

# Poultry Project Guidelines

## **Project Sign-up Requirements:**

Members re-enrolling in the project must have signed up by the fall deadline of November 30 through 4-H online. First time project members must be enrolled by the county spring sign-up deadline of April 1. Youth may sign up after April 1 but will not be eligible to exhibit in the Kalamazoo County Fair and Family Festival.

## **County Poultry Meeting Attendance:**

The poultry superintendents hold at least (8) county meetings per year. Each poultry project member is encouraged to attend all meetings, but you are required to attend at least (3) meetings, or poultry educational event, per year to be eligible to show at the Kalamazoo County Fair & Family Festival.

## **Market Poultry Projects:**

All broilers, roasters, cornish, market turkeys and market waterfowl must be purchased through the poultry superintendents. The purchase of heritage market turkeys is the responsibility of the exhibitor. All market birds must be weighed and tested for Pullorum at fair check in, prior to entering the barn. See the Fair Book for specific project guidelines. A market journal report must be completed for each market project and entered for still exhibit judging. Blank market journal reports are available through your project leaders and on the 4-H website.

**Market Chickens:** Birds will be exhibited in uniform trios. Birds below minimum weight may be shown but will not sell at auction. Member must be present for Market Classes.

Roaster: Minimum weight 6#

Broiler: Minimum weight 3.5#

Cornish: Minimum weight 2.0

**Market Turkeys:** Turkeys will be exhibited as individuals and must be not more than 22 weeks of age. Member must be present for Market Class. A market journal must also be completed and entered in the educational section.

Tom turkey minimum weight 16#

Hen turkey minimum weight 12 #

**Heritage Market Turkeys:** The purchase of heritage market turkeys is the responsibility of the exhibitor. Heritage Turkeys should be between 10-15 months at exhibit and of appropriate market condition for their breed. Because different breeds of heritage turkeys have different market weights there is not a minimum weight. Check the standard market weight for your breed of heritage turkeys.

**Market Waterfowl:** Market waterfowl will be exhibited in uniform trios and must enter a complete market journal report in the educational section.

Market Ducks (Peking) Minimum weight 5#

Market Ducks (other) Minimum weight 5#

Geese Minimum weight 6 #

### **Breed Bird Projects:**

All breed birds must be Pullorum tested prior to entry into the poultry barn at check in. All Breed/Show birds must be mature - at least 4 months old - to be shown. All breed bird participants must also enter an appropriate showmanship class at fair.

**Breed Chickens:** Breed birds will not sell at auction.

**Breeding Waterfowl:** Breed waterfowl exhibitors must enter a waterfowl science exhibit to participate.

**Egg Exhibit:** Eggs will be shown as a uniform dozen in an egg crate and be from the member's own flock.

### **Showmanship:**

**Poultry Showmanship:** All participants in show poultry must enter appropriate showmanship class

**Turkey Showmanship:** Any member exhibiting a breed turkey must compete in this section. Market class participants may choose to also enter this class.

### **Educational Exhibits:**

Educational exhibits for the Poultry Project are encouraged but are not mandatory for all classes. Display may be a notebook, poster, or 3-D exhibit. If you have other ideas, please discuss it with the superintendents. Youth may exhibit an educational project without showing a live poultry exhibit.

### **Barn Duty at the Fair:**

All Project Members are required to serve minimum of (2) hours of Barn Duty during fair week.

### **Poultry Barn Tear down:**

All poultry project members must participate in barn tear down. If a conflict develops, you must contact the superintendents to make other arrangements.

### **Project Support and information:**

All project members are encouraged to ask questions. We all want to see you have a good time raising your project. Problems and questions do arise during your project year and there are many areas of support. You may contact your project leader or a superintendent for any advice or question.

### **Written information:**

The 4-H Office has an information library with books that can be purchased through the office. The poultry superintendents, project leaders and many feed dealers have additional resources. Contact the 4-H Office for more information