

Date: March 12, 2024

To: 4-H Poultry Project Members and Leaders

From: Kayla Mitchell, Program Coordinator, 4-H Youth Development

Re: 2024 Poultry Project Changes and Important Information

This is a quick update on the events that will take place for the 2024 fair season within the poultry department. Should you have questions, feel free to contact the MSU Extension office at 269-467-5511. Please note that the information contained in this letter is subject to change.

Reminder: The 4-H Poultry Show will be on **Sunday, September 15, 2024**. Time TBD, we are working with Rabbits to offset the shows a little more than last year. All livestock superintendents/assistants and the 4-H Horse Council will work together and with the 4-H Program Coordinator to ensure a smooth show day for all.

- Hatch dates: Turkey = Saturday, May 18, 2024; Chickens = Saturday, July 20, 2024
- Turkey Vaccination/Tagging dates have been set for Sunday, July 14, 2024, 5:00-7:00 p.m. and Monday, July 15, 2024, 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the St. Joseph County Fairgrounds. As in the past, all turkeys on the premises are required to be vaccinated. Please remember to bring **ALL** turkeys on the property where turkeys are housed to be vaccinated for Fowl Pox. All Turkeys that will be exhibited at the St. Joseph County Fair, **MUST** attend one of the above dates. There will NOT be any other available dates or times. **Proof of Purchase and Pullorum papers are required AND due at the time of vaccination. NO EXCEPTIONS! Wing banding will take place at the same time and place as the vaccinations for 2024.**
- Countywide tagging is Sunday, August 18, 2024, and Monday, August 19, 2024, at the St. Joseph County Fairgrounds, 4:00-7:00 p.m. This will include market chickens, breeding stock chickens and waterfowl. Pigeons will be registered then but not tagged.
- Breeding stock chickens may, but are not required to, get the Fowl Pox vaccine at the same time as the turkeys on Sunday, July 14, 2024, or Monday, July 15, 2024, 5:00-7:00 p.m. If you choose to vaccinate your breeding stock chickens at that time, please be sure to bring ALL of your breeding stock at the same time. Cost is free to 4-H members.
- All exhibitors of **pigeons** will be required to leave their pigeons on exhibit throughout the entire fair week. Each exhibitor will be responsible for providing feed, watering, and care of their pigeons.
- Breeding stock turkeys: exhibitors may tag up to four (4) breeding stock turkeys but may only exhibit up to two (2); one male and one female. Turkeys must go through all vaccination procedures according to the market turkey project and be at least 8 weeks old at time of vaccination. Turkeys shown in the Breeding Stock class **MUST** be taken home and are NOT eligible for auction. Turkeys shown in the Breeding Stock class may include Heritage Turkeys or Production Turkeys. See the St. Joseph County Fair Book for additional rules and regulations under Department 12.
- Breeding stock turkey and chicken exhibitors will be required to pay \$2.00 per pen for feed and bedding costs at the time of check in.



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- **All 4-H livestock members/clubs** will be held responsible for setting up their project pen/stall and decorations before fair, as well as cleaning and tearing down their project pen/stall at the end of fair. Individuals or clubs may be assessed a \$50.00 fine for failure to do so.
- **Skill-a-thon and Interviews:** All poultry exhibitors are **required** to complete an interview and a skill-a-thon on **Saturday, September 14, 2024, 2:00-6:00 p.m.** Exhibitors must be in line 30 minutes prior to the ending time.
- If you do not have a Poultry Leader in your 4-H club, please contact another club and enroll in that club for the Poultry Project.
- Each club is responsible for an **educational** poultry display. All displays must be completed and set up by 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 15, 2024. Each club will be given an 8-foot table for their display.

Important dates, deadlines, and events:

Event or Deadline	Date(s)	Comments
Turkey Hatch Date	Saturday, May 18	
Vaccination/Tagging for Turkeys	Sunday, July 14, 5:00-7:00 p.m. and Monday, July 15, 5:00-7:00 p.m.	* Will be held at the fairgrounds in the poultry barns. Note: Breeding stock chickens may also be vaccinated but are <i>not</i> required.
Chicken Hatch Date	Saturday, July 20	
Poultry Clinic	TBD	Times TBD
Banding/tagging & registration for poultry project animals	Sunday, August 18, 4:00-7:00 p.m. and Monday, August 19, 4:00-7:00 p.m.	* Will be held at the fairgrounds in the poultry barns. All poultry animals except turkeys.
Fair weigh-in/check-in	Friday, September 13, 4:00-7:00 p.m.	Animals MUST be clean and dry! No cardboard boxes allowed.
4-H Poultry Project Evaluation	<u>Saturday</u> , September 14, 2:00-6:00 p.m.	First-come, first-serve. Must be in line by 5:30 p.m.
4-H Market & Breeding Stock Poultry Show	Sunday, September 15, Time, TBD	Show schedule to be announced at a later date.
4-H Small Animal Sale	Thursday, September 19, 10:00 a.m. in the Livestock Show Arena	Order of sale: turkeys, chickens, rabbits, goats
Market Animal Load-out	Saturday, September 21, 10:00 p.m.	All members must be present!
Breeding Stock Load-out	Sunday, September 22, 6:00 a.m.	Breeding stock must be removed by 7:00 a.m.
Barn Clean-up	Sunday, September 22, 6:00 a.m. until done.	All members must clean and help put away the pens (check club times).
Power Washing - Chicken and Turkey Barns and Cages	Sunday, September 22, 6:00 a.m.	Individuals/Clubs TBD at pre-fair meeting