

Poultry

Description:

The 4-H Poultry Project provides youth a fun and hands-on learning experience that develops life skills, as well as teaches valuable information about properly caring for their birds. Subjects such as such as general care, nutrition housing, and health care are presented in the curricular materials, through workshops and activities such as poultry judging, and in preparation of an exhibit. Youth also have the opportunity to develop responsibility, decision-making, nurturing, and communication skills through active participation in the 4-H Poultry Project.

Exhibit Guidelines:

- Enter exhibit(s) in Fair Entry by June 8th, 2026

To exhibit beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, meat goats, dairy goats, poultry and rabbits, 4-H members must be certified through the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals program. This is an annual program that can be completed via online modules (YQCA) or in-person trainings (QLC). For more information about obtaining in-person trainings in our county, please contact your County Extension Office. Online certification is available at <https://yqcaprogram.org/>

Exhibit Guidelines:

- 1) The 4-H member is required to complete a minimum of two of the activities on their project activity sheets by June 4th, 2025. Activity sheets are to be submitted to the Extension Office by June 4th, 2025 (One Poultry Record Sheet per exhibitor). Activity sheets, which are late or incomplete, will result in a ribbon grade one placing lower following placement of their animal(s) and/or poster and loss of eligibility for showmanship. Late activity sheets must be received by the end of check in. The Poultry committee may recognize up to three members in each level for outstanding work with their Activity Sheets. Activity sheets will be done according to the following grades, as of January 1 of current exhibition year. Completed Activity sheets submitted by the deadline with no animal or poster exhibit, will receive a participation award only. Attending the Poultry workshop will count as 1 activity from Activity Sheets.
 - a. **Level 1 – Grades 3-4-5**
 - b. **Level 2 – Grades 6-7-8**
 - c. **Level 3 – Grades 9-10-11-12**
- 2) Ownership - (See General 4-H Rules).
- 3) 4-H member must own ALL birds (with exception of broilers) by May 15 of exhibition year.
- 4) Fowl, or the eggs they were hatched from, which will be shown at State Fair, must originate in National Poultry Improved flocks.
- 5) There are 9 poultry classes available. You may exhibit in all 9 classes. You may show 2 pens per class. Classes are Broilers, Layers White Egg Shell, Layers Brown Egg Shell, Pullets White Egg Shell, Pullets Brown Egg Shell, Turkeys, Waterfowl, Standard, Bantam.
- 6) Current HEALTH RULES as specified by the Indiana Board of Animal Health must be complied with.
- 7) A Leader's Special award will be given at the auction.
- 8) All birds must be washed prior to check-in at the fair. They must be in good health and show no signs of disease, infestation or parasite. All birds must meet state health requirements.
- 9) All Exhibitors will be expected to bring their birds to the judging table during the 4-H Show. If 4-H'er qualifies for overall Grand/Reserve Grand Champion 4-H'er needs to be present to show animal or notify leaders of conflict and arrange a substitute 4-H'er to show.
- 10) Only one poultry project may be sold in the auction. Birds must have met class eligibility

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requirements to be eligible for Auction: Pair of Broilers, One Turkey, One dozen eggs from Champion and Reserve Champion Layer exhibitor.

- 11) Honor Class ribbons will be awarded at the judge's discretion.
- 12) If 4-H'er qualifies for overall Grand/Reserve Grand Champion 4-H'er needs to be present to show animals or notify leaders of conflict and arrange a substitute 4-H'er to show
- 13) A Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Commercial award will be selected from Commercial Classes.
- 14) A Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Exhibition award will be selected from Exhibition Classes.
- 15) 4-H members are responsible for the complete care of their birds for each day at the Fair and must provide adequate food and water.
- 16) Breeding pairs of turkey, pea fowl, swans and large frame geese; along with excessively (committee discretion) large standard birds must be penned in two separate pens with two separate pen fees.
- 17) No more than 2 birds in any cage or pen.
- 18) Exotic Class includes dove, pigeon, quail, guinea, pea fowl and partridge. Former: (Bob White Quail and Ringneck Pheasant are NOT permitted)
- 19) Breeding Pairs must be a minimum of 12 weeks old.
- 20) A deposit will be required prior to penning of bird(s) at the Allen County Fair. Deposit will be refunded at the conclusion of Fair/Auction provided that all cages/pens/water bowls, feed dishes and cage tables are left clean and undamaged.

COMMERCIAL CLASSES:

There are 6 different Commercial Classes. You may exhibit 2 pens per class.

BROILERS –

- Purchase 25 one-day old chicks from a certified NPIP hatchery. The suggested age for the birds is 5-8 weeks of age at the County Fair. Proof of the NPIP hatchery number needs to be turned in on by June 4th, 2024 with your completed Activity Sheets. Broilers will be divided by weight into 2 divisions. Light weight pair-12 pounds and under; heavy weight pair-over 12 pounds but not over 20 pounds. You may show 2 Broiler division. Over 20 pounds per pair will be ineligible to show and will receive participation. Champion and Reserve Champion awards will be given for each division with both divisions eligible for overall grand champion. Exhibit: Two broilers of the same sex. A receipt showing date of purchase must accompany the activity sheet. Any broilers sold at the auction **must** be dressed and delivered to the buyer wishes.

LAYERS/MARKET EGGS/TABLE FLOCK – 2 classes, White egg shell and Non-white egg shell

- Exhibit two (2) female birds of the same breed, hatched prior to January 1 of current year. Due to the age, they will need to be blood tested prior to or during the fair check-in. You may show 2 pens.

PULLETS – 2 classes, White egg shell and Non-White egg shell

- Exhibit two (2) female birds of the same breed, hatched after January 1 of current year. A receipt showing date of purchase needs to be turned in by fair check-in with your completed activity sheets. You may show 2 pens.

TURKEY –

- Exhibit one turkey (Male or Female) no younger than 4 months or older than 6 months. A

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receipt showing date of purchase needs to be turned in by fair check-in with your completed activity sheets. You may show 2 pens.

EXHIBITION CLASSES:

Birds will be judged according to the American Standard of Perfection, as authorized by the American Poultry Association. All the following need to be exhibited as a pair of 1 male and 1 female of the same breed. There are 4 different Exhibit Classes: standard, waterfowl, bantams and exotic. You are allowed to show in all 4 classes, up to 2 pens per class. Animals older than one year of age will need to be blood tested prior to or during the fair check-in.

SHOWMANSHIP:

- 1) Showmanship is on a volunteer basis with members strongly encouraged to participate.
- 2) Members must currently be enrolled in the Poultry project, and are encouraged to complete and turn in their activity and record sheets by May 15th deadline to the Extension Office.
- 3) Showmanship participants must show their own animal which they exhibited in an earlier class.
- 4) Showmanship classes will be divided into four classes: Member will compete in level according to school grade as of January 1 of current exhibition year.
 - a. Junior (Grades 3-5) Junior winner will compete in the Intermediate division the following year. Junior winner cannot repeat as Champion Junior Poultry Showman.
 - b. Intermediate (Grades 6-8) Intermediate winner will compete in Senior division the following year. Intermediate winner cannot repeat as Champion Intermediate Poultry Showman.
 - c. Senior (Grades 9-12) Senior winner will compete in premier division the following year. Senior winner cannot repeat as Champion Senior Poultry Showman.
 - d. Premier – The Premier Showman will be selected from the current Beginner, Intermediate and Senior Showman and any past Senior and Premier Showmanship winners still enrolled in 4-H.