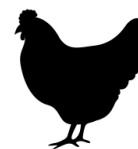




POULTRY PROJECT GUIDEBOOK



Species-Chair:

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IMPORTANT DATES & INFO				
Registration Due	March 2 nd		Show Bird Possession	April 15 th
SPECIES	POSSESSION DATE	AGE AT FAIR	MINIMUM WEIGHT (per bird)	MAXIMUM WEIGHT (per bird)
Cornish Game Hens	July 6 – 11	4 weeks	3 pounds	None
Ducks	June 1 – 6	9 weeks	4 pounds	None
Geese	April 6 – 18	16 - 17 weeks	8 pounds	None
Production Pullets	Oct 15 – Jan 31			
Meat Chickens	June 7 – 13	8 weeks	5 pounds	10 pounds
Turkeys	April 13 - 25	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 Genus 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