



2021 Q & A's

Question:

Does a 4-H member have to be enrolled in another 4-H project or is it possible to be a member with only a 4-H pheasant project?

Answer:

A 4-H member must be registered with a 4-H club in Alberta, but is able to take on only a pheasant project as a single project. All 4-H member requirements must be adhered to, as indicated in the 4-H Member Standards, and must follow the constitution for whichever club that he/she belongs to.

Question:

What is the deadline to sign up for the 2020-2021 4-H Pheasant Project?

Answer:

A 4-H member must be registered as a member of a club, by the deadline as determined by the club, usually no later than December 1st, in order to be able to complete the member requirements.

The deadline to submit a signed copy of the 4-H Pheasant Agreement Form, and the Tally Form from the club, is **February 12th, 2021**, no exceptions. Cheques for any purchased rooster chicks should also be sent to arrive then as well. Chicks will be ordered for arrival in a time slot from roughly late April to early May, with that arrival date to be shared with members and leaders in an email, once confirmed.

Question:

My family has three 4-H members, and has constructed a very large flight pen. How many chicks can we receive to raise?

Answer:

2020 was full of learnings for everyone in both 4-H and Alberta Conservation Association (ACA), our partner in this project. As a direct result of information provided by 4-H members throughout that project year, several changes were determined to make raising pheasant chicks more successful.

It was determined that each 4-H member new to the 4-H pheasant project would be able to receive between 25 and 100 chicks.

A member returning to the 4-H pheasant project **may** be able to receive additional chicks, up to 200, IF the member's pen is sufficient in size to successfully house more birds. Photos and measurements will need to be provided, prior to chicks being ordered.

Therefore, a family that has three 4-H members **may** take on 75 up to 600 birds, but the quantity is directly related to the size of the pen that the family has available. It is imperative that the size of the pen is optimal, to allow sufficient space so that all birds are safe, comfortable and able to grow and develop to maturity in a healthy and humane environment.

Please refer to the 4-H Alberta Pheasant Guide

http://www.4h.ab.ca/downloads/documents/Pheasants_PG.pdf as one source for ideas on the pen size and other requirements to help with project success.

4-H Alberta Pheasant Project



Question:

If there are multiple 4-H members in our family raising pheasants, do we each have to complete a 4-H record book?

Answer:

Yes.

4-H Alberta Club Member Standards requires each 4-H member to complete project records for each project he/she is registered in, and have them signed by the appropriate adult volunteer/leader.

The 4-H Alberta Pheasant Record Book can be ordered by your club leader, or is available on the 4-H website, linked http://www.4h.ab.ca/downloads/documents/Pheasants_RB.pdf

Question:

Where do the pheasant chicks come from and when will they arrive once I have ordered them?

Answer:

Chicks will arrive in Alberta in a time slot roughly from late April to early May. 4-H members and the project leaders will be advised by email of the date and the locations of where chicks can be picked up. Please note that the route is determined based on the location of both 4-H members and other landowners who also may be purchasing pheasant chicks. The stops are limited in order to complete the distribution as quickly as possible, in order for them to be transported to their new homes, and given water and feed in a timely manner. 4-H members should bring along a suitable box or container, to transport the chicks home.

Check out the MacFarlane site for lots of good pheasant information and photos:

https://www.pheasant.com/?_ga=2.152556784.853015441.1579284647-128783883.1579031072

Question:

Why is there a mid-project progress report required?

Answer:

The 4-H Alberta Pheasant project mid-project progress report is an opportunity to invite different adults or members, to visit your pen and birds and provide any possible suggestions for improvement, as well as pick up ideas from you for their own pens as well.

The mid-point (approximately 7 week) timing ensures that there is sufficient time to make any changes that may be required, in order to further the health, growth and development of your birds and achieve success at the end of the project. Keep in mind that requirements of mature birds at release include tail feathers, fully feathered backs and no evidence of open wounds or blood on their backs.

Consider that this is also an opportunity for 4-H pheasant project members to share via a virtual, video or in-person tour, ideas and learnings with pheasant and non-pheasant members from my club or a neighboring club.



Question:

How will I receive information throughout the 4-H pheasant project?

Answer:

All 4-H pheasant project members and leaders will receive periodic emails with information supplied from both 4-H and ACA, with the majority of emails coming directly from Tracy Dietrich, the 4-H Program Coordinator working with the pheasant project.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns throughout the 4-H project, please email tracy.dietrich@4hab.com.

Question:

How does ACA support the 4-H Alberta pheasant project?

Answer:

Our 4-H pheasant project partnership with ACA has been working since 2014, and the project continues to evolve to meet the mandates of both organizations, ACA has committed to the provision of female pheasant chicks at no charge to 4-H members so that they may experience raising them from day-old chicks to maturity. ACA acquires the chicks and pays for the transportation and distribution of these chicks to 4-H members across the province.

Question:

What is NEW FOR 2020-2021?

The 4-H Alberta Pheasant Project continues to evolve. In 2020-2021, **ACA will provide:**

- At no charge, female pheasant chicks (9:1 ratio, meaning out of 10 chicks, 9 will likely be female, 1 male) chicks, in quantities between 25 and 100 per new 4-H member and up to 200 per returning 4-H member with confirmation that the size of the flight pen is sufficient.
- Beak bits.
- Access to knowledgeable staff throughout the project:
 - o for questions on husbandry issues, conservation, the environment.
 - o for support in determining options for marketing of mature pheasants for sale.
 - o for suggestions of suitable release locations with adequate habitat should 4-H members elect not to market their pheasants for sale.

ACA will not provide

- A 'buy back' opportunity for any mature pheasants released. This year, we will provide advice to 4-H members upon request to assist with their individual marketing endeavors to sell their mature birds to landowners, hunters, or local conservation organizations. This will include providing helpful hints and information throughout the project, posting to their website notification of the availability of 4-H pheasants for sale, etc.
- Netting to new 4-H pheasant project members. ACA will provide suggestions as to where to acquire netting, and input as to what qualities the netting should possess.



4-H Alberta Pheasant Project

Question:

What are the release dates in 2021?

Answer:

The suggested release dates will be communicated via email with all 4-H pheasant project members and leaders once they are finalized, but will occur approximately at the end of August. If a member arranges a sale and buyer prefers older birds (e.g., 20 weeks) members can arrange a different sale date as needed.

Question:

What are some suggested places for marketing mature pheasants?

Answer:

We suggest contacting local Fish and Game clubs, landowners, local conservation organizations, shooting preserves and clubs as some places to market your mature pheasants. You can also pursue live poultry auctions and sell your birds in small (3-6) or larger lots (10-12). Online sales may work well – consider Kijiji and other similar options. We suggest you start the sales process early with a buyer secured well before delivery. ACA has contacted a couple places to gauge their initial interest of buying mature pheasants and so far, we have had some positive interest. We encourage 4-H members to consider purchasing some roosters if you are interested in marketing your mature pheasants as this may increase your success for sale. The condition of your birds will naturally affect their value for the end buyer.