

DIVISION G - POULTRY

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The fitting and preparation of all animals for exhibit is the responsibility of the Exhibitor. Exhibitors may receive guidance only from immediate family members, Maryland 4-H/FFA Members and appointed UME Volunteers/FFA Advisors.

Pre-entry is required. **YOU MUST USE THE INTERNET ENTRY SYSTEM FOUND AT www.marylandstatefair.com** Internet entries are due **July 15th**. Exhibitors without internet access should contact their County Extension Educator for assistance. All release forms are to be completed via the online entry system at time of registration. Reminder you must have completed the online Animal Husbandry and Quality Assurance program to be able to exhibit your animals. Check with your county to make sure you are up to date with this requirement.

Division Rules & Regulations:

1. Exhibitors and their exhibits must comply with the "General State Fair Rules & Regulations", "General 4-H and FFA Rules & Regulations", "Animal Rules & Regulations", the "Maryland 4-H Code of Animal Science Ethics", the "Health Regulations for Livestock Exhibited in Maryland", these "Division Rules & Regulations" and the applicable "Section Rules & Regulations".
 - a. Substitutions will be allowed for same breed, variety, sex and age when birds are received.
 - b. Exhibitors are responsible for obtaining a "Classes of Poultry" List from their 4-H Extension Educator to assist in properly filling out the entry form. The Maryland Extension Publication 400, also available from a 4-H Extension Educator, lists the addresses for the American Poultry Association (APA) and American Bantam Association (ABA) to obtain their "Standards of Perfection".
 - c. Exhibitors are limited to entering a total of fifteen (15) birds in this division. Exhibitors may enter more than 1 bird per class. Each bird must be entered on a separate line on the entry form. Remember health papers must be presented at entry.
 - d. **Crossbred large fowl should be entered under the heavyweight or lightweight egg production classifications only.**
 - e. Any bird showing signs of disease will be refused entry. The decision of the Superintendent and/or a MD Department of Agriculture Veterinarian is final.
2. **Entries:**
 - a. **Eggs will be received in Home Arts Building from 2pm – 8pm, Tuesday, August 25, 2026. All other Poultry exhibits will be received in the Cow Palace on Thursday, August 27, 2026 from 4 pm until 8 pm and Friday, August 28, 2026 from 7 am – 9 am.**
 - b. **The 4-H Poultry show will begin at 10 am on Friday, August 28, 2026.** Exhibits will be released at the end of the show.
 - c. Please refer to the Schedule of Events for more information.
3. **Ownership:** All birds must have been owned by the Exhibitor and kept on the Exhibitor's premises on or before June 1 of the current year (unless it is a market bird – see Market Poultry section below).
4. **Judging:**
 - a. Market Poultry and Egg Production Fowl will be judged according to the criteria in the National 4-H Poultry & Egg Judging Manual.
 - b. Purebred Large Fowl will be judged by the APA's "Standards of Perfection".
 - c. Bantam Purebreds will be judged by the ABA's "Standards of Perfection".
5. Birth dates of birds are as follows:
 - a. Cocks/Hens and Old Drakes/Ducks must be hatched prior January 1 of the current year.
 - b. Cockerels/Pullets and Young Drakes/Ducks must be hatched after January 1 of the current year.
6. **All cages must be cleaned by Exhibitor and shown to the Superintendent prior to release. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of premiums.**
7. Only birds entered in the show may be brought onto the fairgrounds. **The selling of birds on the fairgrounds is NOT PERMITTED.**
8. **Awards:** Rosettes will be awarded for Section Champions in which a minimum of 25 birds must be shown. Trophies will be awarded to the Champion and Reserve Champion in the following: Market Type, Egg Production, Large Purebred, Bantam and Duck.

MARKET POULTRY (Section 1)

Section Rules & Regulations:

1. Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Market Poultry: In lieu of the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Market Poultry being sold in the Livestock Sale; the exhibitors of Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Market Poultry will be paid a cash award provided by the Maryland State Fair Livestock Fund.

CLASSES

- G1 Market Bird Broilers Pair - **Pen of 2 matching birds 3.5 to 8 lbs. each** (each less than 7 weeks old)
G2 Market Bird Roasters – **1 bird between 8-13 lbs.** (8-10 weeks old)
G3 Market Bird Capons (**1 bird**) **up to 16 lbs.** (no older than 12 weeks)

BREED POULTRY/EGG PRODUCTION (Section 2-495)

ALL MEAT TYPE, EGG PRODUCTION AND ALL BREEDS AND VARIETIES OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED BY THE AMERICAN POULTRY ASSOCIATION, INC., WILL SHOW IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CLASSES:

CLASSES

- G4 Cock
G5 Hen
G6 Cockerel
G7 Pullet

EGGS (Section 600)

Section Rules & Regulations:

1. All eggs must be exhibited in egg cartons. Exhibitors may enter one (1) entry per class.
2. Eggs must be checked in on Tuesday, August 25, 2026 from 2:00pm – 8:00pm at the 4-H/FFA Home Arts Building.

CLASSES

Junior	Inter.	Senior	Class Description	Junior	Inter.	Senior	Class Description
G1118	G2118	G3118	Half doz. – white, extra large, in carton	G1122	G2122	G3122	Half doz. – brown – large – in carton
G1119	G2119	G3119	Half doz. – white, large, in carton	G1123	G2123	G3123	Half doz. - brown - med. - in carton
G1120	G2120	G3120	Half doz. – white, med., in carton	G1124	G2124	G3124	Half doz. – colored, in carton
G1121	G2121	G3121	Half doz. – brown, extra large, in carton	G1125	G2125	G3125	Half doz. – pastels, in carton

Rosettes and Trophies will be awarded as follows:

G201	Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Champion Market Type- Rosette & Trophy	G211	Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Champion Standard Duck- Rosette & Trophy
G202	Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Res Champ Market Type – Rosette & Trophy	G212	Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Res Champ Standard Duck - Rosette & Trophy
G203	Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Champion Egg Production - Rosette & Trophy	G213	Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Champion Guinea- Rosette & Trophy
G204	Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Res Champ Egg Production - Rosette & Trophy	G214	Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Res Champ Guinea - Rosette & Trophy
G205	Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Champ Large Purebred - Rosette & Trophy	G215	Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Champion Market Bird - Rosette & Trophy
G206	Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Res Champ Large Purebred – Rosette/ Trophy	G216	Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Res Champ Market Bird - Rosette & Trophy
G207	Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Champ Bantam - Rosette & Trophy	G1126	Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Champion & Reserve Champion Jr. Eggs – Rosette
G208	Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Res Champ Bantam - Rosette & Trophy	G2126	Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Champion & Reserve Champion Int. Eggs – Rosette
G209	Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Champion Bantam Duck- Rosette & Trophy	G3126	Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Champion & Reserve Champion Sr. Eggs – Rosette
G210	Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Res Champ Bantam Duck - Rosette & Trophy		

EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS (Section 950)

Section Rules & Regulations

1. 4-H'ers are invited to plan an educational exhibit to be on display during the State Fair. 4-H'ers will bring their exhibits to the Poultry show in the Cow Palace on Friday, August 28, 2026 from 8am to 10am. Following the show, the exhibits will be moved to the 4-H/Home Arts Building where they will be displayed for the remainder of the fair. Youth and adults working together is encouraged. Contact the Superintendent for more info. Each Exhibitor may enter two (2) exhibits.
2. 4-H Members carrying a Poultry, Rabbit or Cavy project in the current year are eligible to participate. A \$5 Participation Premium will be paid.

CLASS

G100 Poultry Educational Exhibit

PREMIUM SCHEDULE	Classes	1 st Place	2 nd – 20 th Place
	All Poultry Classes except G100 & G200	\$6	\$4
	Egg Classes	\$7	\$5
	G100 Educational Exhibit	\$5 participation	
	Note: Premiums will not be paid on the following classes: Cross Breed.		