



What Judges Will Expect From Youth When Judging Showmanship

The Youth Exhibition Poultry Association has put together the following list of knowledge expectations in an effort to help judges become more familiar with what showmanship participants are expected to know. The information is broken down by age groups to help make showmanship judging more uniform. We hope that you will find this helpful the next time you judge showmanship.

Senior Level (Ages 14–18)

Seniors are close to becoming adults in the poultry hobby and moving to the next level (the future of our hobby) and will begin showing poultry in the open shows if they haven't begun already. Some will become a show secretary, a show superintendent or be a part of a show committee, poultry leaders, teachers and adult exhibitors.

The senior level is an in-depth class regarding all poultry. The exhibitor should be able to demonstrate that they are fully able, on their own to select, breed, raise, house, and care for a small poultry flock, that they can evaluate & select birds for exhibition or production purposes. They should be able to explain how and why they would choose a particular method of health care, nutritional needs, housing and rearing poultry, waterfowl or turkeys. They should be familiar with several breeds of poultry, guineas, waterfowl & turkeys and what classes they are shown in. They should be able to explain and give reasons for handling specific areas of poultry care, such as diseases/treatments, vaccinations, types of feed, removing spurs, dubbing.

They should be able to evaluate a class (especially their own), explaining special qualities, defects, disqualifications and special needs of all the different breeds shown in that class. They should be able to describe the N.P.I.P and the diseases they are testing the birds for and why. They should also be very familiar with the APA and ABA Standards and all of the information that can be found in these two books including the information found in the front of the books, not just the breed standards.

Senior Knowledge Expectations

- Have an in-depth understanding of poultry terminology and anatomy. PROPER Poultry terminology is a must at this level
- Know all classes in both Standards & several breeds in each class.
- Be able to describe the American Standard of Perfection and the Bantam Standard and their use.
- They should understand and be able to explain the differences in some detail between the ABA Bantam Standard and the APA Standard of Perfection.
- Have a good knowledge of disease and parasites: symptoms, possible treatment or prevention measures.
- Have a good understanding of all phases of incubation, hatching, brooding chicks.
- Understand raising poultry from a chick to adult (penning, feeding, etc.).
- Know the basics of what a judge is looking for when judging poultry, including chickens, all waterfowl, guineas, and turkeys.
- Know what dubbing is and how is it done.
- Know the specifics about the breed of bird they have chosen for their showmanship competition.
- Know what the most common disease problems affecting the poultry industry in the United States at this time?
- Know what the requirements are when transporting birds from state to state?
- Know all breeds in the classes in which they show their poultry (what breeds they are completing against for Class Champion). If asked they should be familiar enough about these breeds to be able to pick out a good specimen according to the "standard".
- Know most of the general defects and disqualifications listed in the "standards" that relate to all fowl.
- Be beginning to understand what a District Director is and their importance to the ABA & the APA and the poultry hobby in general. Where do they come from? How do they become a director?
- Be able to name the director of the APA & ABA for the state they live in.
- Know the names of the Presidents of the APA and the ABA.
- Be participating with a local poultry club that host shows? They should understand the importance

of volunteering their time and services to help the show staff when their club hosts a show or help once they arrive in the showroom if they live far away? (set up, tear down, help the secretary or superintendent, etc).

□ Know the responsibilities of a show superintendent and show secretary.

□ Be learning about the expense, and effort, to host a show. (renting the show hall, purchasing awards, purchasing or getting a sponsor to supply feed, etc.) How does a club earn \$\$ to be able to put on a poultry show? Many shows are held at a local fairground. Do they pay rent or do the host club personnel barter their time by superintending the fair show?

□ Handling skills should be excellent. They should be able to handle and examine a bird as the licensed judge would if judging his bird. He should be able to utilize all of the knowledge of the standards to judge this bird at home before entering it into any competition with the skills and knowledge that the bird is the best he has and hopefully will place well at a show.