

PRESS RELEASE

March 6, 2019

Lead Staff: Barbara Moran
845-292-6180, ext. 109
4-H Animal Science Program Coordinator
bjm292@cornell.edu

Free Pheasant Rearing Opportunity for Youth

SULLIVAN COUNTY, NY— Daily care is necessary to monitor the health of young pheasants and to ensure that there is adequate feed and water for the rapidly growing chicks. Youth interested in participating in the annual Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)'s Day-Old Pheasant "Raise & Release" program have the unique opportunity to experience rearing pheasants and releasing them into the wild.

The rearing of pheasants requires a great deal of responsibility by youth and a substantial time commitment. The benefits of this program include:

- Rearing pheasants is enjoyable, challenging, and teaches youth responsible behavior
- Released pheasants offer fall hunting opportunities
- People enjoy seeing and hearing pheasants

Orders can be placed until Wednesday, March 20, 2019 through Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County (CCESC)'s 4-H Youth Development program, located at the Extension Education Center on 64 Ferndale-Loomis Road in Liberty.

For more information on the Day-Old Pheasant Chick Program or to register for chicks, the public should contact Barbara Moran at bjm292@cornell.edu or call 845-292-6180.

When the program started in the early 1900s, pheasant eggs and chicks were distributed to farmers and rural youth. Today, day-old chicks are available at no cost to participants who are able to provide a brooding facility, a covered outdoor rearing pen, and an adequate release site. According to the DEC, without propagation and release programs of this introduced species, wild populations of this introduced species would vanish and hunting opportunities would not exist in New York State.

Your Trusted Resource of Choice.

The program is funded through the state Conservation Fund from license fees paid by hunters, trappers, and anglers. More information is available on the DEC website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7271.html>.

Any Sullivan County youth ages 5-18 can apply to enroll in 4-H for free, all year long. To learn more about 4-H, call CCEC at 845-292-6180 or visit <http://sullivanccce.org/4-h-youth-development>.

###