

Defiance County Junior Fair Department 200 Poultry Department Guidelines - 2025

Show Date: Sunday, August 17, 2025 @ 9:00 am

New Rule Changes

- All market chickens and market turkeys that are bought from an NPIP source do NOT have to be pullorum tested before exhibition. Defiance County Bulk Orders of Market Chickens and Turkeys are from an NPIP source. Exhibitors are encouraged to have separation of project types (Market, layers, fancy, etc). Fancy birds/breeding birds will not be subject to pullorum testing in 2025. It is at the discretion of the Senior Fairboard to test chickens at Fair check-in should any bird display symptoms. Reminder- Waterfowl are exempt from this rule per OAC 901:1-18-05 (D)
- Pullet class definition: any female under a year
- Laying Hen definition: any female over a year
- Market Ducks and Geese: Required Mandatory Age: Must be between 18-20 weeks. Hatch dates between March 30 and April 13. Proof of purchase is required.
- Mandatory Market Chicken Bulk Order will remain for 2025. Zeedyk Poultry & Waterfowl will sponsor 4 chicks for each exhibitor.

Poultry Possession Dates

- Poultry - Pullets, Fancy Chickens April 30
- Turkeys - Market April 18 **Must bulk order through Extension Office**
- Game Birds - Pheasants April 28
- Game Birds - Quail June 25
- Geese/Ducks – Marke 18t-20 weeks April 13
- Fancy Ducks and Geese June 1
- Chickens - Market July 6 **Must bulk order through Extension Office**

GAME BIRDS: The intent of the game bird classes are to raise the birds and release after Fair. Pheasants should be 16-18 weeks at Fair. Shown as a pair (1 male & 1 female). Quail should be 8 weeks at fair and shown as a pair (1 male & 1 female). **Members are to take the game birds home on the same day of the show to release the project. Do NOT release game bird projects at the county fair.**

Turkeys exhibited at the Defiance County Fair **MUST** be ordered through the Extension Office bulk order. Exhibitor may only show the birds from the bulk order. Turkeys not from the bulk order will be disqualified. Age of turkeys for the fair will be 17 weeks. **Minimum weight is 20 lbs.**

Market Chickens exhibited at the Defiance County Fair **MUST** be ordered through the Extension Office bulk order. Exhibitor may only show birds from the bulk order. Max weight of 16 lbs for broiler pen

Market Geese: Mandatory age is 18 - 20 weeks. The recommended weight is 8–18 lbs.

Market Ducks: Mandatory age is 18- 20 weeks. The recommended weight is 5-12 lbs. Jumbo Pekin ducks are permitted.

All exhibitors with poultry must attach proof of purchase to entry form showing the age of the bird to the pen card entry form which is due at skill-a-thon. May also submit through the on-line poultry registration link.

Defiance County Junior Fair Information

A. Project Completion Requirements

1. All livestock exhibitors must complete at **Skillathon** and livestock **Quality Assurance Training** for project completion. A 4-H/FFA member is not required to show in the Junior Fair Livestock Show.
2. Poultry exhibitors must attach proof of purchase showing age of bird to livestock pen card which is due a Skillathon.

B. Livestock Move-In

1. Livestock check-in is the Friday before start of Fair.
2. Move-In Times: 9:00 am – 11:00 am **OR** 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Check in with Barn Supervisor.
3. All animals must have a valid DUNF form completed via the Online DUNF link **PRIOR** to move-in. The On-Line link will open the Wednesday before livestock check-in. It is recommended to wait as close to move-in day as possible to ensure information is correct.
4. Animals must be free of all drug residues on ***move-in date***.
5. Poultry will be inspected for lice before being put into cages. If lice are present animals will automatically be sent home.
6. Health papers are not required for animals purchased and residing in Ohio. Poultry imported/brought into Ohio for exhibition must be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection issued within thirty days preceding the exhibition opening date. See Ohio's Livestock Health Exhibition Rules for further clarification and a complete listing of health requirements.

C. Market Weights

1. Exhibitor may request one "re-weigh" – which must be done immediately. The animal will exit the scale and re-enter.
2. Market Geese and Ducks: Requirements
 - Geese: 20 weeks Weight 8 lbs – 18 lbs
 - Ducks: 20 weeks Weight 5 lbs – 12 lbs
3. Turkeys: Age 17 weeks Minimum weight is 20 lbs
4. Chicken Meat Pens:
 - Fryers total pen not to exceed 12 pounds
 - Broilers total pen is 12.1 pounds – 16 lbs. Max weight is 16 lbs.

D. Livestock Release

1. All animals are released on Friday from 4:00 – 7:00 pm.
2. Each exhibitor must clean his or her stall/pen prior to leaving the fairgrounds. Premiums forfeited for pens not cleaned by noon on Saturday.

E. Pen Assignments

1. Any changes in pen assignments without prior approval of the Barn Superintendent will result in forfeiture of premium and the exhibitor not being permitted to show in the current year with that project.

F. Junior Fair Eligibility

1. All Defiance County Junior Fair exhibitors must successfully meet all requirements of their youth organization before being eligible to exhibit for competition. See Exhibitor and General Guidelines.
2. 4-H and FFA Dual Membership Policy: Ohio 4-H members are often also FFA members, sometimes within the same county and sometimes in an adjacent county. These members need to keep in mind the 4-H policy about 4-H projects being separate from school projects. To keep work in both organizations clearly separate, **4-H members are advised to take different species in the two organizations** or, at the very least, to take market animals in one and breeding animals in the other. FFA members must exhibit FFA projects in the county of their school chapter.

Livestock Sale

A. Laying Hens

1. The Ohio Department of Agriculture defines laying hens as animals that produce a food product. Exhibitors with this projects and not selling another market project may go through the Livestock sale with their animal individually. This will be for a premium bid only. Please note on pen card participation in the livestock sale with laying hen.

B. Market Poultry

1. Market Livestock exhibitors shall be limited to **one entry** in the Junior Fair Livestock Sale. An entry shall consist of an individual animal or a pen. **Animals eligible to sell** in the livestock sale will be: Market Chickens, Turkeys, Laying Hens, Ducks and Geese.
2. Individual sale order number: The sale order of exhibitors is randomly assigned by the Livestock Sale software. Exhibitors missing their sale spot will be placed at the end of that species.
3. Grand and Reserve Champion animals will sell first in their species.
4. Exhibitors must show animal in a market class to be eligible for livestock sale.
5. **Attendance at Livestock Sale Required**: For the privilege of selling a market animal in the Livestock Sale, the exhibitor must present his/her own project for sale. Exceptions must be presented to the Sale committee at least two (2) days prior to sale. Sporting events/practice will not be considered as warranting an exception. Exception: Seniors who are already at college do not have to be present at the livestock sale and may receive add-ons only.

General Guidelines

A. Class Entries

1. **Class Limits**: No more than two entries per class. No maximum entries for poultry.
2. **Market Chickens**: Defiance County Junior Fair Exhibitors (4H/FFA) are required to order market chickens through the Extension Office. Chickens are shown as a pen of two. Member could potentially have 2 entries per class. **Fryers** (pen weight up to 12 lbs) **Broilers** (pen weight 12.1 lbs - 16 lbs)
3. **Market Turkeys**: Defiance County Junior Fair Exhibitors (4H/FFA) are required to order market turkeys through the Extension Office. Contact the Extension Office by March 1st. All market turkeys exhibited at the Defiance County Fair will come from Cooper Farm Hatchery. The Hatchery is responsible for submitting pullorum paperwork to the Extension Office.
4. All entries requiring pens of 2 must be of same breed and variety.
5. Miscellaneous Poultry Exhibits will be evaluated on overall animal health and condition. Different species may be evaluated against each other within the same class.
6. All pheasant projects must be removed from the fairgrounds by 9:00 PM on show day.

7. Poultry Registration: All exhibitors must register their poultry projects. Age identification will be used for market projects. Age identification will include sales receipts for purchased poultry projects. Exhibitors with home hatched birds must also complete poultry registration and submit a photo of project.
8. An exhibitor whose animal exhibit dies after its designated possession date may complete the project by completing Skillathon. Exhibitor may also display a poster in club booth for a premium.
9. The Overall Champion Poultry Exhibit will consist of first place winners from the non-market classes.
10. **Unable to Show Animal:** If an exhibitor is unable to show his/her animal due to health concern, another current Jr. Fair exhibitor may be permitted to show the animal based upon PRIOR approval with the Barn Supervisor.

B. Showmanship

1. Show attire may NOT include a farm name and/or advertisement. It is at the discretion of the Barn Supervisor to ask an exhibitor to change attire for a class.
2. Exhibitor may show in ONE type/breed of showmanship class.
3. Any exhibitor showing misconduct or poor showmanship in the show area, or barns will have full forfeiture of premiums by decision of the Junior Fair Supervisors.
4. Exhibitor must show own animal for showmanship according to Junior Fair records
5. The following Showmanship Classes apply to all Departments.
 - Senior Division:** 16 - 19 years old as of January 1 of current year
 - Intermediate Division:** 13 - 15 years old as of January 1 of current year
 - Junior Division:** 12 years old and younger as of January 1 of current year
 - Beginner Division:** Any age but limited to those exhibitors who are taking that species at the Defiance County Fair for the first time.

C. Grooming and Livestock Care Guidelines

1. **Responsibilities of and Assistance to Defiance County Junior Fair Exhibitors**
 - a. The Defiance County Junior Fair Livestock Committee's goal of opening up of the current grooming guidelines is to encourage others to work with and share knowledge of grooming practices and animal care with our Junior Fair exhibitors.
 - b. These new guidelines apply to all livestock departments except Horses and Dogs.
2. **Guidelines:**
 - a. A junior fair livestock show exhibitor shall be responsible for the continuous care, grooming, and preparation of livestock entered the junior fair livestock shows. In the event an exhibitor is unable to care for/feed animal(s), he/she must notify the Jr. Fairboard Office of who will be responsible in his/her absence.
 - b. An exhibitor may receive assistance (from anyone) in the care, grooming, and preparation of the livestock entered in the junior fair livestock show.
 - c. Violations by the exhibitor, family members or any other parties involved in the unethical fitting and showing of an animal may result in any or all of the following.
 - Withholding of the exhibitor's premium
 - Recall awards received by the exhibitor
 - Declare an exhibitor ineligible for awards
 - Revoke Ohio State Fair showing rights.
 - Revoke exhibitor's right to participate in the livestock sale
 - Ban exhibitor from showing in future Defiance County Fairs

3. **TAMPERING “UNETHICAL FITTING”** – Means to alter or change the natural appearance, weight, musculature or conformation of an animal in an unnatural or artificial manner, including but not limited to, the removal of animal tissue or body part, to cut or tear the hide, to cover, dye or color the hair or hide, to add artificial tailheads, switches, polls, hair or heels, or to administer, feed, give or inject any substance or drug to an animal exhibited, except when medically necessary or when the drug used has been approved for such use by the Food and Drug Administration or United States Department of Agriculture.
 - a. Any product which changes, enhances, or alters the natural color of an animal will not be permitted. (INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO PAINTS, DYE, POWDER, NON-CLEAR ADHESIVE AND FORM OR SHOE POLISH).
 - b. Tampering and/or misrepresentation as to breeding, age, ownership, custody and any other irregularity in showing will be considered fraud and deception.
 - c. The use of any unapproved drugs is prohibited.
 - d. Should violation be discovered after the Defiance County Junior Fair Livestock Sale, all sale money shall be returned to the buyer and the animal, carcass or carcass value shall be returned to the exhibitor. All placings in show will stand. No animals will be moved up.
 - e. Any carcass suspected of being tampered with or suspected of containing drugs will be detained until the investigation is complete.

D. Show Attire

1. Poultry exhibitors should wear dark jeans and a long-sleeved shirt with a collar. A white long sleeve shirt or coat may also be worn for showmanship.
2. Closed toed shoes or boots are required to be worn when showing.
3. Any exhibitor found to be wearing inappropriate clothing or footwear will be asked to change their clothing or footwear before entering the ring.

E. Barn Guidelines

1. Sleeping in barns is not permitted.
2. Couches/Furniture are NOT permitted in any barn. (Picnic tables are allowed.)
3. All livestock barns will be closed to the public at 11:00 pm. Barns are also closed to the general public during livestock shows.
4. All animal washing and grooming must be done in designated areas.
5. Junior Fair members and or family members should not feed other member's animals without permission.
6. All stall decorations, stall cards, signs, etc are to be removed by noon on Saturday in addition to stalls/pens being cleaned or forfeit all premiums.
7. **Dogs on the Fairgrounds:** Dogs are not allowed on the midway, in or around the livestock barns and/or show arenas. Exception to service dogs.
8. Curfew is 12:30 am every night of the fair.

F. Clean Pen Guidelines

1. All livestock pens must be kept clean and presentable at all times. Livestock pens must be cleaned at a minimum of once daily and may be cleaned by the exhibitor or family member.
2. Each exhibitor must clean his or her stall/pen prior to leaving the fairgrounds. Exhibitor must wait until animal has been loaded from stall to start cleaning pens. Exhibitor must check out with a Barn representative. Pens must be cleaned by 12:00 noon on Saturday. Failure to do so will result in forfeiting current year premiums and eligibility for exhibition with that species for the following year. Evaluation of the stalls/pens will be done by the Barn Supervisor.
3. Pens, aisles and animals must be kept clean during fair week. Failure to do so will result in forfeiting current year premiums and eligibility for exhibition with that species for the following year. Evaluation of the stalls/pens will be done by the Barn Supervisor.

4. Pens will be inspected on a daily basis. Pens determined not to be presentable will receive a verbal warning from Barn Superintendent. Pen must be cleaned within two hours of receiving the verbal warning.

G. Code of Conduct

1. Exhibitors are representing their youth organization at Junior Fair events, shows and activities. The 4-H membership agreement extends to all organized Junior Fair activities. The Livestock Committee, in communication with the Extension Educator, will handle behavior and disciplinary action at the Fair as necessitated by a member's inappropriate and/or unlawful behavior.

H. Awards and Premiums

1. Refer to the Premium List for class premiums.
2. Ribbons: 1st – 5th place ribbons will be awarded for each Junior Fair class.
3. Thank you cards will be required by the end of the week to the Jr. Fair office in order to receive premiums. It is up to the Barn Superintendent as to how to distribute the trophies/thank you cards.

Ohio Health Exhibition Guidelines

Health Papers: Animals imported or brought into Ohio for exhibition must be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection issued within thirty days preceding the exhibition opening date.

Any medications that need to be administered to animals during the fair must be coordinated with the **COUNTY FAIR VET** prior to administering the medication. A DUNF form must be completed. Medication may not be performance enhancing.

901:1-18-05 Poultry and fowl

- A. All turkeys, chickens and gamebirds moved within or imported into Ohio for exhibition must: (1) Originate directly from a flock or hatchery which is a participant in the national poultry improvement plan for the eradication of disease and be accompanied by documentary evidence that they meet the requirements of this paragraph; or (2) Originate directly from a flock which has had a negative test for pullorum/fowl typhoid disease within twelve months preceding the opening date of exhibition and be accompanied by documentary evidence that they meet the requirement of this paragraph; or (3) Have had a negative test for pullorum/fowl typhoid disease, within ninety days, preceding the opening date of the exhibition and be accompanied by documentary evidence that they meet the requirement of this paragraph; or (4) Be tested for pullorum/fowl typhoid disease upon arrival at the exhibition by a tester approved by the Ohio department of agriculture and found negative.
- B. The rapid whole blood test shall not be used to test turkeys for compliance with the requirements of paragraph (A)(2),(A)(3) and (A)(4) of this rule.
- C. Waterfowl, doves and pigeons are exempt from this rule.

Poultry Show Classes - 2025

Market

Chicken Meat Pens: Poultry Meat Pen Fryers, Poultry Meat Pen Broilers
Market Ducks
Market Goose
Market Turkey

Pullets & Hens

Pullets
Laying Hens

Exhibition Chickens

Large Fancy Cockerel (Male under 1 year)
Large Fancy Pullet (Female under 1 year)

Large Fancy Cock (Male over 1 year)
Large Fancy Hen (Female over 1 year)

Bantam Cockerel (Male under 1 year)
Bantam Pullet (Female under 1 year)

Bantam Cock (Male over 1 year)
Bantam Hen (Female over 1 year)

Exhibition Waterfowl

Bantam Duck Cockerel (Male under 1 year)
Bantam Duck Pullet (Female under 1 year)

Bantam Duck Cock (Male over 1 year)
Bantam Duck Hen (Female over 1 year)

Standard Duck Cockerel (Male under 1 year)
Standard Duck Pullet (Female under 1 year)

Standard Duck Cock (Male over 1 year)
Standard Duck Hen (Female over 1 year)

Fancy Goose (1 Male any age)
Fancy Goose (1 Female any age)

Pigeons & Doves

Utility Pigeons (1 male, 1 female)
Fancy Pigeons (1 male, 1 female)
Doves

Game Birds

Release Ringneck Pheasants - 1pair (1M,1F)
Fancy Pheasants - 1pair (1M,1F)
Game Birds
Quail - Pen of 2
Fancy Birds (Quail, Pheasants, Peacocks)

Showmanship

Senior Showmanship(16-19) Intermediate Showmanship (13-15)
Junior Showmanship (12 & under Beginner Showmanship