




THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



**Pima County
4-H Youth Development**

Pima County 4- H/FFA Poultry Project

Poultry Showmanship

✿ Removing the bird from the cage:

Take the bird from coop, using either left or right hand. Put hand on top of birds back and turn the birds body with the head towards the door. Place left hand beneath body with the index finger between the legs and the remaining three fingers grasping one leg and the thumb with the other. You may also put your middle and ring fingers between the birds legs for a more secure hold. Hold wings down on each side. Place your other hand on the back and remove head first.



Poultry Showmanship

✿ Carrying the bird:

The proper way to carry a bird is to use the same hand hold as in removing from the coop with the head under the elbow and the other placed on the back.



Poultry Showmanship

☘ Showing the head:

Holding the bird in either hand at shoulder height show the head, both sides. Use right hand thumb on beak to turn head while also turning left hand slightly when showing the right side of the bird's head.



Poultry Showmanship

✿ Showing the wings:

Spread wings to show feather pattern and condition. If showing left handed, show birds right wing by crossing the right hand under the birds head and over the left arm with thumb up. If showing right handed, show bird's left wing by crossing the left hand under bird's head and over the right arm with thumb up.



Poultry Showmanship

☘ Showing the under-color:

Present the bird, with outstretched arms, to the judge tail first with the tail facing down. Gently lift small groups of feathers on the back and neck area toward the head displaying the under-color. Ensure the feathers are smoothed back into place.



Poultry Showmanship

✿ Showing the width of the body:

Present the bird, with outstretched arms, to the judge tail first and span the widest portion of the back over the hip bones with your fingers. Your thumb and index finger should be under the wings with your other fingers toward your body. Lift your hand off the back, keeping fingers at the width of the bird to show the judge.



Poultry Showmanship

Showing the breastbone:

Show breastbone by turning the back of the bird against exhibitor's body parallel with the ground. With one hand grasp legs at the thigh and pull to the side, having control over the lower part of birds body. Using the other hand, parallel with bird, expose breast between two fingers. Ensure the breastbone is shown between fingers showing straightness.



Poultry Showmanship

☘ Showing the feet and legs:

Show feet and legs by placing the bird's back against your chest, with head up. With your other hand show the top of the feet and legs and then the bottom. Lastly flex the toes. Switch to show the other leg. Ensure to show both legs individually, feet clean and nails trimmed.



Poultry Showmanship

✿ Posing the bird:

Pose the bird standing upright on the table. It is up to the judge which way to face the bird. Once the bird is posed and set, step back from the table with your hands behind your back while the judge inspects the bird.



Poultry Showmanship

✿ Placing the bird into the cage:

Return your bird to its cage by carrying it as previously described and placing the bird into the cage head-first, pose bird, closing the door afterward.



Poultry Showmanship

When participating in a "Showmanship" contest, exhibitors will be asked to do the things outlined. When there are only a few contestants, or the judge is having difficulty arriving at a winner, the exhibitor may be asked to take part in a more intensified experience. This may include carrying a bird to a table, placing it in an exhibition coop, removing and going through each step in the "showmanship" procedure, without cues, explaining what is being done or looked for in each of the exhibitors actions and telling how it compares with the standard for the breed. Additional questions may also be asked. These questions will normally probe the breadth and depth of the exhibitors knowledge. Exhibitors may also be asked to trade birds with other exhibitors showing at the same time.