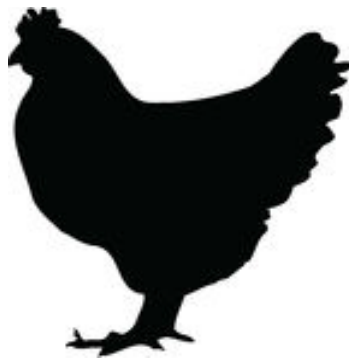


Perry County Fair Poultry Exhibitor Guide

Compiled by the Ortman Family



This guide does NOT replace Perry County Fair Rules.

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**Updated January 2024, J. Rockey*

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Welcome and When to Order

Welcome to the Perry County Fair poultry project. Here, you will find helpful information regarding various poultry projects and the requirements for exhibition at the Perry County Fair. **This guide is not exhaustive and is meant to serve as a reference of basic project information.**

Market type chickens are generally 42-50 days old on fair check-in day. Much of the growth obtained depends on weather, housing conditions, feed, and care. Depending on the date of fair poultry check in, counting back will provide the correct order date. The following is a helpful growth chart from Welp Hatchery:

Broiler Growth Chart

Typical Broiler Body Weights and Feed Requirements								
Age (Days)	MALE				FEMALE			
	Body Weight (lb)	Avg. Daily gain/week	Daily Intake (lb)	Cum. Intake (lbs)	Body Weight (lb)	Avg. Daily gain/week	Daily Intake (lb)	Cum. Intake (lbs)
7	0.386	0.042	0.079	0.335	0.377	0.041	0.075	0.328
14	0.977	0.084	0.143	1.109	0.913	0.077	0.128	1.030
21	1.909	0.133	0.231	2.458	1.717	0.115	0.208	2.238
28	3.133	0.175	0.324	4.449	2.747	0.147	0.289	4.021
35	4.545	0.202	0.401	7.039	3.913	0.167	0.368	6.358
42	6.030	0.212	0.483	10.113	5.126	0.173	0.423	9.153
49	7.482	0.207	0.501	13.510	6.314	0.170	0.465	12.288
56	8.836	0.193	0.516	17.086	7.421	0.158	0.489	15.639
63	10.046	0.173	0.518	20.717	8.419	0.143	0.499	19.101

Figure 1 Broiler Growth Chart from Welp Hatchery

As of 2021, there is ONE CLASS of market chickens (3 birds per pen) at the Perry County Fair: EACH bird must weigh between 4.0 and 7.0 pounds at check-in, for a max pen weight of 21 lbs. The exhibitor should aim for 3 birds of consistent size.

What to order

Market chickens at the Perry County Fair are known as “Cornish Rock Crosses”. Look for this on the order form or something similar. Each hatchery has their own version and may label a “Cornish Rock Cross” with their own name, such as “Super Rock”, or “Cornish Rock Broiler”. Feed mills and local businesses may also sell market chickens that they buy from large hatcheries. Regardless, the “type” of chicken for the market classes at the Perry County Fair is a rapid growing, Cornish Rock Cross bird, that reaches maturity at about 42-50 days.

MALES and FEMALES may be shown at the Perry County Fair. Most hatcheries offer three options: Males, Females, or Straight Run. The latter is a mix of both genders, and it will be difficult to determine gender until about 35 days. Be aware that some hatcheries only sell “straight run”. Some exhibitors prefer showing pens of males only, but this is no longer a requirement for fair exhibition. Males generally do cost a few cents more, but there is 95% certainty in the gender of the bird.

Minimum orders also factor in. If buying locally, as few as 1-2 birds can be purchased. If buying from a hatchery, there is always a minimum order, ranging from 15-25 birds. It is acceptable to split orders between families, but traditionally copies of the health paperwork **MUST** follow each batch of birds, accompanied with a bill of sale that states “_____ sold 6 birds to Joe 4-H'er on this date”. This is not necessary if in the same family, only if the birds are distributed outside of the ordering household.

List of Hatcheries:

Hatchery	State	Phone	Email/Web
Cackle	MO	417-532-4581	Cacklehatchery.com
Eagle Nest	OH	419-562-1993	Eaglenestpoultry.com
Ideal	TX	254-697-6677	Ideal-poultry.com
Metzger	CA	800-424-7755	Metzgerfarms.com
Meyer	OH	888-568-9755	Meyerhatchery.com
Mt. Healthy	OH	880-451-5603	www.mthealthy.com
Murray McMurray	IA	515-832-3280	Mcmurrayhatchery.com
Ridgway	OH	740-499-2163	Ridgwayhatchery.com
Stromberg	MN	800-720-1134	Strombergschickens.com
Welp	IA	800-458-4473	Welphatchery.com

This is only a partial list of hatcheries, and these have good reputations. Be aware that in most cases, chicks will be shipped via US mail. Ordering from hatcheries within Ohio, if you are ordering birds, may mean less shipment time.

Be aware that some hatcheries **REQUIRE** the buyer to **ORDER** health paperwork with their birds. There is generally no extra charge, but this is very important to know!

When ordering, there is also a variable option to add vaccines or coccidiosis treatments prior to shipment. This is a personal preference, though market birds generally DO NOT receive these types of medications. Both cost extra, regardless of where the order is placed.

Market Turkeys

Those wishing to raise and show a market turkey at the Perry County Fair will be ordering Broad Breasted White Males. While any breed of turkey can be raised as a market animal, the rapid growth rates of the Broad Breasted Whites make the project more time compatible and cost efficient as a project. Only one bird is shown in the market class.

Market turkeys need to be ordered in February or March to reach competitive size by the time of the Perry County Fair. **Note* Market turkeys must be hatched between March 1-31, and in the members' possession by April 1.** They also require considerably larger growing areas, larger feed consumption, and larger feed and water containers. Market turkeys do better if penned as singles, but doubling up is sometimes possible.

Because of the potential for market turkeys to “go down”, or become unable to walk, **ordering one extra bird** is highly recommended. At fair time, these birds generally weigh between 35 and 50 pounds each. Safe transport to the fair is also a very important consideration.

Be aware that many hatcheries have minimum orders of 15-25 turkeys. Call around to find one that best fits your needs and numbers. **Market turkeys must be cane trained for exhibition at Perry County Fair.**

Health testing for chickens and turkeys:

Annual health testing is required for chickens **six months (or mature) of age or greater**. This is a Perry County Fair and State of Ohio requirement. Testing involves a few drops of blood being taken from under the chicken's wing. The blood sample is then tested using the "rapid test" for salmonella pullorum. This is done by a certified tester or National Poultry Improvement Program (NPIP) representative. Since market chickens are under six months old, they are not required to be tested but **MUST** have their NPIP health papers from hatchery/seller with them at fair check-in. *****These birds MUST NOT be co-mingled with other birds on the property or the NPIP papers become void.***

Each year, chickens **MUST** be retested with a negative result for exhibition at the Perry County Fair. There are limited certified testers in our multi-county area, thus the Extension Office will work to schedule a common date where this can be offered locally. It is recommended that birds be tested far in advance of the fair, thus not waiting until the last minute. *****ONCE A NEGATIVE TEST is issued, birds must not be co-mingled, or the test results are voided. This means birds tested for exhibition purposes should be caged separately and strict biosecurity practices should be followed!***

When chickens are blood tested, the flock owner will receive a carbon-copy of the negative result. **This paperwork MUST accompany the entered chickens on the day of entry at the fair. Entries will be refused without this form. Cellphone and digital copies are acceptable but will be verified. No exceptions will be made.**

All flocks participating in the NPIP program must provide a copy of their official NPIP letter (sample below), dated within the current year. The letter must include the flock's NPIP number. ***If you retain birds on your property year-round, it is HIGHLY recommended to participate in this program so that your flock is regularly tested.***

Market turkeys are also required to present NPIP-free health records at fair check-in. If your turkeys did not come with paperwork (i.e. were hatched/raised at home) you will need to have them tested by ODA or an official veterinarian. You can obtain this information online or through the Extension Office but DO SO EARLY to schedule a time!

Participation
CONTRACT

THE OHIO POULTRY ASSOCIATION
ADMINISTERING OFFICIAL STATE AGENCY FOR
THE NATIONAL POULTRY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Name of Participant (i.e., Entity or Individual): Jennifer Otman
Phone: 740-605-6553 County: Perry
Address: 8812 State Rt 757 NW State: OH Zip: 43783
Email: _____
NPIP # (if current member) 31-398

This contract is between the OHIO POULTRY ASSOCIATION, referred to as the "OPA" and
Jennifer Otman
(Name of Participant (i.e., Entity or Individual)) hereinafter referred to as the
"Participant" located at So. A. Ct

A) The Ohio Poultry Association agrees:

- 1) To permit Participant to use the terminology associated with the National Poultry Improvement Plan ("NPIP") in describing, advertising, and selling hatching eggs, baby chicks, starter chicks, baby poults, and breeding stock when satisfied that Participant has fully complied with the rules and regulations of the OPA and the NPIP.
- 2) To direct, supervise, and administer the NPIP in Ohio pursuant to Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 145, 146, and 147, the Memorandum of Understanding between the OPA and the USDA, effective June 26, 2007, the rules and regulations of the OPA, and any and all amendments or revisions to the foregoing.

B) Participant agrees:

- 1) To comply with all applicable provisions of the NPIP, including but not limited to all applicable regulations set forth in Title 9 Code of Federal

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CONTRACT

***Reminder* any chicken that is mature (laying), or greater than six months of age MUST be blood tested yearly.**

***Once tested, birds must not be co-mingled prior to exhibition!**

Waterfowl

The Perry County Fair does not require blood testing for ducks or geese.

Within the State of Ohio, the blood testing of waterfowl is optional, and only advised if the flock is a participant in the NPIP Program.

Perry County Fair show classes – *SEE CURRENT FAIR BOOK WHEN PUBLISHED, available hard-copy or online at www.perrycountyfair.com*

What to Bring to Check In:

To streamline the check-in process at the Perry County Fair, exhibitors are asked to be familiar with the items required at check in. **Check in is 4:00-5:30 pm** on the Sunday prior to the start of the fair in the Poultry and Rabbit Barn.

- The chickens that have been entered
- Market chickens (3 per pen) **MUST be weighed and grouped OUTSIDE**, prior to entering the check in line. Once the exhibitor is at the entry scale, their market entry stands as weighed. Families must **identify specific market birds for each child. There will be no inter-mixing of market birds amongst siblings.**
- All health papers
- Your completed and signed ONLINE Drug Use Notification Form – be prepared to show this on your phone for market/laying projects.
- A pen to complete your forms and cage tag.

What to Expect at Check-In:

- Test scales will be set up outside of the check in area. They provide the exhibitor with the opportunity to check weights on market birds prior to the official scale.
- Exhibitors with fancy, layer, or waterfowl entries may bypass the test scale and proceed to the check in line.
- All non-market birds will first be checked for lice and mites. **Any birds with these parasites will not be allowed to show.** (See fair rules)
- The paper entry for each exhibitor is checked & confirmed.
- Completed online DUNF are confirmed for each exhibitor.
- Market chickens are then officially weighed.
- Market chickens are then tagged with official Perry County Fair leg bands.
- Cage assignments are made for each entry.

What to Bring to the Fair:

- Non-tip, appropriately sized feed and water containers for each cage of entries, and FEED.
- Fair approved washing soap and washing containers.
- A human first aid kit (for scratches)
- Paper towels.
- Fans to cool birds, if desired.
- A stiff brush to clean the cages each day.

EXHIBITOR RESPONSIBILITY AT THE FAIR

The exhibitor is responsible for the cleanliness of their cages – cage cleaning is EXPECTED DAILY. Remember “dirty” cages and animals reflect poorly on the exhibitor, the fair, 4-H and FFA, and the poultry industry. Many people with very little agricultural experience walk through the barn. Let’s make a great first impression!

Code of Ethics

The responsibility that comes with the Market Poultry project actually increases at the fair. With high heat and stressful conditions, it becomes even more imperative that birds are closely monitored for comfort. Market broilers, for example, have a small heart size, as the organ does not grow at the rapid rate that their muscle tissue does. Therefore, the heart struggles to pump blood to the large body, and heart related deaths can happen.

At all times, all birds MUST have clean, fresh, plentiful food and water. Their feed should be checked and filled twice daily, in a non-tip container. Cages MUST be scooped out several times daily to avoid birds sitting in their own waste. The goal is to keep your project animals as clean and comfortable as possible during the fair.

Humane handling of birds at the fair is not only the expectation, but the rule. At no time will rough handling be tolerated by parents or youth exhibitors. Unscrupulous techniques such as shaking birds upside down to drop weight, leaving birds in the sun, or rough handling will be referred to the Senior Fair Board. It is imperative that all birds be treated humanely, housed in clean conditions, and always have ample food and water. The general public is a watchful eye, and we need to make a great impression of 4-H and FFA.

Deceased Bird Procedure

The loss of birds due to death at the fair is an unavoidable reality. Considering the heat and stress, each year several may pass away. If you find one of your birds deceased, the following is the procedure for handling the situation.

1. Locate the Senior Fair Board Poultry Committee Representative and or a Poultry Committee Member.
2. The bird will be examined
3. The leg band will be removed by the Representative
4. The bird is then bagged in plastic
5. The bird is disposed of
6. The Representative will discuss the selling procedure with the exhibitor, if the bird was part of a market pen.

Preparing Birds for Judging

Prior to judging at Perry County Fair, all poultry should be washed and kept clean. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to provide fair-approved soap, washing containers, and a means to dry the birds. Because market poultry consume a high feed volume, they also produce high volume waste. Therefore, it is recommended that washing be done late in the evening the night before the show, or the morning of the show.

**It is also suggested that the night before judging, feeders are removed from the market birds. Doing so empties the crop, so that when the birds are "hung" by the judge, there is no regurgitation or excess manure.

It is the exhibitor's responsibility to pay close attention and listen for their show class to be announced in the coliseum. Market animals need to be safely carried in an appropriate cage to the judging table. Care must be taken to handle the birds like fine china to avoid

broken wings, feathers, or legs. Bruising must also be avoided, as this damages the market product.

Perry County Fair Show Day Market Poultry Protocol

Judging for poultry begins on Monday morning of the fair at 9 am sharp. Exhibitors are expected to be present, attentive, and ready to show. Showmanship classes are the first judged, beginning with senior (working oldest to youngest). The market classes follow showmanship, with all fancy poultry being judged last. Exhibitors are expected to be punctual and to listen carefully for their class.

Any exhibitor requiring extra help in handling their three birds is encouraged to ask another 4-H or FFA member. Parents are not allowed to help carry birds or handle them at any time. If the judge requires that the birds be “hung” (See photo), extra youth will be available to help at the show table.

Please remember that after judging is complete, feed should be returned to the birds, and water containers should be refilled.



Sale Day Protocol

Any exhibitor selling market chickens or turkeys at the Perry County Fair sale must turn in their sale card by Thursday at 10:00pm. There will be a seller's meeting prior to the sale on Saturday morning. The sale order will be posted on Saturday morning, with a copy being available in the poultry and rabbit barn. Please note that the Perry County Fair Livestock Sale begins at **10:00 am sharp.**

It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to be attentive to the sale order and pace, and to be present when poultry committee members create the lineup. In addition, **only market animals go through the sale-** laying hens, waterfowl, and fancy poultry do not.

Exhibitors are expected to dress neatly, cleanly, and professionally as they represent 4-H, FFA, and their projects. Ideally, a button-down shirt and neat pants are to be worn. Only ONE market bird is required to be placed on the sale table, except in the case of the champion and reserve sellers.

Checking Out from Perry County Fair

After the sale of the market birds, the animals are returned to their cage. It's important to verify with the buyer if they want to take their purchase home or return them to the seller. Either way, the exhibitor **MUST** clean their cages out using the hose supplied by the Perry County Fair. After washing is done, each cage must be inspected by a committee member for cleanliness. If cages are not checked off and noted as clean by a committee member, the exhibitor may not be eligible to show the following year. ***NOTE* Poultry not going through the livestock sale will be dismissed Friday night and/or Saturday morning BEFORE THE SALE BEGINS.**

Disposing of Excess Birds

For exhibitors not wanting to process their market birds for home consumption, there are a few options. Periodically, a cull buyer will purchase any birds that exhibitors don't want after the fair is over. If this service is available, flyers will be hung in the poultry barn. The other option is to take market birds to a quality, inspected processor. Pleasant Valley Poultry is highly recommended, and is in Baltic, Ohio. Reservations **MUST** be made well in advance of the fair, as dates fill quickly. Pleasant Valley's number is **330-897-0626**. At no time should excess birds be released into the wild.