

## **Poultry**

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 general cares, 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.

Marion County 4-H Poultry Show Entry Form:

All Marion County 4-H members enrolled in poultry by May 5<sup>th</sup> will receive a Marion County Fair Poultry Entry Form with a cover letter. This form must be returned to the responsible 4-H Extension Office (address on the form) by May 26<sup>th</sup>. This form confirms the number, breed, age, and sex of the birds you will be exhibiting at the Marion County Fair. Only birds you list on the entry form will be judged. The cover letter contains details about the Marion County 4-H Poultry Show including dates and times for poultry check-in, judging, check-out, etc.

Poultry General Health Requirements:

At the county fair poultry check-in, you must have the NPIP (National Poultry Improvement Plan) certificate that states your birds are from pullorum-typhoid free stock or tested negative for pullorum within 90 days prior to the fair. When you purchase your chicks, request this certificate from the hatchery or store. Pullorum testing may be available at county fair check-in for a nominal fee. Poultry and waterfowl showing signs of infectious diseases, parasites, in poor condition or failing inspection must be removed immediately from the fair grounds. It is requested that you wash your birds according to page 17 of the "Raising Chickens for 4-H" project manual.

### **Cages Bedding, Feed and Water:**

All poultry must be cooped in cages provided by the Marion County Fair. Each 4-H member is expected to clean his/her cages and the poultry barn after checkout. Bedding will be provided. The 4-H member must bring his/her own feed as well as feed and water containers. All containers must be securely attached (wired) to the cage so birds cannot dump the contents. A good container is a plastic half gallon milk jug that has two holes cut in adjacent sides just large enough for the bird's head. Another good container is the bottom of a two-liter soda bottle (at least three inches tall). Punch two holes in the container then wire it to the cage with twist ties or pipe cleaners.

4-H members are expected to help feed and water all the birds under the supervision of the poultry leaders.

### **Judging:**

\*Poultry and waterfowl are judged according to the American Standard of Perfection as authorized by the American Poultry Association.

*\*Exception to the above: The Barnyard Special Class will be judged on general quality of the bird since there are no standards for crossbred birds.*

### **Number of Entries:**

There is no limit to the number of birds; you can exhibit in a class. More than one bird of the same breed and sex in a class.

## **Poultry Showmanship:**

All 4-H poultry exhibitors are encouraged to participate in the showmanship competition. This competition involves completing a written test based on information found in the project manuals as well as presenting one of your birds to the poultry judge. The judge will evaluate your ability to handle and present your bird and will ask you questions about poultry in general. It is recommended that you wear a simple white shirt for the showmanship competition.

**Note: All families who have entered their birds into the Marion County 4-H Poultry Show must agree to sign up to take one or more shifts watching the Poultry Barn during fair hours.**

Ribbons will be awarded by divisions:

Description of All Poultry Classes:

A. Individual Chicken Entries: Bantam and standard chickens will be judged separately in these classes:

Pullet- female chicken hatched on or after January 1 of current year

Cockerel- male chicken hatched on or after January 1 of current year

Hen- female chicken hatched before January 1 of current year

Cock- male chicken hatched before January 1 of current year

B. Brooding and Raising Pullets of Hens (Standard chickens only): Entries are one pair of pullets or hens of the same breed.

C. Breeding Pair (Standard chickens only): Entries are a pullet and cockerel or a hen and cock of the same breed.

D. Production of Market Eggs (Standard Chickens only): Entries are one pair of laying pullets or hens of the same breed.

E. Family table Flock (Standard chickens only): You may exhibit one or both of the following:

1. One laying pullet or hen

2. One-half dozen eggs produced by your flock. Exhibit these in a foam egg carton.

F. Barnyard Special: Any crossbred poultry that you bought or hatched.

G. Turkeys and other poultry species: Turkeys and other poultry species (guineas, quail, pheasants, peafowl, etc.) will be judged for exhibition qualities. Due to the small number of entries in these categories, birds of the same species will be judged in the same class and not divided into classes based on sex and age. For example, all turkeys, regardless of breed, sex, and age are judged in the same class.

Turkey Individual Entries:

Young hen- female less than one year of age

Young tom- male less than one year of age

Old hen- female over one year of age

Old tom- male over one year of age

H. Waterfowl- Ducks and Geese: all waterfowl will be judged for exhibition qualities. Due to the small number of entries in these categories, birds will be judged in the same class and not divided into classes based on sex and age. For example, all ducks, regardless of breed, sex, and age are judged in the same class. This is subject to change based on the number of entries.

Water fowl entries:

Young Duck- female duck less than one year of age

Young Drake- male duck less than one year of age

Old Duck- female duck over one year of age

Old Drake- male duck over one year of age

Young Goose- female goose less than one year of age

Young Gander- male goose less than one year of age

Old Goose- female goose over one year of age

Old Gander- male goose over one year of age

State Fair Participation: All Marion County 4-H members enrolled in poultry by the enrollment deadline will receive information on exhibiting at the Indiana State Fair from the county 4-H office. It is the 4-H member's responsibility to mail this form as instructed if you want to participate in the Indiana State Fair.