

4-H PHEASANT REARING PROJECT

WHO IS ELIGIBLE: Any youth, 8-19 years old, who is a resident of Fulton or Montgomery Counties. Youth must also be enrolled as a 4-H member with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Fulton and Montgomery Counties. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation distributes day-old pheasant chicks for rearing and release projects only to qualified 4-H youth.

MINIMUM ORDER: 35 birds is the minimum order. There is no charge for the birds. It is suggested that beginners only order 35 birds.

REARING AND RELEASE REQUIREMENTS: Birds are to be reared to 8 weeks of age or older and released between August 1 and the start of hunting season on lands open to public hunting as specified by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS, AND SITE REQUIREMENTS:

- 1. **Adequate Space** in a rural setting to establish an outdoor pen of at least 200 square feet (10 feet by 20 feet), 10 square feet for each bird. The pen should be constructed of one inch mesh fence and covered with wire fence or netting.
- 2. **A Brooder House** having an area of one-half square foot per bird, attached to the outdoor pen. A garage or shed may be adapted.
- 3. **A Dependable Brooder** (electric is best), or an infra-red heat lamp with red or ruby bulbs. 250 watt for 35-70 chicks.
- 4. **Ample Feeders And Watering Devices.** Three 24-inch or two 36-inch feeders would accommodate 25 birds. You'll need one water fountain per 10 birds.
- 5. **Special Game Bird Feed.** A high protein game bird starter is required. Regular chick starter is *unacceptable*.
- 6. **Pheasant Rearing Guide** published by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Follow procedures specified in guide. This is included with chicks at pick-up.

4-H PHEASANT PROGRAM CONTRACT AGREEMENT

(Complete and return this form to the Fulton/Montgomery 4-H Office by March 19, 2021)

I _____ and _____
(Participating Youth – PLEASE PRINT) (Parent/Guardian – PRINT)

agree to the following provisions of the 4-H Pheasant Program coordinated by
Cornell Cooperative Extension in Fulton and Montgomery Counties.

Signed _____ and _____
Youth Participant Parent or Guardian

Date _____

NUMBER OF PHEASANT CHICKS REQUESTED _____ (Minimum of 35 birds)

Note: Requested number of birds subject to change without notification.

As a participant, we agree to:

- Rear the pheasants according to the procedures specified in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Day-old Pheasant Chick Program Guide (Revised January 2004). For your convenience an electronic version of this document is available on the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation web site at: http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife_pdf/dayoldchicks.pdf or you may request a copy at the 4-H office.
- Have all facilities and equipment ready *prior* to the time indicated in the Day-old Pheasant Chick Program Guide. This includes having the brooding house ready *prior* to the arrival of the birds and the outdoor pen in place by the time the pheasants are 3 weeks of age.
- Pick up the pheasant chicks on the date designated in early May 2021 at the Cooperative Extension 4-H Office.
- Release the pheasants no earlier than eight (8) weeks of age, but not before AUGUST 1st on lands open to public pheasant hunting as specified by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Pheasants must be released no later than the end of the pheasant-hunting season. **BIRDS MAY NOT BE RELEASED ON PRIVATE SHOOTING PRESERVES.**
- Allow a representative of Cornell Cooperative Extension and/or NYS DEC visit our site/facilities for inspection.
- Contact regional office of NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Bureau of Wildlife, Route 10, Stamford, NY 12167 (Phone: 607-652-7364) for information on applications, release areas, policies and guidelines.
- Contact Robert Rathman, Game Farm Manager, or John Hoffman at the NYS DEC, Reynolds Game Farm, 81 Game Farm Road, Ithaca, NY 14850 (Phone: 607-273-2768) for information about rearing birds and flock health problems.
- ***Report in writing the township, date and number of birds released to the Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Office in Fonda, NY by September 30, 2021***