Poultry Skillathon 2017

Age Divisions: Junior (8-11) Intermediate (12-14) Senior (15-18)

Exhibitors will participate in age-based Skillathons. This study guide includes all topics an exhibitor might be tested on. Youth will only be tested on a portion of these items.

Station 1 Record Book

Exhibitors must have front, animal information, expenses, feed record, and treatment record

Station 2 Skillathon Kit Knowledge

Junior – Brooder set-up
Intermediate – Egg grades
Senior – Reproductive tract

Station 3 Quality Assurance

All age groups (all species) – Veterinarian Feed Directive

Station 4 Interview

Junior

1. What is a baby duck called?
   a. Duckling

2. What is a baby goose called?
   a. Gosling

3. How many eyelids does a chicken have? Why?
   Three: upper, lower and the nictating membrane which moves from the front to the rear of the eye and is clear. Eyelids keep foreign substances from entering the eye.

4. How is the “size” of eggs measured?
   a. By weight per the dozen

5. What is an adult male turkey called?
   a. Tom

6. What is an adult female goose called?
   a. Goose

7. Explain two ways to get ready to receive your chickens:
   a. 
      i. Clean and disinfect brooder, feeders and waterers.
      ii. Purchase the correct feed for the type of birds you are getting
      iii. Have the right bedding for your birds
      iv. Set brooder up with bedding and turn on heat lamp to preheat the brooder
      v. Be sure to have a container to transport your birds large enough to fit all of your birds but not too big (you do not want them to be able to slide around).
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8. Why should birds be removed from and replaced into cages head first?
   Prevent possible wing damage, to maintain control

9. What is the most common type (breed) of broiler that is recommended?
   A cross between a synthetic dominant white Cornish cock and a synthetic dominant white Hampshire hen (Cornish, Hampshire cross acceptable)

10. If the sternum of a chicken is found to be crooked, what nutritional deficiency disease could be the cause?
    Rickets

11. How can you tell an adult male turkey from a female?
    a. Adult males have beards and longer snoods and are generally larger than females.

Intermediate

1. How long (in days) is the incubation period for chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese?
   a. Chickens: 21, Turkeys: 28, Ducks: 28, Geese 32 days

2. Large breeds of chickens are grouped according to the area of the world where the birds originated.
   What are the six groups?
   a. American, Asiatic, English, Mediterranean, Continental and “all other standard breeds (AOSB)

3. Name two ways to identify the sex of a duck.
   i. Vent sexing, sex feather – tail feather
   ii. Quack – loud or quiet.

4. What does the term “incubation period” mean?
   a. Period of time from when eggs are set until they hatch.

5. What does it mean if your bird is “molting” or in a “molt”?
   a. The bird is losing feathers and their reproduction stops. This renews the bird for another reproductive cycle and does not harm the bird.

6. What is the importance of calcium in the diets of laying hens?
   Needed for the calcium of the egg shell.

7. In general, what temperature should be provided for growing chicks?
   About 95°F for the first week and drop by 5°F per week until at ambient temperature

8. What is the function of the vent? Is it common to all poultry?
   It is the uro-genital opening of the bird, the external portion of the cloaca. All poultry have one. It is where the egg, uric acid and feces all exit.

9. Do chickens ever have teeth?
   Yes, egg tooth at hatch to help break through the shell

10. What percentage of protein should be feed to grown (>20 weeks) production chickens?
    16-19% protein

Senior

1. Name one internal parasite common in poultry
   a. Coccidia, Blackhead, large roundworms, small roundworms

2. Name one external parasite common in poultry
   a. Lice, Mites

3. What is the most common cause of a breast blister on a broiler?
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4. Why do we measure flexibility of the pubic bones?
   a. To see if they will open enough for an egg to pass

5. What is a blood spot and what causes it?
   a. A spot of blood in the egg, occurs from a broken blood vessel across the stigma line on the yolk follicle when the yolk is released into the reproductive tract.

6. How long is the incubation period for Chickens, Turkeys and Ducks and Geese?
   21, 28, 28, 30-32, for muscovy it is 33-35 days.

7. At what temperature should most chicken eggs be incubated?
   100°F

8. What is the function of the comb and wattles on chickens?
   Sex differentiation, Identification and thermoregulation

9. What are basic signs of good health in chickens?
   Alert, active, clear eyes, good manure consistency and free from external parasites

10. What is the gizzard and what is its function?
    The gizzard is also known and the ventriculus a part of the digestive system just behind the proventriculus, true stomach, and it is where the food is ground up by the chicken to aid in digestion and absorption.

Station 5 Skills Knowledge

Junior – Basic Animal Care

1. Ground oyster shell provided what mineral for hens?
   a. Calcium

2. How many nest boxes should be provided for a flock of laying hens?
   a. Usually 1 for each 5 hens

3. Name 2 materials that are commonly used in the bottom of brooder boxes:
   a. Soft pine shavings, untreated cat litter, sand, rice hulls, or ground corn cobs.

4. What does it mean if your bird is “full fed”?
   a. Your birds have food available all of the time.

5. When do chicks need water?
   a. Immediately upon being placed into the brooder box

6. How much floor space is needed per chick?
   3/4 square foot per bird

7. Why does the judge ask to see the feet and legs of the bird?
   a. To check for deformities and disease and for parasites

8. How many primary and secondary flight feathers do most chickens have?
   a. 10 primary and 14-18 secondary

9. What is bumble foot?
   a. An infection in the foot pad of poultry, usually caused by Staphylococcus aureus (a bacteria) from manure.

10. For what disease must all birds going to shows be tested for?
    a. Salmonella pullorum
Intermediate – Showmanship Best Practices

1. What is the book which lists all recognized poultry breeds and their characteristics?
   a. American Standard of Perfection
2. What breed of chickens lay blue-green eggs?
   a. Araucana and Ameraucana
3. What is another name for the breast bone?
   a. Sternum or keel
4. What does APA stand for?
   a. American Poultry Association
5. What does ABA stand for?
   a. American Bantam Association
6. How many feather tracts does a chicken have? Name 6.
   a. 10 tracts
7. What is the proper way to hand your bird to the judge?
   Head first
8. What is the proper way to return the bird into the coop?
   Head First
9. What is the proper way to examine the head of your bird?
   Hold head of bird alert by prodding at the region of the wattles
10. Which three factors should you consider when choosing your market pen for show?
    1. Conformation – shape: length, width and depth
    2. Fleshing – amount of muscle or meat
    3. Uniformity – all birds in entry should be alike

Senior – Situational Word problem

1. What is the normal body temperature of a chicken?
   a. 105-107 degrees Fahrenheit
2. How is Salmonella Pullorum spread or transmitted?
   a. Through the egg, either by organisms from the hen’s ovary or from manure in the nest box that contaminates the shell.
3. What is “biosecurity” and why is it important for your flock of birds?
   a. Biosecurity means preventing infections or disease-causing organisms and other pests like insects or rodents from coming in contact with your birds. It also means keeping human traffic to a minimum, not allowing your birds to have contact with any sick birds and not visiting infected flocks.
4. Explain dubbing and what two chicken breeds this must be done to to show them.
   a. The removal of the wattles, combs and ear lobes of certain breed of chickens, Old English and Modern.
5. You notice in your breeding flock, that some of your female birds are missing feathers on their lower backs and on the backs of their heads. What is a possible cause of this?
   a. When breeding the male stands on the back of the female and holds the feathers on the back of the head with his beak, causing feather loss.
6. What is the main difference between Starter Feed, Grower feed and Layer feed for feeding chicks, pullets and laying hens?

   Protein levels, Starter 18-19%CP, Grower 14-15% CP and Layer 16-17% CP.

7. Use a medication label to determine how much medication to administer to a flock of birds of varying ages and number. How to administer? Through feed or water?

8. Why is feeding straight wheat to a laying flock of chickens a mistake?
   a. Feeding wheat or any other grain as a sole ration does not provide a balanced diet for good health and egg production.

9. Why should incubators be “fumigated” or “disinfected” prior to use?
   a. To remove any bacteria, virus or mold organisms that might infect the eggs being hatched.

10. What is “biosecurity” and why is it important for your flock of birds?
    a. Biosecurity means preventing infections or disease causing organisms and other pests, like insects, rodents, etc., from coming into contact with your birds. Keeping human traffic to a minimum, and not allowing contact with any sick birds, either directly or indirectly through. Keep a foot dip pan filled with disinfectant near the door to your coop and dip your shoes or boots prior to entering your facility. It will prevent disease transmission to your birds and is very important.