

SO YOU ARE TAKING A POULTRY PROJECT



This page contains basic information to assist you in preparing your poultry projects for fair. Good luck!

	Market Turkeys	Market Ducks or Market Geese	Market Chickens	Hens & Pullets	Exhibition Turkeys	Exhibition Poultry	Exhibition Ducks	Exhibition Geese
Recommended Breeds	Broad Breasted White or Bronze	Muscovy, Pekin (regular, jumbo or hybrid)	Cornish Rock	Any	Any	Any	No Pekin or wild species	Any
Recommended Age at Fair	16 – 20 weeks old	10 – 12 weeks old	7-8 weeks old	5 months – 11 months	11 months and above	11 months and above	Must be feathered out	10 – 12 weeks old
Recommended Date of hatch	February current year	3/25 – 4/8 current year	4/22 – 4/29 current year	7/20/23 – 1/20/2024	July 2023 and earlier	July 2023 and earlier	January 2024 and earlier	3/25 – 4/8 current year
Date of Possession	April 15	April 15	May 15	April 15	April 15	April 15	April 15	April 15
NPIP Required?	YES**	NO	YES**	YES**	YES**	YES**	NO	NO
DUNF & QA Required?	YES & YES	YES & YES	YES & YES	NO & NO	NO & NO	NO & NO	NO & NO	NO & NO
Exhibit	1 or 2 birds	pen of 2	pen of 2	2 pullets or 2 layers	1 bird	pen of 2	pen of 2	pen of 2
Recommended Male/Female	Male or Female	Males (can be male or female)	Males (can be male or female)	Female Only		Male/Female Pair (or 2 Females)	Male/Female Pair (or 2 Females)	Male/Female Pair (or 2 Females)
Must Weigh by Fair	Min. 20 lbs	Min. 13 lbs for pen of 2 birds	Min 10 lbs per pen of 2 birds.	No weight requirements	No weight requirements	No weight requirements	No weight requirements	No weight requirements
Recommended Feed	28% protein		Turkey starter 2 weeks then broiler show chow	Starter/Grower	Layer/scratch grains	Layer/scratch grains		
Recommended Bedding *check & clean your pen often!	Shavings	Shavings	Shavings	Shavings	Shavings	Shavings	Shavings	Shavings
What is the judge looking for?	Broad, Meaty Breast. NO blemishes or sores on breast	Broad, Meaty Breast	Breast meat, uniformity, no bruising, no pin feathers	Consistency between the 2 birds	Breed standard as listed in the Poultry Standards of Perfection	Breed standard as listed in the Poultry Standards of Perfection	Breed standard as listed in the Poultry Standards of Perfection	Breed standard as listed in the Poultry Standards of Perfection
Withhold food before judging 12 hours?	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO

**** PULLORUM REQUIREMENTS – also known as NPIP is required for market and breeding chickens and turkeys. See the page below for additional testing instructions.**

IT'S ALMOST FAIR WEEK – WHAT DO I NEED TO PACK?

Bedding	Bucket for water	Thank you poster for last year's buyer
Feed	Feed/Water dishes	Pullorum Papers (except ducks & geese)
White coat(optional) or long sleeve shirt		DUNF
Storage – everything must fit in one Tack box/crate no larger than 12x12x12 including feed, bedding, etc.		
Mesh screening and twist ties (in case your birds don't get along with their neighbors)		

A FEW THINGS TO KNOW:

- ❖ Quality Assurance training is completed in-person or by on-line YQCA and must be complete by May 1 with certification received at the Extension Office by May 2.
- ❖ Each exhibitor must register their animals for fair through the online program set up by the Livestock & Sale Committee. On-line registration is open from April 15-May 15.
- ❖ Avian Flu has become a very real threat to the poultry industry. For all 4-H members, exhibiting an animal at the fair is not required for completion of the project. To complete a project each member must follow the possession guidelines, attend a minimum of 6 club meets, complete a demonstration, fill out a project book and complete a project skillathon. For market animals, the animal should be raised to the correct market weight before harvesting.
- ❖ Turkeys, pullets, broilers, and fancy poultry require NPIP papers. These are also known as “pullorum papers”. This can be from the hatchery or from your advisor IF your club did a “group buy”. If you do not have the certificate from the hatchery you will need to get your bird tested by a certified tester or veterinarian. Contact the Extension Office for a list of certified testers. Results of testing chickens is immediate, but the results for testing turkeys takes 2 weeks, so do not wait until the last minute to have this done. For breeding animals, Pullorum papers are good for up to one year if the birds have not been co-mingled with other birds at their residence. If you are bringing breeders over one year of age, they must be retested for fair.
- ❖ Poultry are easily stressed! Make your move to the fair as stress-free as possible. Do not move them in the heat of the day. Poultry are permitted to move into their barn between 8:00 am and 11:00 am on Saturday of the fair only! Move them in closer to the 8:00 time to avoid excess heat. You must check in with the Barn Superintendent or Junior Fair Board member OUTSIDE of the barn before taking you birds into the barn. Be ready to turn in a copy of your Pullorum (NPIP) papers if your bird requires it. Market birds will weigh as you arrive. No birds will be weighed after 11:00 am.
- ❖ Poultry need fresh water available at all times. A good way to handle the heat of fair is to freeze small water balloons. Simply peel off the balloon and put the ice into their water dish. Water your birds often!
- ❖ On show days, leave birds in their cages as much as possible. Do not add to their heat and stress by holding them for long periods of time. The Poultry show is in Heritage Hall. Give you turkeys time to get there or bring a wagon on that day.
- ❖ Market Geese do NOT sell.
- ❖ Sale Intentions must be made! Sale Intentions are required for every market exhibitor for every market show they participate in, even if it's only one! Sale Intentions tell the Sale Committee which animals you are planning to sell through the Livestock Sale and which animals will be loaded onto the packer truck.