

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Fish and Wildlife, Reynolds Game Farm

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Season's greetings to all Cooperative Extension Pheasant program coordinators,

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will again be distributing pheasant chicks to eligible applicants through the Day-Old Pheasant Chick Program (DOCP) for the spring of 2023! Much of this programs' success comes from the hard work and cooperation of county cooperative extension agents and 4H program leaders across the state.

If your county extension has not participated in recent years, we encourage your 4H leaders and members to take part. The DOCP is a great way for 4H youth to get involved with wildlife and the outdoors, while learning the responsibility that comes with raising animals. Wildlife habitat improvement projects can also be integrated into a raise and release project. A complete rearing guide can be downloaded from our website at https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife_pdf/dayoldchicks.pdf to further familiarize yourself or project applicants with the techniques necessary to raise pheasants. Hard copies may be requested by contacting the game farm. If your office is interested in holding an informational meeting or seminar about the program, please reach out to me to make timely arrangements. For applicant's to be eligible they must have adequate brooding facilities and an approved release location. Additional information on eligibility can be found at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7271.html>

The online application will be re-instated on January 1st and applications should be submitted no later than March 25th, 2023, to be considered eligible. The application can be found by clicking the link on the webpage referenced above or by typing NYSDEC Day-Old Chick Program Application in your browser and you will be directed to the page. Each applicant will need to submit their own application and if any assistance is needed please do not hesitate to contact your local DEC wildlife office or the Reynolds Game Farm.

Following an applications submission, regional DEC wildlife staff will reach out with any questions they may have to applicants. The Reynolds game farm will then work to ensure your office is provided a list of its counties 4H participation and to further co-ordinate delivery with the 4H'er or your office. If you are interested in assisting with the distribution of chicks to non-4H applicants within your county, or if there are any other ways you would like to help with the program, please let us know. And as always if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me via e-mail at evan.wills@dec.ny.gov or by calling at (607)273-2768.

I look forward to another year of this program and the joy and opportunity it provides to 4H youth across the state. Your participation and promotion of the program are cornerstones to its success with these youth.

Sincerely,

Evan Wills

Evan Wills

Fish & Wildlife Technician III

NYSDEC, Reynolds Game Farm

