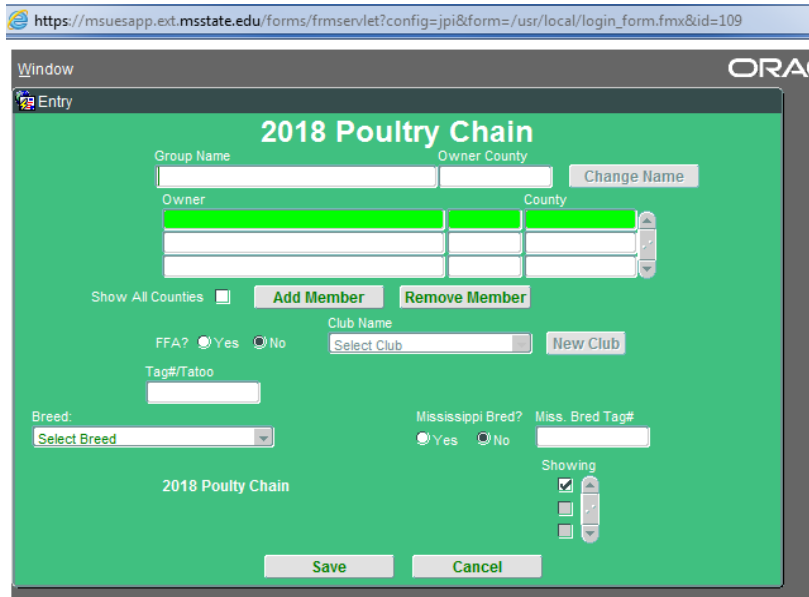


Chain Project Dates and Important Information

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 9th and close on May 1st 2018.



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

Tag#/Tattoo must be filled out. You can number your participants here if you would like, or you can just put a 0 in the blank.

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 13th – May 19th**
(I suggest ordering birds well in advance of the delivery date of the week of May 19th.)

Information (including participation in showmanship) has to be turned in by **October 1st**.

The State Show is **October 12th**. There is the possibility that the show will continue into Saturday **October 13th** depending on participant numbers. Agents will be notified in advance if Saturday will be utilized. (The State Show will be held at the State Fair on the second Friday and potentially Saturday.)

Check-in for birds will begin at 2:00 p.m. on **October 11th** and end at 8:30 a.m. on **October 12th**.

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 variable judging time.

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

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. Ordering less than 20 is an option, but you will have less to select from for the competition.

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

There are two categories to compete in. Each participant must 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, Catalanans)

Chicks MUST be ordered from an NPIP certified hatchery. Any NPIP hatchery can be used. Any commercial operation, such as Tractor Supply, that is supplied by an NPIP hatchery can also be used. 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, you should call the hatchery to reserve chicks well in advance.

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 separately for the showmanship category. However, this bird must be selected out of those birds bought for the 2018 poultry chain project.

Participants can choose to enter the showmanship category at the State Fair. It is not mandatory, but if you wish to compete in showmanship, you must register by October 1st.

Board of Animal Health and Testing of Birds:

Nikki Jefcoat will handle all of our testing and approval of birds.

The board of animal health will offer 4 dates to swab birds.

Swabs will be during retinal imaging days in Verona/Senatobia, Greenwood, Raymond, and Hattiesburg. Dates will be determined in March and agents will be notified.

3 birds must be swabbed and tested at one of the four locations listed. No other testing will be done this year. If you do not have your birds tested at one of the four listed locations, you will NOT be allowed to show.

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