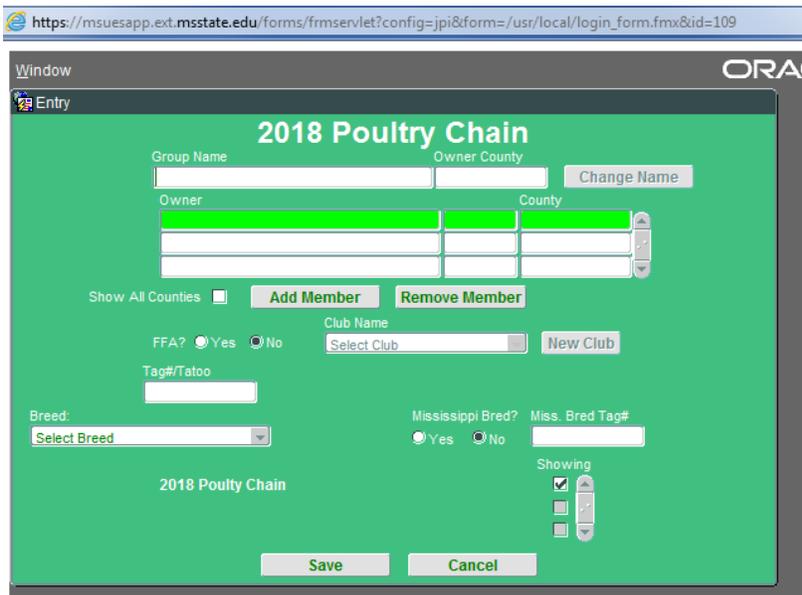


Poultry Chain Project **Important Dates and Information**

We will be using an online registration system. This system is the Oracle system currently used for all other livestock. (4H/FFA poultry shows online entry tab) No hard copies or emailed copies will be accepted.

Registration will begin April 1st and close on May 1st, 2020.



Registration:

When using the registration system, you will select NO for Mississippi bred.

Tag#/Tattoo has to have something in the blank, so if you would like to number your participants here you can or just put a 0 in the blank.

IMPORTANT DATES:

All dates can be found on the 4-H calendar as well as the Poultry Science Homepage, extension intranet and extension homepage under poultry.

There will be no exceptions to meeting these deadlines.

Participant information and registration must be completed by **May 1st**

Order chicks and have them delivered the week of **May 18th – May 22nd**
(I suggest ordering birds well in advance of the delivery date of May 18th week.)

Information including participation in showmanship has to be turned in by **October 1st**.
(email to Jessica Wells j.wells@msstate.edu and cc Tannah Christensen t.christensen@msstate.edu.)

State Show is **October 16th**, and there is the possibility that the show will continue into Saturday **October 17th** depending on participant numbers. Agents will be notified in advance if Saturday will be utilized.
(Located at the State Fair on the second Friday and potentially Saturday)

Check-in for birds will begin at 2:00 PM on **October 15th** and end at 8:30 AM on **October 16th**.

All awards will immediately follow the show. An average/ estimated time will be given prior to arrival of when awards should potentially take place. However this cannot be set in stone because it is dependent on judging time which can vary.

Any participant receiving a blue ribbon at the county level is eligible to participate in the state fair.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

All about the birds:

Participants can only show in one category and all birds shown MUST be of the same breed.

ONLY 3 BIRDS WILL BE BROUGHT TO THE SHOW

Order only female chicks. (Some websites will call them pullets)

We recommend ordering 20 but less can be purchased. Just remember you will have less to select from for competition.

Juniors and Seniors (according to 4-H age) can compete in the state level. Cloverbuds can compete at the county level.

2 categories to compete in: Each participant has to choose one category

For the meat category: Any American Breed (Plymouth Rocks, Dominiques, Wyandottes, Javas, Rhode Islands, Chantecler, Jersey Giants, Lamona, New Hamshires, Hollands, Delawares, Buckeyes)

For the layer category: Any Mediterranean Breed (Leghorns, Minorcas, White faced Black Spanish, Andalusians, Anconas, Sicilian Buttercups, Catalanas)

Chicks MUST be ordered from an NPIP certified hatchery. Any NPIP hatchery can be used as well as a commercial operation such as tractor supply that is supplied by an NPIP hatchery. Make sure you keep your order confirmation and receipt and place it in the participant record book. The NPIP number must be documented in the record book as well.

Before buying your chicks: Call hatchery to reserve chicks well in advance

Or you can order through your local tractor supply.

Judging at State Fair:

Any participant is eligible to show at the state fair.

Participants will be judged on live birds (3 brought to fair) and a record book. Half of the overall score is from each of these sections. You can show birds without competing in showmanship and a fourth bird can be selected and brought separate for the showmanship category. However, this bird must be selected out of those birds bought for the 2020 poultry chain project.

Participants can choose to enter the showmanship category at state fair. It is not mandatory, but you must **register by October 1st** in order to compete in showmanship. Please send your registration for showmanship to Jessica Wells j.wells@msstate.edu and cc Tannah Christensen t.christensen@msstate.edu.

Board of Animal Health and Testing of Birds:

Nikki Jefcoat (nikki@mdac.ms.gov) will handle all of our testing and approval of birds.

The Board of Animal Health will offer 4 dates to swab birds.

3 birds must be swabbed and tested at one of the four locations. No other testing will be done this year.

If you do not have your birds tested at one of the four locations, you will NOT be allowed to show.

The Board of Animal Health will announce dates and locations at a later date.

Participants CANNOT show their birds if they are not tested. This is your method of entry into the state fair. NO EXCEPTIONS