EXHIBITION
POULTRY

A Helpful Manual for 4-H Programs

Compiled by Jim Crain
GENERAL INFORMATION.

The American Poultry Association (APA) and the American Bantam Association (ABA) endorse exhibition shows for poultry, and maintain a "Standard of Perfection" for the poultry which they list. The APA accepts most purebred standard and bantam size chickens, standard and bantam size ducks, geese, turkeys and guineas. The ABA accepts most purebred bantam chickens and bantam ducks. Most APA and ABA sanctioned shows have both Open (all ages) and Junior (usually 19 and under) divisions in their shows. Some local 4-H and FFA programs also sponsor exhibition shows for youth.

Poultry is exhibited by class, breeds, varieties (color patterns) of breeds and age. Each exhibitor should become familiar with the classes, breeds and varieties. This knowledge will help in choosing a type of poultry for exhibition.

WHERE TO GET POULTRY.

Some breeds are flighty and hard for youth to handle. Other breeds are mean, and can cause youth to fear the birds. Some breeds may seem appropriate for children because of their small size, but they may not be practical for youth. Old English Game and Modern Game must be dubbed (cutting off the comb and wattles) which many do not care to do.

Parents or sponsors should seek advice from experienced poultry exhibitors as to what breeds are best for youth so that the youth's experience with poultry will be enjoyable.

Poultry obtained from exhibition breeders are usually the best quality. Breeders may be contacted at exhibition shows and through publications, such as, the APA and ABA yearbooks and the "Poultry Press." All three of these organizations have internet websites.

APA- http://www.amerpoultryassn.com/
ABA- http://www.bantamclub.com/

RAISING POULTRY.

Several books on raising poultry may be purchased for information on poultry housing, feeds, medical needs, etc. Several may be obtained from your local library or the American Poultry Association and American Bantam Association Web Stores.
**SHOW PREPARATION.**

A. Examination: Examine the bird for bad defects or disqualifications. Some examples are:
   - Eyes that are milky (leucosis), damaged or blind.
   - Crooked toes, beaks or breast bone.
   - Wrong colors for the breed in plumage, legs or eyes.
   - A wrong comb for the breed or a serious deformity.
   - Wings that are split or dangling.
   - Wry tails (always leaning to one side)
   - Wrong feathering on feet for a breed.
   - Wrong number of toes or spurs for a breed.

(Specific requirements, defects and DQs can be found in the APA or ABA Standard of Perfection.)

Protect combs on males from freezing by keeping the birds out of the cold wind, and you may cover their combs and wattles with salve to protect them. Once combs or wattles are damaged, they do not grow back.

B. Grooming:
   1. Toes & Beaks: use fingernail clippers to trim them in a rounded shape.
   2. Combs: Don't attempt to change the natural shape of the comb, except for dubbing in Modern Game and Old English Game breeds.
   3. Faking which is changing the natural shape or color of a bird, such as, using paint or colored polishes, etc., also, breaking or plucking feathers to alter the shape is usually a disqualification at shows.

C. Washing: It is best to wash your birds 4 days before a show, and sometimes earlier to allow the natural oils to return to the plumage.
   1. Ingredients: Soap, Vinegar, (Bleaching is not recommended, as it can damage feathers and skin, and can cause the bird to be disqualified.)
   2. Three tubs of slightly warm water:
      - Tub 1 - soapy water for washing (be careful not to damage feathers) especially wash the head, legs, toes & vent area.
      - Tub 2 - vinegar water rinse. Vinegar kills soap.
      - Tub 3 - clear water rinse. Remove all soap which can deform feathers if left in the plumage. Washing in a sink is much easier if you have it available.
   3. Do not get any oil product on feathers after washing.
   4. Place your birds out of the wind to dry. Paper towels and blow drying is helpful for partial drying. Do not completely blow dry plumage as it may make it too fluffy.
Sunshine is ok for drying white birds, but extended exposure of colored birds to sunlight may cause fading.

ENTERING A SHOW.
A. Finding shows: Information can be obtained through your local 4-H office, the Poultry Press publication (www.poultrypress.com) or online at the CROHIO Poultry Show Calendar at http://mattlh.proboards.com/index.cgi?action=calendar.

B. Most shows will supply catalogs and entry forms. Contact the show officers for this information.

C. Health papers: Different shows and states have different requirements. The following might be required:
   1. Most states will require Pullorum Certificate good for 60 days or birds to be on the Nation Poultry Improvement Plan.
   2. Some states will require a health certificate.
   3. Some states may require Asian Influenza test (AI).

TRAVELING & ARRIVING AT THE SHOW.
A. Containers for carrying birds.
   --Cardboard or wooden boxes with air holes and shavings in the bottom.
   --Wire cages may injure feathers.

B. Getting to hot on the trip. Treat poultry much like you would humans, except they can get too hot quicker than humans. Birds may be cooled if necessary with moving air, mist & quite in a shade.

C. Arrival at the show.
   1. Sign in and get an exhibitor's list which contains your exhibitor’s #.
   2. Find your cages by Class, Breed, and Variety & exhibitor #.
   3. Most shows will supply feed and water, but you must do the work.
   4. Final Grooming: If the bird appears sick, remove it from the showroom. Do final cleaning and dressing of legs, beaks, combs, wattles, and apply a 50/50 mixture of glycerin & RX to enhance the color if desired.
      Do not get oil on the feathers and do not get the feathers wet unless you have a blow dryer to dry it quickly. Seek advice from experienced exhibitors on other grooming techniques.

D. During the Show:
--Do not touch another person’s bird, take an egg, or feed or water another person’s bird.
--Do not harass or scare birds in their cages.
--Do not remove, mark on, or change anything about coop tags.
--If there is a question or problem, find a show official.
--Many shows have auctions, and many exhibitors have birds for sale. Seek advice from trusted and experienced exhibitors on buying birds.

**JUDGING AND AWARDS.**

Judges are licensed by the APA and the ABA. Judges use the Standard of Perfection of the APA and the ABA. During Judging at shows, exhibitors should remain out of the isle where the judges are working, and not speak to the judges. Most judges will talk with you after the judging is done.

The judge may place markings on the coop tags to reflect awards:

- Gender placement: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- Variety placement: Best & Reserve of Variety (BV or RV)
- Breed placement: Best & Reserve of Breed (BB or RB)
- Class placement: Best & Reserve of Class
- Show placement: Champion Bantam or Standard (Standard size is often called Large Fowl)

Some shows may offer Champion Waterfowl and Land Fowl, and some may offer over-all show awards, such as, Super & Reserve Grand Champion of Show.

**SHOWMANSHIP.**

Youth that wish to compete in showmanship may obtain an information pamphlet on exhibition showmanship at their 4-H office or through the office of the American Poultry Association.


**POULTRY DIVISIONS & ORDER FOR APA-ABA SHOWS**

The following is not intended to be an official listing of breeds and varieties of fowl accepted by the American Poultry Association or the American Bantam Association, but is a list to assist with 4-H programs. It is recommended that anyone interested in official documentation secure a “Standard of Perfection” from either the APA or the ABA.

**STANDARD SHOWROOM ORDER:** American, Asiatic, English, Continental, Mediterranean, All Other Standard Breeds.
BANTAM SHOWROOM ORDER: Modern Game, Old English Game, Single Comb Clean Leg, Rose Comb Clean Leg, All Other Combs Clean Leg, Feather Leg.
WATERFOWL: Standard and Bantam Ducks, Geese
LANDFOWL (other than chickens): Turkeys, Guineas

(Listed below by Class, Breed and Varieties from combined APA & ABA Standards (as in 2007). Some ABA inactive breeds are not here listed, and new breeds & varieties are added almost every year.

**BANTAM CHICKENS**

**Modern Games (18 varieties)**

**Old English Games (34 varieties) and American Games (12 Varieties).**
Barred, Birchen, Black, Black Breasted Red, Black Tailed Buff, Black Tailed Red, Black Tailed White, Blue, Blue Brassy Back, Blue Golden Duckwing, Blue Silver Duckwing, Blue Brassy Back, Blue Golden Duckwing, Blue Silver Duckwing, Blue Red, Blue Wheaten, Brassy Back, Brown Red, Buff, Columbian, Crele, Cuckoo, Fawn Silver Duckwing, Ginger Red, Golden Duckwing, Lemon Blue, Mille Fleur, Mottled, Quail, Red Pyle, Self Blue, Silver Blue, Silver Duckwing, Spangled, Splash, Wheaten, White


**Single Comb Clean Leg (31 breeds with varieties)**
Anconas – mottled
Andalusian – blue
Australorp - black
Campines - golden, silver
Catalanas - buff
Delaware -
Dorking – colored, silver gray
Dutch – light brown, silver, blue light brown, black
Frizzles (all single comb varieties)
Hollands – barred, white, black, black tailed buff, black tailed white, brown red
Japanese – gray, mottled, wheaten, white
Jungle Fowl – red, ceylon, green, gray
Javas – black, mottled
Jersey Giants – black, white
Lakenvelders -
Lamonas - white
Leghorns – barred, black, black tailed red, buff, columbian, dark brown, golden duckwing, light brown, red, silver, white
Maran- (inactive breed)
Minorcas – black, buff, white
Naked Necks – buff, red, black, white
Nankan -
New Hampshires-
Orpingtons – black, blue, buff, white
Phoenix – golden, silver
Plymouth Rocks – barred, black, blue, buff, columbian, partridge, silver penciled, white
Pyncheon-
Rhode Island Reds-
Sussex – light, red, speckled
Vorwerk -
Spanish (White faced) – black, blue
Welsummer -

**Rose Comb Clean Leg (15 Breeds with varieties)**
Anconas – Mottled
Belgian Bearded d’Anvers – black, blue, cuckoo, mille fleur, mottled, porcelain, quail, self blue, white
Dominique -
Dorking – white
Frizzles (Rose Comb varieties) -
Hamburg – black, golden & silver penciled, golden & silver spangled
Leghorn – black, buff, dark brown, light brown, silver, white
Minorca – black, white
Nankan -
Redcaps -
Rhode Island Red -
Rhode Island White -
Rosecomb – black, blue, white
Sebright – golden, silver
Wyandotte –barred, birchen, black, black breasted red, blue, blue red, brown red, buff, buff columbian, columbian, golden laced, lemon blue, partridge, silver laced, silver penciled, splash, white, white laced red.

**All Other Combs Clean Leg (16 Breeds with varieties)**
Ameraucana –black, blue, blue wheaten, brown red, buff, silver, wheaten, white
Araucana –black, black breasted red, blue, buff, silver, golden duckwing, silver duckwing, white
Buckeye -
Buttercup -
Chantecler – white, partridge
Cornish –white, buff, white laced red, dark, black, blue laced red, spangled, mottled
Crevecoeur – black
Cubalaya – black, white, black breasted red
Houdan – white, mottled
La Fleche – black
Malay – black breasted red, black, red pyle, white, spangled, wheaten (female)
Orloff – white, spangled, black trailed red
Polish –Buff laced, golden, silver, white in both bearded and Non-Bearded). Also Non-Bearded white crested black, white crested blue, white crested cuckoo, white crested chocolate and white crested khaki.
Shamo – black, dark, wheaten
Sumatra – black, blue
Yokohama – white, red shouldered

**Feather Leg (9 Breeds with varieties)**
Belgian Bearded d’Uccle – black, blue, buff, golden neck, gray, mille fleur, mottled, porcelain, self blue, white,
Booted – black, blue, buff, golden, gray, mottled, mille fleur, porcelain, self blue, white (all non-bearded).
Brahma –black, buff, dark, Light, white
Cochin - barred, birchen, black, black tailed red, blue, brown red, buff, buff columbian, columbian, golden laced, lemon, mottled, partridge, red, silver laced, silver penciled, white
Faverolle – black, blue, buff, salmon, white,
Frizzle -(All feathered legged varieties of frizzles)
Langshan – black, blue, white
Silkie – black, blue, buff, gray, partridge, white, splash (in both bearded and non-bearded)
Sultan – black, blue, white
STANDARD CHICKENS

(Varieties are not listed, but are mostly the same as in Bantams)

**American (13 Breeds.)**
Plymouth Rock, Dominiques, Wyandottes, Javas, Rhode Island Reds, Rhode Island Whites, Buckeyes, Chanteclers, Jersey Giants, Lamonas, New Hampshires, Hollands, Delawares

**Asiatic (3 Breeds)** - Brahmas, Cochins, Langshans

**English (6 Breeds)** - Dorkings, Redcaps, Cornish, Orpintons, Sussex, Australorps

**Mediterranean (7 Breeds)** - Leghorn, Minorca, White-Faced Black Spanish, Andalusian, Ancona, Sicilian Buttercups, Catalana

**Continental (10 Breeds)** - Barnevelder, Hamburgs, Campines, Lakenvelders, Welsummers, Polish, Houdans, Crevecoeurs, LaFleche, Faverolles

**All Other Standard Bred (14 Breeds)** - Modern Game, Old English Game, Sumatra, Malay, Cubalaya, Phoenix, Yokohama, Aseel, Shamo, Sultan, Frizzle, Naked Neck, Araucana, Ameraucana (American Game-not listed by APA, but often shown in fair shows.)

WATERFOWL

(Breeds with Varieties)

**DUCKS:** (Note: Many shows do not include water fowl. Check the show catalog.)

**Ducks -- Heavy Class (6 Breeds)**
Pekin – white
Aylesbury - white
Rouen -
Muscovy – white, black blue, chocolate
Silver Appleyard -
Saxony -

**Ducks -- Medium Class (4 Breeds)**
Cayuga – black
Crested – white, black
Swedish - blue
Buff-

**Ducks -- Light Class (3 Breeds)**
Runner – fawn & white, white, penciled, black, buff, chocolate, cumberland blue, gray
Campbell - khaki
Magpie – black & white, blue & white

**Ducks -- Bantams (5 Breeds)**
Call – gray, white, blue, snowy, buff, pastel, black and white magpie, butterscotch, khaki, spot
Carolina wood duck -
East India - black
Mallard – gray, snowy
Mandarin -

**GESE:**

**Geese -- Heavy Class (3 Breeds)**
Toulouse-gray, buff
Embden-white
African-brown, white

**Geese – Medium Class (4 Breeds)**
Sebastopol-white
Pilgrim-sex linked
American Buff - buff
Saddleback Pomeranian-gray, buff

**Geese – Light Class (4 Breeds)**
Chinese – Brown, white
Tufted Roman - white
Canada-eastern
Egyptian-brown

**LAND FOWL**
(Other than chickens)

(NOTE: Many shows do not include Turkeys and Guineas. Check the show catalog.)

**TURKEYS: (8 varieties)**
Bronze, Narragansett, White Holland, Black, Slate, Bourbon Red, Beltsville Small White, Royal Palm

**GUINEAS: (3 varieties)** - White, Pearl, Lavender

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**Poultry Shows in Louisiana Area:**
1. Pelican State Classic, Haynesville, La. 2nd Saturday in March. Contact Jim Crain.
2. Southeast Arkansas Poultry, El Dorado, Ark. 1st Saturday in April.
3. Southeast Oklahoma show, Idabel, Ok.
4. Many LA Parish Fairs have shows. See your County Agent.
5. District 4-H shows. See your County Agent.
6. Louisiana State wide annual 4-H show. See your County Agent or LSU Extension office.
7. Louisiana State Fair show at Shreveport.
8. There are also many poultry shows, both Junior and Open, nation wide in almost every state.
**Poultry Clubs:**
1. North Louisiana Poultry Club.
2. American Poultry Association (www.amerpoultryassn.com)
3. American Bantam Association (www.bantamclub.com)

**Poultry Publications:**
Poultry Press, PO Box 542, Connersville, Ind. 47331-0542, A monthly publication for exhibition poultry. (www.poultrypress.com)