



**LARIMER COUNTY**  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

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January 23, 2024

## 2024 Poultry Project Information Letter

### Attention all Poultry Project Members and Leaders:

From: Bailey Schilling, 4-H Youth Development/Livestock Agent

*This letter contains the highlights of the 2024 Poultry Project guidelines. Once the Fair Book & schedule are posted online, each member and leader is responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by all rules and regulations. [4-H and Open Class | The Ranch, Larimer County Fairgrounds & Events Complex \(treventscomplex.com\)](#).*

Key Leaders: Russ & Cheryl Spence (970-420-4579), Lacy Michall (970-420-8509), and Cathy Simon (970-218-8857)

### 4-H Project Completion Requirements

To complete the Dairy project, members must meet these minimum requirements. Please be aware that some clubs may have additional requirements.

- Participate in a 4-H related (subject matter or audience) demonstration or other speech presentation.
- Participate in a 4-H sponsored community service activity.
- Complete county level requirements such as a record book, Club meeting attendance, etc.

### Meat Quality Assurance Program

**Meat Quality Assurance Program (MQA)** - All 4-H poultry members must have completed the Meat Quality Assurance Program requirements to exhibit at the 2024 County Fair and participate in the Jr. Livestock Sale.

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## Premises ID

**Same as 2023: All animals are REQUIRED to have a valid Premises ID prior to the fair entry date of July 8th, in order to show at the 2024 Larimer County Fair. This does apply to breeding animals. In the instance that a family needs to move an animal from the premise ID that is on file to an alternative premise, the Extension Office must be notified immediately, and the new premise ID needs to be recorded. Members who house there animals at the same location will share a premise ID. If you have a lease animal please check with the land owner, stable, dairy, etc. to see if a Premise ID or Federal Identification has been established.**

Did you show an animal at the 2023 Larimer County Fair? This means that you already have a Premises ID number and do not need to reapply for one unless you are keeping your animal at a different location. If you don't remember your number, you can call the number below and they can provide it to you or you can contact the Extension Office for your number. If you did not show an animal last year, you will need to obtain a Premises ID. It's easy (and free) to obtain a Premises ID. Your fair entries will not be approved until your Premise ID is uploaded to 4-Honline. You may need to call the Extension Office for assistance if you have already completed your enrollment. You can register by calling 303-869-9130 or go to: <https://ag.colorado.gov/animals/colorado-location-identification-lid-registration-premises> or call 303-869-9130.

### Animal Care and Housing Form

This form is intended for any members participating in the Livestock or Horse Projects that keep an animal at a location other than the address documented on 4-Honline. This includes any location where the animal may reside for an extended period of time. This form needs to be uploaded under "other documents" to 4-Honline and a hardcopy must be turned into the Extension Office. [Microsoft Word - AnimalCareForm.doc \(colostate.edu\)](#).

### Meat Quality Assurance Information

**Wholesome Meat Animal Assurance Program** - All market poultry consigned to the Junior Livestock Sale may be screened for illegal use of drugs or chemicals. Anyone found guilty of illegal drug or chemical use will be barred from future Larimer County Fairs. All 4-H members with meat animals are required, along with a parent/guardian, to sign a "Certificate and Statement of Disclosure" assuring the animals have not received illegal drugs or chemicals. The statements must be turned in at the County Fair (purple sheet).

We encourage you to keep your animals as free as possible of any and all drugs. If you use any drugs or feed containing antibiotics, be sure to follow the correct withdrawal times. If your animal becomes sick prior to the Fair and you must use antibiotics, please notify the Sale Committee or the Extension Office. It is critical that you work with your primary veterinarian to be sure the animal has passed the withdrawal time before exhibiting at the county fair if this is a market bird. Be sure to put this information on the "Certificate and Statement of Disclosure" form. Also, be sure to list all vaccines, antibiotics, insecticides, and feed additives given to your project animal and date administered.

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## Tentative Workshop Schedule

- January 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. – Project Orientation – The McKee Building
- February 24<sup>th</sup>, (Livestock Field Day- MQA Training) – Project Overview & CSU Avian Team – Bio Security, The McKee Building
- March 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. – project Orientation & Record Books – CoBank Center at ARDEC
- April 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. – Record Books & Showmanship – New 4-H Community Arena
- May 17<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. – Meat Quality Assurance Workshop – The McKee Building
- June 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. – Project Check In, Record Books, Showmanship – New 4-H Community Arena
- July 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. – Showmanship Clinic, Preparing for Fair, Record Books – New 4-H Community Arena

## Tentative 2024 County Fair Information

### Market (Meat) Classes

In the Fair Premium Book the Market (Meat) Classes have their own section following the Breeding Classes. Make sure to enter your birds in the correct market class.

### Ownership of Poultry

All poultry exhibits must have been raised and owned by the exhibitor on or before May 31, 2024 with the exception of Market chickens **only** and shown in the Market classes.

### Market Chickens

Market chickens should be ordered so they are ready for market the day of the show. Market chickens reach market weight in a short time determined by the breed of birds you plan to raise for your project. When ordering or purchasing birds, find out how long it takes the birds to reach market weight – 4 weeks, 6 weeks, 8 weeks, or 12 weeks are typical times depending on the breed. Market chickens must be weighed prior to being brought to Fair (this is the responsibility of the member) for the correct class and which birds are penned together (birds must weigh within 5 oz of each other). Birds (Market chickens) will be weighed Saturday morning .

### ALL poultry members must attend the MQA.

### Bird Health Practices

All birds brought to the Larimer County Fair should be healthy and in good condition. Birds with respiratory issues, swollen joints or areas around eyes, discharge from eyes, nostrils, mouth or vent or those who do not appear healthy need to be left at home!

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Any birds with an infestation of mites or lice will be sent home and potentially all your birds will be sent home. Please begin a lice and mite treatment plan as soon as you can. This is especially important if you plan to bring older birds to Fair. **ALL** birds can get lice and mites. Check your birds regularly. **Make sure to check muffs, beards, and neck feathers.** Use a Poultry dust and dust every two weeks until infestation is gone then dust monthly. Mites and lice hatch every 7 – 10 days!

CSU has urged members to pluck all feathers with lice egg sacs on the shaft prior to Fair. The feathers should be plucked 4 – 6 weeks before check-in, **check your flock now!** This is the only sure way to remove the eggs and not have them hatch to re-infest your bird. Birds with egg sacs on feather shafts have been the biggest problem at check in during the past few years. Remember, dusting and washing will not penetrate the egg so they can still hatch! **DO NOT** dust ducks or geese – they will bathe themselves. Just give them water and a dry clean place to preen. For meat chickens and turkeys – check them a few weeks before the Fair. Only dust if necessary. If you need to dust – dust two weeks prior to check-in and again one week prior to check-in. Make sure to know withdrawal time for the dust, if there is any, and the date you dusted.

### **Larimer County Fair Poultry Lice/Mite Policy**

All these situations would require the 4-H member to pluck feathers and dust birds before placing them in their cages. Birds still need to be clean and healthy otherwise.

- A) 1 – 5 live lice or mites per bird – no eggs – OK; Must dust birds.
- B) 1 – 5 feathers with eggs, but no live lice or mites – OK; Remove feathers with eggs and must dust birds.
- C) 1 – 2 live and 1 – 2 feathers with eggs – OK; Remove feathers with eggs and must dust birds. Any bird or birds with more than a few mites and lice will not be able to enter the barn or to participate in the show.

Any birds turned away from the show for parasites, disease or illness need to be taken home as soon as possible. The decision of the vets and superintendents to exclude birds is final.

Check with your veterinarian or the CSU Avian Health Hotline 970-297-4008, if you have any concerns about your flock or have sick birds!

## **Tentative County Fair Poultry Schedule**

**Please Note:** Showmanship will be on Saturday, August 7 & Sunday August 8. You **must pre-register** for showmanship, during Check-in register for a time. **You must enter all birds in a class in order to be vet checked. Even birds that are only used for Showmanship Class must be entered in a Class. Showmanship birds MUST be at the Fair the entire time Friday evening through Tuesday evening.**

### **Record Books**

For Livestock members, record book checks will take place during species designated “set up” time. A member can come to any of the set up times to get their record book checked. For Poultry Members there will be an opportunity to check record books at check-in if you can’t make it to set up . Exhibitors must

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have completed a record book check before they check in their project animal. If you wish to enter your project record book in the Record Book Contest, books must be turned in to the Extension Office by September 23, 2024. Individual Clubs may have an earlier deadline.

### **Sale Pictures**

All members who qualify to sell an animal in the Larimer County Junior Livestock Sale must have an official photograph taken with their animal. Members who do not have pictures taken, or do not qualify will not be allowed to sell an animal. Pictures will be taken following the market beef classes. For members who have more than one livestock species, the last picture taken will be the species that is sold. Also, the Champion and Reserve Champion market animals are required to sell in the Junior Livestock Sale. Check with your Superintendents with questions about pictures.

#### **Wednesday, July 31 4:00-8:00 pm**

**Poultry Barn Set-up/Record Book Checks**

#### **Thursday, August 1 4:00-7:00 pm**

**Check-in of Poultry Record Book Checks**

#### **Friday, August 2 9:00-11:00 am**

Weighing Meat Chickens

#### **Saturday, August 3 8:30-3:30 pm**

Poultry Showmanship

#### **Sunday, August 4 8:00 am-3:00 pm**

Poultry Judging all Meat Birds & Egg Production followed by Showmanship

#### **Monday, August 5, 8:00am-5:00pm**

Poultry Judging- Breeding Birds

#### **Tuesday, August 6, 5:00pm-7:00pm**

Poultry Awards Night and Private Treaty Sale/  
Poultry Sale Night following awards.

(Exhibitors must be present to sell)

Check-out of birds/Clean up Poultry Barn

#### **Wednesday, August 7**

Jr. Livestock Sale Night

### **Poultry Project Specifics**

Ages of poultry are figured as of January 1, 2024. A “cock”, “hen” or “old bird” are old birds hatched prior to January 1, 2024. A “cockerel”, “pullet” or “young birds” are young birds hatched after January 1, 2024. You will need to know the breed, color and variety of your birds to enter them on the County Fair entry form. All poultry (including doves) must have a numbered leg band for identification purposes, bands are available at poultry workshops and day of check-in. Pigeons must have a seamless band, those with split or improper size bands will be shown as old birds.

Poultry exhibitors can show no more than 10 entries per species with a maximum of 20 entries TOTAL for the entire poultry department. Pigeons are not included in this count. Species are defined as “ducks”, “geese”, “turkeys”, “chickens”, and “pigeons”. An entry may consist of an “individual”, “pair” or “trio”. Exhibitors are limited to no more than 2 entries per variety per class. Market entries are limited to 2 entries per class. For example, John can bring 2 market tom turkeys in addition to 2 market hen turkeys.

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**Only poultry that have been entered in the Fair and have passed the health examination will be allowed in the Show. No one is allowed to bring in extra birds in the instance a bird dies.**

All poultry must be purebred except for market and egg production.

**Exhibitors need to provide their own bedding, feed, waterers, and feeders.**

Feeders and waterers for Fair are needed for every cage. It is YOUR responsibility to bring enough waterers and feeders for all your entries. Plan on needing one of each for every entry you plan to bring to the fair! We do not have any available in the barn. **NO Styrofoam, paper cups or plastic milk bottles** - these will be removed as birds can choke on the pieces and the milk bottles can be smashed. Geese, Ducks, and Turkeys need a waterer that holds at least a gallon of water (ice cream buckets work well or check with your local meat department at the grocery store for containers).

**For all other details regarding the poultry project, you are responsible for referring to the Larimer County Fair premium book, which will be available on our website.**