

# POULTRY GUIDELINES

## POULTRY COMMITTEE

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## JUNIOR FAIR POULTRY SHOW

**Market Poultry Show:** Wednesday, September 2, 12:00 p.m., Barn #35, **Poultry Breed Judging to follow**

**Dress a Chicken:** Saturday, September 5, 9:30 a.m., Barn #35

**Poultry Showmanship:** Sunday, September 6, 2:00 p.m. – Event Center

## POULTRY PROJECTS

**PROJECT 150 CEP:** Raising pullets 4-5 months of age. Exhibit a pen of 2 at the fair. **MUST** be banded at the July banding clinic.

**PROJECT 150 CM:** Market pen of 2 broilers. Exhibit a pen of 2 at the fair. **MUST** be banded at the August banding clinic.

**PROJECT 150 CE:** Chicken Exhibition: Includes: Fancy Breeds and Other Chickens Breeds over 1 year old.

Exhibit two at the fair. Bird must be pollorum free (tested and documented prior to arriving at the fair.

**MUST** be banded at the July banding clinic.

**PROJECT 150 TE:** Breed turkey. Exhibit 1 per pen. **MUST** be banded at the July banding clinic.

**PROJECT 150 TM:** Market turkey. One bird will be exhibited at the fair. **MUST** be banded at the August clinic.

**PROJECT 150 DE:** Ducks - Exhibit at least 2 in a pen. One male and one female preferred. **MUST** be banded at the July banding clinic.

**PROJECT 150 DM:** Market Duck – Exhibit 1 per pen. Exhibit one at the fair. **MUST** be banded at the August banding clinic.

**PROJECT 150 GE:** Geese - Exhibit no more than 2 geese in a pen. One male and one female preferred. **MUST** be banded at the July banding clinic.

## MEMBERSHIP:

1. Enrolling in the Mahoning County Junior Fair Poultry Club through the Mahoning County Junior Fair is mandatory

## GENERAL POULTRY REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Mandatory** - Any member taking a poultry project must attend **at least 3 county poultry meetings** to exhibit at the fair. One of these meetings **MUST** be the February meeting or the Poultry Session at Quality Assurance. The member will not be permitted to exhibit if this meeting requirement is not met.
2. **Youth taking Market Broilers, Market Duck and/or Market Turkey must attend a Mahoning County Quality Assurance Program accompanied by a parent and/or legal guardian or fulfill the optional requirements for the Mahoning County Quality Assurance Program**
3. **Small Animal Skillathon/Interview Judging is MANDATORY!** Members may only participate in the skillathon if they are currently taking a poultry project. If a member is unable to attend, arrangements must be made with a poultry committee. Make up session will be held at the August OPEN HOUSE. Members participating in the make-up session will not be eligible to place in the Skillathon.
4. All birds must be from a NPIP (Pollorum Free) hatchery. Proof of purchase is mandatory. Each member is responsible for the purchase of their own birds.
  - A. If buying in a group with other families, all names of all parties involved must appear on the receipt.
  - B. If bought from another farm supply store (TSC, Family Farm & Home, etc) then in addition to your receipt, you will need proof that those birds came from an NPIP hatchery.
5. **NEW 2026: Banding Clinic is required to participate in the Junior Fair Show. All poultry MUST be banded.**

The purpose of a banding clinic is to identify birds for management, health tracking, and entry. It's a mandatory step for specific projects to identify them uniquely. This will also ensure that members are bringing their own projects to the fair, and not a substitution provided by someone else (which defeats the purpose of the project.) Banding clinics will be held in July for non-market projects, and in August for Market birds. Once a bird is banded, these are the **ONLY** birds that may be exhibited at the Mahoning County Junior Fair. Each bird's band number will be checked at Junior Fair check-in. Any birds that are not banded or that have bands that do not match the bands assigned by the committee, **WILL NOT** be permitted to show at the fair. Each exhibitor is permitted to band the following number of birds:

**NON-MARKET BIRDS – MUST BE BANDED AT THE JULY BANDING CLINIC**  
Pullets – 4                      Fancy – Exhibition Chickens – 4                      Exhibition Ducks – 4                      Exhibition Turkeys – 3                      Geese – 3

**MARKET BIRDS – MUST BE BANDED AT THE AUGUST BANDING CLINIC**  
Broilers (Market Chickens) – 6                      Market Turkeys – 4                      Market Ducks – 4

**\*\* In the event that a band falls off a bird, the exhibitor MUST contact a committee member immediately so that a replacement band may be issued. The exhibitor must also provide the number of the missing band that needs replaced. If these steps are not followed, the bird in question will be disqualified.**
6. Only two projects will be permitted per exhibitor, **either Market or Breed or a combination of both**. Only market animals will be sold at auction.
7. All poultry projects must be in the member's possession by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Market broilers, market ducks and market turkeys are the only exceptions.

8. Youth may not show any poultry in the Mahoning County Junior Fair that have been exhibited in any other county junior fair show.
9. All birds must be healthy and free from deformities. They should not have any missing extremities (must have two legs, two wings), not wing clipped, and be free from parasites. Any deformities will result in disqualification.
10. All birds must be purebred or high grade crossed to exhibit at the fair.
11. **HEALTH CHECKS:** All poultry will be health checked at the July or August banding clinic, and again at check-in of the fair. All birds must be pollorum free. Any birds not clean or healthy will be sent home. All birds must be DRY at check-in. Any bird not of show quality will be sent home.
12. **PROPER NUTRITION:** All members taking the market projects **must** present a feedbag ingredient tag from the feed they have purchased to feed their project. (This should be placed and documented in the record book.)
13. **PROCESSING:** All Market Birds are terminal and will be processed by the designated processor voted on by the Small & Exotic Animal Committee. This will be announced prior to the auction.
14. All meat birds will be weighed upon arrival on Junior Fair Entry Day. See specific guidelines for weight requirements. Scales brought from home or any other outside source will not be permitted on the Junior Fair area on weigh in day. Only the official fair weigh-in scale will be permitted. Anyone found to have a scale will be disqualified.
15. **SHOWMANSHIP:** The exhibitor is judged on presentation and knowledge of his or her project. Age is based on January 1 of the current year.
 

Junior: 9-11 years      Intermediate: 12-14 years      Senior: 15-19 years

Participation in Poultry Showmanship is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**. Youth should wear white shirts and dark bottoms for judging. White lab coats may also be worn.

  - A. The purpose of showmanship is to encourage members to acquire skill and knowledge in the handling of animals, to gain knowledge on fitting and grooming of the birds, and to encourage the youth to practice handling their birds.
  - B. Judges consider the general ability and knowledge of the exhibitors in training and handling of their animals, the manner in which the exhibitor presents their animal, how they handle themselves in the ring, how they fit and groom their animal, their knowledge of the poultry project and basic showing practices.
  - C. Exhibitors must show their own birds..
16. Members are required to furnish their own feed. Shavings will be provided. **All pens must be cleaned daily by 9:00 a.m.**
17. **RECORD BOOKS:**
  - A. All members taking a Poultry project are required to submit a completed record book for each project. All members may print and use **the record book found on the Poultry Page at [www.mcjrfair.com](http://www.mcjrfair.com) created by the Poultry Committee**. The general market record book posted for Market Livestock is not approved for poultry. Record books must be submitted along with a Thank You card to each buyer to the assigned committee member on Sunday of the Junior Fair Show. The committee will provide Thank You cards and postage. The record book and thank you must be submitted to receive payment from the sale. Members not complying can expect a delay in their payment until requirements are fulfilled.
18. **MARKET BIRD PICK-UP:** All buyers will be required to pick up his/her processed market birds. If the buyer is unable to pick up their birds, he/she must make arrangements for someone else to pick them up. Market birds purchased to be donated to Second Harvest Food Bank will be handled by the Junior Fair Committee.
19. **INTERMEDIATE & SENIOR EXHIBITOR REQUIREMENTS:** Intermediate and Senior Poultry Exhibitors are required to participate/help/assist with at least one of the following:
  - a) Pen Set Up      b) Banding Clinic (July or August)      c) Post Fair Clean Up      d) Distribution of Market Birds Tuesday after the fair

Intermediate and Senior Poultry Exhibitors are also required to participate in Barn Duty. This entails:

  - a) Answering questions from the public      b) Making sure all birds have water      c) Sweeping the barn/cleaning the aisles

Intermediate and Senior members can sign up for barn duty on check-in night in the poultry office. Shifts last 2 hours. Failure to sign up for or show up for a shift will result in a deduction of points for showmanship and could impact your place to sell in the market sale. If showmanship and/or the sale have already taken place, these consequences can carry over to the next year.
20. If a bird becomes ill during the fair, the poultry committee, Junior Fair Management, the Senior Fair Board Director in charge, and/or the fair veterinarian will determine if the bird will be sent home.

Poultry project members will follow the General Junior Fair Guidelines, Small and Exotic Animal Committee and Market Livestock Guidelines.

### **POULTRY JUNIOR FAIR CHECK-IN & UNLOADING**

1. Exhibitors must check in with the Poultry Office in Barn #35 before unloading their project. **NO SMALL ANIMAL IS PERMITTED IN ASSIGNED PEN WITHOUT FIRST BEING HEALTH CHECKED by the committee. The exhibitor will receive a small tag for proof of the health check.**
2. Youth must bring this verification slip with them to the Junior Fair Office to check in.
3. Refer to the additional Check-in Procedures in the General Guidelines.

### **POST FAIR PEN CLEANING: All exhibitors are responsible for cleaning their pens after the fair.**

1. Bedding **MUST** remain in the pen until Tuesday a.m. for market birds so animals have bedding until they are hauled.
2. Pen cleaning must be completed between Tuesday and Saturday following the fair.

### **PULLET GUIDELINES**

1. Member must take at least 2 pullets.
2. Pullets must be at least 16 weeks of age prior to Junior Fair entry.

### **EXHIBITION CHICKEN, DUCK, TURKEY, AND GOOSE GUIDELINES**

1. Member may exhibit one duck in the Junior Fair.
2. Ducks must be at least 16 weeks old prior to entry day of the fair. .

### **MEATPEN BROILER GUIDELINES**

1. Members may take one meat pen broiler project – 2 Cornish Rock chickens.
2. The chicks must be a minimum of 7 weeks old prior to Junior Fair Entry Day. .
3. All meat pens will be health check at the August Banding Clinic and the Junior Fair weigh-in. Market Broilers will be weighed in on entry day upon arrival. Market Broilers must weigh at least 5 pounds with a maximum weight of 8 pounds each to be sold in the Market Livestock Sale. Market chickens not meeting the 5 lbs. requirement weight will not be permitted to be exhibited in the Junior Fair Show and the entire pen will be sent home immediately. Each individual chicken must not exceed a weight of 8 lbs. for the pen to be eligible for Grand or Reserve Champion. Individual chickens over 8 lbs. will still be judged and permitted to sell, but they will be sold at the end of the sale and will not be eligible for Grand or Reserve Champion. The weights will be given to the judge on the day of Market judging. There will be no reweighs.

### **MARKET TURKEY GUIDELINES**

1. Members exhibit one market turkey project.
2. The poults **MUST BE** 17 to 18 weeks prior to the fair entry day.
3. All market turkeys will be health checked at the August Banding Clinic and at Junior Fair Entry weigh in day. Any turkey brought to the fair not clean will be sent home. All turkeys must be dry at check in.
4. **Turkeys must be at least 20 lbs. to be sold in the Market Livestock Sale. Turkeys not meeting this minimum weight will not be permitted to exhibit in the Junior Fair Show and will be sent home immediately.**

### **MARKET DUCK GUIDELINES**

1. Members may exhibit one market duck project.
2. The ducklings **MUST BE** at least 11 weeks old prior to the junior fair entry day.
3. All ducks will be health checked at the August Banding and weigh in day. Any duck brought to the fair not clean will be sent home. All ducks should be dry at Junior Fair Check-in. Any duck not of Market Quality will be sent home.
4. **Market duck pens will consist of one duck, with a minimum weight of 5 pounds. Any duck weighing less than 5 pounds will be sent home Tuesday evening immediately after weigh-in.**