

Homesteaders 4-H Club Poultry Coop Rental Agreement & Procedures

The Homesteaders 4-H poultry coop building consisting of a feed room and 12 coops is a shared club resource available to 4-H youth for raising poultry at the Homesteaders Ranch.

This is an agreement between the Santa Clara County 4-H member(s) listed at the end of this document and the Homesteaders 4-H Club of Santa Clara, located at 3450 Brookdale Drive, Santa Clara, CA 95051. This agreement supplements the [Homesteaders 4-H Club Ranch Use Agreement](#), which contains the Homesteaders 4-H Club Ranch Procedures.

The purpose of the poultry coop procedures is to ensure:

- The health and safety of the resident poultry
- The health and safety of 4-H members and ranch visitors
- The preservation of the poultry coop building for current and future use by 4-H members

By signing this agreement, all parties agree to the following:

1. **Ranch Agreement:** I have signed the [Homesteaders 4-H Club Use Ranch Agreement](#).
2. **Ranch Fees:** I will pay ranch fees promptly when due to rent a coop.
3. **Poultry Project:** I am enrolled in a 4-H poultry project and will attend project meetings.
4. **Animals & Quantity:** I understand no more than six (6) coop-ready birds of the same size—standard or bantam—may be housed in a coop. Roosters are not allowed and must be rehomed/removed within a week of being identified as a Rooster. A [Special Request](#) (pages 9, 11, 12) may be submitted to the project leader for additional housing, space permitting.
5. **Coop Access & Signage:** The ranch manager must have access to the coop so only combination locks may be used if the coop is locked. Locks may be cut for safety reasons (fire) or a compliance issue. I will hang a weatherproof sign with my last name on the coop door.
6. **Equipment & Supplies:** Each coop is equipped with an automatic treadle feeder to deter rodents. I am responsible for teaching my birds to use the feeder. With the exception of the feeder and shared tools in the feed room, I am responsible for the equipment and supplies needed for the care of my birds; for example: nipple waterer, covered metal airtight can, pine savings, feed.
7. **Rodent Control:** I will implement the club's rodent control program in order to:
(1) protect the health and safety of the birds and people, (2) prevent feed waste, and (3) prevent damage to the poultry coop building. Rodents (mice, rats) seek food, water, and shelter on the ranch to nest and survive. Mice have a home range of 10-20 feet of their feed/water source and feed 20 times a day. Rats have a home range of approximately 100 feet and they usually feed in the evening.
 - a. **Feeder & Waterer:** I will only use the club's automatic treadle feeder, and I will provide and use a nipple waterer in my coop. No open bowls of food and water are allowed in the coop. I will remove spillage in order to ensure there is no feed accessible to rodents.

- b. **Coop & Feed Doors:** I will keep the doors closed and latches secured, even when my birds are free ranging, to deter rodents from entering the coop and feed room.
 - c. **Feed Room:** I will keep the feed room clean, storing feed in an airtight, covered metal container and sweeping out spilled feed.
 - d. **Poultry Area:** I will keep the general poultry area on the north, east, and south side of the coop building free of litter, weeds, and debris, removing potential rodent trails and nesting areas as well as hazards.
 - e. **Barn Cats:** I will care for the barn cats so they stay at the ranch to deter and dispatch mice and small rats.
 - f. **Coop & Feed Room Maintenance:** Weekly I will check for openings or evidence of rats and mice and patch openings with 24-gauge sheet metal flashing and/or 20-gauge (or stronger) ¼” galvanized hardware cloth (vinyl coated preferred).
8. **Trash Disposal:** I will put trash in garbage cans and empty full cans in the SCUSD dumpster by the basketball court. I will pack out trash that cannot fit in a garbage can. The ranch does not have garbage service.
 9. **Coop Cleaning:** I will remove feces, spilled food, and soiled shavings at least every other day and dispose of them in the compost bins on the west side of the ranch. I will do a deep clean of the coop at least two times a year; spring and fall are suggested.
 10. **Quarantine:** I will quarantine my birds for a minimum of seven (7) days in a quarantine coop when I bring them to the ranch or when they have been exposed to birds from other facilities. Free ranging is not permitted while in quarantine.
 11. **Poultry Gates:** I will keep the two poultry gates closed when birds are free ranging, and I will lock the poultry area/parking gate when I leave the ranch. The gate combo will be provided upon payment of ranch fees.

Name of Parent/Guardian of Minor(s)	Signature	Date

Member/Volunteer 1: Name	Signature	Date

Member/Volunteer 2: Name	Signature	Date

Member/Volunteer 3: Name	Signature	Date

Member/Volunteer 4: Name	Signature	Date