



# Louisiana Broiler Showmanship



Showmanship is the ability to present something in an attractive way. Broiler showmanship, however, is much more than that. Broiler showmanship participants have the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skill in raising, conditioning and handling broilers. In addition, participants gain experience in communication skills by speaking to the showmanship judge and by listening to and following the judge's instructions.

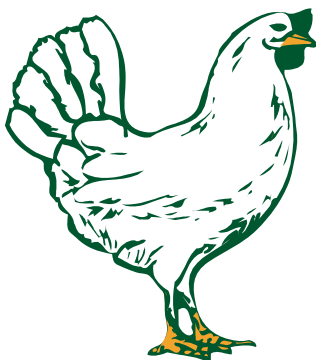


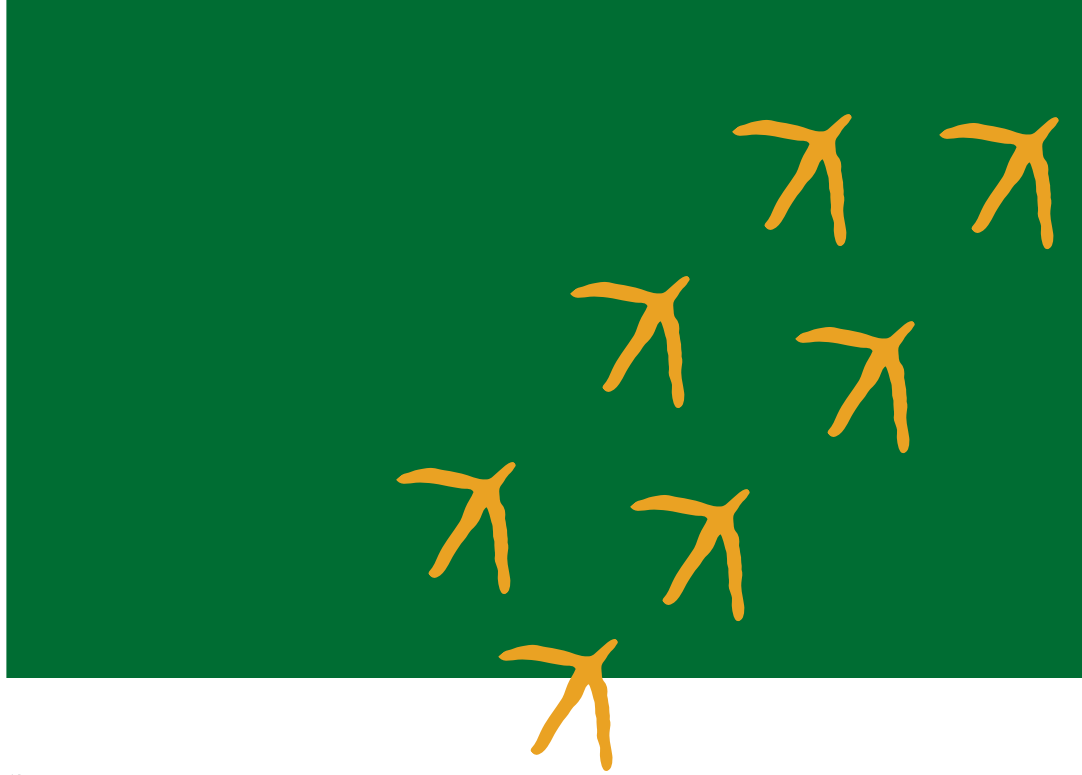
## **Showmanship eligibility and classes**

At the LSU AgCenter Junior Poultry Show, broiler showmanship is open to all 4-H and FFA members with entries in the broiler division. The eligibility of the exhibitor in the respective showmanship classes is determined by the exhibitor's age as of January 1 of the current year.

**The broiler showmanship competition has three divisions:**

1. Junior division for ages 11 and younger
2. Intermediate division for ages 12 to 14
3. Senior division for ages 15 and older





## **The Exhibitor**

In broiler showmanship, the person is judged and the bird is the prop. The exhibitor's attitude, appearance, speaking ability, care and management skills, and ability and willingness to follow instructions are all taken into consideration by the judge.

A successful broiler showman will have a positive attitude, will have the ability to focus his or her attention on showmanship and will demonstrate respect for the judge and the other exhibitors. The successful exhibitor will truly enjoy the experience and express that enjoyment through actions and responses during the showmanship competition.

Furthermore, successful broiler showmen will have a neat appearance. They will show that they take pride in themselves through their appearance. Successful exhibitors will have combed hair, and they and their clothing will be clean. Also, they will wear appropriate clothing such as long pants and long-sleeved shirts. The successful exhibitor will not wear inappropriate clothes such as shorts, trendy clothes, shirts that advertise or hats.

# Appearance and Presentation of the Bird

The bird used in broiler showmanship should be well cared for and in good condition. Also, the bird should not show any possible symptoms of disease or parasites.

The ability to handle and care for the bird properly is an important part of the broiler showmanship competition. Thus, participants will be asked to hold and carry their birds. Depending on the preference of the judge, participants may be asked to put their birds into coops, as well as to remove them from coops.

To hold and carry a bird properly, the exhibitor will have one hand under the bird so the breast is in the palm of the hand; with the index finger between the hocks, the thumb around one leg and the remaining fingers around the other leg. The exhibitor's other hand will be placed on the bird's back to help steady the bird. The exhibitor will hold the bird between the arm and body.



If the judge would like the participant to remove the bird from a coop, he or she should place one hand on the bird's back and

gently pin it to the floor. If the bird is not facing the coop door, the exhibitor will need to turn its head toward the door. Then, with both hands, and holding the wings to the body, lift the bird out of the coop headfirst. Now the exhibitor can hold the bird as described above. When the bird is placed back into the coop, it should be put in headfirst and gently placed onto the floor of the coop.

The judge will observe how each participant handles his or her bird. The judge will be looking for exhibitors who can hold and handle their birds properly. Exhibitors who show any signs of abuse to their birds, or prodding, pushing, striking or pinching their birds will not be successful broiler showmen. Exhibitors who handle their birds in a calm, caring and gentle manner will be successful.

# **Knowledge**

A critical component of the broiler showmanship competition is the exhibitor's knowledge about the broiler project. The judge will ask each exhibitor questions to determine his or her knowledge about the care of birds. The level of difficulty of the questions asked will increase as the participants increase in age.

Exhibitors may be asked questions about the care and feeding of their broilers, as well as questions relating their broiler projects to the commercial production of broilers. These questions are examples of what may be asked to all junior, intermediate and senior showmanship participants.

## **Examples of questions for all exhibitors:**

- How old are your birds (in days or weeks)?
- What type of feed did you feed your broilers?
- How many birds did you start with in your project?
- Point to the following parts on your bird: the breast, drumstick, thigh and back.

## **Examples of additional questions for junior participants:**

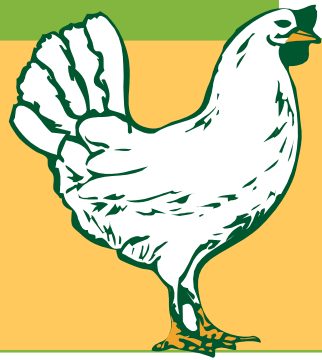
- Do you like to show chickens?
- Who selected your pen of three broilers to bring to the show?
- What did you or they consider when selecting the three broilers to bring to the show?
- How many times a day did you check on your chickens during your project?

## **Examples of additional questions for intermediate participants:**

- Before you got your chickens, what did you do to prepare for their arrival?
- Tell me something very important to do for your birds while you are raising them.
- Tell me something you should not do for your birds while you are raising them.
- What is culling?
- Did you cull during your project? How many times?
- Why do you want to keep fresh water and feed for your birds?
- What is ventilation?
- What do you do if a bird gets sick and/or dies?

## **Examples of additional questions for senior participants:**

- What is the purpose of ventilation?
- What can happen if ventilation is not used?
- What happens if you over ventilate?
- Before you got your chickens, what did you do to prepare for their arrival?
- Why did you choose to use the type of feed you did?
- Why do the birds need to be kept warm in the beginning of the project?
- How can you tell if the birds are cold or hot?
- At what temperature should you keep the birds when they are one day old? 35 days old?
- What do you look for when you select a pen of broilers for the show?
- What is biosecurity?



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**Pub. 2907**

**On-line only**

**9/04**

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. The Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.