

INFORMATION YOU SHOULD KNOW

Note: if you are a primary or intermediate, you probably won't need to know all of this.

- *Your birds' history: Where the breed originated, what class they are shown in, their variety, etc.*
- *Be able to identify other breeds*
- *Birds' anatomy (ducks, geese, and turkeys as well as chickens)*
- *Internal and external parasites*
- *Any diseases or sicknesses and their treatment*
- *Names of certain feathers (ex: primary, secondary, axel feathers)*
- *Incubation of eggs*



PROPER SHOWMANSHIP UNIFORM

- White, button up shirt (preferably long-sleeved)
- White jeans (blue also acceptable)
- Belt
- 4-H hat and scarf
- If necessary, put hair back in a braid or ponytail



Tips for being a good showman:

- *Always remain professional*
- *Look the judge in the eye*
- *Never get flustered*
- *If your bird is difficult, regain control while being gentle*



Introduction to Poultry Showmanship

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STEPS TO EXAMINING YOUR BIRD

Head – Hold the bird's head up on your finger and look at its eyes, beak, and comb. Then shift the chicken's head gently and do the same thing on the opposite side. After you are done with each step, look at the judge before going on to the next. Wait until they acknowledge you before going on.

Undercolor – Lift the feathers on the birds neck and blow under them. This is checking that the bird's undercolor, or the color of the feather shafts, is correct, as well as checking for mites or lice.

Width of Body – Place your thumb and first finger around the bird's body behind the wing or shoulder joints. Show the measurement to the judge.

Wings – Fan the chicken's wings out by grasping the shoulder joint and gently pulling out the wing. Count the birds feathers on the wing, spreading them out so that the judge can see. Then lift the chickens wing up and blow on the feathers underneath. This is to show the judge that the bird does not have mites or lice. Turn the bird around and repeat the procedure on the other side, while making sure your

Breast – Flip the bird over and hold their back against your chest. Feel his/her keel bone, sometimes called the breast bone, with your first finger and thumb. . This is to check that the keel bone is straight and does not have any bumps on it.

Depth of Abdomen – Measure the number of fingers that you can fit between the end of the breast bone and the pubic bones, two small bones on either side of the vent that stick out. Show the measurement to the judge.

Width between Pubic Bones – The main purpose of this step is to see how productive your hen is when it comes to laying. This may make it seem like an unnecessary step if you show a rooster, but you need to do it anyway. See how many fingers you can fit between the pubic bones and show the number to the judge.

Vent – Lower the bird slightly so that the head is facing you. Part the feathers and show the judge the vent, checking for mites and lice as you do so

Feet and Legs – Hold out the feet and legs of the bird and look them over, checking for dirt, scaly leg mites and other diseases that might be present. As this is the last step, you need to wait patiently if you finish first, holding your bird and smiling.



PREPARING YOUR BIRD

Make sure your bird is:

- *Parasite-free*
- *Healthy*
- *In overall good condition*
- *Wash chickens with normal feathering one week before, and silkies two days before*

Make sure that your bird has plenty of food and water