

Clark County Jr. Fair Poultry Opportunities

Ideas for Discussion June 5, 2015 Meeting

Poultry Age Divisions: Beg. Age 8 -10, Jr. Age 11-12, Int. Age 13-14 and Sr. Age 15-18.

Chicken and Turkey Cage Display: Every turkey and chicken exhibitor is given a cage to create a display showcasing the raising of their birds. The display should incorporate photos of the member caring, raising and working with their birds. The child may choose a single educational focus or choose to highlight their project learning experiences. Members would be judged at their cage by the turkey and chicken judge(s). Placings would be awarded by age division, year in project, etc. 1st-5th place for each age division would move up in the auction. Grand and Reserve Champion Market Chicken Display, Grand and Reserve Champion Market Turkey Display, Grand and Reserve Champion Egg Production Display will move up in the auction. Grand and Reserve Champion Fancy Poultry Display awards given, but they do not auction as they have not in the past unless you are changing for this year.

Duck Cage Display: Every duck exhibitor is given a cage to create a display focused on a topic of their choosing related to meat or egg production related to ducks. If a member has raised ducks before, they are encouraged to incorporate photos of them caring, raising and working with those ducks. If this is their first year with a duck, they are encouraged to "Build a Duck" from the materials of their choosing. Members would be judged at their cage by the duck judge(s). Placings would be awarded by age division, year in project, etc. 1st-5th place for each age division would move up in the auction. Grand and Reserve Champion Duck Cage Display will move up in the auction.

Tri-Fold Display: A similar option to the cage display. Display of these will be a little more challenging because of wind, rain, etc. Members would be judged at their display by the duck, turkey and chicken judge(s). Placings would be awarded based on age division, year in project, etc. A decision would need to be made whether tri-folds are judged with cage displays or separately with separate awards.

Egg Marketing Contest: Every fancy and egg production exhibitor can design an egg carton label to market their flock's eggs. Recycle an egg carton into your egg's brand. Designs can be computer generated or created by hand. This will be judged by the Poultry Judge. Winners for each age division will be allowed to auction their eggs with the Grand and Reserve Champion Eggs.

Egg Show: Every fancy and egg production exhibitor can bring one dozen eggs to be judged on Wednesday. These eggs must be clean. Free of feathers, feces, blood, etc. Eggs will not be kept on display at the Fair. Eggs will be judged by the poultry judge. Grand and Reserve Champion Eggs will sell.

Build a Bird: Design a chicken, turkey or duck from materials of your choosing. Examples might include chicken wire, paper mache', tissue paper and pipe cleaners, wood, metal, etc. The poultry judge will judge the models. In addition, the birds will be on display for people visiting the barns to vote on them. Both Judge's Choice and People's Choice for each age division will move up in the auction.

Showmanship: Every chicken, turkey and duck exhibitor will have the opportunity to participate in a showmanship class. 10 "stuffed" chickens, turkeys and ducks will be purchased by 4-H, FFA, Sr. Fair Board, Sales Committee to use for this purpose. Props will be purchased now, so that clubs/chapters can check them out for members to practice prior to coming to Fair. Each chicken or rooster costs \$20-\$40 or \$52 to \$62, each duck costs \$33 and each turkey costs \$168. If each FFA Chapter, 4-H Committee, 4-H Rabbit & Poultry Committee, Sr. Fair Board and Sales Committee purchased a set it would be approximately \$250 each. That would give us 10 to use for each showmanship show. 1st-5th place for each age division will move up in the auction.

Skill-a-thon: Every 4-H chicken, turkey and duck exhibitor would participate in Skill-a-thon as in past years. The poultry skill-a-thon could still be done on June 22 or could be moved to the Fair. FFA members would be encouraged as always to participate in Skill-a-thon, but would not be required for project completion. 1st-5th place for each age division will move up in the auction.

Project Book: Every 4-H and FFA member would be expected to complete their 4-H or FFA poultry project or records and submit at skill-a-thon or judging. Project books would be judged and awards will be given by age division. 1st-5th place for each age division will move up in the auction. Cash awards given to 1st place winners.

Quality Assurance: 4-H and FFA Market Chicken, Turkey and Duck project members would still be required to complete a quality assurance program to exhibit at the Clark County Fair and to sell in the premium auction.

Premier Exhibitor: Market Poultry Premier Exhibitor will be based on skill-a-thon, cage display/tri-fold display, showmanship, build a bird and project book. Awards will be given for each age, division and overall.

Egg Carton Art Contest: Any poultry exhibitor could participate in the Egg Carton Art Contest. This contest would encourage poultry project members to create something from egg cartons. Egg Carton Art would be judged with Judge's Awards and People's Choice Awards. Winners from each age division could move up in the auction. If not done as part of the poultry show and auction, it could be added to the Art Contest and Auction.

Jr. Fair Livestock Auction:

4-H and FFA Market Chicken and Turkey project members would participate in the Jr. Fair Livestock Auction if they complete the following:

- a. Have completed quality assurance requirement.
- b. Bring market ready chickens and turkeys to designated location not on the fairgrounds per ODA to transport to processor arranged by the Sales Committee, Fair Board and Rabbit & Poultry Committee.
- c. 4-H participate in skill-a-thon and have a completed project book judged. FFA participate in project judging/book as determined by FFA guidelines.
- d. Put together a Cage Display or Tri-Fold Display for Fair. This would need to be in place by Friday, July 24, 9 PM.
- e. Participate in the poultry or turkey showmanship at the Clark County Fair.
- f. Build a Bird (optional), but worth more points for Premier Exhibitor and Judge's Choice and People's Choice will move up in the Auction.

4-H and FFA Egg Production project members would participate in the Jr. Fair Livestock Auction if they complete the following:

- a. Bring one dozen eggs to the Clark County Fair for judging.
- b. 4-H participate in skill-a-thon and have a completed project book judged. FFA participate in project judging/book as determined by FFA guidelines.
- c. Put together a Cage Display or Tri-Fold Display for Fair. This would need to be in place by Friday, July 24, 9 PM.
- d. Participate in the Egg Marketing Contest.
- e. Participate in the poultry showmanship at the Clark County Fair.

4-H and FFA Market Duck project members would participate in the Jr. Fair Livestock Auction if they complete the following:

- a. Have completed quality assurance requirement.
- b. 4-H participate in skill-a-thon and have a completed project book judged. FFA participate in project judging/book as determined by FFA guidelines.
- c. Build a "duck" from the materials for their choice to carry through the auction. Judge's Choice and People's Choice will move up in the auction. Could also have 1st-5th place for each age division, since duck members have not had a real bird experience.
- d. Put together a Cage Display or Tri-Fold Display for Fair. This would need to be in place by Friday, July 24, 9 PM.
- e. Participate in the duck showmanship at the Clark County Fair.

Ruffled Feathers: What We Can Learn from the 2015 Poultry Show Ban.

This post strays a little from my usual blog, but I feel it is something that everyone has the capacity to connect with in one way or another, so read on!

If you have any agriculture connection in the Midwest, you have probably heard by now that many states including Indiana & Michigan have cancelled all poultry and waterfowl exhibition and public displays for 2015 due to serious concerns about the spread of avian flu. It was announced yesterday that here in Ohio we would follow suit. Being a poultry showman with 2015 being my last year of eligibility to show in 4-H, I was very disappointed to learn that I would not be able to show my projects this year at the Clark County Fair or at any open shows this winter. After 4 years of raising chickens and ducks, it was sad to hear that they'd have to stay home this year.

However, as a pre-veterinary student with special interest in livestock health, I knew immediately that this was the right decision in terms of biosecurity. Avian flu is a huge threat to both the birds and us, and I am glad that states are taking preventative measures for the health of all involved. Millions of chickens in Iowa and Minnesota have already been affected and either the disease was fatal or they had to be euthanized to protect others. Simply put, birds get sick very easily and we are surrounded by them more often than we realize.

With this being said, I have been very disappointed to see some of the posts in response to this exhibition ban, especially made by those with close connection to 4-H. There have been complaints about keeping the birds with no payoff at the end and many angry that they/their children will not be able to win their classes or shows and get ribbons/trophies/etc. I think what stood out so glaringly to me about these posts is that they go completely against what 4-H is about. Keep in mind, many of the responses have been supportive and understanding, but I wanted to take a moment to use these negative examples to really reflect on what 4-H is all about, and what it has meant to me over the years.

Although children may be sad and upset about their hard work and not getting to show their chickens/ducks/tukeys/etc, this poultry ban can be an *incredible* learning experience. If you are a 4-H/FFA parent or older member reading this, or even someone not involved in ag at all, take and share these lessons:

1. 4-H is about learning and personal growth, something we can all benefit from.

Do poultry projects (or any project/endeavor/etc) teach us valuable skills like responsibility and animal husbandry? Of course, one of the main reasons we undertake them is to *learn*. This learning doesn't have to change just because we can't show our animals at fairs this year. Regardless of whether the 4H/FFA-er already had

their poultry and will continue to raise them, or hadn't and now won't receive them, the fact that they won't get to physically exhibit them doesn't have to ruin this process. It just forces us to get creative. I commend the counties around me for already announcing plans to provide alternate opportunities for those who had poultry projects to show what they have learned, as this promotes the character of what 4-H is really about- being dedicated and prepared to face challenges when they come your way.

2. One of the H's in 4-H stands for HEALTH!!!

HEALTH, people!! Human and animal health *matters*, and this is what we should be promoting to our communities in the wake of this announcement and avian flu outbreak. Instead of being upset about no exhibitions, think about how harmful it would be if a whole area/state was affected because the hundreds of thousands (if not millions) of birds on show every year were transferring the flu at fairs and shows. Take this opportunity to talk to each other and especially to your kids/siblings/members/mentees about why the shows won't be happening, and why it is important to protect the animals and ourselves. This poultry ban brings up great lessons on spread of disease, prevention, and how to deal with the unexpected. It can be an amazing educational experience if we make it that.

3. 4-H *isn't about winning...*

... although we are human, and we all forget that sometimes. Though I am very sorry for younger members whom this would have been their first poultry showing experience, there is still time left. From early morning baths to teaching your bird to stand just right to the thrill of getting questions right in showmanship, exhibiting birds is downright *fun* and it does make me sad that we'll all miss out on that experience this year. But for those upset that they won't get the grand champion title/trophy/premium because the shows have been cancelled, take a moment to rethink. The point of youth agricultural orgs like 4-H and FFA is *not* to teach kids how to win, how to flaunt a trophy. It's to spark genuine curiosity and dedication to an animal or project and commit to hard work in which the end result is kids who are proud of what they accomplished and believe in themselves. 4-H is about *making the best better*.

I hope some reflection on this announcement makes us all a little better, and a little wiser.

I am so thankful for the person 4-H has helped me become, and know that this challenge is one that I and all other poultry showmen have the ability to overcome and appreciate.

Savannah