

The purpose of this event is to teach chicken enthusiasts more about their birds, and motivate the kids of Grant County NM to get interested in showing poultry and bettering the quality of their birds. We hope all youth participants will participate, and invite all others to join in the fun as well.

When?

Thursday, September 22 we will have a meeting with everyone interested to give up general information and a demonstration of what the showmanship contest will entail so you are prepared for the actual contest, time will be at 10:30 AM.

Friday, September 23 time will be at 11:00 AM will hold the showmanship contest.

Who?

Raven Myers is a college student from Silver City who loves poultry and participates in big poultry shows around the country. She has prize-winning birds, specializing in the Sumatra breed, and has a lot of experience dealing with the requirements of American Poultry Association (APA) shows. She is excited to share her knowledge and experience, and hopes to get other young Grant County people interested in showing poultry and raising quality birds.

What is showmanship?

Poultry showmanship is a fun and motivating way for kids to properly learn about showing poultry and the management of quality birds. Why do it? Overall it is important that future poultry fanciers are well-educated about their birds and know what to look for in a quality show bird. The proper handling of your flock and individual birds is essential to succeeding and winning awards in poultry shows.

In addition, we want to help further promote poultry bred to the standards, and help educate our youth about what to look for in a good show bird. Most important of all, this will help your kids develop a good eye for breeding and selecting quality birds for the showroom. Please be prepared!

What do you need to know?

1. The most important rule in showmanship is to handle your birds daily. You will be showing the judge the head, breast bone, wings, legs, feet, the under color of the feathers, and the vent of your bird. You will be asked at the end to pose your birds on the table. You will want to choose your best birds, with the best feathering, and make sure that they will be comfortable with being handled and posed on a table.

2. Dress professionally. In showmanship we have a dress code. Please wear a long sleeve, white or black shirt, and long pants, either black or white, with a belt. Shoes must be black or brown. Do not wear a hat, so the judge can see your beautiful eyes! People with long hair must have their hair tied back. Chewing gum is unprofessional, and will not be allowed.

What kind of questions will the judge ask about your bird?

What breed do you have?

What age is your chicken?

What sex is your chicken?

What comb type does your chicken have? Show me the comb, wattles, and earlobes? Show me the hackle?

Show me the saddle feathers?

Show me the breast.

Show me the sickle feathers?

Please pull out the wing. Show me where the primaries, secondaries, and axle feathers are?

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Show me the thighs shanks of your bird. Show me the spur. Show me the toes.

What is a Squirrel tail is it a Disqualification or a defect?

What is a twisted comb disqualification or a defect?

What is wry tail defect or disqualification?

What is vulture hocks? Defect or Disqualification?

Is crooked toes a defect or a disqualification?

What does the ideal single comb look like?

Know the correct terms for age—a hen is a female chicken over a year old; a pullet is a female chicken under a year old; a cock is a male chicken over a year old; a cockerel is a male chicken under a year old. Know the types of combs chickens can have, and what kind of comb your birds have.

Know the names of body parts.

Where can I find information?

The answers to these questions are in the American Standard of Perfection which is available at the 4-H extension office for kids to look at. There are also many web pages devoted to chickens with really great information. If the judge sees that you are advancing, the judge will ask you more harder questions like name 30 breeds in your class, tell me the history of your bird ect..