

# 2023 Grow a Chick Program

Thank you for your interest in our first grow a chick program! We are excited to have you participate!

## **RULES:**

Participants must be between the age of 3 and 16 in 2023.

Each participant may receive up to three chicks.

If you are the only participant in your household, you must take at least 2 chicks (They love to have friends and not be alone!)

There will be a max number of chicks depending on how many participants within the household. For example: If there are 4 children participating you will receive 4 chicks, etc.

All Participants must attend an information session to learn how to care for their chick. The date for this is June 3rd, 2023 @ 11 am.(Powassan Ag Society Fairgrounds 55 Fair View Lane)

All participants will be required to grow and take care of their chick and bring it back to the fair in September for judging. After the fair, participants have the option to keep their chicks or return them to the Powassan Agricultural Society.

## **FAIR JUDGING CRITERIA:**

### **Ages 3-6**

1. Bring at least one of your chickens to the fair on Sunday, September 3, 2023.
2. Tell us about raising your chick. You may use words, pictures, diagrams, etc. To create an information poster, your poster should not exceed 12" x 12".
3. Include at least one fun chicken fact on your poster.

### **Ages 7-11**

1. Bring at least one of your chickens to the fair on Sunday, September 3, 2023.
2. Tell us about raising your chick. You may use words, pictures, diagrams, etc. To create an information poster, your poster should not exceed 12" x 12".
3. Include at least two fun chicken fact on your poster.

### **Ages 12-16**

1. Bring at least one of your chickens to the fair on Sunday, September 3, 2023.
2. Tell us about raising your chick. You may use words, pictures, diagrams, etc. To create an information poster, your poster should not exceed 12" x 12".
3. Include at least two chicken or egg nutritional facts on your poster.

### **Family**

1. Bring at least one of your chickens to the fair on Sunday, September 3, 2023.
2. Tell us about raising your chick. You may use words, pictures, diagrams, etc. To create an information poster, your poster should not exceed 22 ½" x 28 ½" (bristol board)
3. Include at least two fun chicken facts and at least one chicken or egg nutritional fact on your poster.

## **HOW TO GROW YOUR CHICK**

We are so excited to be growing chicks with you! Your chicks are working hard at growing and developing inside the egg and getting ready to hatch on May 29<sup>th</sup>!

When you get your chicks they will be a couple of days old. They will be red sexlink chickens. Your chickens will start laying eggs around 20 weeks old.

Here are some tips to keep your chicks happy and healthy!

### **4 days to 2 weeks:**

They will need a “broody pen” this is a smaller warm pen they will live in for the first few weeks of life. It can be a kiddie pool, large tub or small pen etc. Please make sure this is in a place that is safe for the chicks away from harsh weather, cold drafts and predators.

Wood shavings are best for small chicks. You will want to clean out large soiled areas every few days and a full clean out once a week.

A heat source, such as a heat lamp, works best or you can keep them in a warm spot inside. They really need a nice warm place with no drafts for the first 2 weeks of life. Make sure that the heat lamp is not too close to them and that they have a large enough area to make sure that if it is too hot they can get away from the heat. You will notice if they are too cold they will huddle under the lamp and if they are too hot they will be away from the lamp. It is best to adjust the height of the lamp accordingly if you see any of these signs.

You will be supplied with a large zip lock bag full of medicated chick grower when you pick up your chicks to help get you started. They will eat this for 2-3 weeks. Your next bag does not have to be medicated. After this you will buy layer mash for them to eat.

Water. They drink lots of water. It is best to change their water once a day and make sure they always have water. Please make sure their water source is not too deep as they can fall in and drown the first couple of weeks until they get bigger. There are many different watering options for small chicks at our local feed stores and a quick search online will give many other easy and affordable ideas too!

### **2 WEEKS AND BEYOND**

Your chicks are ready to go outside or inside a safe location. This will be the place they live for the rest of the summer and beyond. There are many different options of housing for your chickens. Small chicken tractors are a great and affordable place if you don't have a barn or existing coop. A small one can be built out of pallet and some chicken wire. There are lots of plans for this, that can be found with a quick google search. This allows them to be eating on the grass while still being protected. They can also sleep in the shelter that is attached. It is important to make sure that your chickens have a safe place to get out of the weather if needed and also get away from potential predators. Some good

practices is to let your chickens out during the day but to make sure they are safe at night away from the potential threat of night time predators such as fox, raccoon, etc.

If you have an existing coup with chickens, remember these new chicks cannot go with the bigger birds till 12 weeks old for their safety and wellbeing. The older chickens may be aggressive towards the smaller birds.

You will also want a laying box. For 2-6 chickens you will need 1. This gives them a place to nest and prepare to lay eggs!!

Good luck and please feel free to ask any questions along the way.

***\*To Register and information email: [growachickpowassan@gmail.com](mailto:growachickpowassan@gmail.com) or call Sarah @ 705.825.1576***

***\*Information session and chick pick up day is June 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 11am Powassan Agricultural Society Fairgrounds 55 Fair View Lane in Powassan (off Hwy 534)***