

Starring in Showmanship

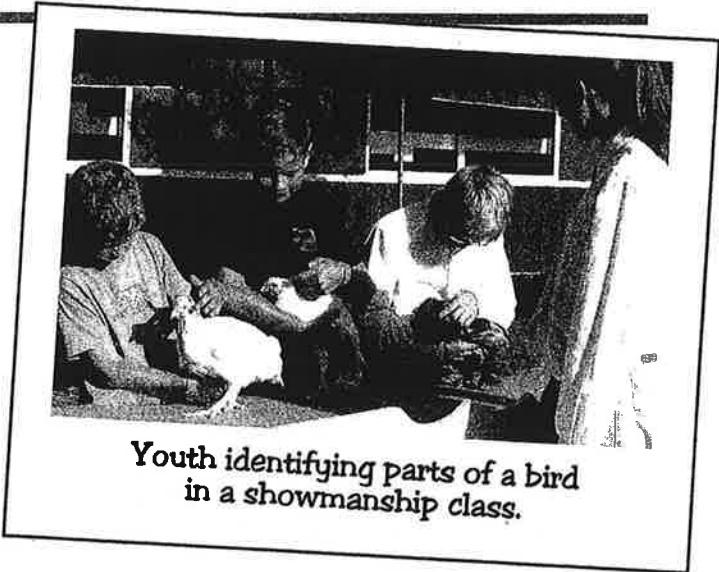
Life Skill: Communicating with others
Poultry Project Skill: Showing poultry
Success Indicator: Practices being a showmanship judge.

Entering your poultry in a poultry show where they are judged against the *Standards of Perfection* is just one of several exciting experiences available to youth with the poultry project. One of the most popular activities is the poultry showmanship class. The emphasis in this class is on how well you handle your bird,

inspect your bird for strong and weak points, know the parts of your bird, and have overall knowledge of poultry and your favorite breed. In the showmanship class, it doesn't matter if you have the champion bird of the show or one that didn't place very high. In this class, it isn't the best bird that wins, but the best prepared youth who shines!

Crack the Case

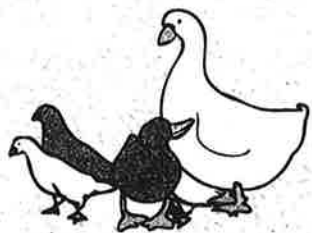
Practice showing poultry with two or more friends. A suggested series of steps is included in case this is new to you. You may also find the showmanship score card helpful. Take turns being the judge. After each practice session the "judge" should discuss what each person did in a helpful and encouraging way. Record below the things you did well and what you still need to practice. You can use live birds or a stuffed model bird. Any practice will make you more confident and relaxed when the big "Poultry Showmanship" day arrives!



Youth identifying parts of a bird in a showmanship class.

Showmanship Notes		
Name _____		
Judge _____		
Date _____		
Showmanship Steps	Did Well	Need to Practice
My Appearance	_____	_____
Introduction	_____	_____
Quality & Condition of Bird	_____	_____
Parts of Bird	_____	_____
Examining & Handling Bird	_____	_____
Placing Bird in Cage	_____	_____
Showing Bird in Cage	_____	_____
Removing Bird from Cage	_____	_____
Extra Questions from Judge	_____	_____

Bird Babble! Light as a _____



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Poultry Showmanship Score Card*

Name _____ Age _____

- 1. Exhibitor's Appearance and Introduction** 10 possible points
- Well groomed and proper attire 5 pts
 - Shares name, age, etc., with judge 5 pts
- Score _____

- 2. Quality and Condition of Bird** 10 possible points
- Pleasing appearance 2 pts
 - Good, smooth plumage 2 pts
 - Breed and variety characteristics 2 pts
 - Free from diseases and parasites 2 pts
 - Gentle and not flighty 2 pts
- Score _____

- 3. Exhibitor's Poultry Knowledge** 20 possible points
- a. Poultry Parts 10 pts
- Holding bird, identifies the following parts—beak, comb, wattles, eyes, earlobe, ear, hackle feathers (male), neck feathers (female), breast, back—saddle (male), back—cushion (female), tail, tail feathers, wing, flight feathers, covert feathers, thigh, leg hock joint, shank on male, note spur, toes
- Score _____
- b. General Poultry Knowledge 10 pts
- The judge will often ask additional questions to test overall knowledge of poultry. These questions are often very helpful to help break a possible tie.
- Score _____

- 4. Examination and Handling of Bird** 35 possible points
- A routine showing these aspects may be in any order and should be smooth
- Proper carrying and handling of bird 5 pts
 - Examination of head, wattle, etc. 5 pts
 - Wing color pattern, condition of feathers, check for lice or mite damage 5 pts
 - Show width of back, undercolor 5 pts
 - Check keel bone, breast, feather color, undercolor 5 pts
 - Feet, toes, shank 5 pts
 - Tail, proper carriage, condition 5 pts
- Score _____

- 5. Placing Bird in a Cage** 10 possible points
- Hold bird in basic hand position 4 pts
 - Open the cage door, turn the bird, put into cage head first 3 pts
 - Place bird gently on the cage floor and close cage door 3 pts
- Score _____

- 6. Showing Bird in a Cage** 5 possible points
- Stand at relaxed attention facing the judge. Allow the judge to have full view of bird at all times. Listen and follow the judge's directions carefully. The object of this section is to get your bird to "show" or stand alertly and in proper station for its breed. The use of a judging stick is helpful.
- Score _____

- 7. Removing Bird from a Cage** 10 possible points
- Open the cage door. Reach across the bird's back, grasp the far wing, turn the bird so it faces the cage door. 4 pts
 - Slide second hand beneath bird's body, placing one or more fingers between bird's legs and grasping them so the bird, when lifted, can be balanced on the palm of that hand. 3 pts
 - Place first hand on bird's back and remove bird from cage, head first. Come to attention and watch judge for further direction. 3 pts
- Score _____

100 Possible Points — Total Score: _____

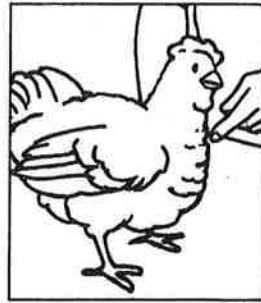
* Your local showmanship score card may be different.

Poultry Showmanship Steps



1. Carrying the Bird

Bird kept balanced and upright on the palm of the hand with head between the arm and body or if small against the carrier's body. The other hand rests on the bird's back.



2. Posing the Bird

Bird shown on table in alert position with tail fluffed, head and beak raised, feathers smooth, wings in normal position.



3. Examining Head

Bird raised to shoulder height with free hand used to move head. Bird turned and other side examined.



4. Examining Wings

First wing spread by grouping wing tip with free hand and pulling. Second wing examined by placing free hand across body of bird and applying pressure to last wing joint with thumb and fingers to extend wing.



4. Examining Undercolor

Finger tips used to gently pull tops of feathers "against the grain."



6. Showing Width of Body

Thumb and index finger of free hand placed across the bird's body directly behind the base of the wings to determine width and shape of the body.



7. Checking the Breast

Bird's head held downward with its back against showperson. Free hand used to measure breast bone and examine keel for straightness, breast blisters, indentations or other defects.



8. Measuring Depth of Abdomen

Vent examined and depth of abdomen measured by placing as many fingers of the free hand as possible between the tip of the keel and the pubic bones.



9. Measuring Width of Pubic Bones

As many fingers of free hand as is easily possible placed between the tips of the pubic bones.



10. Examining Feet and Legs

Bird held against showperson's body and freehand used to examine all parts. Bird swiveled to examine front of feet and legs.



Share with your helper

Crowing time

- How did you feel when you were being judged?
- How did you feel when you were the judge?

Grinding out what's important

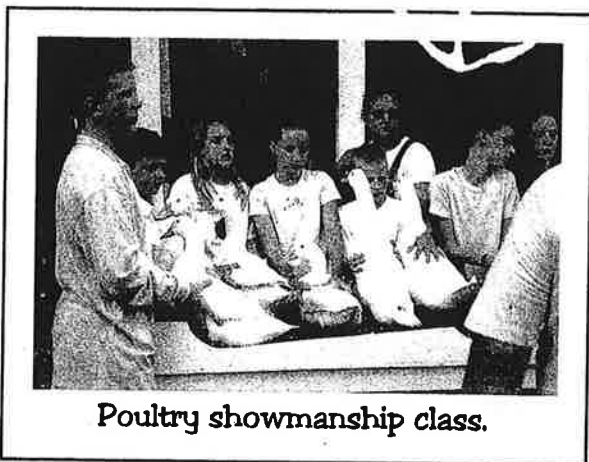
- What project and life skills are developed by participating in showmanship?
 - How can a bird that receives a white ribbon in a breed class receive a blue ribbon in showmanship?
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Hatching ideas

- How can you use the skills you learned in showmanship in other areas of your life?
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-
-

Flapping your wings

- How can you improve your judging and communication skills?
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Poultry showmanship class.



FOWL FACTS Poultry Showmanship Tips

Clothing. As with any showmanship class, you want your bird and you to look your best in front of the judge. Some judges ask that participants wear dark pants or dark jeans, white shirt with collar, ties if you are a male and hard soled shoes. A judging jacket, (white lab jacket) is a plus but is not mandatory. Other judges are more lenient, especially if they know that you will be at a show the entire day. The best way is to just be prepared! Take along the appropriate clothing and change into something more comfortable when you are finished.

Judging Stick. It is also a good idea to have your own judging stick. You will use this when you are trying to get your bird to "show" for the judges. You will place your bird in the cage or on a table and then use the judging stick to gently move your bird around until you feel you have it standing in proper position for your particular breed.

Standards of Perfection. Always have a copy of the *Standards of Perfection* or a booklet written on your particular breed handy when studying to prepare for showmanship. You will want to be able to tell the judge what "breed" you are showing, what "class" the bird belongs to, what "variety" of the breed it is, how much it weighs and so forth. The *Standards of Perfection* outlines what the "perfect" bird is. There is always something that can be improved and something you really like about the way your bird looks. Let the judge know its weak and strong points — this shows you are truly learning about your breed.

Showing. When it is your turn to show, smile and be confident! Look at the judge and introduce yourself. Tell him/her information such as your name, your 4-H club, and how many years you have been in the poultry project, etc. Most of all have fun and enjoy your turn in the spotlight!

Eggstra Challenges

1. Attend as many showmanship contests as you can, both as a spectator and participant.
2. Make a video about poultry showmanship for your club.
3. Teach a younger youth how to show a bird properly.