



CLAY COUNTY 4-H POULTRY – ALL CHICKENS & WATERFOWL

***Updated for 2026**

4-H Poultry Club Leaders: Mitchel Riddell – (812)249-2913 (mitchriddell@gmail.com) and Derik Tipton

ENROLLMENT:

- a) All 4-H'ers are responsible for the individual care of their livestock project.
- b) Birds entered at the County Fair must be owned, raised, and cared for by the 4-H'er.
- c) **Blood testing will once again be required for the 2026 year. The date for that will be:**
 - **May 16, 2026 – 8:00 am – 10:00 am in the Poultry Barn**
 - *All birds (but waterfowl) intended to be used for exhibition must be brought to this***
- d) All 4-H exhibitors will need to be enrolled in Clay County 4-H and in the poultry project by **May 15, 2025**.
- e) **FairEntry.com will NOT be used to enter Poultry.**
 - All entries must be submitted on a [paper form](#) & turned into the club leader or the Extension Office **no later than May 16** (blood testing date).
 - You can find that form [here](#), at a poultry club meeting or at the Extension Office.
- f) In each commercial/layer 4-H chicken class, two pullets or two hens constitute one entry. A 4-H'er may show a maximum of 6 or 3 different pairs of poultry of not the same variety.
- g) If you need to scratch a show entry, please let the poultry leader or the Extension Office know by **July 1, 2026**.

HEALTH:

SEE GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL SPECIES

- a) All Poultry in state or out-of-state are required to have an official health certificate. Such animals must show no symptoms of any infectious or contagious disease and be permanently and individually identified and such identification must be clearly indicated on the accompanying health certificate; provided however, at the discretion of the state veterinarian, the health certificate may be waived in lieu of an inspection by personnel approved for this purpose by the state veterinarian.
- b) All poultry presented for exhibition shall be accompanied by an official health certificate **of veterinary inspection** or an appropriate National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) certificate
- c) All poultry presented for exhibition must meet one of the following requirements:
 - Test negative for pullorum-typoid within 90 days prior to the date of their exhibition.
 - Be hatched from eggs originating from **certified NPIP pullorum-typoid clean flocks**.
 - Originate from a flock where the entire flock is certified NPIP pullorum-typoid clean.
 - For more information on poultry health requirements call the Indiana State BOAH at (877) 747-3038, extension 322.
- d) No clinical signs of disease. No poultry may be exhibited showing signs of infectious or communicable disease.
- e) No external parasites. No poultry may be exhibited showing excessive signs of external parasite infestation (lice, nits, scaly leg).
- f) All poultry must be WASHED before bringing to the fair and clean when brought to the fair.

GROOMING:

Clay County 4-H encourages members and their immediate families to be the primary groomers of their animals. However, exhibitors may use outside groomers for show day assistance if needed. If you plan to have grooming help at the State Fair, please review their updated rule book to ensure all requirements are met. Contact the Extension Office with any questions.

PENNING:

All 4-H'ers must provide bedding and feed and water their own chickens and waterfowl.

SHOW:

- a) All 4-H Livestock will be shown by current Clay County 4-H members only!
- b) Each bird exhibited must have been raised by the owner as part of his or her 4-H project

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- c) In judging classes of birds, special attention will be given to growth, development, and production qualities.
- d) It is suggested that 4-H club members be present at the time their 4-H poultry exhibit is judged.
- e) Each 4-H member can show up to 24 birds total (one per breed/variety/sex/age).
- f) Egg Class – Exhibits 6 uniform eggs (same size & color).
- g) All waterfowl and turkeys will be brought in on the day of show and returned home after the Poultry show except for the turkey and meat pen ducks that are going through the auction.
- h) All poultry, pigeon & waterfowl will be judged as a blue, red, white, yellow and pink group.
- i) Commercial 4-H Chicken classes:
 - 1) Pullets: two female birds hatched between ***August 1st** and May 1st
 - 2) Hens: two female birds in laying condition hatched before ***August 1st** of current year
- j) Description of Commercial/Layer classes:
 - 1) White Ear Lobe or white shell - pullets or hens
 - 2) Red Ear Lobe or brown shell - pullets or hens
- k) Meat Type Classes
 - 1) Two Cornish type weighing 5 lbs, each or more
 - 2) Must be from club group order.
- l) The Mini 4-H Show will include members that are enrolled in the Clay Co. Mini 4-H program and have met the grade/age requirement per species as listed in their handbook. Mini 4-H members must be entered in the poultry project by **May 18, 2026** to allot time for pairing with an older 4-H member & their animal.

4-H STANDARD EXHIBITION CLASSES (LARGE FOWL):

- a) A 4-H'er may enter to show a maximum of one entry per class for a total of 24 birds.
- b) Judging will be judged according to the American Standard of Perfection as authorized by the American Poultry Association
- c) Description of classes by age:
 - Cock - a male bird hatched prior to ***August 1, 2025**
 - Hen - a female bird hatched prior to ***August 1, 2025**
 - Cockerel - a male bird hatched on or after ***August 1, 2025**
 - Pullet - a female bird hatched on or after ***August 1, 2025**
- d) Standards will be broken into six different classes – American, Asiatic, Continental, English, Mediterranean & All Other Standards

Please visit the [American Poultry Association](#) website to determine your Large Fowls breed & variety to accurately place them in a show class.

4-H BANTAM EXHIBITION CLASSES:

- a) 4-H'er may enter to show a maximum of one entry per class for a total of 24 birds.
- b) Judging will be judged according to the American Standard of Perfection as authorized by the American Poultry Association
- c) Description of classes by age:
 - Cock - a male bird hatched prior to ***August 1, 2025**
 - Hen - a female bird hatched prior to ***August 1, 2025**
 - Cockerel - a male bird hatched on or after ***August 1, 2025**
 - Pullet - a female bird hatched on or after ***August 1, 2025**
- d) Bantam Exhibition classes are broken down into 5 different classes – Game, Modern Game, Single Comb Clean Legged (SCCL), Rose Comb Clean Legged (RCCL), All Other Clean Legged (AOCCCL) & Feather Legged

Please visit the [American Poultry Association](#) website to determine your Bantams breed & variety to accurately place them in a show class.

4-H PIGEON CLASSES:

- a) A 4-H'er may enter for a maximum of one entry per class for a total of 24 birds.
- b) Birds will be judged on show condition and confirmation to the National Pigeon Association Standards
 - i) Description of birds by age:
 - Old Cock - Male bird banded prior to **August 1, 2025**
 - Old Hen - Female bird banded prior to **August 1, 2025**

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- Young Cock - Male bird banded on or after **August 1, 2025**
- Young Hen - Female bird banded on or after **August 1, 2025**
- c) Pigeon classes are broken down into three different types of breeds - Fancy breeds, Sporting breeds & Utility breeds

4-H COMMERCIAL/MEAT PEN WATERFOWL CLASSES:

A 4-H'er may enter a pair of two same breed/variety heavy ducks.

Please visit the [American Poultry Association](#) website to determine your birds breed & variety to accurately place them in a show class.

4-H EXHIBITION WATERFOWL CLASSES:

- a) 4-H'er may enter to show a maximum of one entry per class for a total of 24 birds.
- b) One male and one female constitute one meat pen pair.
- c) One male or female may be shown as a single.
- d) Birds will be judged according to the American Standard of Perfection as authorized by the American Poultry Association
 - Old Drake- Male bird hatched prior to **August 1, 2025**
 - Old Duck - Female bird hatched prior to **August 1, 2025**
 - Young Drake - Male bird hatched on or after **August 1, 2025**
 - Young Duck - Female bird hatched on or after **August 1, 2025**

Please visit the [American Poultry Association](#) website to determine your birds breed & variety to accurately place them in a show class.

4-H TURKEY CLASSES

- a) All Turkeys Compete in one of 5 classes - Young Tom, Old Hen, Young Hen, Commercial & Exhibition.

Please visit the [American Poultry Association](#) website to determine your birds breed & variety to accurately place them in a show class.

4-H GUINEA CLASS

Please visit the [American Poultry Association](#) website to determine your birds breed & variety to accurately place them in a show class.

4-H QUAIL CLASS

- a) Shown as 2 birds per cage.

POULTRY SHOWMANSHIP:

4-H'ers will demonstrate their ability to present birds that are clean, healthy, trained and manageable, along with the techniques of proper display. This activity provides an opportunity to competitively demonstrate one's knowledge and skill in raising, conditioning, evaluating and handling poultry. (See 4-H manual number 679, "4-H Poultry Showmanship", available from the county Extension office for details.) **Must be entered in live poultry to participate in showmanship.**

- a) **Junior Showmanship:** 3rd–5th graders as of Jan. 1, 2026. Once a 4-H'er wins Overall Junior Showman, they may only compete in Intermediate Showmanship the following year.
- b) **Intermediate Showmanship:** 6th–8th graders as of Jan. 1, 2026, and all previous Junior winners. Once a 4-H'er wins Overall Intermediate Showman, they may only compete in Senior Showmanship the following year.
- c) **Senior Showmanship:** 9th–12th graders as of Jan. 1, 2026, and all previous Intermediate winners. Winners may compete in the Champion of Champions class that year and in future years.
- d) **Champion of Champions Showmanship:** Open to all past Senior Division Champions, including the 2026 winner.

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SHOW AWARDS:

Standard Champions – American Standard, Asiatic Standard, Continental Standard, English Standard, Mediterranean Standard, All Other Standards	Bantam Champions – Game Bantam, Single Comb Clean Legged Bantam, Rose Comb Clean Legged Bantam, All Other Comb Clean Legged Bantam, Feather Legged Bantam, Poultry Meat Pen	Waterfowl Champions – Heavy Duck, Medium Duck, Light Duck, Bantam Duck, Heavy Goose, Medium Goose, Light Goose, Duck Meat Pen, Exhibition Turkey, Meat Pen Turkey	Grand Champions – Eggs, Turkey, Waterfowl, Pigeon, Standard, Bantam, Meat Pen-Overall, Layer
Best of Show			

Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Training

To exhibit beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, goats, poultry and rabbits, 4-H members must be certified through the Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Training. This is an annual program that can be completed in-person by attending one of the classes on the following dates at the Fairgrounds:

- **March 18, 2026**
- **April 27, 2026**
- **May 21, 2026**
- **June 30, 2026**

An online option is available for \$12 through the YQCA program. Once you complete this [online course](#), you must email the Extension Office your final certificate emailed to you at completion showing your certification number.

CLAY COUNTY 4-H LIVESTOCK AUCTION:

To be in the AUCTION you MUST be in a minimum of 3 entries.

The livestock auction will be held at the conclusion of the fair. In order to participate, you must show an animal at the fair and designate an animal to go through the auction at fair check-in. A small auction fee percentage will be deducted from each member's check. Detailed auction information will be finalized closer to fair.

IMPORTANT POULTRY DATES:

May 18, 2026	Mini 4-Her's must be signed up to participate in the Mini poultry show.
May 15, 2026	Deadline to enroll in the Poultry project on 4Honline
May 16, 2026 (8:00 AM-10:00 AM)	Poultry Blood Testing at the Fairgrounds
May 16, 2026	All Poultry show entry forms must be turned into the leaders or the Extension Office to be able to show at the fair.
TBD	Deadline to register poultry online for the State Fair.
July 18 - 24, 2026	Clay County Fair
July 17, 2026	Poultry check-in at the Clay County Fair
July 18, 2026	Poultry check-in at the Clay County Fair
July 18, 2026	Mini 4-H Poultry show
July 19, 2026	Poultry show at the Clay County Fair
July 23, 2026 (9:00 PM)	Poultry released
July 24, 2026	Clay County livestock auction
August 7 - 23, 2026	Indiana State Fair

