

DIVISION 6014.2 - 4-H POULTRY SHOWMANSHIP

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Location: Pavilion

Check-In: 8 AM – 10 AM; All participants must be present at 12:30 PM; Show begins at 1 PM

Walt Reichert – Superintendant ; Dr. Jacquie Jacob – Consultant

1. See General State Fair Rules General rules applying to 4-H Club exhibitors and general rules applying to Livestock Exhibits. Poultry division has Junior and Senior classes.
2. New this year, ducks may also be entered into the showmanship contest in addition to chickens. The chickens should be indicated as standard or bantam size. Showmanship for all birds (standard chicken, bantam chicken, and duck divisions) run concurrently so each participant can only enter one bird in the contest.
3. 4-H poultry entries should be made electronically through the State Fair entry system by the July 10 deadline. **NO ENTRY FEE IS REQUIRED.** A copy of your health papers is required at check-in of the show, or the chickens will be blood tested on-site for *Pullorum*. Chickens or ducks showing symptoms of disease or illness, or having external parasites, will be quarantined and not allowed in the contest.
4. The state blood testers are present Wednesday evening (6-8 PM) if participants require early check in. They must arrive before the testers leave at 8 PM. If special accommodation is required, Dr. Jacquie Jacob (jacquie.jacob@uky.edu) should be contacted a head of time.
5. Thursday check-in will be 8 AM - 10 AM. Check-in will end at 10 AM. Any chicken or duck not checked in at that time will not be allowed to participate. 4-Hers are responsible for checking in their chicken or duck before Thursday at 10 AM. Anyone wishing to drop off a chicken or duck on Wednesday night must let Dr. Jacquie Jacob know so someone can be there to check-in the bird.
6. Exhibitors are limited to one chicken OR duck for showmanship. Showmanship for all birds (standard chicken, bantam chicken, and duck divisions) run concurrently so each participant can only enter one bird in the contest.
7. Participation order will be determined on the day of the contest at time of check-in. All participants must be present by 12:30 PM and the contest will start around 1 PM, depending on the availability of the judges.
8. Cages will be provided, with one chicken or duck per cage.
9. Per Kentucky State Fair suggested guidelines, no birds may be sold during the Kentucky State Fair.
10. Chickens and ducks may be removed after the show. Those with 4-H activities on Friday and needing to keep their chicken or duck at the fairgrounds overnight may do so, but all birds must be removed by 8 PM on Friday.
11. Chickens can be entered as either standard-sized (all breeds) or bantam-sized (all breeds) for both juniors and seniors. New this year, ducks may be entered for both junior and senior divisions.

The participants will be judged on showmanship. Showmanship includes knowledge of the parts of birds as well as the care and management of the bird. If the chicken or duck is a purebred, knowledge of the breed should also be known. The condition of the chicken or duck is also judged so it should be washed and cleaned prior to the contest. How well the chicken or duck is handled and posed is also important.

Awards will be given as soon as possible after the completion of the contest. It usually takes about 30 minutes to finalize the presentation order.

For more information on showmanship criteria, see <https://afs.ca.uky.edu/poultry/ky-state-fair-4-h-poultry-showmanship-contest>.

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

POSSIBLE ENTRIES - CHOOSE 1 ONLY

1. Junior Standard-size chicken or duck
2. Junior Bantam-size chicken or duck
3. Senior Standard-size chicken or duck
4. Senior Bantam-size chicken or duck

POSSIBLE AWARDS:

Junior division:

- Grand Champion - showing a standard-size chicken or duck
- Reserve Champion - showing a standard-size chicken or duck
- Grand Champion - showing a bantam-size chicken or duck
- Reserve Champion - showing a bantam-size chicken or duck
- Overall Grand Champion Junior
- Overall Reserve Champion Junior

Senior division:

- Grand Champion - showing a standard-size chicken or duck
- Reserve Champion - showing a standard-size chicken or duck
- Grand Champion - showing a bantam-size chicken or duck
- Reserve Champion - showing a bantam-size chicken or duck
- Overall Grand Champion Senior
- Overall Reserve Champion Senior

There must be at least 5 entries in the class for a Grand and Reserve Champion to be awarded.

Revised 9/ 2025– Dr. Jacquie Jacob

