

MARKET POULTRY

ENTRY DEADLINE: AUGUST 18, 2025

ENTRY FEE: \$30.00

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: Chris Holub 979-877-5542

COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN:

James Herrmann (Turkeys) 979-836-2878

Michelle Majewski (Broilers) 979-885-9565

Combined Committee: Ben Hajdik, Virgil Hajdik, Diane Moore, Kathy Supak, Kirsten Supak, Kristian Pier, Mark Swonke, Kirk Thomas, Becky Thomas, Justin Tielke, Tonya Tipp, and Christy Tobola.

2025 RULES AND REGULATIONS

The below section contains rules that are common to **both Broilers and Turkeys**, later sections will describe species specific Rules.

1. All entries are subject to the General Rules and Regulations of the Austin County Fair and to the rules governing the Youth Auction Sale.
2. Drug Testing will be performed on Grand and Reserve Champion and one (1) random. No interfering with testing area and testing official. Please see General Rules for more details.
3. **Ractopamine Hydrochloride (Topmax™) THE AUSTIN COUNTY LIVESTOCK SHOW WILL NOT TOLERATE THE PRESENCE OF RACTOPAMINE HYDROCHLORIDE (Topmax®) IN MARKET POULTRY. Though FDA approved for use in market turkeys, ractopamine is not commercially available for this use. The use of this compound in market turkeys and market broilers will be governed by the Junior Show Rules. The Austin County Livestock Show will continue to use feather testing to detect performance enhancing drugs, including Ractopamine, in poultry.**
4. IMPORTANT NOTICE: The threat of avian influenza and other reportable diseases continues to be of serious concern to poultry in Texas. The situation is being monitored on a continuous basis. Any requirements for testing, limitations on the movement of poultry or other activities related to this or similar matters will be handled under the authority of show officials and/or the Texas Animal Health Commission.
5. Any entry showing symptoms of disease or lacking show quality will be excluded from

exhibition at the discretion of the Official Judge. ***The Official Judge's decisions are final.*** No Stock, except in the above instances, will be removed from the exhibition until the close of the fair.

6. All birds must be the property of the person entering them but birds from one family may be housed in the same facilities.
7. The Committee will provide for each exhibitor two (2) clean, one gallon coffee cans for feed and water. Each exhibitor may bring one (1) plastic or metal container in which to store feed and supplies. No paper containers will be allowed around the cages.
8. If a bird dies or is injured after it makes it through sifting, the bird is ineligible for the show.
9. The Grand Champion and Reserve Champion birds must sell in the Youth Auction Sale unless this contradicts with the General Rules #1. If an exhibitor shows two (2) animals at the Austin County Fair and both animals qualify for the Youth Auction Sale, the exhibitor must notify the Chairman which animal they want to sell by **Wednesday, October 8, 2025**, by 5:00p.m.
10. The Committee will assist with the care for the poultry projects (feed and water) on Monday through Wednesday, so that no exhibitor will be required to miss school on that day for this reason.
11. The poultry exhibit area needs to be kept clean during visitor hours. Birds must be fed, watered and pens cleaned by 9:00 a.m. each day. In addition, exhibitors are required to change out shavings sometime between Thursday evening (5:00 p.m.) and sale day, Friday (9:00 a.m.).
12. To qualify for showmanship, the exhibitor must be present and exhibit his/her own birds during the show. Showmanship will start during the show and at the completion; exhibitors interested in showmanship will be required to bring one (1) broiler back to the show ring and possibly answer questions. No parents/guardians are allowed in the ring during showmanship. If the child cannot hold their bird, a poultry committee member will assist them. The classes will be divided according to the exhibitor's school grade as of **September 1, 2025**. Showmanship will be divided into two (2) groups: Juniors – 3rd thru 7th grade and Seniors – 8th thru 12th grade.
13. If your birds die after the show and before the Sunday move out it must be replaced with another bird
14. Exhibits will move out between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., **Sunday, October 12, 2025**. Pens must be clean upon departure. If any birds are not picked up and the Broiler Committee is not notified of their status, they will become the property of the Poultry Committee
15. Quality Counts: In keeping with the Austin County Fair drug residue avoidance policy,

ALL exhibitors are required to pass the Quality Counts Verification test for entry into the 2025 Show. Junior market and breeding show entries will not be accepted without verification code for each exhibitor. Verification codes are not required for Agricultural Mechanics exhibitors and Judging Contest contestants. The Quality Counts training and test can be found at: <https://www.texaslivestockvalidation.com/qc/qcregister.asp>

16. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to have their birds processed (please verify with buyer how they would like the birds processed) and delivered to their buyer within two (2) weeks after the close of the Austin County Fair. **Birds that were subject to Drug testing must wait until a negative result was confirmed prior to delivery. Exhibitors will be notified once this has been confirmed.**

MARKET BROILERS

1. All broiler chicks must be bought from the same place and same hatch through FFA advisors or 4-H agents. Orders must be placed and paid for by **Friday, May 9th, 2025**, by 5:00 p.m. There will be no exception to this rule. Exhibitors must use the official order form provided by their 4-H leader or FFA advisor. Each exhibitor is limited to the birds he/she ordered; no replacement birds will be issued.
2. Market Broiler exhibitors may have one (1) entry in this division with a backup pen of no more than three (3) broilers allowed at time of sifting.
3. Entries in the Market Broiler Show will move in and sift from 5:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. on **Sunday, October 5th, 2025**. All Market Broilers must be in line for sifting at 6:00 p.m. Judging will immediately follow.
4. Broiler exhibitors will be allowed to enter the fairgrounds from FM 529 (GATE 2A), follow as directed by committeemen to unload their Broilers and then to move their vehicle as directed by the committee. The Market Broiler Show will not begin until all vehicles are removed.
5. Three (3) Market Broilers will constitute one entry. There will be a minimum weight limit of 5.0 lbs. per bird. A scale will be made available to the judge. The Official Market Broiler Judge reserves the right to weigh any bird entered. The **2025** Market Broiler Show will be a straight run show (roosters or hens).
6. Only one (1) bird will be allowed in pen after the Market Broiler Show. Exhibitors must remove the remaining two (2) birds after completion of the Market Broiler show.
7. All birds will be wing-banded for the **2025** Austin County Fair Market Broiler Show. Only wing-banded birds will be allowed to show. A minimum of 50 birds must be ordered per exhibitor. Additional birds may be ordered in increments of 50 not to exceed

100 birds per exhibitor. The maximum number of birds per exhibitor is 100.

8. Family Orders/Tagging will be allowed. Each exhibitor will be assigned a set of consecutive numbered wing-bands. Exhibitors in the family may exchange sets but no intermingling of birds between the sets will be allowed. Each exhibitor **MUST** choose their pen from separate sets. Once a pen of broilers is selected for show, the wing-band numbers of the entire pen (and alternates) must correspond from within the range of wing-band numbers assigned to the exhibitor at the time of distribution. (Wing-band numbers between family exhibitors cannot be combined to make up a pen and no two pens can come from the same set.)

Example for Family Tagging:

Family – 2 exhibitors, order 2 set of birds

At Distribution

Set#1 is assigned wing-band #1-100

Set#2 is assigned wing-band #101-200

Time of Show

Selecting the Pen

One pen must come from Set #1 and the other from Set #2

The family can decide which child shows which pen.

9. Birds with missing wing-bands will not be allowed to show. Bands that are not legible will not be allowed to show.
10. Evidence of tampering with wing-bands will not be tolerated. The decision of the Official Broiler Judge is final.
11. All Broiler wing-bands will be checked when they are brought to the sifting line and are subject to being checked anytime during the Market Broiler Show.

MARKET TURKEYS

1. All poults must be bought from the same place and same hatch through FFA or 4-H agents. Orders must be placed and paid for by **Friday, March 7th, 2025**, by 5:00 p.m. There will be no exceptions to this rule. Exhibitors must use the official order form provided by their 4-H leader or FFA advisor. Each exhibitor is limited to the birds he/she ordered. No replacement birds will be issued.
2. Turkeys must be ordered in lots of five (5) birds per exhibitor with a maximum of 20 birds (of each sex). For example – five (5) toms and/or five (5) hens. Exhibitors from the same family may purchase poults collectively, however all exhibitors' names must appear on the order form.
3. Market Turkey exhibitors will be allowed one (1) entry in the Turkey Tom division and/or Turkey Hen division (per General rule). Each exhibitor will be allowed one (1) backup bird per division if their first bird is sifted.
4. Entries in the Market Turkey Show will move in and be sifted from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. on **Sunday, October 5th, 2025**. All turkeys must be in line for sifting at 9:00 a.m.

Judging will immediately follow.

5. On the morning of the show, the Market Turkey exhibitors will be allowed at 8:00 a.m. to enter the fairgrounds from FM 529 (GATE 2A), follow as directed by committeemen to unload their Turkeys and then to move their vehicle as directed by the committee. The Market Turkey Show will not begin until all vehicles are removed.
6. Exhibitors who show both a Tom and a Hen will be required to take one of the two home after completion of the Turkey judging. They must be removed immediately following the show, no extra pens will be available, with the exception if both of the birds shown are Champion birds. All Champions birds (Grand and Reserve) for both Toms and Hens must remain for the full fair.