

**Date:** February 21, 2020

**To:** 4-H Poultry Project Members and Leaders

**From:** Eva Beeker, Program Coordinator - 4-H Youth Development



**Re:** 2020 Poultry Project Changes and Important Information

This is a quick update on the changes that the poultry leaders made at the post-fair meeting. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact me at the MSU Extension office at 269-467-5511 or send me an email at [beekere@msu.edu](mailto:beekere@msu.edu).



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- Hatch dates: Turkey = Saturday, May 16, 2020; Chickens = Saturday, July 25, 2020.
- Turkey Vaccination/Tagging dates have been set for Sunday, July 12, 2020 (5:00 - 7:00 p.m.) and Monday, July 13, 2020, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the St. Joseph County Fairgrounds. As in the past, all turkeys on the premises are required to be vaccinated. Please remember to bring **ALL** turkeys on the property where turkeys are housed to be vaccinated for Fowl Pox. All Turkeys that will be exhibited at the St. Joseph County Fair, **MUST** attend one of the above dates. There will NOT be any other available dates or times. Proof of purchase and Pullorum papers are due and are required at the time of vaccination. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** **Wingbanding will take place at the same time and place as the vaccinations for 2020.**
- Poultry countywide tagging and Pullorum testing is Sunday, August 16, 2020 and Monday, August 17, 2020 at the St. Joseph County Fairgrounds, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. This will include **ALL poultry**; market chickens, breeding stock chickens, waterfowl, and pigeons.
- Breeding stock chickens may, but are not required, get the pox vaccine at the same time as the turkeys on Sunday, July 12, 2020 (5:00 - 7:00 p.m.) or Monday, July 13, 2020, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. If you choose to vaccinate your breeding stock chickens at that time, please be sure to bring ALL of your breeding stock at the same time. Cost is free to 4-H members.
- All exhibitors of **Pigeons** will be required to leave their pigeons on exhibit at the fair in cages that will be located in one of the poultry barns for the week of fair. Each exhibitor will be responsible for providing feed, watering, and care of their pigeons.
- **\*\* New for 2020:** Breeding Stock Turkeys...Exhibitors may tag up to four (4) Breeding Stock turkeys but may only exhibit up to two (2); One Male and One Female. Turkeys must go through all vaccination procedures according to the market turkey project. Turkeys shown in the Breeding Stock class **MUST** be taken home and are **NOT** eligible for auction. Turkeys shown in the Breeding Stock class may include Heritage Turkeys or Production Turkeys. See Fair Book for additional rules and regulations under Department 12.
- Breeding Stock Turkey exhibitors will be required to pay \$2.00 per pen for feed and bedding cost at time of check in.
- **Poultry Evaluations:** All exhibitors who show any type of poultry will be doing their evaluations on **Sunday, September 13, 2020, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** The evaluations will be located at the poultry barns but no animals will be present. **Evaluations will be a combination of written and oral questions. Resources and study guides will be made available after April 1, 2020 on the County website at: [www.canr.msu.edu/st\\_joseph](http://www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph)**
- If you do not have a Poultry Leader in your 4-H club, please contact another club and enroll in that club for the Poultry Project.

- Each club is responsible for an educational Poultry display. All displays must be completed by 9:00pm on Sunday, September 20, 2020. Each club will be given a 8 foot table for their display.
- \*\* The pre-fair poultry meeting will be held on **Wednesday, July 22, at 6:30 p.m.** in the Spartan Room at the Michigan State University Extension office. This will give you an opportunity to sign-up for fair job assignments.

**Important dates, deadlines and events:**

Event or Deadline	Date(s)	Comments
Turkey Hatch Date	Saturday, May 16, 2020	Must be hatched by May 18
Poultry Clinic	Saturday, July 11, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.	St. Joseph County Fair Grounds ***Bring a lawn chair
<b>Vaccination/Tagging</b> for Turkeys <b>***NOTE LOCATION AND INSTRUCTIONS</b>	Sunday, July 12, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. and Monday, July 13, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.	<b>**Will be held at the fairgrounds. BARN 10</b> <b>Note:</b> Breeding stock chickens may also be vaccinated but are not required. <b>**Enter and Exit Charlotte St Gate</b>
Chicken Hatch Date	Saturday, July 25, 2020	
Poultry Pre-Fair Meeting	Wednesday, July 22, 2020, 6:30 p.m.	MSU Extension Office
Banding/tagging & registration for poultry project animals (not including turkeys...See above)	Sunday, August 16, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. and Monday, August 17, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Countywide tagging will be held at the fairgrounds.
4-H Poultry Project Evaluation	<u>Sunday</u> , September 13, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.	First-come, first-served...no sign-up times.
Fair weigh-in/check-in	Friday, September 18, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Animals <b>MUST</b> be clean and dry
4-H Market & Breeding Stock Poultry Show	Saturday, September 19, 2020	<b>12:45 p.m.</b> required member/leader meeting.
4-H Small Animal Sale	Thursday, September 24, 10:00 a.m. in the Livestock Show Arena	Order of sale: <b>Chickens, Turkeys</b> , rabbits, goats
Market Animal Load-out	Saturday, September 26, 10:00 p.m.	All members must clean and help put away the pens (check club times).
Breeding Stock Load-out & Barn Clean-up	Sunday, September 27, 6:00 - 8:00 a.m.	

**\*\*\*Clubs responsible for post-fair powerwashing are: Farmtastic, Happy Herdsman, Howardsville, Kuntry Starz**