

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE
Changing Lives

When you support Extension, youth develop animal science and farm management skill to establish a sustainable diverse agricultural business.

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Casey County Poultry Club is selling their Kentucky Proud eggs and meat to sustain the education and leadership development program.

Casey County Extension and 21st Century Afterschool Program Evolved into a Poultry Business

Extension established an afterschool Poultry Club with in-kind donations. With support from high school agriculture students and the Casey County Agriculture Development Fund, the program has become Kentucky Proud certified selling eggs and meat.



extension.ca.uky.edu

“The poultry program isn’t just about chickens. It is teaching students the importance of a good work ethic and improving their problem solving skills. Also, we include middle school students during the after school sessions. This is great for the middle school students once they come to the high school. They develop friendships with the high school students, which helps during the transition period from middle to high school.”

Karin C. Weddle, Casey County High School and Middle School

During the fall of 2015, the Casey County 21st Century Director and 4-H Extension collaborated to start an afterschool Poultry Program. A Seed Change grant (\$5,000 in kind) enabled construction of a chicken coop and purchase of incubators and other supplies. During 2015 – 2016 school year, the program included 20 laying hens and 50 Cornish Cross meat chickens. The program incubated 4 cycles of eggs that were given to students and their families. The school food service director purchased eggs and meat. A local USDA-inspected facility processes the meat. Participants are Good Agriculture Practice (GAP) trained. The school district insured compliance of state regulations for handling and selling eggs. The afterschool Culinary Science classes and summer camps use the poultry products. The Casey County Poultry program is Kentucky Proud Certified.



Students build their coops and are required to develop and maintain a budget for operation of each coop.

The Poultry Science class meets twice a week at the Casey County 21st Century Community Learning Center after school program. Students create a feeding schedule to care for the birds daily. During 2016- 2017 school year, students took charge of the business. Adults act as supervisors and facilitators only. Students cared for the flock, constructed coops, managed a budget for their assigned coop, conducted scientific research and develop new ideas to expand the program. The program incubates eggs to study embryology.

Due to the success of 2015-2016 program, the Poultry Program expanded their flock with a matching grant for the local Ag Development Fund. The school district’s food service director increased the order for meat birds, used eggs in the cafeteria and continues to use for the after school program. The funds are re-invested into the Poultry Program account.

As a result of the Poultry Program, students;

- expanded their knowledge of biology and animal science
- applied math and engineering skills to construct coops, budget, and make

- business decisions
- conducted scientific inquiry using record keeping and evaluation skills
- created a small business
- made decisions based on research (compared incubators, feed variables, environmental issues)
- displayed strong work ethics, taking responsibility
- used Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) for animal care, food safety, and environmental protection
- mentored younger students
- interacted with local small business owners
- engaged in community service and understand the impact
- developed self-esteem and confidence in the school community
- considered health when making personal food choices
- recognized the connection between agriculture and private business in the community