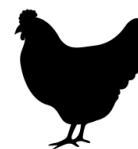




POULTRY PROJECT GUIDEBOOK



Species-Chair:

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IMPORTANT DATES & INFO				
Registration Due	March 1 st		Show Bird Possession	April 15 th
SPECIES	POSSESSION DATE	AGE AT FAIR	MINIMUM WEIGHT (per bird)	MAXIMUM WEIGHT (per bird)
Cornish Game Hens	July 5 – 9	4 weeks	2-1/2 pounds	None
Ducks	May 31 – June 4	9 weeks	4 pounds	None
Geese	April 5 – 16	16 - 17 weeks	8 pounds	None
Production Pullets	Oct 15 – Jan 31			
Meat Chickens	June 7 – 11	8 weeks	5 pounds	10 pounds
Turkeys	April 12 - 23	15 - 16 weeks	15 pounds	None
Record Book (Both Market and Show Only)	Required		Thank You Note	Required

General Requirements

- ◆ Participating youth must abide by all general rules and regulations listed in the Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council's Member Guidebook. This includes, but is not limited to, Code of Conducts, registration deadlines, showmanship and market requirements, Record book and Thank you Letters etc.
- ◆ To participate in a 4-H market poultry project, youth must attain the age of eight (8) or older by January 1st of that calendar year and be registered with 4Honline.
- ◆ Registration is due to the Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council Auction Committee no later than the March council meeting.

- ◆ Youth are required to complete a project record book depicting their experience from beginning to end of the project. It is recommended that youth weigh and photograph their project at time of purchase.

Animal Requirements

- ◆ All birds MUST come from a Pullorum-free hatchery or breeder
 - When ordering birds, make sure the order is larger than needed in case birds need to be replaced (i.e. lameness, wrong sex, death, etc)
 - Keep the sale receipt showing the date of birth
- ◆ ILT vaccinated poultry will NOT be accepted for entry
- ◆ Birds that are a mixed breed, or birds that are not a good representative of a pure breed, may be shown in showmanship class only (not in a breed or market class).
 - Members are encouraged to consult the poultry American Standard Breed of Perfection or the American Bantam Standard Breed of Perfection to compare their bird against the standard.
- ◆ Due to DNR regulations and permit requirements the following birds are NOT allowed:
 - Hungarian Partridge
 - Ruffed Grouse
 - Sharp Tailed Grouse
 - Wild Turkey
 - Ducks (all North American species, except Mallards)
 - Geese (Canada subspecies and Blue-Snow Geese)
 - Pheasants (Ringneck, Sichuan and look-a-likes from the Genius Phasianus)
 - Quail (Bobwhite)

Fair Week Requirements

- ◆ All participants must read and abide by the Northwestern Michigan Fair rules before entering poultry.
- ◆ All poultry will be banded, at the time of entry, by the Northwestern Michigan Fair.
- ◆ Health Requirements for ALL birds:
 - All poultry (except pigeons and waterfowl) must be Pullorum-free in order to exhibit at the fair
 - If purchased from a Pullorum-free hatchery or breeder must have a "Pullorum-free Certificate" from that hatchery or breeder
 - Poultry with no certificate will be tested, free of charge, at the fair
 - Poultry should be dusted
 - Ask feed supplier for recommendations 2 weeks prior to fair
 - Legs should be coated with oil to smother mites
 - Every entry will be examined for external parasites
 - Poultry showing any signs of diseases, parasites, or defects will be sent home
 - Contact the species chair if in doubt about the health of your birds
- ◆ Breed Class Requirements:
 - Breed birds must be of one breed, not a mixed breed
 - Breed poultry must be a minimum of 1 year old for a breed class

- Younger birds can be evaluated after the judging ends if you sign-up for the "Pullet" or "Cockerel" class
- Old birds should be part of a breeding stock or a current year project
- Participants may enter both 4-H breed and Open breed classes with DIFFERENT breed birds
- Maximum of two entries in any class
- ◆ Market Class Requirements:
 - Possession dates are set by the species chair and based on the dates of the Northwestern Michigan Fair
 - A receipt must be presented from the hatchery or breeder to show age and Pullorum-free status
 - Market pens that do not make required weight and age requirements will NOT be sold

 - Market Turkeys
 - Pen of three of the same sex, breed and weight
 - Meat variety only (Broad Breasted White or Broad Breasted Bronze)
 - Market Ducks
 - Pen of three of the same sex, breed and weight
 - Meat variety only (Standard Pekin and Rouen)
 - Market Geese
 - Pen of three of the same sex, breed and weight
 - Meat variety only (Toulouse and White Embden)
 - Market Meat Chickens
 - Pen of three of the same sex, breed and weight
 - Meat variety only (Cornish X, Vantress X Arbor, and Hubbard White Mountain)
 - A hybrid cross is required
 - Market Cornish Game Hens (pullets only)
 - For 4-H members that are 8-11 years of age ONLY
 - Pen of six of same sex, breed and weight
 - Market Production Pullets
 - Pen of five of the same breed pullets, in laying condition.
 - Must be a DUAL PURPOSE chicken (egg and meat type)
 - Must be a recognized breed, NOT a mixed breed
 - Acceptable breeds: Buff Orpingtons, White Orpingtons, Barred Rocks, Columbian Rocks, Partridge Rocks, Buff Rocks, White Rocks, Black Australorps, Rhode Island Reds, Silver-laced Wyandottes Columbian Wyandottes, White Wyandottes, Turkeys, White Giants, Black Giants, Speckled Sussex, Light Brahmas, New Hampshire Reds
 - Unacceptable breeds: Araucana, Americana, Anconas, Blue Andalusian Sex-Link (Red and Black Star), Black Minorca, Buff Minorcas, Red Leghorns, Rose Comb Brown Leghorns, Silver Spangled Hamburgs, Single Comb Leghorns, White Leghorns, Rainbow Layers
 - Not sure about the breed you've chosen? Please contact the species chair.

- ◆ Egg Class Requirements:
 - All eggs must be the same size and color
 - Gently clean eggs to remove debris and spots
 - Eggs should be displayed in an egg carton; pointed end down
- ◆ All projects must be labeled with the 4-H member's name, club name, and the project animal's sex, breed, and age
- ◆ Show Attire:
 - White, Long-Sleeved Shirt
 - Long sleeves give a finished look and also protect your arms
 - Black pants or black jeans
 - Boots or Work Shoes
 - No tennis shoes or sandals
 - Simple black tie (optional)
 - No excessive jewelry, hair must be tied back.
- ◆ Judging:
 - All poultry will be judged according to American Standard of Perfection and the American Bantam Standard Breed of Perfection
 - Judges decision is final
- ◆ Barn duty is REQUIRED
 - 2-3 shifts during the week of fair
- ◆ Participants may not remove their poultry project from the barn before 7AM on Sunday

Helpful Info

- ◆ Cost: could range from \$40 to \$100+
- ◆ Housing and equipment for start up project, depending on need, could run \$50 to \$200 +
- ◆ Nutrition/Feed: Consult your feed supplier for the proper feed for your project.
 - Market projects must be fed poultry feed; NO scratch mix, no corn only diet or table scraps
 - This includes during the fair
 - NO medicated feed 30 days prior to fair
- ◆ Identification:
 - All poultry must have a leg band
 - Bands are mandatory
 - All poultry will be banded upon entry to the NWMF during check-in
 - All entries must be banded before they are put in their cages

Tips

- ◆ Items needed for fair:
 - Water and feed dishes for each cage to be used
 - This includes waterfowl which function as a "Community" feeding project

- Cleaning Tools:
 - Shovel and/or Small Rake (child's garden set works well)
 - Wheelbarrow
 - Scrub Brush
 - Bucket
 - You may supply your own wood chips/flakes for your pens
 - Grooming supplies, soaps, brushes, towels
- Transportation cages
 - Need especially for auction day
- ◆ All supplies must be kept at your campsite
 - No feed or equipment is to be stored in the barn
- ◆ Poultry Terms:
 - Cockerel: Male bird younger than 1 year
 - Pullet: Female bird younger than 1 year
 - Cock: Male bird 1 year of age or older
 - Hen: Female bird 1 year of age or older

Cloverbuds

- ◆ 4-H members who are 5-7 years of age (as of January 1st of the current year)
- ◆ Cloverbuds have their own showmanship class. It will be held on Friday of fair week.
- ◆ Cloverbuds may bring their own bird to the fair OR they may choose to make arrangements to show someone else's bird
- ◆ Cloverbuds are not allowed to market their birds

Resources

- ◆ *4-H Poultry Fitting and Showmanship Member's Guide: Michigan State University Extension, Publication #4-H 1520*
- ◆ *4-H Poultry Fitting and Showmanship Leader's Guide: Michigan State University Extension, Publication #4-H 1521*
- ◆ *American Standard of Perfection*, published by the American Poultry Assn. 2001 or more current edition
- ◆ *Storey's Guide to Raising Ducks – Breeds, Care, Health* by Dave Holdebread ISBN: 1-58017-258-X
- ◆ *Storey's Guide to Raising Poultry – Breeds, Care, Health* by Paula Simons and Carol Ekarius: ISBN: 1-58017-262-8
- ◆ *Storey's Guide to Raising Turkeys – Breeds, Care, Health* by Leonard Mercia ISBN: 1-58017-261-X
- ◆ *Your Chickens: A Kid's Guide to Raising and Showing Chickens* by Gail Damerow ISBN: 0-88266-823-4
- ◆ MSU County Extension Offices

- ◆ Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council Meetings, Minutes, & Website
- ◆ Books for small flock owners – check the library or purchase at local feed suppliers or bookstores
- ◆ Poultry Learning Lab Kit – Ohio State University; borrow from MSU County Extension Office