

Jr Fair Poultry Exhibitors and Parents - Important Fair Information PLEASE READ

This is our new email address, please add it to your list of contacts so we can ensure you receive important updates and information throughout the summer. If you are on Facebook, please follow [Darke County Fair Poultry Department](#) for important updates and information.

If you are new to the Poultry Department this year, we would like to welcome you. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to a Jr. Fair Poultry Committee member or simply reply to this email and we will help you in any way we can at any time throughout the year. We are excited to have you in the Poultry Barn.

As you prepare to exhibit junior fair poultry at the Darke County Fair, the Jr Fair Poultry Committee wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of some important poultry project details.

To help our Poultry Fair run smoothly we ask if you signed up to exhibit poultry at the fair and do not plan to bring any poultry to the fair, please contact Brian Subler at 937-417-1353, Eric Walker at 765-650-1333, Cindy Mayo at 937-417-2296, Amy Addis at 937-216-2107 or Tyler Greer at 937-467-3489. If you do not contact us, we will be looking for you on Thursday night after the mandatory meeting.

BEFORE THE FAIR

- **Skillathon** - The Poultry Skillathon is a mandatory activity to show and sell. All members with poultry projects must participate in the Poultry Skillathon. The Poultry Skillathon is scheduled for June 29th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and July 18th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Both activities will take place at the Cattle Pavilion on the Darke County Fairgrounds. To receive a study guide packet and scoresheets that will be used please visit the Darke County Jr Fair website at dcjrfair.com. The information about the skillathon is posted under the poultry tab. Just a reminder, record books must be brought to the skillathon and will be scored. Prize money will be awarded to the top scorers in the skillathon. If you do not participate in the skillathon your other option is writing a 500-word essay. The essay must be emailed to dcjfpoultrydept@gmail.com by August 1st 11:59pm. The topic for this year is *The Effects of Colored Lighting on Poultry Stress and Productivity*. This is the same topic for all ages of poultry exhibitors. Please note that if you write the essay you are not eligible for outstanding exhibitor. Also, please note that in order to exhibit or sell at the 2026 Darke County Fair you must participate in the skillathon or write an essay. Skillathon that is done online will not qualify for the Outstanding Exhibitor award.

This year for Skillathon we are using SignUpGenius. We are hoping that scheduling time slots will help improve the flow of the stations. Please use the following link to start scheduling your slots: [Darke County Jr Fair Poultry Dept: Poultry Skillathon](#)

If your child needs a Winning 4H Plan please contact Mercedes to set one up. mcfarland.583@osu.edu. If your child already has one and will need additional time, please contact the poultry committee prior to scheduling.

- **Poultry Scholarship** - The poultry barn will be offering two scholarships to 2026 graduates. You must be a 2026 junior fair poultry exhibitor. The applications must be emailed to dcjfpoultrydept@gmail.com by July 15th 11:59 p.m., and can be found under the poultry tab on the Darke County Jr Fair website at dcjrfair.com.
- **Poultry Royalty:** If you are interested in competing for the Jr. Fair Poultry King/Queen or Prince/Princess, please go to the dcjrfair.com website under the poultry tab to find the applications and more information. The applications must be emailed to dcjfpoultrydept@gmail.com by July 1st 11:59 p.m., and can be found under the poultry tab on the Darke County Jr Fair website at dcjrfair.com.
- **Poultry T-Shirt Contest** - Help design the T-shirt that will be passed out in the Poultry Barn in 2026. Designs are due by July 18th to a Darke County Poultry Committee member or dropped off at either Skillathon. The design needs to incorporate the words 2026 Darke County Junior Fair Poultry Department and reflect all the poultry projects. The winning design will receive \$50.00. The T-shirt design rules are posted on the Darke County Jr Fair website at dcjrfair.com.
- **Entries:** All entries for the Jr Fair are due **July 20th**
 - No bird may be shown in more than 1 class except for Showmanship.
 - All fancy birds will be shown as singles with a maximum of 4 per class.
 - Commercial birds are shown as pens of 2 except for turkeys.
- **Quality Assurance:** Please see the Darke County OSU Extension website for dates and information. All market project exhibitors are required to attend one online or in-person session.
- **Pullorum Testing/Hatch Papers**

Pullorum Testing:

- Please review Pullorum testing rules in the fair book. The dates for testing are Wednesday, June 24, 2026 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm and Wednesday, July 29th from 6:00pm to 9:00pm on Darke County Fairgrounds at the Horseshoe Building. The pullorum test papers are to be turned in to the Jr Fair board Office in an envelope with the name/family name by August 1st. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Mayo at 937-417-2296. This is required for all birds older than 90 days or birds without hatch papers. Turkeys must be tested by your vet or you must have hatch papers. Waterfowl, pigeons, and doves *do not* need to be tested.

Hatch Papers:

- Turned in by AUGUST 1ST to the Jr Fair board Office Dropbox or brought to the skillathons in an envelope with exhibitor/family name on the envelope.
- Hatch Papers for all Market/Commercial projects (Laying hens and pullets, broilers, roasters, turkeys, and meat ducks)

- **Sale Information:** Online sales will occur this year on Thursday, August 27th at 5:00 pm. During the live auction at the Celebration of Achievement only 3 projects will be sold: Poultry Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Meat entry, and Grand Champion Commercial bird entry. After the Celebration of Achievements, the ONLINE SALE will begin. The website is www.bwfinaldrive.com. The online sale will be open on Thursday, August 27th after the online auction and will close on Thursday, September 3rd at midnight. All bids will be paper invoiced and mailed once the sale closes.
- **Poultry Baskets:** The baskets will be on display throughout the fair in the poultry barn and will also be sold during the Saturday and Sunday's poultry show and Saturday night during the open class activities. The baskets will be sold through a live auction and all proceeds will go towards the Poultry Scholarships and barn improvements. If you would like to put a basket together for the sale or would like to donate items towards a basket, please email the poultry committee at dcjfpoultrydept@gmail.com. Examples from the past include: themed baskets, cement statues, wreaths, household items, gift cards, etc. Please do not include alcohol.
- **Individual Sale Information:** Just a reminder that if you are exhibiting a market poultry project such as meat turkeys, meat ducks, broilers, roasters and production egg layers and pullets you have the opportunity to sell your animals online through the fair auction. Reminder, you are only allowed to sell one with the exception of champions (please see fair rules). If you would exhibit the overall grand/reserve grand champion meat entry or the grand champion commercial bird entry you will be required to sell at the Celebration of Achievement on Thursday, August 27th. If you have not completed the QR code to establish a profile to sell in the online auction, please do so ASAP.
- **Poultry Barn Set-Up/Cleaning:** If any Jr Fair Poultry Exhibitors and their parents would like to assist with helping clean and set up portions of the Poultry Barn in preparation for the 2026 Darke County Fair, the Jr Fair Poultry Committee invites you to assist with clean-up/set-up session on **August 16th** at 6:00 p.m. at Jr Fair Poultry Barn.
- **Tack Boxes:** The barn will open on Wednesday, August 19th from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. to bring in your tack box and supplies. Jr. Fair Board poultry members will receive first selection, and it will be on a first come first serve basis.
- **NEW OPPORTUNITY - Pen Pal:** If you are interested in being a "Pen Pal"/barn mentor for a new poultry exhibitor and would like to help out, please email the poultry committee to let us know: dcjfpoultrydept@gmail.com.
- The poultry committee plans to have a carry-in/cookout on Wednesday, August 26th after the awards ceremony.

If you have any questions please contact us. We are excited for the 2026 Darke County Junior Fair Poultry Show!

Darke County Poultry Committee