

DEPARTMENTS H-4 JUNIOR MARKET/COMMERCIAL POULTRY SHOW

Check in: Saturday
Judging: Saturday June 6, 2026 at 9:00 AM

Superintendent: Joshua Flees
Show Location: AG Expo Building

Entry Fee: \$2 for single, \$4 for trio

Entries close: May 29th, 2026

Make Checks Payable to:
Macon County Fair Assoc.

Mail Entries to:
Macon County Fair, P.O. Box 3305
Decatur, IL 62524-3305

This catalog pertains to the Macon Country Fair Market or Commercial Poultry Show. This show is open to juniors wishing to show commercial or market meat trios or egg layer birds such as: large fowl chickens, domesticated ducks, and domesticated turkeys.

Entries limited to 2 different meat trios, 3 different layer entries, and 2 egg entries (7 Total entries only)

General Show Rules:

1. The Junior show is open to individuals from 5 – 18 years of age.
2. Entry deadline is Friday May 29, 2026. Entries cannot be added after the deadline whether they be faxed, mailed, or emailed due to show staff needing final counts for show set-up. Please contact the show superintendent if an extension is needed.
3. Entry fee is \$2.00 per single bird entry or \$4.00 for a trio entry.
4. All birds (except meat trios) are recommended, but not required, to be at least 5 months of age.
5. Animals will be accepted onto the fairgrounds on Friday June 5, 2026 from 2:00 – 8:00 PM or Saturday June 6, 2026 from 6:00 – 7:45 AM. All exhibitors must check in with the Superintendent prior to unloading any animals into the show barn to ensure all health documentation is checked and follows the Illinois Department of Agriculture Poultry guidelines.
6. Judging will begin promptly at 8:00 AM on Saturday June 6, 2026.
7. The Macon County Fair Association, the venue, nor the show staff will be responsible for loss in case of fire, theft, or accident. All precautions will be taken for a safe show. All entries are entered and shown at the risk of the owners and while the Macon County Fair Association and show staff are expected to exercise all reasonable care in the handling and protection of the exhibits, such associations will in no case be liable.
8. Exhibitors will be allowed to coop-out of the show on Sunday June 7, 2026 at 5:00 PM after all judging has been completed. This rule is to ensure that exhibitors are not trying to coop-out and leave while judging is being conducted. **Exhibitors cooping-out early without consent of the Superintendent will forfeit all winnings.**
 - a. Winning Champion Birds (please see awards below), are invited to participate in the Sale of Champions and are invited to bring their animals back. Birds will not be sold, instead, photography rights with the animals are auctioned off with all proceeds going to the Junior Exhibitors.
9. Cages will be provided by the show.
10. Birds must be owned by the exhibitor for at least 30 days prior to the show and have all the necessary health paperwork required by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.
11. Birds are recommended, but not required, to be banded for identification purposes.
12. There will be no sale or exchange of animals on the fairgrounds. What the exhibitor brings to the show is what the exhibitor should coop-out and take off the grounds.
13. Exhibitors will need to transport their own animals in personal cages to and from the show. The show will not provide cages for bird transportation. All personal cages should be cleaned before and after the show.
14. Drinking water hydrants are on the fairgrounds and shaving will be provided by the show for all cages. The show may have cups and feed available on a limited basis, but exhibitors are encouraged to bring their own.
15. While on the grounds, exhibitors will be required to care for their animals during their stay at the show.
16. Advertising on cages will not be allowed until judging is completed. No sale signs are allowed on cages.

17. Exhibitors have the right to zip-tie or lock cages while birds are at the show if they choose too. However, all locks and ties must be removed prior to and during judging.
18. All birds should be in good condition in terms of cleanliness and feather quality. Exhibitors should wash their animals prior to coming to the show and treat them for external parasites such as lice and mites.
19. Meat Trios must consist of 3 birds of similar weight, age, and breed and meet the description of the class they are entered in. Exhibitors are recommended, but not required, to enter trios of commercial Cornish Cross Broilers or similar in the Meat Bird Class for chickens. Commercial Pekin Ducks and Commercial White Turkeys are recommended for their classes.
 - a. Judging and placing of the class is up to the discretion of the judge and criteria may be different depending on the judge.
 - b. Meat Trios will be weighed, and weights will be given to the judge to assess the uniformity of the trio and birds may be palpated to assess the breast meat or other parts of the birds to judge overall market characteristics.
20. Egg Trios must consist of 3 birds of similar age, maturity, and meet the description of the class they are entered in.
 - a. Judging and placing of the class is up to the discretion of the judge and criteria may be different depending on the judge.
 - b. Egg trios may be assessed for egg production qualities such as pubic bone width, distance between the pubic bones and breastbone, fat pad deposition, and uniformity between the birds in the trio.
 - c. Single entries will be judged similarly but only 1 bird will be entered.
21. Exhibitors showing in the market egg class must furnish their own carton and must be a full dozen. All eggs must be placed in the carton with the broad end facing up, uniform in size, similar and uniform in color, be clean but unwashed, and show no signs of condensation.
 - a. Random eggs in the dozen may be broken open to assess egg characteristics such as yolk color, albumin quality, air cell size, or other characteristics the judge may use to assess the entries.

Poultry Health Rules:

1. All exhibitors are required to send in a copy of all health forms required by the Illinois Department of Agriculture. Entry forms without a copy of health papers will not be accepted until health forms are provided to the Superintendent prior to the entry deadline. Copies are kept by the show staff for records and to supply to the Illinois Department of Agriculture if needed. Copies of health paperwork will not be returned, so please ensure copies are provided and not original documents.
2. All exhibitors should have copies of their health forms with them as well, just in case.
3. All exhibitors are required to check-in with the Superintendent prior to unloading to ensure all health paperwork match the entries being shown at the fair. Everyone is expected to comply with any fair veterinarian or Illinois Department of Agriculture agent that may be on-site during the fair.
 - a. All exhibitors are reminded that this process is to ensure that all birds are kept safe and health requirements are being followed according to the Illinois Department of Agriculture guidelines.
4. Any birds showing signs of illness, by the discretion of the Superintendent, will be kindly asked to leave the show to ensure the safety and health of other birds at the show.
5. Any birds showing signs of having external parasites such as lice, mites, ticks, etc. will be kindly asked to leave the grounds to ensure the safety of the other birds present at the show.

The following rules are taken from the Illinois Department of Agriculture's 2024 Exhibition Livestock Health Rules document and will be enforced:

- All entries (except waterfowl, i.e., domesticated fowl that normally swim, such as ducks and geese) in a show or exhibition shall have originated from a U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid Clean or equivalent hatchery or flock OR have a negative pullorum-typhoid test within 90 days prior to exhibition. Exhibitor shall show proper information as to name and address of owner or exhibitor, name and address of the authorized testing agent, date of the testing and the number, breed, and species of those tested.
- Prior to being used to transport poultry to a show, all crates, boxes, containers and vehicles shall be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

- Any poultry vaccinations must be performed at least 4 weeks prior to delivery to the show.
- Upon admission to a show, all entries shall be examined by the official fair veterinarian or qualified state personnel who shall also receive and examine all certificates necessary for admission of birds to a show. Birds not in show condition will be excused from exhibition and removed from the premises. Any fowl showing signs of illness during the fair will be removed from the exhibition grounds.
- All out-of-state turkeys must originate from flocks that are officially classified as U.S. *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* Clean in accordance with the provisions of the National Poultry Improvement Plan or be negative to a test for *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* within 30 days prior to entry.
- A permit is also required for out-of-state poultry. Entry permit numbers are available online at <https://entrypermit.agr.illinois.gov/Login.aspx>.

Meat Trio Classes

A chicken trio must consist of 3 chickens (preferably Cornish Cross Broilers) of similar age, sex, weight, and breed. Commercial chicken classes are divided up into 3 groups based upon weight. All birds will be weighed upon check-in to ensure they are in the correct class based upon their weight. Meat duck and turkey entries must be similar in age, sex, weight, and breed as well but no restrictions on weight will be enforced. Commercial Pekin ducks and Commercial White Turkeys are recommended, but not required, breeds for those entries.

Trios entered will be judged upon their meat quality characteristics such as body weight, muscle deposition, and other qualities determined by the judge. Birds should be white feathered, in good condition with good feathering, and clean.

All entries within a class will be judged on a scale of 1 – 7. All entries receiving a 1st in their class are eligible for Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Meat Trio

Grand Champion Meat Trio is invited to attend the Macon Country Fair Sale of Champions on Sunday June 7, 2026, starting at 4:00 PM in the Dipper Barn. Exhibitors will not sell their animals, rather they are auctioning off photographs with the buyer where all funds will go directly to the exhibitor.

Class A: Poultry Meat Market Trio

1. Chicken Cornish Trio – Must weigh more than 3 pounds but less than 5 pounds
2. Chicken Fryer Trio – Must weigh more than 5 pounds but less than 7 pounds
3. Chicken Roaster Trio – Must weigh more than 7 pounds
4. Commercial Duck Meat Trio
5. Commercial Meat Turkey

Exhibitors are limited to 2 different meat trios

Commercial Egg Production Classes

Single entries will be 1 bird in the class while Trio entries must consist of 3 hens/pullets that are of similar age, maturity, and breed (depending upon class entered). Commercial white leghorns, ISA Browns, Cinnamon Queens, Bovan Browns, Sex-links, Easter Eggers, and other hatchery/production chickens are recommended to be entered in these classes. Golden Cascade, White layers, and other hatchery/production ducks are recommended to be entered in the commercial duck class.

All birds entered in these classes will be judged upon their egg laying characteristics and therefore must all be female (hen or pullet entries).

A hen is a bird born prior to January 1, 2026, while a pullet is a bird born after January 1, 2026.

All entries within a class will be judged on a scale of 1 – 7. All entries receiving a 1st in their class are eligible for **Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Egg Laying Poultry.**

Grand Champion Egg Laying Poultry is invited to attend the Macon Country Fair Sale of Champions on Sunday June 7, 2026, starting at 4:00 PM in the Dipper Barn. Exhibitors will not sell their animals, rather they are auctioning off photographs with the buyer where all funds will go directly to the exhibitor.

Class B: Single Female Laying Chicken

1. Single Hen
2. Single Pullet

Class C: Trio Female Laying Chickens

1. Trio of Hens (must be the same breed and similar in age)
2. Trio of Pullets (must be the same breed and age)
3. Trio of Mixed Females (can be different breeds and ages, but must be in or near production)

Class D: Egg Production Ducks

1. Single Female (regardless of age)
2. Trio of Females (can be different breeds and ages)

Exhibitors are limited to 3 different Egg Layer Entries

Market Egg Classes

Exhibitors showing in the market egg class must furnish their own carton and must be a full dozen. All eggs must be placed in the carton with the broad end facing up, uniform in size, similar and uniform in color, be clean but unwashed, and show no signs of condensation. Random eggs in the dozen may be broken open to assess egg characteristics such as yolk color, albumin quality, air cell size, or other characteristics the judge may use to assess the entries.

All entries within a class will be judged on a scale of 1 – 7. All entries receiving a 1st in their class are eligible for Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Market Eggs.

Class E: Chicken Commercial Egg Classes

1. Dozen White, or tinted that resemble white
2. Dozen Brown, dark brown, tan
3. Dozen Colored such as green or blue

Class F: Duck Commercial Egg Classes

1. Dozen White

Class G: All Other Egg Classes

1. Dozen Bantam, any color
2. Dozen any other birds such as quail, pheasants, etc.

Exhibitors are limited to 2 different Egg entries

Show Placings	
Placing	Award
1	Ribbon + \$5
2	Ribbon + \$4
3	Ribbon + \$3
4	Ribbon + \$2
5	Ribbon + \$1
6	Ribbon
7	Ribbon

Market Show Awards		
Award	Prize	Money Value per Award
Reserve Grand Champion Meat Trio	Rosette	\$10
Grand Champion Meat Trio	Rosette	Sale of Champions Entry
Reserve Grand Champion Egg Laying Poultry	Rosette	\$10
Grand Champion Egg Laying Poultry	Rosette	Sale of Champions Entry
Reserve Grand Champion Market Eggs	Rosette	\$10
Grand Champion Market Eggs	Rosette	\$20