

2024 Poultry Project General Information & Expectations

Superintendents

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Poultry Project Master Checklist and Event Calendar

Date	Task	Done
Friday, February 2nd *	Order Production Trio	
Friday, February 23 rd	Possession of Production Trio Birds: Start Project Book	
Saturday, February 24 th	Production Trio registration due to Superintendents	
Friday, March 15 th *	Order Geese	
Friday, March 22 nd *	Order Turkeys	
Friday, April 5 th	Possession of Geese: Start Project Book	
Friday, April 12 th	Possession of Turkeys: Start Project Book	
Friday, April 26 th	Order ducks	
Wednesday, May 1 st	Possession of Breed stock	
Wednesday, May 1 st	Poultry project registration due to Superintendents	
Friday, May 3 rd *	Order Broilers/Roasters/Fryers	
Friday, May 17 th	Possession of ducks: Start Project Book	
Friday, May 24 th	Possession of Roasters: Start Project Book	
June xx (tbd)	Entry Forms due to Fair Office – See Fair Book	
Friday, June 7 th	Possession of Broilers: Start Project Book	
Friday, June 21 st	Possession of Fryers: Start Project Book	
Saturday, July 20th	Mandatory Pullorum Testing	
Sunday, July 28 th	Barn Set Up / pre-fair / 10am	
Friday, August 2 nd	Poultry Project Check-in	
Tuesday, August 6 th	Poultry Quality Judging 9am Showmanship, immediately following Quality	
Friday, August 9 th	Birds to be washed for auction	
Friday, August 9 th	Small Animal Sweepstakes	
Saturday, August 10 th	Small Animal Auction	
Sunday, August 11 th	Poultry Check Out 9am	
Monday, August 12 th	Processed poultry picked-up at Extension Office 6-7pm	

**If ordering birds from Tractor Supply East Brent Bartholomew, manager 517.788.6884*

New This Year – Pre-Fair Pullorum Testing:

Pullorum disease is caused by the bacteria *Salmonella pullorum*. There is no treatment or vaccine for the disease. Pullorum disease has been eradicated in U.S. commercial poultry, and it is critical to maintain this disease-free status by monitoring the pullorum status in commercial, backyard and exhibition poultry. In order to exhibit poultry at a show, poultry must either originate from a certified pullorum-typhoid free flock through the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) or test negative for pullorum within 90 days of exhibition and be kept away from non-tested birds and their equipment.

As a result of discussions with the State Veterinarian, Pullorum testing will now take place prior to the poultry project check-in.

- All bird must test negative for Pullorum within 90 days **prior to check-in** (see exceptions listed below).
- Once tested, birds must be kept away from non-tested birds and their equipment.
- Mandatory NPIP (Pullorum) Testing will be performed at the Jackson County Fairgrounds Poultry barn on **Saturday, July 20, 2024 from 8am – 11am.** There will be no charge for the testing.
- **NO TESTING WILL BE PERFORMED AT CHECK-IN**
- Exhibitors choosing to not have their birds tested on the scheduled testing date will be responsible for having their birds tested by a Certified Tester, including any associated costs, prior to the Poultry Project check-in. A copy of the AI-013 Avian Test Record or NPIP VS 9-3 must be presented at check-in.
- Any birds that have not been tested prior to check-in **will not be allowed on the fairgrounds.**

Exceptions

Only birds meeting the criteria below will be exempt from the mandatory NPIP (Pullorum) testing.

1. Pigeons
2. Doves
3. Waterfowl
4. Roaster, Broiler and Fryer Cornish Cross market projects purchased from a Commercial Hatchery or Supplier (such as TSC, Blains, Family Farm and Home, etc).
5. Birds from a certified pullorum-typhoid free flock that have not been exposed to untested birds and have required documentation.

General Project Information

Poultry projects are divided into two categories – Breeder projects and Market projects. Exhibitors are limited to 4 entries (two per class). The third and fourth entries are based on space available and will be determined by lottery if necessary.

Breeder projects are mature breeding stock of at least 20 weeks of age. All breeder poultry must be hatched by March 1 of the fair year. Breeder poultry can be standard or bantam but must be pure-bred birds (no mixed breed/crossbred/hybrid) and an approved APA variety. Birds will be judged against the American Poultry Association (APA)/American Bantam Association (ABA) Standard of Perfection for the breed.

<https://amerpoultryassn.com/accepted-breeds-varieties/>
<https://www.bantamclub.com/recognized-breed-and-variety>

Possession date for Breeder projects is May 1 of the fair year.

Note: Breeder poultry does not have to be hatched during the fair year. It can be mature poultry hatched in prior years but must be in possession by May 1 of current fair year.

Breeder poultry are to be shown as a Single Rooster, Single Hen, Pair (one male and one female), or Trio (one male and two females). Breeder Ducks are shown as a Pair (one male and one female) or Trio (one male and two females). Breeder Turkey and Geese are shown as a Pair (one male and one female) only. Each bird may only be entered into one category. Birds will only be judged in the category in which they are entered.

Breeder projects must have a half sheet information page with a brief history of the breed and why the exhibitor chose the breed displayed on the pen. Listing must be neat, readable and in a durable format that will last the entire fair week (ie. laminated, mounted on cardstock, etc.).

Breeder projects may be sold at the auction or can be taken home by the exhibitor. There are no sales allowed outside of the auction.

Market project are projects of a pre-determined length with specific breed requirements. Projects include Production Trios, Market Chickens (Roasters, Broilers and Fryers), Turkeys, Geese and Ducks. All market projects must be sold at the auction.

Production Trios consist of three hens of the same breed, age and point of lay purchased on the date determined by the Poultry Superintendents. Acceptable Production Trio breeds are ISA Brown, White Leghorn, Brown Leghorn and Barred Plymouth Rock. Other egg production breeds may be allowed with prior approval from the superintendents. This project will look at the growth rate of the chicks to maturity at 20 weeks and egg production from 20 weeks to 24 weeks of age. You will be able to evaluate the egg size, color and quality. *Starting July 1st, all eggs will be collected and brought to check-in for evaluation. Using a pencil, write the date of collection on each egg.* Eggs are to be clean and free of debris. Participant's name is to be noted on

outside of cartons. A project book is required for this project. **Project must be registered with Poultry Superintendent by February 24.**

Market Turkeys are either Broad-Breasted White or Broad-Breasted Bronze variety and shown as a single bird, either hen or tom. The minimum project weight is 16 lbs.

Market Geese are either Emden or Toulouse and are shown as a single bird. The minimum project weight is 6lbs.

Market Ducks are White Pekin variety and shown as a pen of three, ideally of the same sex and weight. The minimum project weight is 4 lbs.

Market Chickens (meat birds) are Cornish Cross variety. A meat pen consists of three birds, ideally of the same sex and weight. Projects should be registered in the appropriate project based on possession date; however final determination of project based on project weight will be made at check-in. Participants should be using the Target Weights chart to manage their project. The minimum project weight is 3lbs.

Roaster/Broiler/Fryer Summary Chart with Target Weights

Project	Suggested Possession Date	Target Weight	Weight Range
Roaster	Friday, May 26 th	8lbs	6.0 lbs - no limit
Broiler	Friday, June 9 th	6lbs	5.0 lbs - 7.6 lbs
Fryer	Friday, June 23 rd	4lbs	3.0 lbs - 5.6 lbs

Ordering Birds

Birds may be ordered through Tractor Supply East or any other source you prefer. Order dates shown are for TSC East. If you choose to order your birds from another source, you are responsible for verifying order due dates. Possession dates remain the same no matter the source of your birds. ***A readable receipt must be submitted with your project book or Market Analysis sheet showing date of purchase. It is strongly suggested that a copy be made of thermal receipts to maintain readability.***

Possession of Birds

Breeder poultry possession date is May 1 of the fair year. *Note: This is possession date, not hatch date. Breeder poultry must be hatched by March 1 of fair year or can be purchased as mature poultry.*

Market project possession dates are listed on the Poultry Project Master Checklist are based on day-old birds and should be strictly adhered to. **Birds should not be obtained prior to the published possession date.** *A readable receipt must be submitted with your project book or Market Analysis sheet showing date of purchase. It is strongly suggested that a copy be made of thermal receipts to maintain readability.*

Mandatory Pullorum Testing

Pullorum disease, which is caused by the bacteria *Salmonella pullorum*, is one of the most important poultry diseases. The disease is most common in young birds, but it is also a serious concern in adult birds as they could carry the disease without showing any signs. Characterized by whitish diarrhea, it is highly contagious with a very high mortality rate. There is no treatment or vaccine for the disease. Pullorum disease has been eradicated in U.S. commercial poultry, and it is critical to maintain this disease-free status by monitoring the pullorum status in commercial, backyard, and exhibition poultry. As part of the NPIP (National Poultry Improvement Plan), all birds exhibited in Michigan are required to be tested for Salmonella pullorum (waterfowl, pigeons and doves are exempt). This requirement applies to all chickens, turkeys, peafowl, game birds (pheasants, quail, and chukars), and ratites (ostriches, rheas, cassowaries, and emus). In Michigan, pullorum testing is not required for finches, budgerigars (parakeets, parrots, and cockatiels), pigeons, doves, and waterfowl going to exhibition. The test is a simple blood test with results in 2 minutes. Testing can be performed by Veterinarians and Michigan Certified Pullorum Testers. A list of certified testers can be found at www.michigan.gov/mdard-exhibitinfo under “Resources for Exhibitions.”

- All exhibition bird must test negative for Pullorum within 90 days ***prior to check-in*** (see exceptions listed below).
- Once tested, birds must be kept away from non-tested birds and their equipment.
- Mandatory testing will be performed at a published date and time prior to fair check-in. There is no charge for the testing. **No testing will be performed at check-in.**
- Exhibitors choosing to not have their birds tested on the scheduled testing date will be responsible for having their birds tested by a Certified Tester, including any associated costs, prior to the Poultry Project check-in. A copy of the AI-013 Avian Test Record or NPIP VS 9-3 must be presented at check-in.
- Any birds that have not been tested prior to check-in **will not be allowed on the fairgrounds.**

Exceptions

Only birds meeting the criteria below will be exempt from the mandatory NPIP (Pullorum) testing.

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5. Birds from a certified pullorum-typhoid free flock that have not been exposed to untested birds and have required documentation. Documentation must be provided to Superintendents at check-in.

Project Books

Project books are required for all exhibitors. When entering multiple projects, only one project book per person is required. The project book is to be completed on the project with the longest duration/longest number of weeks. The Production Trio projects require a completed project book. If entering both Market and Breed projects, the project book must be completed on the Market project. When entering two Market projects, a Market Project Analysis sheet must be completed and submitted for the second market project without a project book.

- Example: If an exhibitor entered a Production Trio and Broiler projects, the exhibitor would complete the project book for the Production Trio and Market Project Analysis sheets for the Broiler project.

Completed project books and analysis sheets must be turned in at check-in. *Incomplete books will not be accepted, and projects will not be checked in.* When downloading, make sure you have the most current version and the correct year of the book for your project. Project books can be downloaded at:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/jackson/4-h/jackson-county-fair>

Project Registration

Projects must be registered with both the Project Superintendents and the Fair Office. Registration forms for both the fair office and the superintendents must be completed and submitted before the respective deadlines to check in and participate at fair.

Superintendent Registration

Project Registration form is due to the Superintendents by May 1st (Production Trios must be registered with Superintendents by February 24). The form must include all poultry projects that the exhibitor wishes to bring to fair. One form must be completed for each exhibitor. **Forms must be accurate, complete, legible and signed.** It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to complete, verify or otherwise confirm any information required/provided on this form. Any errors or omissions on the registration forms are the responsibility of the exhibitor and their family. Errors, omissions or illegible data may result in premium and/or auction checks not being distributed or projects not being registered accurately.

Fair Office Registration

Fair Registration forms, Exhibitor Agreement and Family Pass Forms with member photo are due to the fair office in mid-June. The exhibitor is responsible for confirming the registration deadline with the Jackson County Fair office. Use one form per Department per youth (must have a separate form for each species exhibited). Premium checks are mailed to the address listed on the form. The fair pays a premium on one project based on the quality rating from the judge (A, B, C). Only one project should be registered with the fair office. You may indicate other projects on this form for informational purposes only. The fair will only pay premiums on the first project listed.

Project Expectations

The following information should not be considered inclusive. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to read and understand the Jackson County Small Animal Association By-Laws for more details and contact the superintendents with any questions. By-Laws are available at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/jackson/4-h/associations-committees-councils>

Before Fair

- All deadlines listed on first page will be strictly enforced.
- Clubs are expected to participate in Pre-Fair Barn Clean-Up day. If attendance falls short of needed hands, clubs will be assigned to clean up days in the future.
- Each exhibitor must attend and participate at one of the following: Barn Set-Up, Volunteer at Check-In or Barn Clean up. Attendance will be taken at each event and compared to the registration list. It is the participant's responsibility to check-in with the superintendents and complete the sign-in sheet at each event.
- A fine of \$25.00 will be assessed and deducted from the participant's auction check if they have not participated in an event.

At Fair

- Check-in will begin on Friday, August 2nd, 2024 at 6pm.
- Check-in packets will be available for pick up beginning at 4pm.
- Participant fee of \$5 per exhibitor is to be paid at check-in.
- Birds must be healthy, clean and free of parasites. Market birds are to be bathed and must be completely dry prior to check-in.

Daily Pen Care / Animal Husbandry

Exhibitors are responsible for the care of their animals on the Saturday before fair so should plan accordingly!

Your project is a Fair Exhibit. The public will form its opinion of livestock, 4H/FFA and you based on the visual perception of the health of your animals and cleanliness of your pen. The Jackson County Fair provides your daily gate pass, parking pass and other benefits in return for your exhibit during fair week. Therefore, the following rules and regulations must be strictly adhered to:

- All pens must be cleaned before 10 am
- All birds must have water at all times.
- Birds must have food during fair hours. Food may be removed overnight and replaced in the morning during pen cleaning. Birds seen as aggressively hungry will be considered not fed.
- Birds are to be kept clean during the week. Spot cleaning of birds should be performed as needed.
- All Market Projects and any breed stock to be auctioned are to be bathed on Friday. All birds should be dry and returned to pens no later than 5pm. Wash tubs will be provided. Towels, etc. are the responsibility of the exhibitor.

Pen Violations

- Violations will follow the process outlined in the Clean Pen Rules section of the Small Animal Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations (Rev. January 2024)
- When a violation is identified by a Superintendent or Junior Superintendent, the date, time and type of violation will be listed on a cage tag. Exhibitors will have 30 minutes from the noted time to correct warning before a pen violation will be issued.
- Red Tag pen violations will result in exhibit not being sold at auction.

Barn Duty

- Barn Duty is required for project participation.
- Barn Duty expectations will be posted in the Poultry Barn.
- Time slots will be in two hour intervals. One time slot is required for each poultry project you bring to fair. Barn duty attendance will be tracked.
- Sign-up for time slots will be part of the Check-in process. Exhibitors are expected to know their availability at check-in and sign up accordingly.
- Any changes to the barn duty schedule require prior approval from the Superintendent or Junior Superintendent.
- Exhibitors are required to remain in the Poultry barn for the entire duration of their time slot.
- Fines will be assessed to anyone not fulfilling barn duty responsibilities as listed in the Small Animal Association By-Laws.

Auction

- Animals must be presented at auction by the exhibitor.
- A signed auction contract must be completed and turned in at the time of check in or exhibit will not be sold at auction.
- All exhibitors selling an animal at the Small Animal Auction must participate during Small Animal Auction luncheon by signing in, serving for the listed required time (not to exceed 15 minutes) and signing out at the end of service to receive full auction price for exhibit sold.

Check-out

- Check-out for all birds will be Sunday, August 11th from 9am to 11am. There will be no early check-outs allowed.
- All birds must be signed for by owner of birds on record with superintendents. Any exceptions must be arranged in person with the owner of record, the persons picking up and a superintendent before close of auction.
- Any birds not picked up by 11am on Sunday become the property of the poultry superintendents.

Post Fair Barn Clean-up

- Barn clean-up is Sunday August 11th at 8am and will run until complete.
- Each member must attend and participate at one of the following: Barn Set-Up, Volunteer at Check-In or Barn Clean up.
- Attendance will be taken at each event and compared to the registration list. It is the participant's responsibility to check-in with the superintendents and complete the sign-in sheet at each event.
- A fine of \$25.00 will be assessed and deducted from the participant's auction check if they have not participated in an event.

Showmanship

Participation in showmanship is strongly encouraged, but not required. The 4-H Poultry Fitting & Showmanship Member's Guide (free to download) is available at:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/4_h_poultry_fitting_showmanship_members_guide_4h1520