

June 5, 2015

Dear Junior Fair Poultry Exhibitor,

The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) has issued a statewide ban on ALL poultry exhibitions for the remainder of 2015. This means that no poultry (turkeys, chickens, pigeons, ducks, geese) will be exhibited at the fair this year. The ban is designed to help protect Ohio's \$2.3 billion poultry industry from the avian flu that has negatively impacted other poultry producing states.

Those planning to exhibit poultry at the fair will still have the opportunity to complete their projects, without bringing birds to the fair. Poultry rules for the 2015 Huron County Junior Fair include:

#### Skillathon

The Poultry Skillathon is mandatory for all poultry exhibitors. The skillathon will be held at the fair on Monday, August 17 at 9:00 a.m. at the south end of the Auctioneer G.A. Pickworth Judging Pavilion. There will be divisions for chickens, turkeys and other fowl (ducks, geese & pigeons).

#### Project Books

Each 4-H and FFA member with a poultry project must turn in a completed project and record book by noon on Monday. Books may be turned in at the Poultry Skillathon or Junior Fair Office.

#### Poster

The actual "exhibit" for Junior Fair poultry exhibitors will be a poster.

- Poultry posters will be displayed in the Poultry Barn (chickens, pigeons and waterfowl) or the Turkey Barn (turkeys).
- One poster per project is required. (If you are signed up for a turkey and broilers, you must bring two posters. If you are signed up for ducks, geese and fancy chickens, you must bring three posters, etc.)
- Each poster must be on standard size (22" x 28") flat poster board. No foam boards.
- Each poster should show something the member learned in the project and must include pictures of the project birds.
- Posters will be turned in at the respective barns on Sunday, August 16 between 8:00a.m. and noon.

#### Turkey Carcass Contest

The Turkey Carcass Contest will be held.

- Each turkey exhibitor will take one tom turkey to Spring Maple Enterprises, 400 Baseline Road, Shiloh approximately a week before the fair.
  - The carcasses will be evaluated and winners announced at the fair.
  - Each exhibitor must give cutting instructions and pay for processing when picking up their bird later that day.
  - The Turkey Carcass Contest is not mandatory, ***but is required to be included in the Small Livestock Sale for a premium bid.***
  - The specific date when birds must be taken to Spring Maple Enterprises and processing/cutting costs and options will be mailed to everyone enrolled in a turkey project in late July.
-

Meat Chickens (Boilers)

Members who had been planning to exhibit meat chickens at the fair have the following options:

1. Raise broilers for yourself or to market them. You will complete your project as outlined above. In addition, if you turn in a copy of your hatchery papers with your poster, *you will be eligible for a premium bid in the Small Livestock Sale.*
2. Cancel your order for chicks and do not raise any broilers. You will complete your project as outlined above. Your project and record book will have the educational portion filled out and include your order and order cancellation. Your required poster will be on one of the following topics: Avian Influenza, Biosecurity Practices, The Poultry Industry in Ohio, or the Poultry Industry in the United States.

We know this is a tremendous disappointment for our 4-H and FFA members taking poultry projects. We also know this is a very important precautionary measure necessary to help protect Ohio's sizeable poultry production industry, as well as the many backyard flocks.

All bird owners, whether commercial producers or backyard enthusiasts, are reminded to practice good biosecurity, prevent contact between their birds and wild birds, keep birds inside as much as possible, and report sick birds or unusual bird deaths to their veterinarian immediately.

Thank you for your understanding as we do our best to work through this difficult situation.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Malone  
Extension Educator  
4-H Youth Development

J. Robert Morgan  
President  
Huron County Agricultural Society