orally summarize your findings and present at a club, project meeting or other educational event.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Certificate of Achievement

*This certifies that*

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*has completed the Avian Science Proficiency*

*in Shasta County.*

*Explorer*

*Producer*

*Consumer*

*Leader*

*Researcher*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

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