



Poultry Workshop Group Activity: Meeting their Basic Needs

Learning Objective: Planning for a Backyard Flock

Life Skills: Planning, Problem Solving, Critical Thinking, Teamwork

Project Skills: Meeting the basic needs of a healthy flock of chickens

Success Indicator: Group verbally and/or visually presents a plan for their flock that provides solutions for the 5 basic needs.

Resources:

Utah State University publication: [Principles of Feeding a Small Flock of Chickens at Home](#)

Virginia Cooperative Extension Publication: [Small Scale Poultry Housing](#)

Time Required:

20 to 40 minutes (20 min to answer questions, 20 min to present and discuss)

Leader for Activity:

A Teen or Adult with each team of 4- 8 youth.

Materials List:

1. 1 Copy of each of the 2 resources listed above for each team.
 2. Pencils, Pens, Markers or Crayons
 3. Graph paper
 4. Calculator for each team
 5. Copies of Price List from a feed store showing current chicken feed cost
 6. Ruler for each team
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Directions:

In order to be prepared to care for a healthy flock of chickens, you must be aware of the animals' basic needs. Work in small teams of 4-7 to complete the tasks below.

1. *Feed.* Estimate how much feed will be needed for a day, week and year to provide proper nutrition for a flock of 6 Laying Hens. Estimate how much the feed will cost per day, week and

Directions continued

year. Use the Utah State Poultry handout for your reference. (If 100 layers eat 24lbs a day, how much feed will one eat in a day : $24/100 = A$)

$A \times 6 = B$ (feed for flock of 6 for 1 day)

$B \times 7 = C$ (feed for week)

$C \times 52 = D$ (feed for 1 year)

A bag of feed weighs 50lbs, use the price list to determine how much a pound of feed costs ____
How much will feed cost for 1 year:?

2. *Water.* Use the provided resources to estimate how much water your flock of 6 layers will need on an average summer day and an average winter day. What are some of the challenges that could be encountered in extreme weather?
3. *Air.* A build up of ammonia gas from manure, will make your birds sick. Draw a coop that will protect your flock from extreme weather and predators, but, also provide fresh air.
4. *Space.* Use the provided resources to determine how much space your flock of 6 layers will need to live comfortably. Using pencil and graph paper draw to scale a comfortable sized house and yard for the flock.
5. *Shelter.* Protection from extreme temperatures, predators and pests is important to a safe and healthy flock. Make a list of things to protect your chickens from (ie. Hot sun, raccoons, starlings). Draw a house and yard that provides protection. Point out how protection is provided.
6. Present your findings to the entire group.

Skill/Knowledge Targeted: Wise Use of Resources, Planning, Problem Solving, Critical Thinking, Disease Prevention, Basic Needs of Animals

Safety Considerations: N/A

Experiential Learning Model:

Share Questions: How did you like working as a team? What did you learn from this activity?

Process Questions: Did you find the task easy or difficult? Why? How could it be done differently?

Generalize Question: How can you use an activity like this elsewhere in your life?

Apply Questions: How will you apply what you learned tonight?

