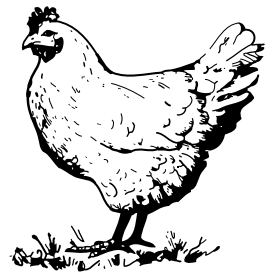




2026 4-H Chick Chain Project

This 4-H project is open to 4-H members in grades 4-12 who have a place to raise and care for 25 chickens at his/her home. If selected, the 4-H member will receive 25 baby chickens (pullets) to raise from March through July. The 4-H member/family will return six of their chickens (hens) to the county 4-H Poultry Show & Auction on July 25, 2026. The remaining chickens will be the 4-H member's chickens to keep!



Cost: A \$20 fee will be collected from each 4-H member accepted into the program by pickup day on March 13th. Each participant will also receive a t-shirt at the county show in July.

Breeds: The three breeds a 4-H member will be able to select from this year are: Rhode Island Reds, Barred Rocks and Buff Opringtons. All 25 chicks must be the same breed. Breed selections will be selected first come, first serve at the Information meeting on **March 3rd**.

Participation in the Program: Please note, this is an educational experience for youth to learn about raising chickens. Attending the Show and Auction, as well as any mandatory meetings **is a part of this experience**. Therefore, **if you are unable to commit to attending the show on Saturday, July 25, 2026, this opportunity may not be for you. If you do not return the six pullets for the show and auction, you will be charged \$150** as we depend on the money made from the auction to pay for the baby chicks each year. **If you do not bring chickens back to the show, you will be ineligible to participate in future years.**

Siblings: Only **ONE** set of 25 chickens per family will be promised. After the deadline, if we have extra chickens/spots, we will offer additional spots or chickens to siblings. Some years we have enough to give families with multiple siblings extra chickens, while some years we have enough to give each sibling a full set of their own chickens. It depends on the amount of applications we receive! Please complete an application for each 4-H member/sibling wishing to participate.

Disclaimer: We do NOT provide feed or supplies for chicks. It will be the 4-H member and their family's responsibility to provide all proper care and protection for the chickens. We are unable to replace chickens.

How to Apply

- Complete application (on back) and return to Extension office between **February 2-13, 2026**.
DO NOT send in applications before February 2nd!
- Applications will be reviewed and 4-H members will be notified **by February 20th** if they are accepted.
- The first 60 4-H members that meet the requirements and properly complete the application will be accepted.
- A \$20 fee will be due when picking up chicks on **March 13th**.



Return/Mail Application to:

Wilson County 4-H
925 E Baddour Pkwy
Suite 100
Lebanon, TN 37087

Phone: 615-444-9584

Or Email to:
EXT-WilsonCo@utk.edu

Important Dates To Remember!

- February 2-13: Application Period
- March 3, 2026: Mandatory Information Meeting (5 p.m.)
- March 13, 2026: Pickup Up Day - Edwards Feeds (10 a.m. - 3 p.m.)
- July 20, 2026: Information Meeting for Show & Auction (5 p.m.)
- July 25, 2025: Show & Auction - Pop Smart Bldg. (7 a.m. - noon)



2026 4-H Chick Chain Application

NAME: _____ HOME/CELL Phone: _____
ADDRESS: _____ Grade: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP CODE: _____
SCHOOL _____ TEACHER: _____
If you have a sibling that also filled out an application, please put their name here: _____

If Selected, I understand that I MUST:

- _____ Have a place at my home, a chicken house or pen, to raise 25 chickens.
- _____ I will properly feed and care for the chickens.
- _____ I can provide heat for baby chicks for the first 5 weeks.
- _____ I will pay the \$20 fee to participate by March 13th (pick-up day).
- _____ I will return six (6) of my best chickens to the county show on July 25th, 2026. If not, I will forfeit the opportunity to participate in the future chick chain program and will also be charged \$150.00.

In your own words below, please describe why you should be chosen to participate in the Chick Chain Project this year. What do you hope to gain from this experience if you are selected to receive chicks from 4-H?

4-H Member's Signature:

Guardian Signature:

Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development.
University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating.
UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

