

Sent out on Mar 14, 2019

Good day 4-H Alberta pheasant project members and leaders, and club contacts. FINALLY it looks like perhaps Spring is coming in Alberta, after some pretty rough wintery and cold days.

With that great news, focus turns to outdoor activities and..... the pending arrival of pheasant chicks.

TENTATIVELY – it is looking like chicks will be arriving one day during the week of **May 21st to the 24th**. More information will be coming, closer to that date with the exact date, but you can write it (in pencil) on your calendar for now. Remember that chicks will need to be picked up as staff from Alberta Conservation Association will have a very busy day, with many stops, to get the chicks to you, so that you can take them to their new homes.

At this time, we are looking at the delivery routes, and “stops” along the way. From your club location and mailing addresses, the locations listed below look to be the best location for you to pick up, but please **let me know if you prefer one of the other locations as shown** – especially if it means your chicks need to be in a different vehicle.

Please note – I am **currently seeking a “site contact” for each “stop”** – An adult to be the contact person for ACA during the delivery process. This person would have direct contact with the ACA driver, to confirm arrival time at their stop, ensure that each of the recipients are aware if there are delays etc. and help with a speedy off-load of chicks. Please contact me, with your cell number as soon as possible if you can take this on. It’s not a big job, but it is a very important job, as we all work together to make certain that these live chicks are looked after as quickly as possible.

How the chicks get here:

The large temperature controlled truck from McFarlane’s in Wisconsin will arrive in Dunmore, Alberta in the wee hours of the morning, where the chicks will be off-loaded into 3 other vehicles for their Alberta journey. Note that some stops may not include any 4-H members, but other landowners who will be raising chicks.

Chicks are transported in boxes of 100, separated into 4 quadrants for 25 each. If you are not taking a full box of chicks, please remember to bring along a suitable box or container for transport your new chicks home.

And please remember to thank the ACA staff person you meet, as this is a hot and noisy drive with these chicks (over 10,000 – not always cheaping the same song), and this project would not be successful without their participation.

Route 1 (Dunmore to Milk River)

- Dunmore
- Seven Persons
- Bow Island
- Taber – New Ewe 4-H Club, Retlaw-Prairie 4-H Beef Club,
- Lethbridge – Champion 4-H Club, Lethbridge-Coaldale 4-H Beef Club, TNT 4-H Multi Club,
- Warner – Warner 4-H Beef Club
- Milk River – Milk River 4-H Multi Club,

Route 2 (Brooks to Sherwood Park)

- Brooks – John Ware 4-H Beef Club, Lomond 4-H Club,
- Gleichen – Crowfoot Multi 4-H Club
- Strathmore
- Airdrie – Balzac 4-H Beef Club
- Lacombe – Bluffton 4-H Beef Club, Central Lacombe 4-H Beef Club, Tees 4-H Wranglers
- Leduc – Alder Flats 4-H Multi Club, Hay Lakes 4-H Multi Club, Thorsby 4-H Multi Club
- Onoway – Bon Accord 4-H Club, Camp Creek 4-H Club, Cherhill 4-H Multi Club, Freedom Naples 4-H Multi Club, Newbrook 4-H Beef Builders, RQB Rancheros 4-H Multi Club, T & M 4-H Club
- Sherwood Park

Route 3 (Brooks to St. Paul)

- Brooks – South Slope 4-H Beef Club,
- Hardisty – Battle River 4-H Beef Club
- Vermilion – Edgerton 4-H Multi Club,
- Elk Point – Elk Point 4-H Beef Club, Myrnam 4-H Multi Club
- St. Paul – St. Paul 4-H Multi Club

You will be hearing further from either Amanda or me, as we get closer to the big arrival day. Please remember to respond if you prefer one of the other stops, and let me know if you can be a stop monitor person.

Have a great day!

Ginny Smith

4-H Specialist – Southern Region
 4-H Alberta | 4-H Section | Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
 100, 5401 – 1st Avenue South
 Lethbridge, AB T1J 4V6
 403-381-5815 (w) | 403-892-0909 (c - texting available)
 Email: ginny.smith@gov.ab.ca
www.4h.ab.ca

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Life's lesson from an equestrian point of view:

“There are only 2 emotions that belong in the saddle – one is a sense of humor, the other is patience”

– John Lyons

Sent out on Feb 22, 2019

BCC'ed to 4-H pheasant project members, and pheasant project leaders.

Thank you members and leaders for sending your completed agreement forms and tally order forms for our 2019 pheasant project.

Some members are still needing to provide their **Premise ID #** for their land location, so as soon as it is received, please send it. I will also send a separate email reminder to the member and project leader as this is required information.

Members who have not yet sent their **payments for rooster chicks** – please do so immediately as these payments are past due. Cheques or money orders must be payable to Alberta Conservation Association, and mailed to me at the address below. I will send a separate reminder email also to those outstanding, to the member and project leader. Remember to please identify what member the cheque is paying for, on the cheque or as an attached note so that it can be recorded correctly.

Leaders – please remember to order the Pheasant **project guide and record book** for each pheasant project member, as completing a record book is a requirement of the project. These are also available if you would like to print them off on your own -

http://www.4h.ab.ca/downloads/documents/Pheasants_PG.pdf for the Project Guide

http://www.4h.ab.ca/downloads/documents/Pheasants_RB.pdf for the record book

For 2019, there are **91 4-H members** participating in the project, from 31 clubs within 6 4-H regions across the province. There are no 4-H members within the Peace region pursuing this project this year.

7800 hens and 635 rooster chicks (totaling 8435) have been ordered by Alberta Conservation Association and should **arrive approximately mid-May**. You will be communicated with before that time, so that you are aware of the exact arrival date, and the route indicating various locations where members may pick up their chicks to take them home to their own facilities. Remember that this day is the same for everyone across the province, and is a big trip for these little critters that start the trek in Wisconsin USA, so patience and cooperation by everyone is appreciated to get these chicks to their new homes as quickly as possible. Many thanks in advance to the ACA staff who cover lots of highway and backroads to make this happen! (Please remember to thank them, when you receive your chicks.)

Netting – once again one net (50 x 50) will be provided at no charge to each new 4-H pheasant project member by ACA. Some returning members may wish to order a replacement net, or some families may want to build flight pens larger for the future, so may require an additional net or two. Nets are available for purchase at \$50 each. If you are wanting to purchase any nets, please provide a cheque payable to ACA and send to me, at the address below. Orders AND payment must be received here by March 15th, 2019 to be included in the large order.

Beak bits – will be provided to 4-H members by ACA at no charge, to be placed on birds at approximately 4 to 6 weeks, and then must be removed prior to release. These bits will be sent to club project leaders to distribute to the club members, approximately late May.

Emails may come from me throughout the duration of the 2019 pheasant project, or directly from Amanda Rezanoff, our main contact at Alberta Conservation Association. If you need to reach Amanda with any questions about pheasants and pheasant rearing, her email is amanda.rezanoff@ab-conservation.com and phone number is 780-410-1975.

Please let me know if you have questions. I hope that you are looking forward to this exciting project (and good spring weather by arrival time).

Ginny Smith

4-H Specialist – Southern Region
4-H Alberta | 4-H Section | Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
100, 5401 – 1st Avenue South
Lethbridge, AB T1J 4V6
403-381-5815 (w) | 403-892-0909 (c - texting available)
Email: ginny.smith@gov.ab.ca
www.4h.ab.ca

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Life's lesson from an equestrian point of view:

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– John Lyons

Sent out on Jan 21, 2019

This email is provided to:

4-H members already registered in the pheasant project for 2018-2019, Registered pheasant project leaders and general club leaders with pheasants listed as a project for 2018-2019 club year, leaders/parents who have expressed interest in potentially registering for the 2018-2019 pheasant project in their club (and must do so according to the dates below – please contact your regional specialist, or me if you require assistance)

Please share with anyone else who may be interested in participating in the pheasant project.

It is time for a brand new year of our partnership with the Alberta Conservation Association, with the 4-H Pheasant project! To all new and returning members, parents, leaders – welcome to the adventure! For those returning – please note that there are some changes this year. **Everyone, please read the current Agreement Form attached, sign and return to me by February 7th**. Any questions must be addressed by then as well. Note that there will be a separate Agreement Form forthcoming directly to those members within the Peace 4-H Region as it is slightly different than for the rest of the province, coinciding with the pheasant project in that area. (You may also have already been contacted by your local ACA contact.)

February 7th is also the final date to order chicks – pheasant project leaders, please amalgamate all of your club members' orders onto the one tally sheet per club to order. As we are dealing with live critters, please be confident that the number ordered is indeed the number wanted by each member (it is not possible to return them).

Over the next months there will be different emails that will be sent out directly to the recipients as indicated above. Please read them all carefully as this is one of the main means of communicating with everyone connected with the pheasant project to ensure our 4-H pheasant family is on the same page.

The most important issue at the moment for **everyone** – getting the **Agreement Forms signed and returned and the orders submitted** so that our total number of required pheasant chicks can be provided to Alberta Conservation Association, as they place the 2019 order through MacFarlane's Pheasant hatchery in Wisconsin, USA in preparation of our 4-H pheasant arrival in May.

Fun Facts might pop up now and then in these emails – for interest or information:

We are very proud of our partnership with **Alberta Conservation Association**. This 4-H project would not be possible without their support, expertise and involvement. Check out their website <https://www.ab-conservation.com/> to learn more about this organization! Staff from ACA are available to 4-H members to help you have success with your pheasant project and can be reached by email or phone. Their contact information will be provided in the next email.

ACA and 4-H Alberta have been partnering on this 4-H project for 5 years (with a mini-project a year prior) – and what an adventure it has been! In that time, 4-H Alberta members received over 37,000 day-old pheasant chicks, and have successfully raised and released almost 21,000 mature birds across

the province. This success rate is a wonderful achievement, as this is not an easy accomplishment. In upcoming emails, more information about the development of this project will be shared as well.

As we enter year #6 in 2019 to date, **97** members from **34** different 4-H clubs across the province, from every 4-H region, have signed up to be part of this challenging project – so you are following our 4-H motto of “Learn to do by Doing”, as we all continue to learn all sorts of new and interesting things about wildlife and habitat, and help to improve our environment within Alberta through our involvement with ACA and pheasants. Leaders – please make certain that all of your pheasant project members have been added to your club information.

MacFarlane Pheasants has been in the game bird business since 1929 and is the largest pheasant producer in North America. Last year, they produced **1.8 MILLION** day old pheasant chicks, shipped all over the world including US, Canada, Europe and the Middle East. Check out their website <https://www.pheasant.com/> for videos, stories and photos that are enlightening and entertaining. They also keep about 500,000 chicks and raise them to maturity each year. What a neat fieldtrip this could be!

I hope that you are as excited about this new year’s project as I am! Please submit your forms as soon as possible, absolutely no later than February 7th.

Ginny Smith

4-H Specialist – Southern Region
4-H Alberta | 4-H Section | Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
100, 5401 – 1st Avenue South
Lethbridge, AB T1J 4V6
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