

Getting Ready for the Fair

Part A Important Times and Dates

Please take the time to complete this form. Add the dates as they become available. This form will help you keep on track.

Fill in the dates

Date

Time

Before the Fair

Turkey Orders Due:

Duck and Chicken Orders Due:

Skillathon:

Make-up Skillathon:

Drug Use Notification Forms Due

Entry Forms for Fair Due

At the Fair

Turkey weigh-in

Chicken weigh-in

Duck weigh-in

Turkey show

Chicken show

Duck show

Poultry Barn Duty

Jr. Fair Building Duty

Milk shake Duty

Auction

After the Fair

Poultry Pick-up

Take poultry to buyer

Buyers Dinner

Part B – Your Fair Time Schedule

This is a suggested schedule for getting ready for fair.

Saturday or Sunday

Choose which bird(s) you will take. Check the Fair book on the number of birds you need to take for each project. Remember, chicken meat pens require three chickens. Mark the bird in some way so you do not forget which you chose.

Try to review information in Part E – Things to Know and Do for Judging at Fair

Monday

Get everything you will need for Wednesday, weigh-in day, organized. These include:

- a. Boxes or cages to transport your animal(s), (there are cages at the fair for your birds you just need to get them there safely),
- b. Soap for washing birds,
- c. Brushes for washing birds (old tooth brushes, fingernail brushes),
- d. Old towels or rags to dry birds,
- e. Hair dryer or fan (optional), if using a hair dryer, be very careful!
- f. Food dish for cage (some cages have dishes, but don't count on it),
- g. Water holder for cage (some cages have waterer, but don't count on it),
- h. Tub(s) for washing,
- i. Mineral oil or petroleum jelly,
- j. Feed for at Fair
- k. Wood shavings for at Fair

Tuesday or Wednesday

Wash your bird(s). See the site below for directions for washing birds.

1. 4-H Show Preparation <http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/4h/manuals/poultry/sec3.pdf>

Wednesday

Be at Fair well before by weigh in-time. It is very crowded at the fair. Give yourself plenty of time to get there. Count on a traffic jam. Remember, parents and siblings can help you get your animals weighed in. **If you are late, you will not be able to show your animals.**

Thursday and Friday

Check the Fair book for show times. Be at the fair at least ½ hour before judging begins

General Things to Remember

Caring for your animals

Care for your animal, keep the cage clean, have clean water and adequate food. Ask other club members to help you on days you will not be at Fair.

Barn Duty

You will be asked to do barn duty. Ask your advisor for the time your club is assigned. Make sure you are neat and clean, try to wear your club shirt. Barn duty entails tidying up (picking up stray paper etc.), making sure all the 4-H birds have water, and most importantly talking to all the fair visitors.

Auction Night

Check the Fair Book for the start time of the auction. Poultry and rabbits are first, so be on time.

Members are asked to bring a plate of cookies to serve to buyers.

Look nice! Wear your shirt (tucked in), be clean and neat, have nice hair, and a BIG SMILE.

You will have "runner duty" sometime during the auction, but after your animals are done. Find out the time from your advisor.

Birds Sold at the Auction

On Monday night you will be asked to help get birds getting processed onto the truck. Check with your advisor for details.

On Tuesday you have to pick up your processed birds. You have to get your birds to your buyers.

Part C – Getting Your Bird Ready for Fair

It is important for your bird to look its best. Advice for choosing your bird and for getting it ready can be found at <http://www.msstate.edu/dept/poultry/showbird.htm> and <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PS037>

Remember, it is important that you think about what you do when you prepare your bird for showing. Make sure you do nothing to hurt your bird. Do not do anything that would be considered as cheating or unethical. Making sure your bird is clean and rubbing vasaline or oil on its beak and feet are acceptable practices. Coloring feathers and buying market birds early are not acceptable.

Part D Handling Your Bird

At the web site below, are instructions for handling your bird. There are pictures which go along with the directions.

<http://web.uconn.edu/poultry/4-hpoultry/showmanship.pdf>

Part E – Things to Know and Do for Judging at Fair

Things to do during judging:

- a. Be neat and clean, especially under the finger nails! Have your hair combed, shirt tucked in, shoe laces tied. Wear your club shirt.
- b. Be alert, polite and courteous to the judge and others in the show ring.
- c. Control your emotions! Do not get angry at your bird. Remember it is a bird, it does not know why it has to be on a table holding still. It may not cooperate, but that's ok. You do the best you can. Do not hurt your bird while you are trying to show the judge your bird. Be gentle.
- d. Keep your eyes on the judge and the bird. Make frequent eye contact, the judge will remember you.
- e. Pay attention and do what the judge asks. He may ask you to move to another spot at the table or to hold another bird. If you do not understand or can not hear, ask the judge politely to repeat his request.
- f. Be a good sport. How you behave is ALWAYS more important than if you win or lose. A poor sport is the biggest loser of all. Next year or in twenty years, people will not remember if you won, they will remember if you were a poor sport.