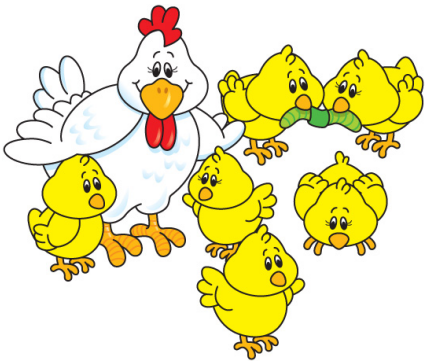
2027 PUTNAM COUNTY AGRICULTURAL FAIR

# 4-H/FFA PULLET PROJECT



**SPONSORED BY:** Putnam County Fair Authority, Inc.

**EDUCATIONAL ADVISORS:** Jeanie Houk, 4-H Youth Development Agent
Bobbi Watson Preston, 4-H Program Assistant Putnam Co
Wendy Jo Williams, 4-H Volunteer

**ENTRY DEADLINE:** **Friday, September 18, 2026**, by 5pm to Ag Center (111 Yelvington Rd., E. Palatka, FL 32131) (limited to 20 Putnam/10 St. Johns, first come first served entries)

**MANDATORY MEETING:** **Sat., October 10, 2026**, 9:30 am at Putnam County Ag Center Auditorium 111 Yelvington Rd, East Palatka, FL 32131. Following the meeting will drive to Country Feed and General Store, 2420 Reid St., Palatka, FL 32177, for bird dispersal ***Format of meeting may be altered due to federal, state and county policies & regulations.** Any OPEN Spots become available to either county September 12th.

- Information, Record Books and your pullets will be issued

**FAIR ARRIVAL:** Saturday, **March 20, 2027**, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Use Entrance @ 117 Yelvington Rd (Gate 8-open gate near Poultry Barn)

**JUDGING:** Wednesday, **March 24, 2027**
**CLOSED Judging. Barn is CLOSED.**

**SALE:** **Friday, March 26th**, 5-8pm via Silent Auction. Best of Show winner will have the option to Live auction their bird.
If you choose Live auction a Bio Sheet must be provided.

**ENTRY FEE:** $30 includes 4 chicks only. You **MUST** already have a brooder or all supplies to build a brooder. Fee can be paid by Cash, Check or Money Order. Make check or money order payable to Putnam County 4-H

**RECORD BOOK:** Issued on **Oct 10, 2026**, and Due at Arrival at Fair on **Mar 20, 2027**

**REMOVAL:** Saturday, **March 27, 2027**, at 6:00 p.m. or 30 minutes following Poultry Awards

**DIVISIONS:** 4-H Cloverbud: 5-7 years old (as of September 1, 2026)
Junior 4-H/FFA: 8-10 years old (as of September 1, 2026)
Intermediate 4-H/FFA: 11-13 years old (as of September 1, 2026)
Senior 4-H/FFA: 14-18 years old (as of September 1, 2026)

## PULLET PROJECT INFORMATION

The Putnam County Fair Pullet Project will provide participants with instruction and opportunities to learn to feed, water and care for chickens from the "day old hatchling" stage to "ready-to-lay" pullets. This project will benefit young people by providing opportunities to develop self-responsibility, discipline, and persistence, and it will also provide a pathway into developing the character traits necessary to transition into larger animal projects.

To ensure uniformity (age, gender and breed) and to increase survivability, each participant will purchase 4 one-day- old biddies that have been purchased from the hatchery. Prior to receipt, all chicks will be vaccinated at the hatchery for Marek's Disease and each participant will receive the health related information needed for the care of their new arrivals.

At the end of the project the participants will be encouraged to select their top 2 pullets to enter for judging at the Putnam County Agricultural Fair. Each entry will be judged as a ready to lay set by an unbiased official and ribbons will be awarded. All age divisions are welcome to enroll but only Junior, Intermediate and Senior divisions will be judged. Cloverbuds will receive a participation ribbon for their participation and will be eligible to sell their set with the rest at a silent auction held on Friday night of the Fair. ***It will be the responsibility of the exhibitors to identify and invite potential buyers and sales prices will not be guaranteed.***

**Project Timeline:** From arrival of the chicks in October to check-in at the fair will require **FIVE months** of care. Daily requirements will vary through the course of the project, but the birds will require roughly an hour per day with daily responsibilities changing dramatically over the course of the project.

1. Poultry will be limited to the first 20 entrants for Putnam County and 10 entries from St. Johns County that are enrolled in 4-H/FFA. If spaces remain open on September 11th, remaining spaces will be open to both counties.
2. Poultry must be brought to the fair in a **ventilated container** and may not be removed until the inspection is completed, then may be placed directly into their cages by the Exhibitor. All storage containers must be removed from livestock barn during the fair. Exhibitors must make their own arrangements for delivery and pick up of the birds.
3. Once the birds have been received, exhibitors may not relocate their birds.
4. Exhibitors may not handle birds during the operating hours of the fair.
5. No unauthorized cards are to be placed on the cage except by the contest designee.
6. Exhibitors will be limited to showing **FEMALE BIRDS ONLY** under the age of 6 months. (Although the hatchery makes all reasonable efforts to send only female birds, a male could be sent so there is a slight possibility of having a male bird).
7. Exhibitor must decide at time of check-in, if their pullets will be included in the silent auction, or if they will be taken home on Saturday (the final day of the fair).
8. 4-H and Putnam County Fair Authority is not responsible for loss of your birds or replacement animals.
9. Exhibitors are to use the Yelvington Rd entrance at the Livestock Gate when bringing their birds to the fair.

## RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Eligibility of Exhibitor: open to Putnam & St. Johns County who are qualified and active 4-H or FFA members, 5 – 18 years of age (as of **September 1, 2026**), must be enrolled and in good standing (as of **October 1, 2026)**.
2. Eligibility of Animal: Exhibitors must have purchased their pullets by the entry deadline.
3. Rules for judging will be strictly adhered to.
4. Due to limited space, birds will be accepted on a first come first served basis.
5. **NO ROOSTERS** will be accepted as a part of this project.
6. Entry forms must be completed, signed and turned in by **September 18, 2026** at 5pm to the AG CENTER in E. Palatka.
7. All eggs laid during the show become the property of the Fair Authority
8. Health Requirements: Poultry will be tested by a livestock inspector on receiving day. State health and USDA requirements will supersede any other rules or health requirements.
9. Removal Date: All Pullets must be removed from the barns on Saturday, **March 27, 2027**, 30 minutes after poultry awards. NO BIRDS may remain in the barns past tis time. You must wait on Shelby, Wendy Jo, or Bobbi Jean to open your cage to release your birds. If you open and remove birds without permission you forfeit the opportunity to show poultry in 2028.
10. Record books are required for all age divisions.
11. Fair Authority will feed and water pullets during the fair.
12. **A MANDATORY CLINIC will be held on October 10, 2026, at 9:30 am** at Putnam Agriculture Center Auditorium (111 Yelvington Rd., East Palatka). **Failure to submit a completed Record Book** will result in the pullets being disqualified from the judging process. Followed by chick dispersal @ Country Feed & General Store (2420 Reid St., Palatka). **ALL EXHIBITORS and a parent MUST ATTEND. You will also be picking up your chicks at this time.**

13. You will receive FOUR chicks for your project. You will select your best TWO to be entered in the fair at check-in for the pullet contest. If you choose to do so you may purchase additional chicks at the end of pick up from chicks remaining. These are an optional additional charge paid to the feed store (estimated to be somewhere between $7.00-$9.00 per chick).
14. Any and all rules, regulations and/or requirements are subject to change due to any federal, state and local government mandate. If such changes occur, a notification (or notifications) will be issued to agents, instructors, advisors and registered participants via the official registered contact information on file

## SALE OF PULLETS

1. Exhibitor must decide, at time of check-in, if their pullets will be included in the silent auction, or if they will be taken home on Saturday (the final day of the fair).
2. Pullets will be sold by Silent Auction on Friday, **March 26, 2027**, from 5-8pm.
3. Exhibitors should make arrangements with their respective buyers on issues concerning pick-up and delivery. The pullets need to be removed from the fairgrounds at 6pm on Saturday, **March 27, 2027** or 30 minutes following the Poultry Awards. BEST OF SHOW winner will have the option to participate in the live auction that begins at 7pm, a Bio Sheet must be provided.
4. Pullets will be sold as a pair to highest bidder during the auction. Buyers are encouraged to bring payment that night. Payment is **DUE** prior to the buyer taking their pullets home.
5. Checks from the sale will be issued via mail after the fair.
6. It is the exhibitors responsibility to send Thank You letter(s) to their buyer(s) and add-on(s). Add-ons should be paid directly to the youth or Putnam Fair and not written on the auction sheet.

## RECORD BOOKS

1. Record books are required for all age divisions.
2. Record Book awards will be given to the BEST ONE in each category: Junior, Intermediate & Senior. Cloverbuds do not compete and will receive a participation ribbon for the completion of their Record Book.

## ROSETTES & AWARDS

- Awards will be given at the Poultry Awards Ceremony on Saturday March 29th.
- All Junior, Intermediate & Senior Entries will receive quality ribbons and premium for their set of pullets, unless disqualified for missing/incomplete Record Book.
- No rosettes will be issued to Cloverbuds but they will receive participation ribbons and $5 premium for their pullet set provided they submitted a completed Record Book at check-in.
- Pullet sets deemed by the judge to be **Blue** quality will receive a **Blue Ribbon & $5 premium**. All Blue Ribbon pullet sets will be eligible for Best of Breed in their given breed. One(1) Best of Breed will be selected for each breed.
- Pullet sets deemed by the judge to be **Red** quality will receive a **Red Ribbon & $3 premium**.
- Pullet sets deemed by the judge to be **White** quality will receive a **White Ribbon & $1 premium**.
- **Best of Breed** will receive a **Rosette & $5 premium**. All Best of Breed pullet sets will be eligible for Best of Show. One (1) Best of Show winner will be selected from the eligible sets.
- **Best of SHOW** will receive an **Award and $10 premium**
- Record Book awards will be given to the **BEST ONE in each category**: Junior, Intermediate & Senior. Best Record Book will be determined by scores in graded Record Books. An **award and $10 premium** will be issued to the 1st Place Record Book in each age category. Cloverbuds do no compete and will receive a participation ribbon for completed Record Book.

**For registration information please contact**:

**BOBBI WATSON PRESTON**
**PUTNAM COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE**
**111 YELVINGTON ROAD, SUITE #1**
**EAST PALATKA, FL 32131**
**PHONE: (386) 329-0318**
**FAX: (386) 329-1262**
**EMAIL:** putnam4h@ifas.ufl.edu