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CHICKEN & SHOWMANSHIP FITTING & LEADER'S SUPPLEMENT



4-H — Youth Programs • Cooperative Extension Service • Michigan State University

by

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How to Organize and Conduct the Contest

- Form a contest committee; if possible, meet months in advance of the contest.
- Invite poultry leaders from neighboring counties to participate in the planning stage.
- Select a judge or judges for the event months in advance.
- Inform the county fair board members months in advance of the special requirements for conducting the contest.
- Include the showmanship class in the poultry section of the fair book. Give details such as rules and regulations, separate sections for age groups, and premiums.
- Look for local sponsors for this event in your county.
- Plan to publicize the event and contact the local media people in advance.
- Conduct a workshop for leaders, teachers, parents, etc., who will assist in this event.

- Conduct a clinic for 4-H members and rehearse the show prior to the actual contest.

Materials Needed

- Judging arena
- Several long tables (allow approximately 3 feet for each participant and bird)
- Three to five chairs
- Individual show cages (2-foot-square cages are recommended) and cages to hold the birds prior to the show
- Scorecards
- Judge's checklist
- A judging stick
- Paper and pencils
- Identification numbers for the contestants
- PA system
- Awards

People Needed

- *Superintendent* — coordinates the program.
- *Judge(s)* — In the interest of saving time and fairness, it is better to have two judges for the contest. One can judge posing the bird in the cage; the other can judge posing the bird on the table and the examination. Be sure the judges are familiar with poultry fitting and showmanship guidelines.

- *Secretary(ies)* — Have one or two secretaries responsible for registration and score tabulation.

Suggested Details for the Fair Book

Class: Poultry fitting and judging contest*

- All participants must be active 4-H members.
- All participants must be enrolled in a poultry project (any species) during the current calendar year.

Section 1: Junior division — 11 years and under**

Section 2: Intermediate division — 12 to 14 years of age

Section 3: Senior division — 15 to 19 years of age

Group: In a contest, the number of participants should not exceed more than 10 at one time in any one section. If there are more than 10 participants in a section, they should be divided into groups of 10 or less. In these cases, select the first three places from each group and combine the top three participants from each group for the final contest.

*"Poultry" denotes chickens only in this contest. Any breed can be used.

**Age as of December 31 of current calendar year.

Detailed Breakdown of Scorecard

	County Points Allowed	State Points Allowed
I. Handling and posing bird	30	30
— holding prior to entry (3)		
— entering bird in cage (3)		
— posing bird in cage (15)		
— removing bird from cage (6)		
— final pose (3)		
II. Posing bird on table	20	20
III. Examination of bird	20	25
IV. Condition of bird	10	15
V. Poultry quiz***	10	---
VI. Appearance, attitude, and behavior of participant	10	10
— appearance (5)		
— attitude (2)		
— behavior (3)		
TOTAL POINTS	100	100

***At the state level, the poultry quiz is part of a separate option of the Michigan 4-H Poultry Expo.

Scorecard Worksheet for State Poultry Contest

Characteristics Scored	Points Allowed	Contestant Numbers									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I. Handling and posing bird	30										
— holding prior to entry (3)											
— entering bird in cage (3)											
— posing bird in cage (15)											
— removing bird from cage (6)											
— final pose (3)											
II. Posing bird on table	20										
III. Examination of bird	25										
IV. Condition of bird	15										
— fitting of bird (8)											
— freedom from defects (2)											
— feather condition (3)											
— general health (2)											
V. Appearance, attitude, and behavior of participant	10										
— appearance (5)											
— attitude (2)											
— behavior (3)											
Maximum Points Allowed:	100										

To break ties, ask the participants to repeat any items such as handling, posing, or examination. If this does not help, ask a few more questions.



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