

DEPARTMENT – L-39 – Poultry

Superintendent – Nancy Carlisle (443-605-5134)

Assistants – Darlene Welsh (443-398-7339), Keith Carlisle (443-605-5133), Chris Walker, Renee Walker (410-271-6236), Glenn Haines (410-756-2113), David Welsh (443-762-1397) Elsie McKenzie(443-580-6670)

Due to proposed Maryland budgetary constraints that are beyond the control of the Carroll County 4-H/FFA Fair Board, Inc., the Board reserves the right to withhold a portion of premium monies, up to and including all of an exhibitor's earned premium payment, for the Carroll County 4-H/FFA Fair.

- All poultry must be owned by exhibitor on or before June 1, 2026, and hatched by April 1, 2026 (only exception is meat birds)
- **Exhibitors must be enrolled in a poultry or veterinary science project in order to enter the Poultry Department at the Carroll Co. 4-H & FFA Fair. For 2026 Fair, a completed Project Record Sheet for Poultry must have been submitted for the prior year. (Clovers and first year exhibitors are exempt for completion of project record sheets) This applies to any exhibits in the Poultry Department. Exhibitors must also attend one of the Orientation Meetings.**
- A properly signed Maryland Show Ring Code of Ethics must accompany entry form. Entry fee is \$.50 per bird.
- Meat Birds will be judged on Wednesday, July 29th, 2026 at 1 p.m. – at Rhettland Farms, Gettysburg, PA
- Entering Friday, July 31st, 2026 –10a.m. – 3p.m. NOTE: This includes eggs, posters and live birds.
- Judging of Clover exhibitor poultry exhibits and Clover Awards–Sunday August 2nd, 2025 2 p.m. Clovers need to be present.
- Judging-all divisions in Poultry Department - Monday, August 3rd, 2026 – approximately 9 a.m.
- Poultry Showmanship Contest – Monday, August 3rd, 2026 – Time TBD
- Poultry Skillathon Contest – Wednesday, August 5th, 2026 – 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Poultry Judging Contest – Thursday, August 6th, - 10 a.m.
- Awards – Showmanship, Posters, Eggs, and all divisions of poultry (except clover) Thursday, August 6th, 2026 - 6:30p.m. in the Extension Office Rooms A & B

ALL Poultry exhibits are released on Saturday, August 8th, 2026 - 8:00a.m. -9:30 a.m. including clovers. NO EXCEPTIONS.

RULES AND REGULATIONS – Poultry Department

1. **Regarding Electrolytes:**

“Feeds and supplements approved for livestock use may be used by exhibitors. If an exhibitor feels their animal is in need of electrolytes due to health concerns of the animal, they may be administered by recommendation of a veterinarian and by the veterinarian, and in the presence of the Department Superintendent, the Livestock Area Superintendent or one of the Livestock Area Assistant Superintendents.”

2. **Regarding Veterinary Care and Payment of Veterinary Services:**

“When an animal is in need of veterinary care while on the Fair Grounds the Department Superintendent must be notified. When an animal requires veterinary treatment while at the Fair, you may use the Veterinarian on the grounds at your cost, call your Veterinarian at your cost or remove your animal from the Fair.”

3. Exhibits must be entered according to classes. Exhibits entered in the purebred poultry classes and not meeting the standards for those breeds will be judged in the crossbreed classes.
4. In compliance with Maryland Dept of Agriculture requirements, Poultry exhibits (chickens, turkeys, guineas, ducks, and geese) must originate from a flock tested negative for Avian Influenza within 30 days of the FAIR -subject to change if MDA changes regulations.
5. All poultry exhibits must originate from a U. S. Pullorum-Typhoid clean flock or have a negative Pullorum-Typhoid blood test. A certificate attesting to this must accompany all exhibits. Superintendent will check certificate upon arrival at fairgrounds Prior to entering into Poultry Building.
6. All live poultry exhibits must come to fair with completed Self Certification Form.
7. Exhibitors must make their own arrangement for the required tests. Call Nancy Carlisle Darlene Welsh, Dawn Johnsson, Stacey Brock, or Sara Spencer if assistance is needed with making arrangements.
8. All poultry exhibits entering the Poultry Department must be banded with an official MDA leg band, provided by a Certified Tester.
9. Exhibitors shall bring to the Fair, along with their entries, a copy of their Premise ID number, the Self Certification sheet for Poultry, the pullorum typhoid certificate and the Avian Influenza Report (not a copy on your phone).
These forms with the exception of the Self Certification sheet, will also be required to be sent to the Poultry Superintendent PRIOR to fair – by EMAIL The date and email address will be given during the orientations and also by subsequent emails to the poultry barn exhibitors.
10. All efforts will be made to inspect birds coming to fair, and any showing signs of disease/sickness will be refused entry. If during the Fair, any birds are found to be showing signs of disease/sickness the Superintendent will remove them from the show, and the birds will need to be removed from the Fair Grounds **immediately**. Keep in mind when you enter birds at fair, they are being entered at your own risk.
11. Egg Production Fowl will be judged according to the criteria in the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Judging Manual.
12. Purebred Large Fowl and Purebred Bantams, Purebred Guineas, Waterfowl and Turkeys will be judged by the criteria of the American Poultry Association’s “Standards of Perfection.”
13. Poultry Department Committee reserves the right to combine or split classes as warranted by entries.
14. Exhibitors are allowed two entries for each class (example – exhibitor can enter two SC Rhode Island Red Hen, two SC Rhode Island Red Cock, two SC Rhode Island Red Pullet, two SC Rhode Island Red Cockerel. Exhibitors are limited to 16 total live entries and one per class for egg (eggs one entry per color – brown – white – green – bantam – other)

15. Clovers are allowed to bring a total of two live bird entries regardless of sex and breed and a total of one entry of eggs (6 eggs) and a total of one poster. Eggs become the property of the Fair immediately upon entry.
16. The Superintendent/Poultry Committee reserves the right to move exhibits from the Purebred Fowl Divisions and move to the "Who's Your Daddy?" or the "Easter Egger" Division if the exhibit does not meet breed characteristic standards.
17. "Who's Your Daddy?" – Standard and Bantam will be judged together. Three prizes will be awarded.– 1) Prettiest, 2) Ugliest, 3) Most Unusual. These three winners in each class will receive a premium of \$4, and all others entered will receive \$2. Each entry may receive only one award.
18. Poultry Age Definitions – Cock – male fowl – hatched prior to January 1 of the current year (includes: old drakes, old gander, old gobbler); Hen – female fowl – hatched prior to January 1 of the current year (includes: old duck, old goose, old turkey hen); Cockerel – male fowl – hatched after January 1 of the current year (includes: young drake, young gander, young gobbler); Pullet – female fowl – hatched after January 1 of the current year (includes: young duck, young goose, young turkey hen)
19. Egg entries must be produced by exhibitor's own flock and pre-entered with other poultry exhibits. There is no entry fee for egg entries. Entry is for six (6) eggs. Eggs will be displayed in ½ dozen cartons. (supplied by fair) Eggs become the property of the fair immediately upon entry.
20. Posters are to be on poster board 22 inches x 28 inches (regular full size poster board)
21. Poultry Showmanship and Poultry Skillaton – exhibitors are encouraged to pre-enter but pre-entry is not necessary. Exhibitor must be present for judging.
22. Champion and Reserve Champion Meat Bird, Champion Meat Turkey, Reserve Champion Meat Turkey, Champion Egg Exhibit, and Reserve Champion Egg Exhibit will be sold at the Livestock Sale on Friday evening, during the Livestock Sale. (as long as judge deems appropriate for sale) Exhibitors are to attend and entries will be taken there for the sale, excluding eggs, which should be a dozen fresh eggs from the exhibitor's flock. Exhibitors should be dressed in show attire as deemed by the Livestock Sale Committee. FOR 2026: additional meat turkeys and meat birds "MAY" be eligible for auction depending on the judges scoring. This will be determined and posted within 2 hours at the conclusion of judging.
 - a. Required weights for animals to sell
 - i. Roasters - minimum of 7.1 lbs.
 - ii. Fryers - NO MORE than 7 lbs.
 - iii. Turkey Toms minimum 28 lbs.
 - iv. Turkey Hens minimum 20 lbs.
23. Premiums – Live Bird Exhibits and Eggs – 1st - \$4; 2nd - \$3; 3rd - \$2.50; all below - \$2
Poster Division – Class Champion - \$3; Blue Award - \$2; Red Award - \$1.75; White Award - \$1.50.
24. Only entered birds are allowed to stay at the fair. No "chicks" will be allowed to be brought to fair with the hen.
25. The class listed for "Other" is for birds not listed by breed. Notification MUST be made to the Superintendent prior to July 15, 2026, to inform Superintendent of the correct breed.
26. For 2026: There will be NO substitutions after July 15, 2026. From the time birds are entered until July 15, 2026, substitutions can be made to the Superintendent. IF changes are not reported by July 15, 2026, and the animal still comes to the fair, it may be left and will be disqualified for being in the wrong class (entered wrong). No substitutions will be allowed on the day of entry. **NO MORE than 16 live birds may be entered on the on-line system.**