

Department 18G

Poultry – Revised 3/20/26

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1. A youth member must be a member of an Ionia County 4-H club or an Ionia County FFA club. A leader from the club must participate in the Ionia County Small Animal Committee.
2. All youth must attend a mandatory meeting put on by the Small Animal Leaders Committee to qualify to show at the Ionia Free Fair.
3. A youth member may enter up to five pens of poultry. They may also enter up to two dozen eggs, but the eggs must be in two different egg classes.
4. A breeding pen is made up of two females and one male. A market pen is made of three birds of the same sex preferably. An egg-production market pen must be made of three hens.
5. Each youth member must sign up for two barn duties and complete the list of chores described on the sign-up poster.
6. All youth members must help set up and clean up the poultry barn.
7. No diseased poultry will be accepted for exhibit in 4-H classes. All birds must be Pullorum tested before entering the barn. A copy of the U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid test must be provided to the Superintendent prior to placement of birds, and before any birds can be shown.
8. All birds must be washed and dried before check-in. Birds that arrive dirty will be sent home and if a market pen, will not be allowed to sell. No exceptions.
9. All youth members with market pens must complete a Youth Poultry Record Book. Anyone not doing a market project can complete the record book or an educational poster to hang in the barn.
10. All 1st, 2nd and 3rd year youth members must show in poultry showmanship. All youth members must show in two different poultry events. Poultry events are defined as breeding classes, market pens, egg production, and poultry showmanship. Exhibitors who choose not to comply with these rules are not eligible to sell their animal(s) in the Small Animal Auction.
11. All youth member poultry must check in by Friday at 4pm with judging and showmanship to follow.
12. Birds will not be released until 8am on the Sunday following the Fair with clean-up immediately following.
13. Only poultry entered and shown in youth or open classes during fair will be allowed in the barn.
14. Youth members are participating in an Ionia County, 4-H event. They may not show poultry in any other 4-H County Fair during the current year. Violators may not participate the following year.
15. Pullorum Testing will be available on the third Monday in June at the Ionia Free Fairgrounds at 6-8pm and/or during check in at the Fair.
16. Only youth members will be allowed to handle animals during the poultry show and the sale.
17. All youth members are expected to adhere to state dress code guidelines.
18. All breeding poultry must be in member's possession by May 1st. (See date requirements for Market Pen birds in the rules for Market Pens and Eggs.)
19. All birds shown in the show will be housed in the barn during the duration of the fair. (Excluding Cloverbud showmanship birds.)
20. Exhibitor must get written permission from superintendent to remove birds before barn clean-up at 8am Sunday following the fair.
21. Failure to follow these rules will exclude you from showing in following years.

POULTRY SHOWMANSHIP

1. Each exhibitor must own and show his or her own bird. No sharing of birds.
2. Each exhibitor will have a maximum of 12 minutes to show their bird.
3. An exhibitor may NOT use a market pen bird for showmanship.

Classes -

Senior Showmanship, Ages 15 & over

Intermediate Showmanship, Ages 12-14

Junior Showmanship, Ages 8-11

Prizes: 1-6 place rosettes and 1st place plaque.

Cloverbud showmanship, Ages 5-7 and below

Prizes: Participation Ribbon

BREEDING

1. All classifications of birds are taken from the American Poultry Association (APA) Standard. All exhibitors must know the correct classification for their breed.
2. Poultry shown as a trio may NOT be shown as a single bird.

Division - Classes	Breeding Poultry - Bantam	Breeding Poultry – Large Fowl	Breeding Poultry - Other
-	Modern	American	Ducks
	Game	Asiatic	Geese
	Single Comb Clean Legged	Continental	Turkeys
	Rose Comb Clean Legged	English	Game Birds – pheasants, grouse, quails, guineafowl, and pigeons
	Feather Legged	Mediterranean	
	All Other Comb Clean Legged	All Other Standard Breeds	
	Bantum Duck		

Subclass -

Breeding Pen of Three, (one male & two females), Mature – over one year

Breeding Pen of Three, (one male & two females), Young – under one year

Single Mature Female – over one year

Single Mature Male – over one year

Single Young Female – under one year

Single Young Male – under one year

Prizes:

Three placing ribbons for each subclass.

Grand and Reserve Champion rosettes for each class.

Overall Grand and Reserve Champion plaque for each division.

Best in Show Grand and Reserve Champion banners.

MARKET PENS and EGGS

1. A sale charge will be deducted from selling price.
2. All youth members will be required to complete a Poultry Market Book that must be turned in when market pen and eggs are checked in. No Exceptions.
3. Only one (1) unit (turkey, chicken, duck, hen, eggs or rabbit) can be sold at auction for personal profit. The youth must tell the superintendent which market project will sell by noon on Sunday. Additional projects can be sold as a donation to the Small Animal Development Committee.
4. A youth that has graduated from high school or is aging out may show and sell two (2) market projects (turkey, chicken, duck, hen, eggs or rabbit). The youth must declare their last year in writing to the Small Animal Committee. If a youth decides later to return for their final year before aging out, they cannot declare it their last year again and sell 2 market pens.
5. Youth members must raise all poultry market pens. A hatching certificate with appropriate hatching date from where purchased must be included in the record book. If no hatching certificate is turned in, pen cannot be shown or sold. If you are hatching the birds yourself, arrangements must be made with superintendent prior to hatching.
6. Youth members must own the hens that laid the eggs.
7. Market birds must be in members' possession by:
 - a. Meat Chickens: Six (6) weeks before show date.
 - b. Heritage Meat Chickens: twenty (20) weeks before show date.
 - c. Standard Meat Turkeys: twelve (12) to sixteen (16) weeks before show date.
 - d. Meat Ducks: Eight (8) weeks before show.
 - e. Young Egg Production Bantam/Standard Chickens: twenty (20) weeks before show date.
 - f. Adult Egg Production Bantam/Standard Chickens: one (1) year before show date.
8. If the pen or eggs are eliminated or disqualified for any reason, they may not be sold in the auction. Judges' decision is final.
9. Only 1 market bird for each entry will be housed in the barn during the duration of the fair. The bird must be kept clean. Youth members with a market bird must clean the cages a minimum of three times during fair week. Youth members that do not keep their birds clean will have their birds sent home and will not be allowed to sell.
10. If a market pen is sold at the Small Animal Sale, the youth members must be willing to deliver the birds alive or dressed - fresh or frozen, to the buyer. The youth member must abide by the buyer's choice.
11. Youth member selling eggs must prepare a fresh dozen eggs to give to the buyers.
12. Only one (1) market pen may be shown in EACH category, chicken, heritage chicken, turkey, duck or young/adult egg production. Youth members may also show eggs.
13. Cloverbuds, aged 7, can only sell one animal or eggs.
14. All youth members of market projects must be present on show day and the night of sale.
15. All youth members of market pens must have at least three (3) photos taken the night of the sale after selling their pen.
16. All youth members of eggs must have one (1) photo taken the night of the sale after selling the eggs.
17. Only youth members will be allowed to handle animals during the poultry show and the sale.

Division - Market Pens

Classes Sold Individually -

Meat Chicken Market Pen (4.5lb minimum per bird)

Heritage Meat Chicken Market Pen (4.5lb minimum per bird)

Meat Turkey Market Pen (18lb minimum per bird)

Meat Duck Market Pen (6lb minimum per bird)

Classes Sold as a Pen -

Young Egg Production Pen Bantam (over twenty (20) weeks)

Adult Egg Production Pen Bantam (over one (1) year)

Young Egg Production Pen Standard (over twenty (20) weeks)

Adult Egg Production Pen Standard (over one (1) year)

Class for Cloverbud ONLY -

Cloverbud – ONLY 7-year-olds - single bird (any single bird from above categories)

No placings for Cloverbuds

Prizes:

Six placing rosettes per class.

Grand Champion plaque in each class, (based on judge's discretion).

Division – Market Eggs

1. Egg classes are open to members with production hens in their possession.
2. Only two dozen eggs may be shown per exhibitor and the eggs must be in two different egg classes.
3. Eggs should be of uniform size, shape, and color.
4. Eggs must be put in a clean carton with pointed ends downward.

Classes -

One dozen standard chicken eggs

One dozen bantam chicken eggs

One dozen eggs other than chickens

Prizes:

Grand & Reserve Champion rosettes for each class.

COSTUME

The member and their chicken will be judged on originality, theme, creativity, and audience appreciation.

Class –

All ages

Prizes:

Six placing rosettes & special prize.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENT *REQUIRED*

1. Youth **ONLY** showing birds are required to make an educational poster to hang in the poultry barn.
2. Youth showing and selling birds are required to complete a record book to be eligible to sell.
3. Posters and record books will be graded on completeness and creativity to earn A, B or C rating.

Classes –

Poster

Record Book

Prizes:

Best Poster and Best Record Book special prize.

Candy treats for all A ratings.