

## Showmanship

- 1- Handle your chicken daily.
  - a. This makes the birds used to people which keeps them less stressed.
  - b. Makes them very friendly and easier for you to handle.
  - c. Shows your dedication to the judge.
- 2- Practice how to hold your chicken correctly.
  - a. Place middle and fourth finger between birds legs. Place first and pinky against legs to hold secure. Body of bird in the palm of your hand. This makes them feel safe and secure and they will be calmer for you.
  - b. Always place chicken head first going into cage and head first out of cage. Letting them see where they are going will keep them from flapping around and from breaking any wings or hurting them.
  - c. Practice...Practice...Practice...
- 3- Know the parts of the chicken and poultry breeds.
  - a. Juniors need to know all about what they are holding. Intermediates and Seniors need to know about their breed and others.
  - b. This is one of the hardest parts. The ones who know the most do the best.
- 4- Know how to properly bath and prep your bird for show.
  - a. Make sure your chicken is clean and in good shape. Trim beak and toe nails if needed. Give them a bath and make sure there are no lice or mites. You will be judged on how well cared for your bird is.
- 5- Dress appropriately
  - a. Long dark pants, collared shirt, and closed toe shoes. No hats. Judges want you to make eye contact, so we want to see your face. Only exception is dairy whites, some kids are coming from dairy showing that day, so will make an exception if you don't have time to change.
- 6- There is a rubric that the judges follow. They will ask you a series of questions. Relax, take your time and answer them to the best of your knowledge. Don't hesitate to give them too much information. They want to know how much you know, they will politely stop you when they have what they need. If you don't know the answer, just say so, that is okay. Key points: Introduce yourself and tell them how long you have been doing poultry, or how many years you have been in 4-H. Make sure you make eye contact and just have fun!!