



# 2024 Stearns 4-H Poultry Exhibitor Information

As you begin final preparations for the 4-H shows at the Stearns County Fair, here are a few things that can help you throughout the fair. Please read carefully as changes have been made.

## Prior to the Fair

- New exhibitors are invited to the New Family Livestock Orientation on **Monday July 22nd** at the Stearns County Fairgrounds from 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Livestock leaders will be on hand to show exhibitors the barns and show arena as well as answer any questions.
- Each family **must** enter their family's total number of livestock online by **NOON on Friday July 19<sup>th</sup>**. Enter **ONLY** animals for 4-H shows! Use this link: <http://z.umn.edu/Stalling>
- Bring a **copy** (*it will not be returned to you*) of the Statement of Origin or Heath Certificate with you to the fair. This should be obtained from the hatchery or the place you purchased your birds from.
  - A sample of this form can be found here: [https://www.bah.state.mn.us/media/Poultry-Statement-of-Origin\\_6.23.21.pdf](https://www.bah.state.mn.us/media/Poultry-Statement-of-Origin_6.23.21.pdf)
- Be aware of biosecurity indicators to help protect your birds and other birds at exhibitions. Information about this can be found on the MN Board of Animal Health website: <https://www.bah.state.mn.us/poultry>
- Consider the following as preparing your birds
  - Start matching birds if they are market or breeding birds
  - Practice washing your birds. This will make them easier to handle.

## When You Arrive at the County Fair

- Arrive at the Stearns County Fairgrounds on **Wednesday, July 31st** with your birds. The first thing you will need to do is complete the check in process. **This happens from 4:00 - 5:00 PM ONLY.**
  - All livestock trailers must be brought in the **main gate entrance** (located by John Wiese Ford) – If your trailer needs to stay on grounds during the fair. You will **NEED** a parking pass, which can be purchased (previously for \$10) from the Stearns County Fairboard (320.249.5248)
  - The check in process happens in the rabbit/poultry building. Please be prepared to present your poultry health papers before removing your birds from cages.
  - Volunteers will check your health papers and place a band on your bird. If you have doves or pigeons, they should be banded before arriving at the fair.
- To imitate the State Fair poultry barn, all of the birds will be caged according to class. Cages will be allotted for brown egg layers, breeding ducks, etc. This way, fairgoers will be able to see the entire class grouped together. The caging order also serves a functional purpose: the waterfowl will not get the chickens' bedding wet. The superintendent will assist exhibitors on entry day with caging.
- Bedding is provided for poultry exhibits, so after your bird is checked in, get them settled in their cage. Water and food cups are provided as well, so no need to bring your own. You may want to bring a cup to carry water to your bird's cage from the faucet.
- 4-H Stall cards will be given to you for each pen of birds, by a 4-H volunteer. These need to be displayed on the cage the entire fair. Replacement cards can be obtained from the 4-H office in the 4-H building.

- Your Back-Tag number will be included in your family packet that can be picked up from the 4-H Office after Tuesday at 3:00 PM. This will be worn anytime you show your animal and allows the judge and volunteers to see your exhibitor number.

## During the County Fair

- All livestock participants can participate in a livestock interview. If exhibiting more than one species, you can only participate in one (1) livestock interview. (Pre-registration is not required.) The youth will first take a multiple-choice test on **Tuesday, July 30th** during normal static judging times (3-7p). The top 20% scores for each species will then interview with the judge after their species show.
  - A completed livestock interview test is a requirement for participation in the blue ribbon auction this year.
- Caring for your livestock projects is important at home and at the fair. The impressions you leave on the public are in your actions and the cleanliness of our barns and animals! Show the public how passionate you are for your livestock and keep the barns looking tidy.

The poultry show will take place on **Thursday August 1st at 8:00 AM!**

The Show Order is as follows:

- Cloverbuds
  - Showmanship (Senior followed by Intermediate then Junior)
  - Doves
  - Pigeons
  - Show and Hobby
  - Chickens
  - Guinea
  - Ducks
  - Geese
  - Turkeys
- Exhibitors eligible to participate with market birds in the Blue Ribbon Auction **must sign up immediately** following the show on Thursday, August 1st.
    - For youth with multiple eligible species, the **absolute deadline** to decide which species is **5:00 PM on Friday August 2nd** at the 4-H Information desk.
    - The Blue-Ribbon Auction is open to all youth receiving a blue ribbon with market animals or eligible dairy cattle in grades 3 and up and takes place on **Saturday, August 3rd at 10:30 a.m.** with a participant meeting at **9:00 a.m.**

## Following the County Fair

- Your poultry project will stay on display throughout the entire fair. Animals are released at 6 PM on Sunday, August 4th. .
- Youth **are expected to clean their cages** before leaving the fairgrounds on Sunday, August 4th. Help is always needed after the fair as well. Contact 4-H staff if you are available to help.

If you have questions about your poultry project, call the Stearns County Extension Office at 320.200.3136. We look forward to seeing you at the Stearns County Fair!

