



LaGrange County Poultry Handbook

2019

Poultry Working Portfolio

Table of Contents:

- NPIP Forms
- YQCA Certificate
- One of the following choices:
 1. Article Summary with Article
 2. Demonstration Notes & Works Cited information page
 3. Photo(s) with a write up about field trip/workshop pertaining to poultry
 4. Photo(s) with a write up on hatching eggs (personal experience)
 5. Photo(s) with a write up about creating a safe habitat for your poultry
 6. Attend a Professional Poultry Show and describe similarities and differences from our 4-H show.
- Handout and notes from one workshop given at a regular meeting
- Poultry Handbook

Yes, we are trying something new! Rather than doing record sheets and workbooks, we are creating a Poultry Working Portfolio! You will need a 3 ring binder to keep all your information in, you will be adding to it each year! By the end of your 4-H career, you will have an incredible resource guide for anyone who might want to raise poultry! In addition to the portfolio, there will be an evaluation of your basic knowledge of poultry.



Important Dates 2019

LaGrange County 4-H Fair

July 13 - 20

Meetings:

- Wednesday, February 13 at 6:00 @ Fairgrounds
- Wednesday, March 13 at 6:30 @ County Building YQCA Certification
- Wednesday, April 10 at 6:30 @ Fairgrounds
- Wednesday, May 15 at 6:30 @ Fairgrounds
- Wednesday, June 12 from 4:00 - 6:30 Blood Testing
- Wednesday, June 26 Potluck 6:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 9 Fair Set-Up
- Saturday, July 13 Check-In @ 8:00 A.M.
- Tuesday, July 16 POULTRY SHOW check-in @ 8:00 A.M.
- Saturday, July 20 Auction Time TBA

Deadlines:

- Geese must be hatch after **March 1**
- Laying Hens must be hatched by **March 12** anything younger is a Pullet
- Turkey needs to be hatched between **March 12 - 26th**
- Meat Ducks pick up the week of **May 20**
- Meat Chicken pick up the week of **June 3**
- Poultry must be in your possession by **June 11** to be eligible to show

Poultry Evaluation and Portfolio Due:

- **JULY 13 & 14** (You will sign up for a time at Check-In)



POULTRY

Exhibit may be bird exhibits, poster, interactive demonstration or combination.

Poultry Level 1 - Grades 3 - 5
Poultry Level 2 - Grades 6 - 8
Poultry Level 3 - Grades 9 - 12
(Updated for 2019)

Exhibit

One or more birds fed and cared for by the member, a poster, or an interactive demonstration. Members are encouraged to exhibit one or more bird and offer the additional choices for those with extenuating circumstances preventing them from showing an actual bird.

Completion of 2 of the suggested activities in the member's age-appropriate workbook.

Due dates

- Working portfolios and Poultry Evaluation are due on the scheduled date for the 4-H Fair Set-Up. This is typically the Tuesday before the fair.
- Birds and posters are due on the opening day of the fair at check-in.
- An interactive demonstration will be presented during the poultry show.
- Working Portfolio and Evaluation are required in order to exhibit. Any extenuating circumstance will be reviewed by the committee on an individual basis.

Bird Requirements for Exhibition

- Must test negative for pullorum-typhoid within 90 days prior to the date of the exhibition and provide an Indiana Poultry Exhibitor Form. Blood testing is offered each year through the committee or you can acquire your own facility to do it for you and accompanied by the Indiana Poultry Exhibit form. (Form can be found at <https://extension.purdue.edu/lagrange/article/1672> or from your poultry leader.)

OR

- ♣ Originate from an NPIP approved flock or NPIP originated eggs. A copy of the NPIP form from the hatchery of origin or a receipt that includes the NPIP stamp/label and an Indiana Poultry Exhibitor form must be provided.
- ♣ Birds hatched prior to Jan 1 of the current year must have proof of negative result for pullorum-typhoid within 90 days prior to the exhibition. (blood test)
- ♣ Exceptions to the above requirements are waterfowl, pigeons, and doves.
- ♣ Proof of Hatching date must be provided for birds hatched in the current year. This is usually on the purchase receipt or packaging.

- ♣ No poultry may be exhibited showing signs of infection, communicable disease, or external parasites. All poultry will be examined by the committee prior to being allowed in the poultry barn.
- ♣ Information on poultry health requirements can be acquired at Indiana State Board of Animal Health at (317)227-0320.
- ♣ Members must have possession of their birds a minimum of 5 weeks prior to the show.
- ♣ Hens with Chicks will **NOT** be exhibited.

Other Member Requirements and Information

- All pens are assigned by the superintendent.
- All exhibitors will be required to fill out an NPIP Exhibitor Form in order to exhibit their project.
- Proper care of the birds is required. This includes feed, water, and pen cleanliness. Birds not receiving proper care may be disqualified from the auction and/or 4-H completion. Members are responsible for providing for their bird's needs 2 x daily or more frequently if necessary.

Volunteerism is expected of each member. The committee will make members aware of things that volunteers are needed for as they become available. Sign-up sheets for a variety of opportunities will be made available.

Attending meetings is expected of each member. One poultry club meeting is expected for completion of the project.

4-H Livestock Auction is for meat production animals only. Best of Show, Champion, and Reserve Champion birds will sell first. Your auction order will be determined by the poultry committee.

Show day requirements

- All members must be in attendance and able to present their birds unless alternative arrangements have been made in advance through the poultry superintendent.
- A bird may be entered in only one class.
- Birds are judged according to the American Standard of Perfection as authorized by the American Poultry Association.
- Clean birds are expected.
- Proper attire for show day

♥ **Long sleeved white shirt or poultry club shirt or lab coat;**

♥ **Long pants- preferably dark and free of holes or tears;**

♥ **Closed-toe shoes- no sandals, flip-flops, etc.;**

♥ **Show number pinned to the back of the shirt or lab coat.**

Poultry Divisions

Champion and Reserve Champion ribbons will be awarded for each species in each class with a Best of Show award for each class. Example: The champion and reserve meat chickens will compete against the champion and reserve ducks, turkeys, and geese for an overall winner for the Meat Production Class. The same goes for Egg Production and Breed Class competitions.

I. Meat Production Class (May be sold at Auction)*(Only one entry per species)*

A. Chickens – Pullets Class and Rooster Class

To show in this class, exhibitors must obtain show birds from the same flock purchased by the poultry committee.

Members will exhibit two birds of the same sex (limit of one class per member).

B. Turkeys- Hen Class and Tom Class

Members exhibit one bird that is 16-18 weeks old **at the time of the 4-H show**.

Proof of hatch date is required.

C. Ducks

To show in this class, exhibitors must obtain show birds from the same flock purchased by the poultry committee.

Members will exhibit one bird of either sex.

D. Geese

Exhibit one gosling of either sex that was hatched after March 1 of the current year.

Proof of hatch date is required.

II. Egg Production Class *(One one entry per class)*

A. Pullets

Exhibit 2 matching birds that are 16-18 weeks old.

Proof of hatch date required.

B. Hens

Exhibit two matching birds that are more than 18 weeks old.

Proof of hatch date or if more than a year old, negative blood test required.

III. Breed/Fancy Class *(Only one entry per class)*

* All fancy birds will be in a class of their own species.

* It is recommended that fancy birds be fully developed/mature for the exhibition as immature/young birds do not adequately represent their standard.

Exhibit options for each species/class (unless otherwise noted)

- One Male Bantam
- One Male Standard Size
- One Female Bantam
- One Female Standard

Matched pair of one female and one male

A. Chickens

- Bantam
- Standard

B. Ducks

- Bantam (Call Ducks)
- Standard

C. Turkeys

D. Geese

E. Peacocks

F. Game Birds – Exhibit one bird

*Pheasant and Quail must have their own carrier.

NOTE: According to Indiana law, if you acquire a live game bird (ring-necked pheasant, bobwhite quail, including subspecies and color phases) or purchase a live game bird, you must apply for a game breeder's license with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) within 5 days. The possession of wild turkeys or ruffed grouse is prohibited under any circumstances. More information can be found on the Purdue Extension web page. <https://extension.purdue.edu/lagrange/article/1672>

G. Guineas

H. Pigeons and Doves

All pigeons and doves must have their own carrier

IV. Showmanship

Showmanship is a way for members to show their knowledge of poultry. It is a separate division and ribbons and awards are independent of the other divisions.

Participants are expected to wear their show attire during showmanship.

Winners advance one level only and do not compete at a lower level again.

First Year Showman- first-year members in 3rd or 4th grades

Junior Showman- Grades 5-8 and the winner of the first year showman

Senior Showman- Grades 9 -12 and the winner of the Junior Showman if they were not also the first year showman.

Premier Showman- Represents 4-H Poultry in the Small All Around Showmanship Competition.

NEW 2019

Each 4-Her may only enter one exhibit per class

Classes available are:

Meat Production (Commercial)

Chicken (a pair)

Duck

Goose

Turkey

Breed/Fancy (Exhibition)

Chicken

- Bantam (Hen, Rooster, or Pair)
- Standard (Hen, Rooster, or Pair)

Duck

- Bantam *Call, East Indie, Mallard* (Hen, Drake, Pair)
- Standard (Hen, Drake, Pair)

Turkey (Hen, Tom)

Peafowl (Hen, Cock)

Goose (Goose, Gander)

Game Fowl

Pigeon

Guineas

Egg Production (Commercial)

Pullet (pair)

Hen (pair)

*** Meat Chicken is a matched pair consisting of 2 hen or 2 roosters

*** Egg Production is a matched pair of pullets (16 to 18 weeks) or hens (19 weeks or older)

Important Club Information

Meat Chickens and Ducks will be purchased from the 4-H Club.

This is done by **Goggle Form**

Meat Goose needs to be purchased after March 1

Meat Turkey needs to be 16 to 18 weeks at the time of the fair

*If your meat chicken or duck parishes you **MUST CONTACT** Stacy Hanaway so we can find you a new bird. (260-350-0993 or lgrangepoultry@gmail.com or on facebook)*

Looking for a Meat Turkey or Goose? You can see if other 4-H members want to purchase together from a hatchery or try a local ag store.

Where do I purchase a Bred/Fancy bird?

Hatchery:

Cackle Hatchery

www.cacklehatchery.com

Myer

www.meyerhatchery.com

Murray McMurray

www.mcmurrayhatchery.com

Mt. Healthy

www.mthealthy.com

There are Many more

A local Ag Store

TSC

Rural King

Feed/Grain Mills

Swap Meets

Wolf Lake

Newberry

PoultryShow.com has a complete list of Indiana Swap Meets

Independent Growers

Free Ad Paper

People Exchange

Topeka Auction (Exotic Sale)

Poultry Resources

Storey's Guide to Raising Poultry, 4th Edition: Chickens, Turkeys, Ducks, Geese, Guineaes, Game Birds by Glenn Drowns (2012)

How to Raise Poultry: Everything You Need to Know, Updated and Revised (FFA) by Christine Heinrichs (2014)

Poultry Show Central, www.poultryshowcentral.com

American Bantam Association (ABA), www.bantamclub.com

American Poultry Association (APA), www.amerpoultryassn.com



Want CHICKENS?

Here's what you need to know.

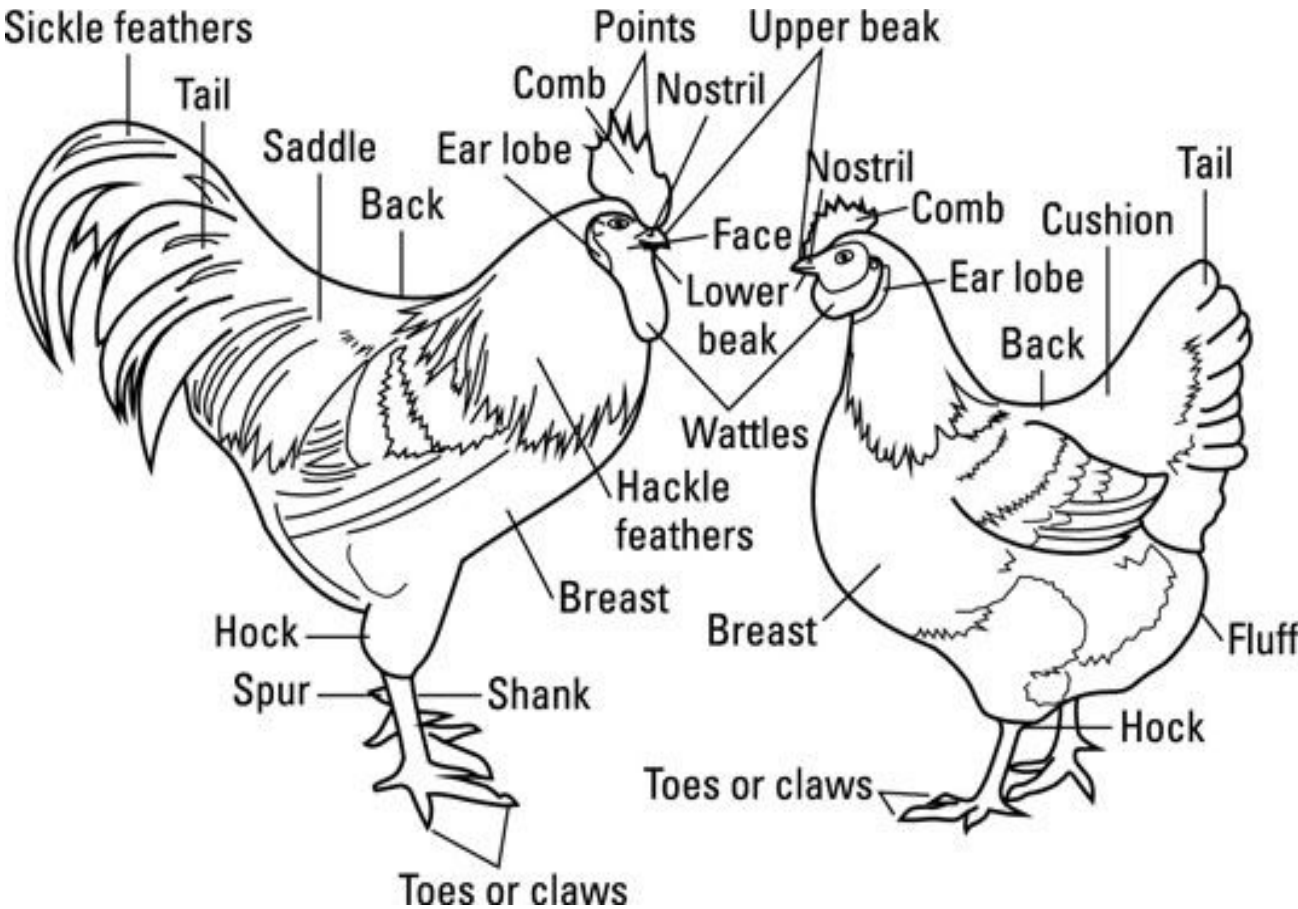
A poultry project is an exciting and educational opportunity for 4-H members. It requires very little room, expense, or daily chore time. It is also a short-term project, especially when compared to horse, cattle, swine, sheep, and goat projects. Chickens, ducks, geese, and turkeys are also much smaller and easier to control and handle.

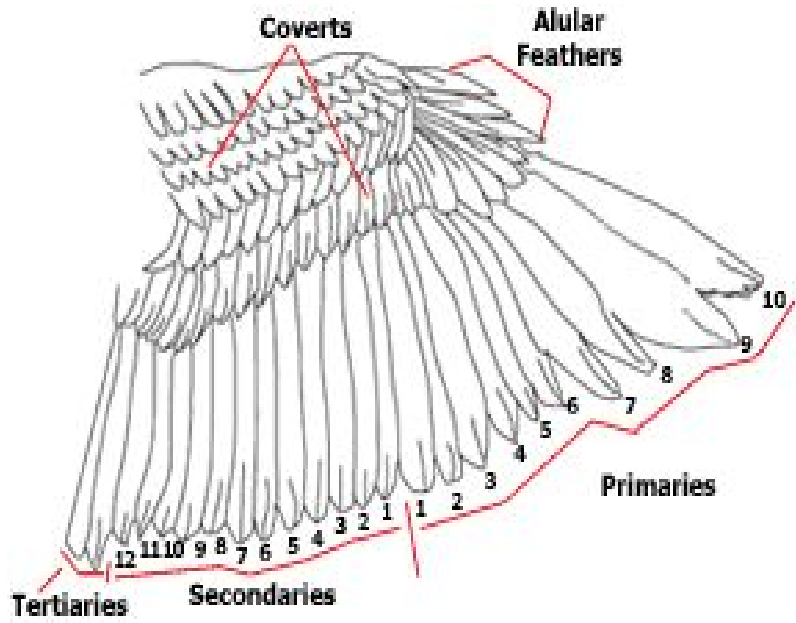
There are two main types of poultry projects: exhibition birds, which are also used for promoting a specific breed or breeds, and market or commercial birds, which are used for egg production and/or for meat production. The exhibition project is designed for club members with an avid interest in poultry, production of birds, and the poultry industry as a whole. The layer and commercial projects are designed for club members interested in poultry but to a lesser degree.

The poultry project is one of the most popular 4-H projects in the United States. Birds grow fast and cost less to raise than most other types of livestock. A poultry project requires less room, less daily chore time, less expense, and is a short-term project.

The information found throughout the rest of this handbook is to help increase your knowledge of poultry and your poultry project.

Chicken Parts & Terms





Single



Pea



Strawberry



Cushion



Walnut



Buttercup



V-Shaped



Rose

- Not shown “silkie comb” almost round, somewhat lumpy, wider than length, covered with small corrugations and crossed with a narrow indentation. (Similar to rose comb with a crest) Look in the ASP if you have questions

Poultry Terms

1. Avian: a general word that refers to all feathered birds
2. Bantam: small or miniature breeds
3. Beak: the horny mouth part of chickens, turkeys, and other land birds
4. Bill: the horny mouth part of ducks, geese, and other waterfowl
5. Bird: an individual of any avian species
6. Broiler: a chicken that is less than eight weeks old which will be tender whether it is fried or broiled; sometimes it is also called a fryer
7. Breed: a group of animals with common ancestry and with similar characteristics that are passed on from generation to generation
8. Breeder: the owner of birds that are mated
9. Brood: to care for a batch of chicks, ducklings, goslings, etc.
10. Chick: a newly hatched or young chicken of either sex
11. Clutch: a group of eggs in a nest
12. Cockerel: a male chicken less than one-year-old
13. Comb: a fleshy prominence on top of the head
14. Coop: a place where birds are housed and raised
15. Crossbred: an animal with parents of different breeds
16. Down: very soft and fluffy feathers on young birds
17. Drake: a male duck of any age
18. Duckling: a newly hatched or young duck
19. Embryo: a developing bird prior to hatching
20. Exhibition birds: birds that are shown for breed characteristics such as color, conformation, and other traits
21. Flock: a group of chickens, ducks, or turkeys
22. Fowl: a general word that refers to most domestic birds
23. Hatching: the process of a hatchling coming out of an egg
24. Hen: a female chicken more than one-year-old, a female duck of any age, or a female turkey of any age
25. Gaggle: a group of geese
26. Gander: a male goose of any age

27. Gosling: a newly hatched or young goose
28. Keel: the lower cartilage portion of a breastbone
29. Layers: poultry (usually chickens) used for egg production
30. Molting: shedding or losing feathers
31. Pigmentation: the color of the shanks, beak, eye ring, and vent
32. Poultry: a general word that is usually used to refer to birds that are typically found on a farm
33. Pullet: a female chicken less than one-year-old
34. Purebred: an animal with same-breed parents
35. Rooster: a male chicken more than one-year-old
36. Shank: the part of a leg between the hock and the toes
37. Standard: normal or large-size breeds
38. Tom: a male turkey of any age
39. Vent: the opening through which an egg is laid
40. Web: the skin growing between the toes on ducks, geese, and other waterfowl; the skin between the joints of a wing
41. Yolk: the yellow part of an egg

Preparing Your Poultry for Exhibit

In order to exhibit poultry, your birds need to be healthy and free from any parasites or diseases.

Keep Them CLEAN and FED:

Success in any exhibit starts at home. If you keep your poultry in a clean, dry, safe environment with plenty of food and clean, fresh water, your birds will not only be happier but look and feel better. Your meat and commercial varieties of birds will be of a more competitive size and of better quality, not only in looks but the product as well. Check on your birds throughout the day, especially babies and meat birds, this extra attention could make the difference between a blue and a champion.

Blood Testing:

If your bird was hatched as of January 1st from an NPIP approved hatchery, you're all set and ready to go. Just remember to have a copy of the NPIP number to place on your NPIP Exhibit Form. However, if your bird was hatched in a previous year, you will need to have its blood tested within 90 days of the exhibition by a certified NPIP tester.

Check for General Health:

- Is your bird alert
- Are its head and tail held high
- Are the comb and wattles bright red
- Does your bird have sinus congestion, snotty nose
- No broken bones, feathers, beaks, bills, toes, etc...
- Do they have all their feathers
- Look for wounds or abrasions
- Is their feces normal or very watery
- Clean and alert eyes
- Normal breathing
- Clean free from caked on debris
- Parasite free

Check for Parasites:

It is common to see your chickens taking a dust bath. They do this to help clean their feathers and skin. However, many times your birds will require some help from you. There are several

different dusts available that are safe for your needs. Providing your birds with a clean area to dust bathe and scratch will help control the parasites on your flock.

What about waterfowl? While chickens, and other like poultry, tend to be the most prone to mites and lice, waterfowl can be susceptible to a variety of other parasites. The key is to be diligent and check all your poultry periodically for any parasite. If you find any are found you need to treat with a recommended dust or spray immediately and then check again in about two weeks. You may need to treat your birds and their living area a few times, depending on the severity of the parasites present to achieve a parasite free flock. Providing your waterfowl with clean water daily to swimming and prune in, will help keep your flock disease and parasite free.

It is recommended to dust your birds twice before any exhibition. The most common practice is to dust them two to three weeks before an exhibition date and then again, the week of the exhibition. Many Ag stores sell poultry dust or spray, but if you have a garden, you most likely have some Sevin dust available, this too works well for your poultry.

Cleaning Your Poultry:

Just like when you take a bath to clean up, your poultry needs the same attention. Take time to warm up some water and give your bird a bath. Use a mild dish soap, a bucket or tub of warm water and give that bird a bath. Be sure you have a second bucket of water to rinse all the excess soap from your bird and a towel to dry them so they do not catch a cold. There are Poultry Cleaning Sets that you can purchase to help you clean and prepare your bird for an exhibition, but you can do just as an effective job with a quick trip to the kitchen.

For More Tips on How to Prepare Your Bird for Exhibit:

- Attend Meetings
- Read Poultry Club Emails
- Check the LaGrange Poultry Clun Facebook Page
- Ask Seasoned Poultry Members
- Ask your Poultry Leaders
- Ask your feed specialist about different products
- Ask your extension agent
- YouTube
- Attend Poultry Workshops
- Attend other poultry exhibits
- Visit Poultry Websites
- Read Poultry Publications
- Keep a journal and compare from year to year.
- YQCA Certification

