

A Beginner's Guide to Fair Week



Dutchess County 4-H
Poultry Advisory

Basic Fair Information

Practice like you've never won



Perform like you've never lost

Dutchess County 4-H
Poultry Advisory



Basic Requirements for being eligible to participate in Fair

- Only youth who are in good standing in the 4-H program have the privilege to exhibit at the fair. This means they must be fully enrolled as a 4-H'er with all paperwork completed when fair entries open
- The club member's Leader must vouch that they have upheld the Code of Conduct and participated in required club meetings, and other club activities. Poultry requires attendance at a minimum number of official club meetings throughout the year (see specific club for details)
- For independent members, they must attend a YQCA training, present an up to date record book by 8/1 as well as register their project with the 4-H office.
- Paperwork, such as sponsor forms must be submitted by the species deadlines
- Each member must have completed a public presentation by the published deadline
- To be eligible to enter classes at the fair, youth must be enrolled by April 1st of the current year.



Fair Participation Fee

- To participate at the fair and receive passes there is a fair participation fee.
- The fee is a set amount each year, with a maximum contribution per family. It was waived this year because of the A Fair to Remember!
- *This fee is only applicable to those who want to participate at the fair. Failure to pay the fee by August 1st will result in the youth being ineligible to receive passes and participate in 4-H at the fair.*
- **You must be logged into your account on Wild Apricot to be able to view and register/pay the fee.**
- This is separate from your ShoWorks entries for livestock and exhibit hall items



Fair Passes

- Youth must have met the requirements above to be eligible to receive a free wristband, good for the entire fair week.
- Each family (with eligible youth) will receive 1 books of 6 entry tickets to the fair for the week
- Additional discounted tickets books will be available for purchase at pick-up, max 2 per family.
- Enrolled leaders and volunteers will receive a free pass (or tickets), good for the whole week
- Passes are available for pick-up at the exhibit hall office (next to the milkshake building). Animal health paperwork must be shown to pick up passes.
- The pick-up days are the Saturday (Exhibit Hall Presentation Day), Sunday (Poultry Show Day), and Monday evening prior to the start of fair. You will sign off on viewing safety video here as well.
- **NOTE: Only eligible youth who enter a minimum of one 4-H exhibit by the deadline will receive wristbands/tickets. The entry can be any class in 4-H Fairbook, for example: animal show, exhibit hall item, leadership activity or volunteer experience**



Dorms & Cafeteria

- Dorms are open for select days during the fair (in 2023 Friday and Saturday night only). Please see sign up on DC 4-H website.
- Cafeteria will be open from 6:30am-9:30am Tuesday-Sunday. Members can eat there, or sign up to volunteer and work a shift for premium points!
- Check the current fairbook for any updates on dorms and cafeteria times and sign-ups.



Hours of Service

- There is no requirement for an hour of service this year.



Parking

- Exhibitor parking lot is located behind the campers. Enter via Livestock Hill through the Exhibitor Gate from Tuesday-Sunday. Vehicles are allowed on the grounds for loading/unloading only and *never* during the Fair operating hours.
- Visitors including 4-H families are advised to enter through Gate 2 and park in one of the lots closest to this gate (not the Main Entrance). There is a disabled lot right by Gate 2. A map of the Fair including parking details can be found on the DCF website parking section.



Exhibit Hall

- All exhibits/classes MUST be pre-entered; No exceptions
- Create an online account through ShoWorks to exhibit at fair
- ALL ENTRIES CLOSE ON AUGUST 1ST. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- All exhibits must be grown, made, or prepared by the exhibitor during the current year
- Read through the Fair Book to select any exhibit you would like to enter
- Members can enter as many exhibits as they like (limits per category do apply)
- All Exhibit Hall items must have an EIS card filled out (see your leader for blank EIS Cards)
- Attach cards securely to each exhibit prior to arrival
- Exhibits can be dropped off (without evaluation) the Wednesday before Fair from 5-8pm ONLY FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT MAKE IT TO the Saturday Evaluation Day.
- Exhibits Hall Evaluation Day is Saturday before Fair
- When packing all items for evaluation, be sure EIS card is attached, all requirements listed in Fair Book are met, and you bring a copy of all of your exhibit hall entries with you (this can be printed from ShoWorks)



Record Book

- Record book must be presented to the club leader by 8/1 to ensure eligibility for fair entry.
- Record books should be filled up and current to date of Poultry Show. Bring record book to poultry show for a check-in by leader
- Continue filling out record books after fair
- Be prepared to submit record book to leaders by the end of September

Discover
Yourself
in 4-H

A large green four-leaf clover logo. Each of the four leaves contains a white letter 'H'. The clover is positioned to the right of the text "Discover Yourself in 4-H".

Preparation for Fair

Throughout the Year



Dutchess County 4-H
Poultry Advisory



During the Year

- Practice Showmanship throughout the year, attend clinics if they are available
- Take care of your birds-no mites, parasites, keep free of disease
- Keep pens clean, birds well fed and watered
- Spend time with your chickens so they will get to know you



Early Summer

- Register for fair online, be sure you know which birds you will be bringing to fair
- Attend to any needs of birds (especially ones attending fair)
- Work on your record books and be sure they are up to date by 8/1
- Livestock Birds: Have leader review livestock record book and sign, the completed book is needed at fair
- Continue practicing showmanship, fair is almost here!



Week Before Show

- Wash chickens (soap/water rinse/permethrin rinse (if using))
- Prepare crates for transportation
- Gather paperwork needed for show
- Go over facts about your bird and other breeds so you are prepared for any questions:

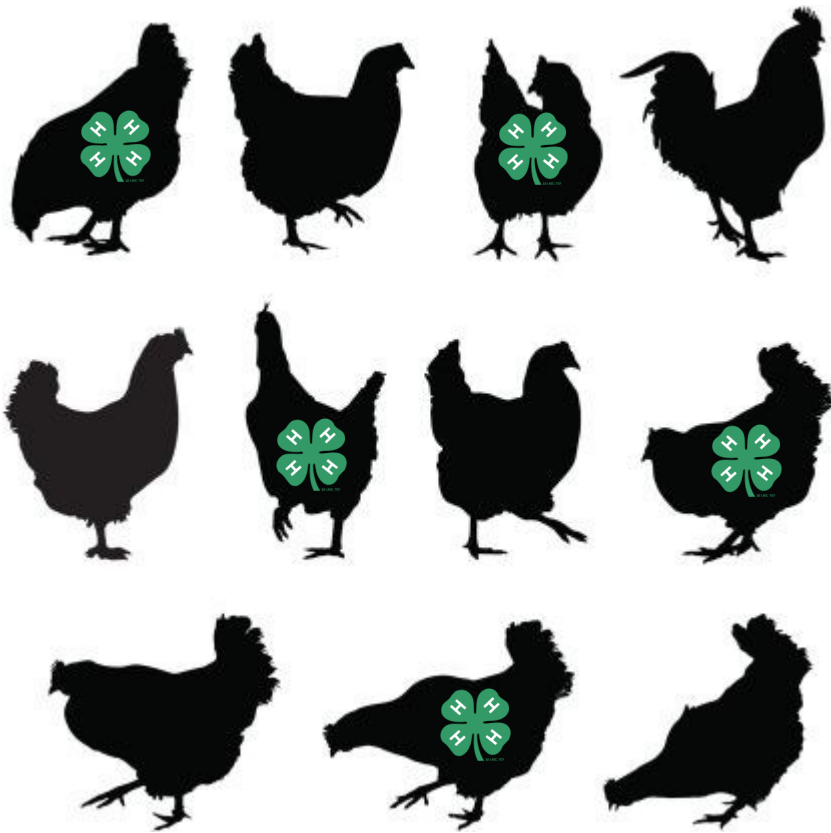
Internal Parts	External Parts
Diseases	Parasites
Disqualifications	Deformities
Care of Birds	Feed Information

**LEARN BY
DOING**



Poultry Show

Sunday prior to the start of fair



Dutchess County 4-H
Poultry Advisory



Pullorum Testing

- Pullorum Testing is required for any birds attending the poultry show
- Testing days will be announced by Poultry Advisory and Club leaders with plenty of notice
- Testing usually takes place at DC Fairgrounds, Ulster County Fairgrounds, and Columbia County Fairgrounds on different dates
- The cost of the testing is free and each bird gets a band on their leg and a certificate
- Keep the certificate in a safe place. Make 2 copies to bring to fair: 1 for the Poultry Show and 1 to retrieve your wristband for free fair entry



Barn Clean Up

- Barn Clean Up takes place on the Saturday prior to evaluation day (the weekend before the Poultry Show) and on Wednesday the week before fair starts
- Attendance at one of the clean up days is required by all members of poultry who will be participating in the poultry show. Speak to a club leader if you absolutely cannot make it
- We will be cleaning and setting up cages, food and water dishes, displays, etc. during this time
- In addition to the poultry barn, each club is assigned to help clean a portion of the 4-H building as well (dorms, exhibit hall, etc.)



Entering Birds

- All entries must be entered on ShoWorks in the appropriate category based on age, breed, etc.
- Members are allowed to enter up to 9 birds for non-livestock entries and 6 birds for livestock entries in a maximum of 2 classes. Cloverbuds can only enter 6 birds total and no-livestock sale entries
- Club leaders will help members to enter their birds in appropriate classes, if needed
- All birds must be entered prior to entry deadline that year in order to be judged at the poultry show
- Showmanship is a mandatory category to be entered for. You can use any bird, this can be the same as one of the livestock or non-livestock entries that you enter for judging, or one you are not entering for judging
- Members can also enter the egg division (6 uniform eggs); this can be one of the birds you have entered for judging or one you have not entered or brought to the poultry show.
- After deadline entries can only be changed if incorrect, not added to, so be sure all your birds are entered even if you aren't sure of categories



Getting Birds Ready for the Poultry Show

- It is recommended that you wash all birds 2-3 days before show and then keep them in a clean area
- Poultry should be washed with biodegradable soap (Dawn, Mrs. Meyers, etc.), cleaning any dirt or other debris off of their feathers, heads, and combs
- Use an old toothbrush to gently scrub their scales, toe nails, feet, etc. so they are nice and clean
- Check if their toe nails are too long and trim if necessary...carefully!
- This is the time to double check there are no scaly leg or body mites, lice, etc. on your birds; they like to hide under the wings and eggs can be found around the vent area (10 days prior to show)
- Some people prefer to dip their birds in a permethrin soak after they are clean; this can be preventative so they don't pick up any mites or lice while at fair but is not required. It is a personal choice
- Let your birds dry in a clean, safe space until it's time to bring them to the show
- Birds will be checked for parasites, so please check thoroughly. Any birds with parasites should be left home.



Transportation of Birds

- All poultry **MUST** be transported in a travel crate that provides sufficient air for the birds and that they will be comfortable in for several hours; bedding should line the bottom
- Large plastic totes with cutouts on the lids that are covered in plastic poultry wire work great!
- Be sure to bring clean water and food for birds for the day and provide water only once you arrive at the show; they can be given food after they have been shown



Attire

- All exhibitors are required to wear a white collared showmanship shirt (provided by Advisory); if your shirt from prior years doesn't fit, or if this is your first year, leaders will order a new shirt that you will be given at the poultry show. An email will be sent out to order new shirts.
- All exhibitors are required to wear black skirt, skort, or pants (nice jeans or dress pants acceptable)
- All exhibitors are required to wear black shoes
- All exhibitors are required to have an overall presentable look (hair combed, shirt tucked in, etc.)
- Exhibitor attire is only required for showmanship, not while showing birds for judging; wear comfortable working clothes for arrival and until lunch. Members change into showmanship after lunch.



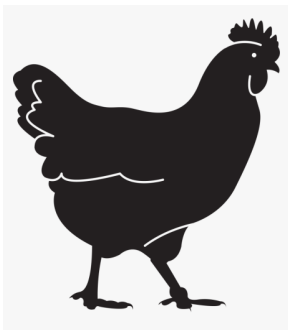
Bird Check In

- Bird check in begins at 9am the day of the poultry show and ends at 9:55am
- Don't be late! It takes time for our Jr. and Sr. Members to check in all of the birds
- Be sure to bring your pullorum certificates for any birds entering the poultry show
- If any birds look sick or have any parasites or illness, please leave them at home
- Birds that have been identified to stay as exhibits may be moved to their assigned cages after they have been checked in (see box on pg. 10 for info on birds staying for the week of fair)
- Once checked in, provide your birds with water as needed; no food until after showing



Show Schedule

- Show judging begins promptly at 10am
- Judging happens in the following order:
 - Livestock Sale and Market Class
 - Cloverbud
 - Egg Production
 - Egg Division
 - Purebred (Standard, Bantam, Global)
 - Pet Class
- Lunch will take place after all show judging has been completed; Poultry advisory will provide pizza and drinks
- After lunch we will begin Showmanship Judging; all exhibitors should change into their showmanship attire during the lunch break and be sure to look presentable
- Showmanship Judging Order:
 - Cloverbud
 - Novice
 - Junior
 - Senior
 - Master
- Once judging is complete, results and awards will be given out
- Clean up and check all birds on exhibit before leaving for day



Birds Staying At Fair

- Once all bird entries have been completed (check fairbook for current years deadline), poultry advisory will determine the number of birds each member is allowed to keep at fair as an exhibit
- For all birds staying at fair, members will be required to submit the following information:
 - Chicken Name
 - Hatch Date
 - Class
 - Breed
 - Variety (color, etc.)
 - Pullet, Hen, Cockerel, or Rooster
 - Fun Fact
 - Owner Name
 - Feed Type: Organic Layer, Layer, Grower, Multi-Flock
- In addition to the number you are allowed to keep, Advisory will reserve some cages for the day of the show; these will be used for birds that win best in show, grand, etc. but were not slated to stay. They may also select unique breeds or under-represented birds to also remain at owner's discretion
- Food (both organic and non-organic) and water will be donated and provided for all birds that stay as exhibits at fair for the week
- See Pg. 12 for barn hours info on taking care of birds during the week



What to Bring to the Poultry Show

- Showmanship clothing (white collared showmanship shirt, black bottoms, black shoes)
- Chairs for all members of your party
- Snacks and Drinks for all members of your party
- Record Books and/or Livestock Record Books
- Food and Water for Your Birds
- Clean, Healthy Birds in an appropriate travel carrier
- Pullorum Certificate for All Birds being shown

 **4-H**
PROUD



Fair Week Information



Dutchess County 4-H
Poultry Advisory



Barn Hours

- From Monday through Sunday of Fair Week all members must participate in taking care of the birds left at fair
- All members must sign-up for a minimum # of shifts (depends on the number of members participating to be sure all slots are full). Many members enjoy barn hours and sign-up for more than the minimum!
- 1 adult (leader and/or experienced parent) must be present for each shift
- Siblings can sign up for the same shift together (ex: 2 siblings will sign up for 4 shifts each, but they could all be the same shifts so they attend 4 shifts total as a family)
- Each shift requires specific responsibilities, see next page for breakdown
- Plan on being in the barn ready for your shift a few minutes before the start, please don't show up right at the time the shift starts
- If you cannot attend a shift, please contact the leader who is listed as being on duty for that shift and try and find a replacement if you can
- Be prepared to engage with the public and have fun!



What to Bring to Barn Hours

- Chairs (there may be enough already at the barn, but it can't hurt to throw a few in your car)
- Personal First Aid Kit (there is one in our coffins (the storage trunks), but sometimes it helps to have your own)
- Closed toe shoes for cleaning out cages if you are on the morning shift
- Drinks, Snack, and Money for Fair Food (or a cooler of food brought from home)
- Your entry tickets (parents) and wristband (members)
- Light jacket and a change of clothes (birds can be messy)
- A good attitude and willingness to work!



Barn Shift-Opening Session Responsibilities

- Shift is 8am-11:30am; Sign in upon arrival
- Remove shavings from cages and replace with new bedding
- Sweep and compost old shavings
- Water and feed all birds (Livestock birds are fed ONLY by Livestock members, water is ok)
- Take out the donation jar, prep the chicken poop bingo game, set up coffins with table cloths, etc.
- Note, lock password on coffins is 'Chick'



Barn Shift-Afternoon Sessions Responsibilities

- Shifts are: 11:30am-1:30pm; 1:30-3:30pm; and 3:30-5:30pm; Sign in upon arrival
- Sweep and compost old shavings
- Water and feed all birds (Livestock birds are fed ONLY by Livestock members, water is ok)
- Help run Chicken Poop Bing, Show birds to public, or answer public's questions about birds
- Keep 4-H area clean and tidy
- Turn over a clean barn, with well watered birds to the next shift



Barn Shift-Evening Session

- Shifts are 5:30-8pm; 8-10pm; Sign in upon arrival
- Sweep and compost shavings
- Water and feed all birds (Livestock birds are fed ONLY by Livestock members, water is ok)
- Work with barn manager on when the barn will close
- Put away donation jar inside coffin, along with anything else valuable
- Clean up any trash, droppings, etc. left behind
- Stay until the garage doors have been closed and the public is no longer allowed inside the barn



Fair Tips

- Fair Week is a long week, pace yourself
- Be sure to set a budget for how much you want to spend on food all week and plan accordingly (bring lunch but buy dinner, one snack per day, etc.; whatever works best for your family)
- You can bring in food from home in a cooler, you do not have to buy food at the fair
- Consider buying a refill souvenir cup at the beginning of the week (write your name on the cup and lid in sharpie) and bring it all week to save some money on refills
- Know that kids love spending as much time as possible at the fair this week, just go with it!
- Check the schedule on the board outside the showmanship ring for events you may want to attend (ex: Master Showmanship, Livestock Auction, Cow Costume Contest, etc.)
- The exhibit hall has an award night for all members that receive special awards and state recognition (usually Wednesday evening); if your family participated in the exhibit hall this is a great event to attend
- Special "1 ticket per ride" ride tickets can usually be purchased in advance; these save lots of money if you plan on riding on any rides during the week
- Try to schedule at least one down day if possible where you just enjoy the fair as a regular fair-goer without barn hours or other responsibilities
- This is the culmination of your whole year of 4-H; enjoy the fruits of your labor!



End of Fair

- Fair ends on Sunday, all members should be in the barn by 5pm the latest to begin the breakdown of the poultry barn; bring your travel crates for all birds that were left as exhibits
- Birds cannot officially be removed from cages until the head of the poultry barn gives the go-ahead (usually at 6pm)
- If you participated in the exhibit hall, items can be removed between 5-7pm; be sure to get your envelope with all exhibit hall paperwork before you leave
- The gate near Livestock Hill will usually open at 7pm, at this point you can drive in to more easily load up your car with your poultry and exhibit hall items
- Clean up takes between 2-4 hours depending on how many helping hands participate; please be prepared to stay the entire time
- Keep a lookout for an invite after the fair from the poultry advisory for an end fair party with some awards/prizes as well as a potluck to celebrate all of our hard work and success!



Livestock Sale Information



Dutchess County 4-H Poultry Advisory



Requirements for Participating in Livestock Sale

- Complete and return Market Livestock Project Youth Sale Agreement by deadline for current year
- Be between 8-18 as of January 1 of the current year
- Be in good standing as a member of 4-H
- Attend **ONE** of the two mandatory meetings that are set for current year; meeting starts promptly at 7pm, Do Not Be LATE as doors close promptly at 7pm. A parent or guardian must also attend the meeting with the member (usually both meetings are in April)
- Complete a Public Presentation with 4-H
- Submit Ownership Registration at the time of weigh in/tag in or pick up of sale animal
- All birds submitted for livestock sale must be obtained from the Poultry Advisory
- Enter sale class entries in ShoWorks by current year deadline (check fair book) in Open **AND** 4-H categories
- Submit seller bio and snapshot with charity you will be donating a portion of your sale to by current year deadline listed on Livestock Sale contract
- Submit a video of sale animals and yourself for the online portion of the sale by current year deadline listed on Livestock Sale contract



Requirements for Buyer Interaction

- Pick up buyers packets from the DC Fairgrounds during dates set for current year (usually last week of June/first week of July)
- Contact and give a presentation to a minimum of 3 buyers for the Livestock Sale
- Have at least 3 buyers sign the postcard by the set date for current year (mid-July)
- Return postcards by mail or in person to DC Fairgrounds by date set for current year (end of July)
- Turn in Thank you notes for buyers at mandatory sellers meeting (usually last day of fair); Envelope must be unsealed, addressed, and stamped (unless a college student who has submitted proper documentation by deadline)
- Contact buyer as soon as meat has been processed to arrange delivery and let them know the processing fee amount
- Personally deliver meat if the buyer so chooses, failure to do so makes you ineligible to participate next year (unless a college student who has submitted proper documentation prior to deadline)



Livestock Requirements

- Heritage Turkey: Up to 28 weeks prior to Fair; minimum of 14 lbs at weigh in
- Geese or Heritage Roaster: Up to 20 weeks prior to Fair; minimum of 4.5 lbs at weigh in
- Commercial Turkeys: Up to 18 weeks prior to Fair; minimum of 15 lbs at weigh in
- Roaster Chicken: Up to 13 weeks prior to Fair; Jumbo Cornish Cross: Up to 12 weeks prior to Fair; 9-15 lbs at weigh in
- Meat Ducks or Meat Pen Chickens: Up to 9 weeks prior to Fair; 4-8 lbs at weigh in



Weigh-In Requirements

- Participate in Weigh-In for all livestock poultry being entered in Livestock Sale at Poultry Show the Sunday before Fair starts
- Present DC Ag Society Market Animal Record Book to a representative at the weight in
- Classes of livestock birds are listed below. See livestock pages in fair book for current years weight requirements (if different from above):

Heritage Turkey	Heritage Roaster	Commercial Meat Pen
Commercial Turkey	Commercial Roaster	
- Entry weights will be used as sale weights
- Judge's decision in Market Sale is final; Once bird has been placed in Market Sale it must sell in the sale
- Must show auction animal or animal that I own of the same species in the showmanship class at the fair
- Must be in possession of market animal and provide care a minimum of 75% of the time
- Parent's can assist, but member responsible for majority of birds show preparation and hands-on grooming
- Dirty, uncontrollable, or dangerous animals may be excused from shows and fair and sent home



Commissions

- 10% Commission is collected up to the first \$1,000.00 and 7.5% for anything over \$1,000 per animal
- These commissions cover the expense of the sale and to support youth activities and scholarships
- Remaining sale profit will be issued after the fair



Livestock Sale Day: Things to Pack

- 2 copies of Photo of Seller (4H member) and their bird (1 for auctioneer, 1 for display table)
- 2 copies of Short bio about seller (1 for auctioneer, 1 for display table)
- Livestock Record book (completed, with all feed & material receipt for cost, weight of animal each week, etc.)
- Material for auction table that talks about care and raising of livestock birds



Livestock Sale Day Attire

- Members will receive a Livestock Sale T-Shirt to be worn during sale
- Members can wear jeans or black pants and sneakers or boots
- Members must look presentable during sale



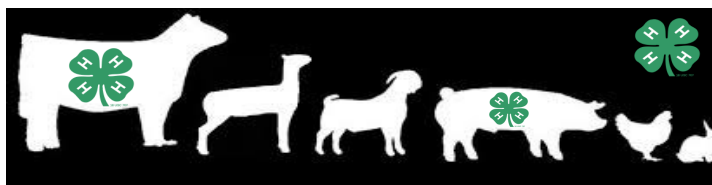
Livestock Sale Day Requirements

- Attend Required Meetings during the fair set up in the pavilion at 1:30pm on the Saturday of the fair
- Set-up and man a table prior to the sale with information about the poultry being sold at fair
- Greet your buyer directly after sale to thank them and ask how they would like their bird prepared (whole or pieced)
- Report to DCASLSC Poultry Rep during auction for instruction on assisting transportation of birds, and assisting members to show their birds during auction
- Return to the pavilion after the sale to help clean-up



Livestock Display Table Items

- Photos, Bios, Ribbons from show, flowers, feed information
- Set up to attract buyers to come and ask questions and be interested in birds



Livestock Sale: Schedule of Day

- Earlier in day: Have crate prepared or fair cage on flatbed rolling cart ready with show birds (birds cannot be carried on own into pavilion)
- 1:30pm: Final meeting in pavilion, then being setting up table 3pm: Buyers arrive, will visit tent; greet buyers, answer any questions
- 4pm: Auction starts with Grand and Reserve Champion of each species; after other selected animals will be show by species
- During Auction: Bring champion game birds and chickens to back of the stage ready to enter arena
- Poultry Auction Slot: 4H member brings their own bird into arena: Chickens sit on table, turkeys walk around (Have parent take note of who got winning bid on your bird(s))
- After auction slot: Bird is returned directly to poultry barn and their cage
- Auction Complete: Go directly to buyer and personally thank them for purchasing your bird, ask them if they would like the bird processed whole or as pieces
- End of Auction: Members stay to breakdown table and tent, and any other cleanup needed



Final Sellers Meeting Requirements

- Attend the final sellers meeting at 3pm on Sunday, the last day of fair
- Bring pen, draft of thank you letter to buyer, thank you cards for buyers, along with an envelope and stamp
- Complete thank you cards for buyers and hand in at meeting
- Complete record book (math showing final profit based on auction price) and turn in DC Ag Society Market Animal Record Book at the meeting (**Make a copy before submitting for reference**)



Processing Birds

- Members with Poultry in the sale must do barn hours Monday and possibly Tuesday after fair to care for birds; this is TBD depending on the processor
- Birds taken to processor at select time during day (speak with Livestock Rep for schedule this year)
- Meet Livestock rep to pack up birds and clean up poultry barn
- Pick up bird after processing (Livestock rep will let you know time), along with bands and weights for tracking
- Ask when bird was killed (wait 24 hours before freezing)
- Each member is responsible for their own delivery of bird to the buyer

