Poultry Calendar

January - February 2020
Thinking of taking a poultry project? Now is the time to start thinking about which one. One thing to remember, is this an animal you want to sell for market or do you want to take it home at the end of fair. Broilers, Turkeys, Geese and Ducks can all be sold in the auction. Broilers are a pen of three and you only raise them for 7 weeks. Ducks are a pen of two and they take longer to mature to be ready for fair. Turkeys and Geese take the longest to mature to be ready for fair. Fancy chickens, ducks and turkeys are taken home at the end of fair. Production chickens are also taken home. Production chickens are those that are used for eggs. We have added a new class of hatched and raised to our projects. These are animals that you have hatched from an egg and raised that are a crossbreed. Please note that hatching eggs bought from a hatchery are not a crossbreed. These birds would be shown based on their breed.

March 2020
TBA - 10am fairgrounds Poultry clinic topics reviewed
- Project guidelines
- care/nutrient
- Skill a thon items
- Showmanship
- Choosing birds
- Demos on showmanship/bathing/handling/toe and beak trimming
- Classification information for fair
- Resources

15- Projects deadline - project(s) registered online through 4-Honline

April 2020
This is usually the time when places like Rural King and TSC have their chicks for purchase. You can also order online from several hatcheries. However, I recommended if you are going to order from online you place your order early with a delivery date of April. Read the minimum chicks required carefully. You may wish to go together with someone else to meet those numbers. Broilers MUST be ordered through the extension office. You will then pick them up from the extension office. When you pick them up you will sign for them and your birds will be tagged at that time.

May 2020
1-all projects expect Broilers to be in exhibitor care
5- broiler order forms due to key leader payment to extension office
21- broiler pick up (this date may change depending on the hatchery)

June 2020
27-Skill a thon with interviewing (dress for show) times to be announced
30-Skill a thon with interviewing (dress for show)

July 2020
11-project check in at poultry barns 8-12pm and 6-8 pm
13- poultry show beginning at 8am
18- Rooster and Cockerel crowing contest 5pm
18- poultry cook off at poultry barn (dishes to be checked-in at at noon)
18- release of projects at 9pm
What do I need for Fair?

Below is a list of items you may want to bring with you to fair.

✓ Bedding for your pen(s)
✓ Small dust pan and broom for cleaning of the pen
✓ Food bowl that can be secured to the pen
✓ Water bowl that can be secured to the pen (may I suggest hanging bottles with chicken nipples)
✓ A bungee cord or something to secure the pans (ex. Wire ties, wires, etc.)
✓ A tote or show box to store items
   If it does not fit under the pens you will be asked to remove for safety reasons
✓ Treats for your birds (meal worms, sunflower seeds, dandelions, etc.)
✓ Baby wipes to clean your birds the day of the show
✓ Dawn or Woolite to give them a bath
✓ Two tubs large enough to give your bird a bath
✓ Towels
✓ Hairdryer (they love this part)
✓ Clippers to trim breaks and toe nails
✓ White button up shirt or polo and black jeans or black dress pants
✓ Wheelbarrow or bucket to carry old bedding away
✓ Food for your bird(s)
✓ Large broom and dust pan to keep the area in front of your pen clean

Mark all items with your name. Poultry pens must be cleaned by 9 a.m. on Sunday and Tuesday through Saturday, 7:30 a.m. on Monday. Birds are be feed and water daily. Feed should be provided at least twice a day. Be sure to check water every 2-3 hours and more often when it is hot. Pens and barn must be cleaned daily. If your pen(s) is not clean by the required time you will receive a warning on your pen for the first time. The second time your parents and adviser will be notified and you will not be eligible to take part in any other poultry events for the rest of the week. A third time will result in loss of any premiums paid. If premiums have already been paid to exhibitor you will not be eligible for poultry projects again until the premium is paid back. A fourth time, you will not be eligible for any poultry projects for the next year and fined 20% of sale price if market project. Fancy projects will pay a fine of $20.00 on the fourth offense which must be paid to become eligible for poultry projects again. These same rules apply if your birds are not feed daily. I do check waters often so if I have to give water to your pen(s) more than once or twice the above rules will apply.
Poultry Resources

This is in no way a complete list of all the resources available to you. There are hundreds of books, magazines and websites dedicated to poultry. These are just a few of my go to sources. Most of the hard copy resources are available at TSC or Amazon. I have found that Amazon has the same books for less money. Note a lot of websites are discussion boards so be careful to weed through opinions and facts. There are hatcheries located all over the US and not all of them have the same breeds. If you are looking for a certain breed I suggest doing a search for hatcheries that carry that breed. Remember the chicks will be delivered to your door and are day old chicks. This means someone needs to be home to move the chicks to the brooder. Also, the further away the hatchery is the higher the cost for shipping. The ones I have listed are located in Ohio except My Pet Chicken however, they have the lowest shipping cost I found from any hatchery that I looked at. There are also several swap shows within an hour drive from Macison county. These are breeders and/or exhibitors looking to sale and show their birds. REMEMBER BROILERS ARE TO BE ORDERED THROUGH THE KEY LEADERS.

Books
- The Chicken Encyclopedia
- Standard Book of Perfection
- How to Raise Chickens
- Guide to Chicken Diseases

Magazines
- Hobby Farms
- Backyard Chickens

Websites
- Simply by searching chickens there are a ton of websites
- Refine your search and conduct your research one topic at a time
- Also the OSU 4H web page has a resource page for poultry

Hatcheries
- Mt. Healthy
- My pet chicken
- Ridgeway Hatcheries
- McMurray’s Hatchery

Things to study
- Breeds and their varieties/feather patterns
- Cuts of meat all poultry
- Turkey, chicken, geese and duck parts
- Egg grades
- Know what you feed your birds and what makes a healthy diet
- Study common diseases
- Be able to talk in depth about your chosen bird for showmanship
- Study common terms such as pullet, hen, cockerel, rooster, culling, broode
Poultry Notes
Date: 2020

Broilers

All broilers are to be cockerels
They are not to be Older than 7 weeks
You will show a pen of three
Each bird is to weigh 4 pounds
Broilers can be used for showmanship
You may weigh in up to 4 birds at fair and choose the best three to stay
If you are showing two pens you may weigh in 8 birds with two going home
Must be ordered through the extension office
Birds will be toe punched at pick up day
Birds will be sold in sale

Market Turkeys

Turkey hatch date is after January 1, 2020
You will show one bird per entry
There is a hen class and a tom class
You may show two birds per class
Birds are to weigh at least 20 pounds
Will be sold in auction
Must be blood tested or papers from hatchery (please note I cannot blood test turkeys they need to be done by a vet)
Birds are to banded at weigh in
Turkeys are weighed last due to the scale is in the goat barn

Market Ducks - Show a pen of two - Must weigh at least 6 pounds each

Will be sold in auction
White Perkins are a good choice for this project
Birds are to be banned at check in
You may weigh in 4 birds and choice the best 2 to stay

Fancy Ducks - Show one male or female

Any breed is okay
There is a bantam class
You may show two birds per class
Birds are to be banned at check in
These go home with you
**Fancy Chickens - Pure breeds only**
Classes are broken down by age and gender of bird
There are bantam classes
You may only show two birds per class
Bring as many different breeds as you like
These birds go home with you
Birds to be banned at check in

**Production Chickens - Show pen of three of the same breed**
These are female birds can be pullets or hens
They go home with you
Must be blood tested or papers from hatchery
Birds are to be banned at check in
Birds need to be laying by time of fair
Leghorns and Sex Links are a good choices for this project

**Hatched and Raised Chickens**
Birds are to be Hatched and raised by exhibitor
Must be at least 45 days old
Crossbreed birds only
Class divided by age only
Judging is based on condition of bird
Must be blood tested
These go home with you
Birds are to be banned at check in

**Market Geese**
Your choice of one bird
Hatch January 1st or after
Weigh 7
Sale in auction
Must be banned at check in

**Fancy Turkey**
These go home with you
There is a hen and a tom class
You may show two per class
Blood tested or paperwork from hatchery (again a vet must blood test turkeys)
Must be banned at check in

**Fancy Geese**
These go home with you
Show one male or female
Must be banned at check in
Please use these list of common breeds to sign up for the correct classes. You as the exhibitor are responsible for signing up for the correct class including showmanship.

American class
- Plymouth rocks
- Dominiques
- Wyandottes
- Rhode island
- Buckeyes
- Delawares

Asiatic
- Brahams
- Cochins

English
- Orpingtons
- Australorps
- Dorkings

Mediterranean
- Leghorns
- Buttercups

Continental
- Polish
- Faverolles

AOSB
- Frizzles
- Ameraucana
- Old english game

Bantams

Feather Legged
If it is a bantam with feathered legs this is the class for it

SCCL
- Frizzles
- Japanese
- Plymouth rocks
Showmanship Tips

Rule #1 for showmanship is know your bird. Know how to handle them well, hold them securely, put them into a cage headfirst, pose them in the cage, and remove them headfirst. Know their anatomy (the more the merrier), their class and varieties, and how they compare to the American Standard of Perfection. Know their strengths and their faults.

Rule #2 for showmanship is to keep talking! If a judge asks a question, don't just answer with a one word answer - share everything you can think of that you know about the topic (and then some more!) Judges like to see you have a wide base of knowledge about poultry.

Rule #3 for showmanship is be professional. Judges like to see neat, respectful juniors. Speak clearly, be relaxed and make eye contact. Wear a white lab coat and be sure to thank the judge when you are done.

Rule #4 is keep learning. This isn't a test to cram for; it's an opportunity to gradually become an expert in all things poultry. The next generation of judges, breeders, and exhibition fanciers will come out of this "class" of participants. Learn it while you're young because it's so much harder to "teach an old dog new tricks". Judges like to ask at least one random chicken knowledge question such as, "Do chickens have teeth?" (Before you proudly say "no", remember peeps are born with an egg tooth, which is what the judge was testing to see if the juniors knew about).