

DEPARTMENT X • POULTRY SHOWS

Poultry & Guineas

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Birds will be entered in single classes only.
2. Birds will be judged in class listed on entry form. **No class changes during check-in.**
3. Premiums will be paid by check after the fair.
4. All birds will be cared for and fed by the fair.
5. The fair will provide cages and cups for food and water.
6. The fair management reserves the right to interpret, amend, or add to these rules.
7. All birds must be entered in the name of the bona fide owner, who must have owned the birds for at least 60 days prior to deadline.
8. All birds are entered at the risk of the owner, and the NC Mountain State Fair management will not be responsible for any loss or damage but will exercise all possible vigilance in the care of the birds. No one will be allowed to handle birds on display except the owners and officials of the show.
9. The American Standard of Perfection will be the guide of the judges in awarding premiums. The premiums will be paid on standard varieties listed in this show catalog, and then only to worthy specimens.
10. Decision of the judges will be final, and no appeal will be considered except in the cases of protest in writing, with strong evidence of fraud or violation of the rules of the fair. Protests must be filed with the division superintendent no later than noon of the day following the award and must be accompanied by a protest fee of \$5.00 which will be retained by the fair if the protest is not sustained. The division superintendent will appoint a committee to consider the protest, and all interested parties will be notified of the time of the hearing and will be given an opportunity to be heard. The NC Mountain State Fair will follow the rules of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions governing appeals.
11. Judges will not award premiums to any animal because of its mere presence. It must be individually worthy. It is not the policy of the fair to encourage indifferent production of any kind, or to distribute premiums equally among exhibitors. No premium will be awarded to any exhibit that does not possess high intrinsic merit.
12. Unless otherwise specified in the department rules and regulations, no exhibitor may win more than two premiums in any one individual class, and not more than one premium in any group class.
13. No exhibitor may accompany judges during their deliberations except such attendants as are necessary to handle and show livestock and other such exhibits. Any exhibitor attempting to interfere with adjudication, or who publicly expresses disapproval of the decision of the judges, will be excluded from further competition and any premiums previously won will be forfeited.
14. The judge will have the right not to award a first-place ribbon/premium if the item does not merit the placing. Awards in any class will be given only if merited.
15. Fraud or deception as to breeding, or in any other form, will be exposed and exhibitor guilty of such violation will be excluded from further participation in the fair and all premiums previously won will be forfeited.
16. The right is reserved and will be used to reject entries received after all available space is taken, even if this occurs before specified time for closing entries.
17. Old English breeds that are not dubbed can be shown but will not be judged except for young birds.
18. Production breeds can be shown but will not be judged.
19. Premiums will be paid only based on the records of the judging report, which will be signed by the judge and by the department superintendent or director. Ribbons will be securely attached to the cages upon which they were awarded, if possible, but the ribbons have no value in payment of premiums since they may become detached and find their way on to the wrong exhibit.
21. Any other or miscellaneous categories at the end of each area are only for items which are not listed in the preceding categories. They shall not be used for duplications.
22. Judges, when requested, may give the reasons for their decisions embracing the value and desirable qualities of the exhibits to which they have been awarded premiums.
23. Judges will not award premiums or ribbons to any animal that does not qualify for one of the classes in the NC Mountain State Fair premium list. There will be no additional prize money for given places, in the event of a tie. There shall not be more than one ribbon awarded and premium paid for each placement in a class.
24. Premiums will be paid to winning exhibitors after the award reports are compiled and checked. Premiums will be mailed to the exhibitor at the address on his or her entry form. This process takes approximately ten weeks. Errors in premium statements will be corrected until **December 1, 2026**, after which time the books of the fair are closed.

JUDGING

1. Judges will use the latest American Standard of Perfection. Judges may withhold prizes if birds are not of sufficient merit.
2. Any person who interferes with judges will forfeit all premiums. The decision of the judges will be final.
3. After judging, exhibitors can place any advertising material, by the exhibitor, with his coop.

HEALTH REGULATIONS

1. All bird entries will be presented for examination (including blood test and swabs) to a representative of the NCDA & CS Veterinary Division before being placed in the show.
2. All chicken entries will originate from U.S. pullorum-typhoid clean or equivalent flocks or have a negative pullorum-typhoid test within 90 days of admission to the fair. The test requirements may be satisfied by a negative test conducted by a representative of the NCDA & CS Veterinarian Division at the time birds are brought to the fair.
3. All birds must be identified with numbered tamper-proof bands. Bands placed on birds tested at the fairgrounds by a representative of the NCDA & CS Veterinarian Division will satisfy the requirement. **The Health Regulations of the Veterinary Division of the N.C. Department of Agriculture will be strictly enforced. Be sure to read these under "Rules & Regulations of the Livestock Division" before entering. Animals cannot be unloaded until checked in.**
4. No poultry shall have received a live virus vaccine within 45 days prior to entering the fair. It is recommended that all birds be vaccinated for laryngotracheitis with a modified live virus vaccine at least 45 days and not more than one year before the show.
5. Birds will not be accepted which are showing any clinical signs of an infectious or communicable disease or are infected with lice and/or mites.
6. All poultry exhibited at the North Carolina Mountain State Fair shall have been in the possession of the exhibitor for 60 days prior to the deadline. Exhibitors will fill out the entry form completely.
7. Coops used in transporting live birds to the fair shall not be allowed inside the exhibit tent.

Definition of Terms used in Premium List

Cock: Male bird, 1 year old or over

Hen: Female bird, 1 year old or over

Cockerel: Male bird, less than 1 year old

Pullet: Female bird, less than 1 year old

A Champion and a Reserve Champion will be awarded for Standard Chicken, Standard Commercial Class Egg Layers, Bantam Chicken, and Guinea. An Over All Champion and Reserve Champion will be chosen out of the two following groups 1 - Standard Poultry, Standard Commercial Class Egg Layers; 2 - Bantam Poultry, Guinea.

Overall Champion TBD, trophy

Champion TBD, trophy

Overall Reserve Champion TBD, trophy

Reserve Champion TBD, trophy



XAA • YOUTH STANDARD POULTRY SHOW

September 11 - 15

Superintendent: Scott Rackley

Entry Deadline: August 28, 2026 ONLINE ENTRIES ONLY, UNTIL 11:55 pm - NO EXCEPTIONS

Check-in: September 10, Thursday 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm *Check-in Times WILL BE Enforced*

Location: Gate 7, Entrance B (far back corner gate) – Farm Adventure Tent

Judging: September 11, Friday

Release: September 15, Tuesday 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm (All Poultry Must Be Picked Up)

Rules and Regulations

1. Competition is open to all North Carolina youth residents up to 18 years of age as of August 31, 2026.
2. Entries are limited to 6 chickens per class per exhibitor.

CLASS

XAA001 - AMERICAN – Plymouth Rocks, Dominique, Wyandotte, Javas, Rhode Islands, Buckeyes, Chanteclers, Jersey Giants, Lamona, New Hampshire, Holland, Delaware

XAA002 – ASIATIC – Brahmas, Cochins, Langshan

XAA003 – ENGLISH – Dorking, Redcap, Cornish, Orpington, Susses, Australorp

XAA004 – MEDITERRANEAN – Leghorn, Minorca, Spanish, Analusian, Ancona, Sicilian, Buttercup, Catalana

XAA005 – CONTINENTAL – Hamburg, Campine, Lakenvelder, Barnvelder, Welsummers, Polish, Houdan, Faverolle, Crevecoeurs, LaFleche

XAA006 – ALL OTHER STANDARD BREEDS (AOSB) – Modern Games, Old English, Malays, Sumatras, Aseels, Shamos, Yokohama, Cubalaya, Sultan, Naked Neck, Araucana, Ameraucana

PREMIUMS: 1st Place \$10 2nd Place \$8 3rd Place \$6 4th Place \$4 5th Place \$2
Each class will be sub-classed by cock, cockerel, pullet, and hen with premiums paid to each sub-class.

STANDARD COMMERCIAL CLASS EGG LAYERS

XAAC • YOUTH September 11 - 15

Superintendent: Scott Rackley

Entry Deadline: August 28, 2026 ONLINE ENTRIES ONLY, UNTIL 11:55 pm - NO EXCEPTIONS

Check-in: September 10, Thursday 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm *Check-in Times WILL BE Enforced*

Location: Gate 7, Entrance B (far back corner gate) – Farm Adventure Tent

Judging: September 11, Friday

Release: September 15, Tuesday 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm (All Poultry Must Be Picked Up)

Rules and Regulations

1. Competition is open to all North Carolina youth residents up to 18 years of age as of August 31, 2026.
2. Entries are limited to 5 chickens per class per exhibitor.

CLASS

XAAC001 – WHITE EGG LAYERS

XAAC002 – BROWN EGG LAYERS

PREMIUMS: 1ST Place \$10 2nd Place \$8 3rd Place \$6 4th Place \$4 5th Place \$2

XAB • YOUTH BANTAM POULTRY SHOW

September 16 - 20

Superintendent: Scott Rackley

Entry Deadline: August 28, 2026 ONLINE ENTRIES ONLY, UNTIL 11:55 pm - NO EXCEPTIONS

Check-in: September 16, Wednesday 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm *Check-in Times WILL BE Enforced*

Location: Gate 7, Entrance B (far back corner gate) – Farm Adventure Tent

Judging: September 17, Thursday

Release: September 20, Sunday 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm (All Poultry Must Be Picked Up)

Rules and Regulations

1. Competition is open to all North Carolina youth residents up to 18 years of age as of August 31, 2026.
2. Entries are limited to 6 chickens per class per exhibitor.

CLASS XAB001 – OLD ENGLISH – The Old English breed is the only breed in this class.

XAB002 – MODERN GAME – The Modern Game breed is the only breed in this class.

XAB003 – SINGLE COMB CLEAN LEGGED (SCCL) – Ancona, Andalusian, Autrolorp, Catalana, Campine, Delaware, Dorking, Dutch, Frizzles, Hollands, Japanese, Javas, Jersey Giants, Lakenvelders, Lamonas, Leghorns, Minorcas, Naked Necks, New Hampshires, Orpingtons, Phoenixs, Plymouth Rocks, Rhode Island, Spanish, Sussexs

XAB004 – ROSE COMB CLEAN LEGGED (RCCL) – Anconas, Antwerp, Belgians, Dorkings, Dominiques, Hamburgs, Leghorns, Minorcas, Red Caps, Rhode Islands, Rosecombs, Sebrights, Wyandottes

XAB005 – ALL OTHER COMB CLEAN LEGGED (AOCCL) – Ameraucanas, Araucanas, Buckeyes, Chanteclers, Cornish, Crevecoeurs, Cubalayyas, Houdans, LeFleche, Malays, Polish, Shamos, Sicilian Buttercups, Sumatras, Yokohamas

XAB006 – FEATHERLEGGED (FL) – Cochins, Frizzles, Brahmas, D’Uccle, Faveroles, Silkies, Suntans, Booted Bantams

PREMIUMS: 1st Place \$10 2nd Place \$8 3rd Place \$6 4th Place \$4 5th Place \$2

Each class will be sub-classed by cock, cockerel, pullet, and hen with premiums paid to each sub-class.

XAE • YOUTH GUINEA SHOW

September 16 - 20

Superintendent: Scott Rackley

Entry Deadline: August 28, 2026 ONLINE ENTRIES ONLY, UNTIL 11:55 pm - NO EXCEPTIONS

Check-in: September 16, Wednesday 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm *Check-in Times WILL BE Enforced*

Location: Gate 7, Entrance B (far back corner gate) – Farm Adventure Tent

Judging: September 17, Thursday

Release: September 17, Thursday 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm (Guineas Must Be Picked Up)

Rules and Regulations

1. Competition is open to all North Carolina youth residents up to 18 years of age as of August 31, 2026.

CLASS: XAE001 – GUINEA FOWL – All Guinea Fowl are in this class

PREMIUMS: 1st Place \$10 2nd Place \$8 3rd Place \$6 4th Place \$4 5th Place \$2

XF • YOUTH POULTRY SHOWMANSHIP
September 19, 2026

Superintendent: Scott Rackley

Assistant Superintendent: Travis Love

Entry Deadline: *August 28, 2026 ONLINE ENTRIES ONLY, UNTIL 11:55 pm - NO EXCEPTIONS*

Check-in: September 19, Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Location: Gate 7, Entrance B (far back corner gate) – Farm Adventure Tent

Judging: September 19, Saturday 10:30am

Competition Overview:

Poultry showmanship gives young people the opportunity to competitively demonstrate their knowledge and skills in raising, conditioning, evaluating, and handling poultry. Participants gain experience in following oral instructions, speaking before an audience, and handling their bird.

Any type of poultry may be used for this showmanship competition: standard, bantam, guinea, laying hen.

The chosen bird to be blood tested. The bird must be in good health.

CLASS

XF001 Non-Competitive youth 8 and under *

XF002 Junior youth 8 years old and under**

XF003 Intermediate youth 9 – 13 years old**

XF004 Senior youth 14 - 18 years old**

PREMIUMS: \$10 per exhibitor

(* Ribbon Only, ** Buckles for 1st)



XG - Youth Laying Hen Show

September 19, 2026

Superintendent: Scott Rackley

Assistant Superintendent: Travis Love

Entry Deadline: March 27, 2026

Participation Fee: \$15.00

Chick Pick-up: May 19, 2026, 10:00am to 8:00pm in Heritage Circle

Check-in: September 19, Saturday 7:30am – 9:00am

Location: Gate 7, Entrance B (far back corner gate) – Farm Adventure Tent

Judging: September 19, Saturday 12:00pm

Release: after the conclusion of the show

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Competition is open to all North Carolina youth residents under the age of 19 as of August 31, 2026.
2. Entries are limited to the first 40 exhibitors registered online.
3. Each exhibitor is required to show a Pen of 3, other birds received during pick-up are to remain at the exhibitor's farm/place for their personal use. If the exhibitor doesn't show any birds, the fair must be notified as to why the no-show. This could affect the exhibitor from being able to show in future shows. Only the chickens shown in the Youth Laying Hen Show will be available for premiums.
4. Exhibitor must have raised the chickens from chicks and from the same hatch as all other exhibitors. Fair will set up arrangements with a supplier to ensure same hatch is provided to registered exhibitors.
5. Any use of antibiotic and/or growth hormone drugs are strictly prohibited. Any evidence of the use of these drugs will lead to the disqualification of the exhibitor and the exhibitor may be banned from competing in future shows. The show superintendent, judge, NCDA&CS veterinary staff, or fairgrounds administrative staff reserve the right to test the birds being shown for banned substances.
6. Exhibitors will be allowed to take chickens home at the conclusion of the show.
7. General Rules and Regulations, Judging, and Health Regulations for poultry show will apply. (www.wncagcenter.org)

SHOW DAY AND JUDGING

1. All individuals (whether an FFA/4-H club member or individual) will participate in the individual competition.
2. Class breaks will be determined by exhibitor age according to the overall participation response. The Fair will try to limit these classes to 10 exhibitors per class.
3. On judging day all exhibitors must check-in with their top 3 laying hens. Once checked in each exhibitor will be assigned a cage for their pen of 3 to be placed in. It's the exhibitor's responsibility to maintain the cleanliness of the cages until judging time.
4. Judging of birds will be based on uniformity, body conformation, health characteristics, and other aspects of the bird quality at the judge's discretion. During judging NO exhibitor is allowed to talk to the judge except when being asked by the judge. Exhibitors may watch but must save all questions until all judging is done. After the competition, exhibitors may ask the judge for clarification on decisions and areas of future improvements. Arguing the decision of the competition with the judge is not allowed and may lead to disqualification of the exhibitor from the competition. Interfering with judging will be grounds for disqualification. These rules may apply to anyone acting on behalf of the exhibitor.

4-H AND FFA CLUBS

1. FFA and 4-H groups are encouraged to participate. Each group member will need to register using their individual name and list the club/school's name. A minimum of 5 club members must participate in order to be eligible for club awards.
2. Clubs not knowing their members' names at the March deadline must register their club and pay for the number of members participating. At the time of April pick-up, a club information sheet listing the names of the participating members along with the corresponding W-9 form must be submitted. There will be NO substitutions after the registration has been completed. The student's name must be on the registration and the student named must be present to have the birds judged for the competition.
3. An exhibitor may not have more than one group of birds in the competition (i.e... cannot have a set of birds as an individual and another set of birds as a FFA/4-H member). All individuals (whether an FFA/4-H club member or individual) will participate in the individual competition. FFA/4-H club group awards will be based on individual scores. If an individual is participating as a FFA/4-H club group member, the organization must be listed at the time of registration. A current W-9 must be submitted to reflect the organizations Tax I.D. number.
4. Club awards will only be awarded if three or more club register by the entry deadline in their respective category.

* If more than 50 entry forms are submitted prior to the deadline, groups may be asked to limit the number of entries within their club in order to fairly distribute the birds.

CLASS

XG001 PeeWee Layers - 5 years old and younger (will compete for PeeWee Championships within this class) (Trophy)

XG002 Trio Set of Layers - 6 to 19 years old

PREMIUMS:

1st Place \$15 2nd Place \$13 3rd Place \$11 4th Place \$9 5th Place \$8 6th – 10th Place \$6

Grand Champion Trio (Banner) (Sponsored)

Reserve Grand Champion Trio (Banner) (Sponsored)

Grand Champion PeeWee Trio (Trophy) (Sponsored)

Reserve Champion PeeWee Trio (Trophy) (Sponsored)

FFA CLUB AWARDS:

Top FFA Club (Banner)(Sponsored)

Runner Up FFA Club (Banner)(Sponsored)

4-H AWARDS:

Top 4-H Club (Banner)(Sponsored)

Runner Up 4-H Club (Banner)(Sponsored)

(FFA Club and 4-H Awards are based off points received during individual judging)



XH – YOUTH POULTRY EGG SHOW

Superintendent: Scott Rackley

Assistant Superintendent: Travis Love

Entry Deadline: August 28, 2026

Check-in: September 10, Thursday 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Location: Gate 7, Entrance B (far back corner gate) – Farm Adventure Tent

Judging: September 11, Friday

Release: September 15, Tuesday 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Each entry must be from the exhibitor's flock they are raising on their farm/homeplace. (No Store-Bought Eggs)
2. Exhibitors are limited to 2 entries per class.
3. Eggs must be fresh eggs.
4. Eggs are to be pre-weighed by the exhibitor and placed in the correct weight class. Judge will weigh when judging. If the eggs are placed in the wrong class, eggs will not be placed or premiums paid.
 - a. Small Size 18 – 20 oz. per dozen
 - b. Medium Size 21 – 23 oz. per dozen
 - c. Large Size 24 – 26 oz. per dozen
 - d. Extra-Large Size 27 – 29 oz. per dozen
5. Eggs must be placed in a regular egg carton style container. (Container style used in grocery stores)
6. Judging is based on the USDA Standards: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/grades-standards/eggs>
Exterior: Stain, adhering dirt or foreign material, egg shape, shell texture, ridges, shell thickness, body checks
Interior: Air cell, white/albumen, yolk, spots (blood or meat)

CLASS

- XH001 – White Shelled Chicken Eggs - small/medium size
- XH002 – White Shelled Chicken Eggs - large/extra-large size
- XH003 – Brown Shelled Chicken Eggs – small/medium size
- XH004 – Brown Shelled Chicken Eggs – large/extra-large size
- XH005 – Blue/Green Shelled Chicken Eggs – small/medium size
- XH006 – Blue/Green Shelled Chicken Eggs – large/extra-large size

Premiums: 1st Place \$10 2nd Place \$6 3rd Place \$4 Best of Show – Blue Rosette

