



Poultry Project Newsletter

Outagamie County 4H

June 2019



It's Getting Close!

Fair is almost here, and it's time to start preparing! Start working with your showmanship birds and studying the information. You should be looking over the birds and deciding which ones will be best for fair. If you entered 6 birds, bring all 6! There is no reason not to really. You paid the entry fees, the pen rental, and have the bird. Why not collect a premium for your work? You say it's going to be disqualified? So what, did you learn that in your project? Plus a disqualification in junior show is only a reduction in placing. Plus bringing all the birds you entered completes the exhibit display, no empty cages would be an awesome achievement.

Karen Kuhn

Jeremy Trost

Josh Koleske

Exhibit Building Set Up

Again this year we will be setting up the exhibit building in early July. If you know you are not bringing an entry please let Josh or Jeremy know as they are working on exhibit layouts and show programming. This year we will be asking everyone to help set up. Watch for more details in early July. Set up is a very physical project that the resource leaders cannot do without your assistance. We look forward to your help.

Breed of the Month

Guinea – pronounced gini – These are the ancestors of the wild Helmeted Guineafowl native to Africa. Evidence shows they were domesticated in Greece by the 5th century BC. There are many varieties with the pearl being the most common. They are valued for insect control and particularly well known for eating ticks. The keets (baby guineas) are raised just like chickens; although, being a desert bird they need to be kept very dry for a few weeks after hatching. It is difficult to determine the sex of guineas at any age.

White Holland Turkey – pronounced as expected – Once the most important turkey variety in America and is now quite rare in pure form. In the middle of the 20th century commercial producers wanted the best of the Bronze (size) and White (color) turkeys. This led to crosses that produced the Broad Breasted White in the 1950's. By early 1960 the Whites surpassed the Bronze for the first time in commercial production. The cross led to confusion and the Broad White and the White Holland were merged into one breed unintentionally. A pure White Holland has longer legs than the Broad White as well as a narrower breast. The breed is very close to extinction at this time. Standard weights for a tom is 25 pounds and a hen is 16 pounds.

Barn Duty

ALL poultry project members are expected to take at least one barn duty shift. This is regardless of the entries you made, birds or not, or no exhibit at all. When we figure out shifts we base it off the members that signed up for the project. When you sign up for the project you are making a commitment; please follow through with the commitment. While on barn duty you should be cleaning the aisle by sweeping. The material swept should be put into a wheelbarrow and taken out to the manure pile. Under no situation should it be swept into a pile and left; or under the cages and left. Be sure to check all birds and rabbits for water and fill their cups. Do not open cages if the cups are spilled, the owner is responsible to check their animals daily. Take a walk up and down all the aisles, pick up garbage along the way. Take a walk around the outside of the building and pick up garbage too. You are expected to be in or around the building while on duty, not riding rides or with friends. Also, you are following the direction of the superintendent and building official. You may be redirected to the Dairy Bar for your barn duty, or to other areas depending on the needs of the fair. This is all part of your barn duty. If you don't know what to do, ask an official.

Announcements

If you have been reading the newsletter and learned one thing from it, email Jeremy with what you learned before June 30th. You will be entered in a prize drawing. Leaders and members are eligible, but each needs to make their own entry and each entrant needs to send their own email. Multiple entries in one email will NOT be accepted.

Fun Show and Swap were again a big success! Thanks to the volunteers that helped this year! We couldn't do it without each of them! Also thanks to the leaders that made some awesome food treats. Attendance was significantly up from both a seller and buyer/looker perspective. We also thank the members that worked with, and respected, the volunteers. The day goes much smoother that way.

Mandatory Meeting requirements are still in place. If you attended YQCA you have met the requirement. If you attended a poultry project training you met the requirement. Pullorum testing also meets the requirement. If you have not met the requirement the last opportunity is the June 8th Pullorum testing. If you don't meet the requirement you will not be eligible for special awards at the fair as well as not eligible to sell in the Small Animal Auction.

Pullorum Testing will be free for Outagamie County 4-H poultry members on June 8th at Karen's home, N6560 Cty Rd PP, Black Creek. The session is first come and scheduled for 8am to 10am. Testing will not be available after June 8th.