

150 - POULTRY & WATERFOWL

4-H PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

To complete a project in 4-H, member must annually:

- Enroll in 4H Club by March 1
- Be 4-H member in "Good Standing" by completing county and club requirements
- Complete Project Book or Livestock Record Book
- Attend Quality Assurance Training (150CM and 150CEP and 150TM)
- Complete Livestock Skillathon

*NOTE: 4-H Members may also choose to exhibit their livestock at the Ross County Junior Fair. Members are NOT required to exhibit at the fair to complete a project in 4-H.

1. PROJECT BOOK & LIVESTOCK RECORDS

- **PROJECT BOOKS:** First-year members will receive a **Poultry Project/Record Book (#150)**, which includes all Poultry Projects. Members must retain these books for use in future years. The Resource Handbook is given one per family and must be retained for future family members.

150CM Chicken, Market

150CE Chicken, Exhibition (Fancy)

150CEP Chicken, Egg Production: Hens & Pullets

150TM Turkey, Market

150TE Turkey, Exhibition (non-market)

150DE Duck Exhibition

150GE Goose, Exhibition

150H Helmeted Guinea Fowl

- **LIVESTOCK RECORD:** Each member will receive a **Livestock Record** annually. **Members are required to bring their completed Livestock Record to the Animal Project Skillathon** with all information completed up to the date of the Skillathon.

2. QUALITY ASSURANCE (required for 150CM market chicken; 150CEP egg production; 150TM market turkey):

- Exhibitors of Market and Dairy Projects must attend Quality Assurance training annually in order to show, exhibit and/or sell their animal at the county or state fair. This training is mandated by the Ohio Dept. of Agriculture for any producer that contributes to the food industry and must be completed at least 45 days prior to the opening date of the exhibition. Deadlines: **June 24, 2026** for Ross County Fair and June 1 for State Fair.
- **QA OPTIONS:**
 - **Ross County** dates/times go to ross.osu.edu
 - **QA Sessions (all ages):** Pre-register **by March 1** at go.osu.edu/rcqualityassurance
 - **Test-Out (ages 15-18 on January 1):** Youth will complete QA for the current year and will then take a test. Youth scoring 70% - 100% will "test out" of QA for next three years.
 - **Other In-Person (all ages):** Exhibitors may attend approved QA programs or clinics. To get credit, it is the member's responsibility to submit proof of completion to the Extension office.
 - **YQCA Online (ages 14-18 on January 1):** <http://yqcaprogram.org> (\$12/person). Must use 4-H online log-in. To get credit, it is the member's responsibility to send a copy of the completion document to the Extension office.

3. SKILLATHON

- All Ross County Jr. Fair Animal Project Exhibitors must complete an Animal Project Skillathon to exhibit, show and/or their animal(s). Exhibitors may complete either the Ross County Skillathon OR the Ohio State Fair Skillathon (if offered) for their species. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to submit proof of completion to the Extension office, if attending the OSF Skillathon.
- **Skillathon Dates:**
 - Location: Fairgrounds
 - July 7, 5:00pm-7:00pm
 - July 18, 9:00am-11:00am
- **Age Categories:** Members complete Skillathon according to their age (as of January 1).
 - Junior (8-11 years)
 - Intermediate (12 - 14 years)
 - Senior (15 - 18 years)
- **PREMIER SKILLATHON** (all ages): Optional contest. Participants will compete in a Premier Skillathon station in each specie area. Details will be in the *May Family Hotline* and *Ross County Fair Book*.

JR. FAIR INFORMATION

To exhibit, show and/or sell an animal at the Ross County Junior Fair, exhibitors must:

- ☑ Enroll in 4-H Club and/or FFA Chapter
 - 4-H members sign up through 4Honline
 - FFA members sign up with Ag Teacher
- ☑ Be 4-H/FFA members in “Good Standing” by completing county and club/chapter requirements
- ☑ Market Poultry – order chicks/poults through the Extension office
- ☑ Complete Project Book or Livestock Record Book
- ☑ Attend Quality Assurance Training (*150CM and 150CEP and 150TM*)
- ☑ Complete Livestock Skillathon
- ☑ Submit online “Jr Fair Livestock Entry Form” by July 15
 - One form includes Market, Breeding, and Showmanship entries
- ☑ Submit online DUNF form at fair weigh-in (*market projects*)

*NOTE: Members are NOT required to exhibit at the fair to complete a project through 4-H or FFA.

2026 IMPORTANT DATES

- **Market Chick (150CM) & Turkey Poult (150TM) Orders:** March 12
- **Market Turkey Poult Pick-up:** April 16 10 (tentative)
- **Market Chick Pick-up:** June 18 (tentative)
- **Jr Fair Livestock Entry Form:** July 15
- **DUNF Form:** due at fair check-ins for market animals
- **Fair Check-in & Caging (ALL Poultry, except Market Turkey):** first Saturday of the fair, 5:00pm - 9:00pm
- **Fair Weigh-in (Market Chicken):** first Saturday of the fair, 5:00pm – 9:00pm
- **Poultry Showmanship:** Monday of fair, 4:00pm
- **Market Chicken Show:** Tuesday of the fair, 8:30am
- **Production Chickens; Fancy Chickens; Non-Market Turkey; Guinea; Ducks/Geese:** Tuesday, following Mkt. Chicken Show
- **Market Turkey Fair Check-in, Weigh-in & Caging:** Wednesday of fair, 10:00am – 12:00noon
- **Market Turkey Show:** Thursday of fair, 8:00am
- **Market Poultry Sale:** Saturday of fair, 9:00am (rotating annually Turkeys, Market Chickens, and Market Rabbits)

BEFORE THE FAIR

1. **POSSESSION.**
 - A. Breeding poultry/Fancy poultry must be owned and in member’s possession by **May 1**, current year.
 - B. Market chicks and market turkey must be in member’s possession on their pick-up dates
2. **NUMBER OF ANIMALS.**
 - A. Exhibitors may take up to two (2) market species to the Ross County Junior Fair. Exhibitors must follow the guidelines of the number of animals per species and abide by the specific rules for each species.
3. **JR FAIR LIVESTOCK ENTRY FORMS due July 15**
 - A. Exhibitors must submit an online Jr Fair Livestock Entry form to be eligible to exhibit at the Ross County Junior Fair.
 - B. Animals brought to the fair must match the entry form to be eligible.

AT THE FAIR (Refer to current Ross County Fair Book for Complete rules)

1. **JR FAIR EXHIBITOR DRESS CODE.** Exhibitors **must** adhere to the following dress requirements **at all shows and sales** at the fair: must wear nice jeans or slacks (no low-rise, no holes or tears); a shirt, blouse or polo with a collar and sleeves AND without slogans or advertisements (4-H club/member name is acceptable); no cleavage showing; no undergarments showing. Shoes must be closed-toe (no sandals or flip flops). All helpers must also follow Jr. Fair Exhibitor Dress code.
2. **FAIR VETERINARIAN.**
The Fair Veterinarian is hired by the Ross Co. Agricultural Society per Ohio Dept. of Agriculture guidelines. Poultry: page 2 of 7
related to animal health, care, and wellbeing are up to the discretion of the Fair Veterinarian up to and including animal removal and possession. (clarification that the Fair Vet gets final say)
3. **MEDICATIONS.** If a prescription is written that requires medication/treatment, a superintendent must be present each time the medicine/treatment is administered to ensure compliance with the guidance in the prescription. The superintendent

must be present before any medicine/treatment is mixed through delivery.

4. **DUNF Form:** due at fair check-in (150CM - August 8, 2026) (150TM - August 12, 2026)
 - A. All DUNF forms must be submitted online at the fair check-in
 - B. Exhibitor will submit ONE form for each Pen of 2 (not one form per bird).
 - C. DUNF form must be correctly submitted, or exhibitor will not be allowed to weigh-in their animal(s).
5. **PULLORUM TESTING.** All poultry must be from a Pullorum free flock or be individually tested before shown. Testing **must** be done prior to **July 15**.
 - A. All Non-Market turkeys must be blood tested at least *six weeks* before fair to allow test results to be returned for fair.
 - B. Note: Ross County Junior Fair **broiler project chicks and market turkey poults** are from a Pullorum-free flock hatchery (we will provide you the USDA form 9-3 issued by the hatchery/breeder) and do not need to be tested *if members follow the NPIP Exhibition Poultry Guidelines*.
 - C. All exhibitors must attach their poultry exhibits' *Pullorum Free 9-3 Form/certificates* to their Jr. Fair Livestock Entry Form due on July 15.
 - see Page 6 – “Ohio NPIP Exhibition Poultry Guidelines”
 - see Page 6 - Certified Pullorum Testers & contact numbers
6. Exhibitors are responsible for providing **feeders, waterers, feed, and bedding** for their animals.
 - A. Pine shavings are suggested bedding.
 - B. Waterers must be a container that holds **1 gallon** or more. To prevent injuries to the birds, feeders and waterers should be completely smooth with no rough or sharp edges. Note: Non-market birds that are individually caged could have an exception made for the size of waterer.
 - C. Waterers may NOT hang from the top of the cage. Instead, waterers should be placed on an exhibitor provided block or brick on the table. Waterers may hang from the side of the cage as long as there is the possibility to have at least one gallon of water in the cage, and water is not spilling.
7. **FANS.** Personal fans must have self-contained energy (small battery) source. The use of cords, wires, or external power sources are prohibited (i.e. NO car batteries, generators, etc.)
8. **CLEAN YOUR ANIMAL'S CAGE.**
 - A. Members **must** clean their cages at least twice daily. Exhibitors not in compliance will be placed on a 1-year probation. If second offense occurs, the exhibitor will be ineligible to exhibit the following year.
 - B. Market Chicken exhibitors must do a final clean between **8:00am - 10:00am**, Wednesday of Fair.
 - C. Market Turkey exhibitors must do a final clean by **12:00noon**, last Saturday of Fair
 - D. Non-Market exhibitors must clean their pens after their birds are released.
 - E. Clean Pens will be recognized with awards.
9. **RELEASE TIMES.**
 - A. Market Chickens will be released to the **packer only**, at **9:00am** on Wednesday of the fair.
 - B. Market Turkeys will be released to the **packer only**, at **9:00am** on the last Saturday of the fair.
 - C. All other Poultry and Waterfowl will be released between **9:00am – 12:00noon** Friday of the fair and must be removed by **12:00noon** Friday.
10. **MUST SHOW TO SELL.**

All market animals must be shown in their respective market show to be eligible to participate in the Ross Co. Jr. Fair Premium Sale (*3 exceptions– see below). If the animal is lightweight or overweight, they can receive packer price but not premium or add-on funds.

 - A. Exceptions:
 - I. Exception 1 - If the animal dies after weigh-in but before showing in the respective species market show the exhibitor will be eligible to receive add-ons.
 - II. Exception 2 - If the animal dies after the respective species market show, then the exhibitor will be eligible to participate in both the Jr. Fair Premium Sale and receive add-ons.
 - III. Exception 3 – If the animal dies after showing in their respective species showmanship show and before their species market show, then the exhibitor will be eligible to participate in both the Premium Sale and receive add-ons.
 - Note: if the exhibitor's animal does not die and they have shown in showmanship, they must still show in the market show to be sale eligible.
 - Note: This is a temporary exception that will be evaluated after the 2026 fair.

- B. Exhibitors will have 3 minutes from when other exhibitors enter the showring to enter the showring before the Superintendents/Judge moves on with the show. All exhibitors must participate in their market show to be eligible to participate in the Ross Co. Jr. Fair Premium Sale.

11. SALE INFORMATION

- A. The Jr. Fair Market Chicken & Market Turkey shows are terminal shows.
- B. Refer to the current Fair Book for Livestock Sale procedure/rules. (*i.e. Exhibitors may sell only one time through the sale unless exhibiting more than one overall species Grand Champion or Reserve Grand Champion*)

POULTRY PROJECTS – SPECIFIC RULES

#150CEP POULTRY PRODUCTION

1. Exhibitor may enter up to TWO exhibits. If both exhibits are in the same category, each exhibit must be two separate breeds/varieties.
 - A. Production Hens: 2 females of same breed and variety, both hatched before August 1, previous year
 - B. Production Pullets: 2 females of same breed and variety, both hatched between August 1 - November 1, previous year
2. **JR FAIR LIVESTOCK ENTRY FORMS due July 15**
 - A. Exhibitors must submit an online Jr Fair Livestock Entry form to be eligible to exhibit at the Ross County Junior Fair.
 - B. Animals brought to the fair must match the entry form to be eligible.

#150CM BROILER MEAT PEN OF 2

1. **ORDER & PURCHASE MARKET CHICKS.** Exhibitors must order and purchase chicks through the Extension office (link go.osu.edu/rcmarketpoultryorder). Orders of 8 chicks per project/member must be placed and paid for by **March 12**.
2. **CHICK PICK-UP DAY:** see page 2 "Important Dates"
3. Each exhibitor begins the project with 8 chicks (see #1 above). Exhibitors must select a *Pen of 2* from these 8 chicks only.
4. **WEIGHT REQUIREMENTS.**
 - A. The Pen of 2 must weigh **AT LEAST 10 lbs. and NO MORE than 16 lbs.** (10lbs-16lbs) at the fair weigh-in on the first Saturday of Fair to be eligible for championship and sale.
 - B. All birds must be clean and dry to weigh-in.
 - C. No re-weighs.
5. Exhibitors with poultry that do NOT meet the weight requirements:
 - A. Exhibitors will surrender their poultry to the Senior Fair Board and must continue care of animals.
 - B. Exhibitor is eligible to participate in an underweight and/or overweight class but not receive any awards.
 - C. Exhibitor is eligible to participate in Showmanship.
 - D. Exhibitor is not eligible to sell an underweight or overweight project.
6. Exhibitors must clean their cages and remove all equipment/supplies from the barn by **10:00am, Wednesday** of fair (after the packer leaves.)
7. **JR FAIR LIVESTOCK ENTRY FORMS** due July 15
 - A. Exhibitors must submit an online Jr Fair Livestock Entry form to be eligible to exhibit at the Ross County Junior Fair.
 - B. Animals brought to the fair must match the entry form to be eligible.
8. **DUNF Forms** for Market Chickens will be completed at the fair check-in
 - A. Exhibitors will complete the online form immediately after their project is weighed and leg-banded.
 - B. Form must be submitted with correct information.

#150CE - FANCY POULTRY PRODUCTION

1. Exhibitor may enter FOUR exhibits. In ANY combination of the following categories:
 - A. Cock: 1 Male hatched before August 1, previous year
 - B. Hen: 1 Female hatched before August 1, previous year
 - C. Cockerel: 1 Male hatched between August 1 - November 1, previous year
 - D. Pullet: 1 Female hatched between August 1 - November 1, previous year
2. All birds must be a breed recognized in the project book or by the American Poultry Association.
3. **JR FAIR LIVESTOCK ENTRY FORMS** due July 15
 - A. Exhibitors must submit an online Jr Fair Livestock Entry form to be eligible to exhibit at the Ross County Junior Fair.
 - B. Animals brought to the fair must match the entry form to be eligible.

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#150TM - TURKEY MARKET

1. **ORDER & PURCHASE POULTS.** Exhibitors must order and purchase poults through the Extension office (link go.osu.edu/rcmarketpoultryorder). Orders of 5 poults per project/member must be placed and paid for by **March 12**.
2. **TURKEY POULT PICK-UP DAY:** see page 2 "Important Dates"
3. Each exhibitor begins the project with 5 poults (see #1 above). Exhibitors must select a one turkey from these 5 poults only.
4. **WEIGHT REQUIREMENTS.**
 - A. Turkey must weigh **AT LEAST 20 lbs.** (there is NO MAXIMUM WEIGHT) at the fair weigh-in on Wednesday of Fair to be eligible for championship and sale.
 - B. All birds must be clean and dry to weigh-in.
 - C. No re-weighs.
5. Exhibitors with poultry that do NOT meet the weight requirements:
 - A. Exhibitors will surrender their poultry to the Senior Fair Board and must continue care of animals.
 - B. Exhibitor is eligible to participate in an underweight and/or overweight class but not receive any awards.

- C. Exhibitor is eligible to participate in Showmanship.
 - D. Exhibitor is not eligible to sell an underweight or overweight project.
6. Exhibitors must clean their cages and remove all equipment/supplies from the barn by **12:00noon, last Saturday** of fair.
 7. JR FAIR LIVESTOCK ENTRY FORMS due July 15
 - A. Exhibitors must submit an online Jr Fair Livestock Entry form to be eligible to exhibit at the Ross County Junior Fair.
 - B. Animals brought to the fair must match the entry form to be eligible.
 8. DUNF Forms for Turkey projects will be completed at the fair check-in
 - A. Exhibitors will complete the online form immediately after their project is weighed and leg-banded.
 - B. Form must be submitted with correct information.

#150TE – TURKEY, NON-MARKET EXHIBITION

1. Exhibitor may enter up to TWO exhibits in ANY combination of the following categories:
 - A. Tom: 1 male, of any breed
 - B. Hen: 1 female, of any breed
2. All Non-Market Turkeys **must** be blood tested by a veterinarian at least *six weeks* before fair to allow test results to be returned in time for fair.
3. JR FAIR LIVESTOCK ENTRY FORMS due July 15
 - A. Exhibitors must submit an online Jr Fair Livestock Entry form to be eligible to exhibit at the Ross County Junior Fair.
 - B. Animals brought to the fair must match the entry form to be eligible.

#150DE - DUCK, EXHIBITION

1. Exhibitor may enter up to TWO exhibits in ANY combination of the following categories:
 - A. Drake: 1 male, of any breed
 - B. Hen: 1 female, of any breed
2. JR FAIR LIVESTOCK ENTRY FORMS due July 15
 - A. Exhibitors must submit an online Jr Fair Livestock Entry form to be eligible to exhibit at the Ross County Junior Fair.
 - B. Animals brought to the fair must match the entry form to be eligible.

#150GE - GOOSE PRODUCTION

1. Exhibitor may enter up to TWO exhibits in ANY combination of the following categories:
 - A. Gander: 1 male, of any breed
 - B. Dame: 1 female, of any breed
2. JR FAIR LIVESTOCK ENTRY FORMS due July 15
 - A. Exhibitors must submit an online Jr Fair Livestock Entry form to be eligible to exhibit at the Ross County Junior Fair.
 - B. Animals brought to the fair must match the entry form to be eligible.

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#150H – HELMETED GUINEA FOWL

1. Exhibitor may enter up to TWO exhibits in ANY combination of the following categories:
 - A. 1 Cock Guinea Fowl, of any breed
 - B. 1 Hen Guinea Fowl, of any breed
2. JR FAIR LIVESTOCK ENTRY FORMS due July 15
 - A. Exhibitors must submit an online Jr Fair Livestock Entry form to be eligible to exhibit at the Ross County Junior Fair.
 - B. Animals brought to the fair must match the entry form to be eligible.
 - C. Exhibitors must upload Pullorum Free 9-3 Certificate Form with their Non-Market Livestock Fair Entry Form.

POULTRY SHOWMANSHIP

Refer to current Ross County Fair Book for complete rules (age divisions, fitting/showing rules, show order, etc.)

July 15 –Showmanship sign-ups (Beginner, Junior, Intermediate & Senior) are included in the online Jr Fair Livestock Entry form due July 15.

OHIO NPIP EXHIBITION POULTRY GUIDELINES

All Birds in Ohio must have a Pullorum Free status:

1. Birds may originate from an NPIP qualified, Pullorum free flock.
 - a. Birds originating from an NOIO qualified, Pullorum Free Flock, will have a USDA form 9-3 issued by the hatchery or breeder. This form is valid for one-year. If the 9-3 form is older than one-year, the birds are considered untested and not Pullorum clean.
 - b. If the above birds are commingled with non-tested birds or with birds that do not originate from an NPIP qualified, Pullorum Free Flock, they will no longer be considered Pullorum free or tested.
2. Birds may be tested for Pullorum by a Certified Ohio Pullorum Tester or accredited veterinarian.
 - a. Birds tested off-site (not fairgrounds) must have an official USDA form 9-2 issued by the Certified Tester or Veterinarian. This form shall be valid for 90 days.
 - b. If the above birds are commingled with non-tested birds or with birds that do not originate from an NPIP qualified, Pullorum Free Flock, they will no longer be considered Pullorum free or tested.
 - c. Turkey serum samples must be collected by an Ohio NPIP Authorized Agent or an accredited veterinarian and submitted to the Ohio Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory for testing. We suggest you schedule Turkey Pullorum testing 4 – 6 weeks prior to your exhibition. Currently waterfowl are exempt from Pullorum testing.
3. Poultry exhibitors should produce NPIP forms prior to being housed at the fair. A copy must be provided to the fair superintendents so they have verification on hand in case of state inspection.

Ohio NPIP, USDAANPIP< nor the Ohio Department of Agriculture shall be held responsible for any losses or misinformation. USDA forms 9-2 and/or 9-3 are not official forms of age verification.

Ohio NPIP and the Ohio Department of Agriculture suggest that all birds be tested for Avian Influenza._

Certified Pullorum Testers

- Jack Fisher 740-412-0853
- Tracy Gibson 740-804-2146
- Crystal Kerns 740-216-7132
- Eli Raber 937-393-3305
- C. Diane Waits 937-288-2481