

POULTRY

15 - Junior Poultry Show

Superintendent: Phil Bartz (217-491-6670)

Junior Class Premiums Offered: \$850.00

**Premiums will be pro-rated according to participation and pay up to five (5) places.*

INFORMATION

Entries

Entry Fees \$1.00/head; \$2.00 for Market Pairs; \$3.00 for Market Pens, and \$9.50 per exhibitor supply chain surcharge. Entries in all classes shall be made through the online fair entry system at the Illinois State Fair website. Payment must be made via credit card at the time of entry. No other type of entry will be accepted. Assistance with entries is available at the Competitive Events Office, Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. All entries must be submitted online on or before July 15, 2026. Fees will not be refunded.

Deadlines and Check-in

Birds May Arrive	Saturday, August 15, 7:30 a.m.
Check-in	Saturday, August 15, 7:30-8:45 a.m.
Birds must be penned by	Saturday, August 15, 9:00 a.m.
Birds Released	Saturday, August 15, immediately following show (except 1 st and 2 nd Place Meat Class Winners)

Show Schedule

The show will be held in the Open-Air Pavilion (Building 105). Show order will begin with Market Eggs at 9:00 a.m. followed at 9:15 a.m. with Miscellaneous Market pair (Turkey Pair, Fryers, Roasters, and Grand and Reserve Market Poultry). Show order is subject to change. Exhibitors should watch and listen to announcements.

Department Rules

1. Each exhibitor must comply with the Illinois Exhibition Health Requirements; Animal Care, Drug, Testing and Welfare Policies; and General Rules of the Junior Livestock Division as previously stated.
2. Junior Show exhibitors are reminded they must adhere to the Jr. Show registration requirements in order to exhibit in the Jr. Show and are encouraged to enter their birds in the Open Poultry Show. Junior Show registration does not fulfill Open Show requirements.
3. All birds entered must be recognized APA and ABA breeds and each exhibitor may enter one (1) entry per class.
4. All Other Breed (AOB) classes are for birds in breeds not separately listed.
5. Each exhibitor must be present to show their own birds unless exempted in advance by the Superintendent due to an identified, eligible conflict.
6. Poultry should be brought to the fairgrounds in appropriate coops. Fair management will provide a ring of exhibition pens in which exhibitors will place their birds for judging. Exhibitors are responsible for bringing their birds from coops to the judging pens as classes are called. Birds are not to be placed in State Fair pens unless directed by the Superintendent. Exhibitors showing in the Open Show prior to the Junior Show may overnight birds in pens assigned by the Superintendent.
7. The poultry shown must be the property of the exhibitor and a part of his/her project.
8. Any bird exhibiting signs of poor health and condition, or a pronounced defect or abnormality will be ineligible to show and receive premiums at the discretion of the Superintendent.

9. The Department may cancel this exposition with limited advance notice or impose such health measures as it deems appropriate at the time of the Fair.

Special Definitions and Conditions

Cockerel: A male bird under one (1) year of age

Pullet: A female bird under one (1) year of age

Miscellaneous Breeding Poultry: Includes Geese, Guinea, Pheasants, Peafowl, Quail or Turkeys hatched in the current year.

Market Pens or Pairs: Must be of the same variety and sex.

Fryer Market Pen: Shall consist of three (3) cockerels or pullets and the weight of each bird shall be five (5) pounds and under. Birds must be white feathered. Slight color tinges or sparse solid non-white feathers will be allowed.

Roaster Market Pen: Shall consist of three (3) cockerels or pullets and the weight of each bird shall be over five (5) pounds and under eight (8) pounds. Birds must be white feathered. Slight color tinges or sparse solid non-white feathers will be allowed.

Turkey Market Pen: Shall consist of two (2) birds of the same sex and color.

Miscellaneous Market Poultry: Shall consist of a pair of ducks, geese or guinea of the same sex, breed, and color, hatched in the current year.

Market Eggs: Shall consist of one (1) dozen eggs. Exhibitor name and number must be on the egg carton. No refrigeration of eggs.

Special Awards

Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Poultry Male and Female: An award will be given by the Illinois State Fair to the exhibitors of the Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Poultry Male and Female of the Junior Poultry.

Grand Champion Market Meat Pen: An award will be given by the Illinois State Fair to the exhibitor of the Grand Champion Market Meat Pen. Additionally, the Grand Champion Junior Show Poultry Market Meat Pen will sell at the livestock auction of the Governor's Sale of Champions.

Supreme Poultry Showman: An award will be given by the Illinois State Fair to the Supreme Poultry Showman. Additionally, the Supreme Poultry Showman will receive a monetary award of \$50.00, and his/her name will be added to the plaque displayed at the State Fair. The Reserve Supreme Showman will receive a monetary award of \$20.00.

CLASSES

Division 1501 – Large

Breed/Variety	Cockerel	Pullet
All American Breeds	001	002
All Asiatic Breeds	003	004
All Continental Breeds	005	006
All English Breeds	007	008
All Mediterranean Breeds	009	010
All Other Standard Breeds	011	012

The following awards will be given in this Division: Champion & Reserve Cockerel and Champion & Reserve Pullet.

Division 1502 – Bantams

Breed/Variety	Cockerel	Pullet
Old English and American Game	001	002
Modern Game	003	004
Rose Comb and Clean Legged	005	006
Single Comb and Clean Legged	007	008
Any Other Comb Clean Legged	009	010
Feathered Legged, Cochín	011	012
Feathered Legged, All Other Breed and Varieties	013	014

The following awards will be given in this Division: Champion & Reserve Cockerel and Champion & Reserve Pullet.

Division 1503 – Miscellaneous Breeding Poultry

Breed/Variety	Male	Female
Bantam Duck	001	002
Duck: Heavy, Medium, or Light	003	004
All Other Miscellaneous	005	006

The following awards will be given in this Division: Champion & Reserve Male and Champion & Reserve Female.

Division 1504 – Market Egg

Dozen White, Tinted or Other Colors	001
Dozen Brown	002

The following awards will be given in this Division: Champion & Reserve Eggs.

Division 1505 – Market Meat

Fryers	001
Roasters	002
Turkeys	003
Miscellaneous Market Poultry	004

The following awards will be given in this Division: Grand & Reserve Grand Champion Market Meat Pen. First and second place winners in all Market Meat classes will exhibit at the Grand Champion Show, Saturday, August 15th at 4:30 p.m. in the Coliseum.

Poultry Showmanship

Showmanship Rules

1. To be eligible to compete in Poultry Showmanship exhibitors must have shown birds in Divisions 1501-1505 of the 2026 Junior Poultry Show.
2. Each exhibitor is required to pre-enter Showmanship classes online by the published Junior Department entry deadline.
3. The Showmanship class will be judged by the following criteria:
 - a. Dress attire
 - b. Knowledge of poultry and industry
 - c. Courtesy to others throughout the day
 - d. Attitude/interest shown for project.
 - e. Punctuality in bringing exhibits to classes.
 - f. Presentation of birds at judging
 - g. Care of birds
4. Age breaks for classes will be determined and posted before the start of the Showmanship Division competition. Showmanship age will be the exhibitors age as of August 13, 2026.
5. Supreme Showmanship winners will not be eligible for future Illinois State Fair Junior Show Showmanship Competition.
6. Showmanship will be held immediately following Breeding Class Grand and Reserve Grand Champion selection.
7. Supreme Showman and Reserve Supreme Showman may be chosen from any age group division at the discretion of the Judge. If a younger exhibitor wishes to be moved into the Senior Showman age group after the age breaks are listed, he/she may ask the Superintendent for approval.
8. Once an individual has won the Junior Showman age class, they will only be eligible to compete in the Senior Showman age class the following year.
9. For guidelines on Poultry Showmanship please visit the American Poultry Association/American Bantam Association Youth program website at: www.apa-abayouthprograms.org.

Division 1506 – Showmanship

Junior Showman	001
Senior Showman	002

The following awards will be given in this Division: Champion & Reserve Junior Showman, Champion & Reserve Senior Showman, and Supreme & Reserve Supreme Champion Showman.