

LIVINGSTON COUNTY 4-H POULTRY FITTING AND SHOWMANSHIP

BEFORE THE SHOW

1. Begin handling your bird(s) now
2. Periodically clip its nails (fancy birds only)
3. Check your bird(s) for lice, mites, and scaly legs mites - treat if found
Food grade diatomaceous earth or mineral oil.
For fancy birds: flea and tick shampoo and, if necessary, Sevin
4. Learn the material the judge may ask

JUST BEFORE THE SHOW

1. Wash your bird(s): Tide with bleach alternative, bluing
2. Rinse your bird(s): vinegar, vegetable glycerin
3. Dry your bird(s): hair dryer
4. Clip its nails (fancy birds only): dog or reptile nail clippers
5. Keep your bird(s) clean; change bedding frequently

DAY OF THE SHOW

1. Last minute prep
2. Review material you will be judged on

FANCY BIRDS

1. Appearance of your bird:
 - a. Cleanliness – clean your bird before the show and keep it clean while at the fair
 - b. Good condition – make sure your bird is presentable and does not look “scruffy”
 - c. Tame and manageable – work with you bird before the fair

2. Appearance and attitude of exhibitor:
 - a. Clean and neat – white collared shirt and black pants are a good choice
 - b. Be considerate of other exhibitors – be nice as always
 - c. Follow the judge’s instructions – ask for clarification if you don’t understand
 - d. Handle your bird gently
 - e. SMILE ☺

3. Showing your bird:
 - a. Pick your bird up correctly
 - b. Carry your bird properly
 - c. Pose your bird correctly
 - d. Display and examine various parts of your bird
 - e. Return your bird properly to its cage (always head first into the cage and head first out)

4. Knowledge of your bird:
 - a. Know general breed information: breed, variety, origin, purpose, body type, comb type, and distinguishing characteristics. This information can be found in the Standard of Perfection.
 - b. Correctly name the major parts of your bird
 - c. Define disqualifications and defects of your bird, give examples
 - d. Identify strong and weak points of your bird
 - e. Provide gender, weight, and age of your bird
 - f. Describe how you prepared your bird for the show (don’t forget to use ‘I’ statements and remember that taking good care of your bird and handling it throughout the project year is part of your prep.)

**Remember, you don’t have to know everything; but, the more you can share about your bird the better. Remember that you are showing to have fun, so don’t stress. **

References:

http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/4hpoultry/t02_pageview/Showing_Tips.htm

<http://valencia4-hffapoultry.tripod.com/id8.html>

http://macombcountymi.gov/msuextension/documents/4H1521_4-HPoultryLeadersGuide.pdf

<http://www3.ag.purdue.edu/counties/perry/Documents/4-H/Youth%20Poultry%20Showmanship%20Guide.pdf>

MEAT BIRDS

1. Appearance of your birds:
 - a. Cleanliness – clean your birds before the show and keep them clean while at the fair
 - b. Good condition – make sure your birds are presentable and they do not look “scruffy”
 - c. Tame and manageable – work with you birds before the fair

2. Appearance and attitude of exhibitor:
 - a. Clean and neat – white collared shirt and black pants are a good choice
 - b. Be considerate of other exhibitors – be nice as always
 - c. Follow the judge’s instructions – ask for clarification if you don’t understand
 - d. Handle your birds gently
 - e. SMILE ☺

3. Showing your bird:
 - a. Pick your bird up correctly
 - b. Carry your bird properly
 - c. Pose your bird correctly
 - d. Display and examine various parts of your bird
 - e. Return your bird properly to its cage (always head first into the cage and head first out)

4. Knowledge of your birds:
 - a. Know general breed information: is it a cross? what breeds and why?
 - b. Correctly name the major parts of your bird as they pertain to the meat industry
 - c. Define disqualifications of your bird and give examples as it pertains to a meat bird
 - d. Identify strong and weak points of your bird
 - e. Provide gender, weight, and age of your bird
 - f. Describe how you raised your birds-be very specific about the feed and when you changed it (don’t forget to use ‘I’ statements and remember that taking good care of your birds and handling them throughout the 8 week project is part of your prep.)

Remember, you don’t have to know everything; but, the more you can share about your meat birds the better. Remember that you are showing to have fun, so don’t stress.

Reference:

4-H Broiler Showmanship video from LSU
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZ7eLNYC8k4>