



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

Teacher Manual

Sydney Royal
School Meat Bird
Pairs Competition

6 – 17 April 2023
Sydney Showground
Sydney Olympic Park
www.rasnsw.com.au



Sydney Royal
SINCE 1822

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Invitation

The Poultry Committee of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW is pleased to invite all NSW schools with poultry keeping facilities to participate in the 2023 Sydney Royal School Meat Bird Pairs Competition.

What the Competition aims to achieve

The Sydney Royal School Meat Bird Pairs Competition aims to:

- Give students an insight into modern commercial meat chickens
- Allow students to compete in a curriculum-linked trial that provides insights for the growing of commercial meat chickens.
- Offer students a practical, hands-on insight to future employment opportunities within the growing Poultry Industry.
- Create a component within our Poultry Competition that is both commercially and industry relevant.
- Dispel the myth that hormones are used in the production of chicken meat.
- Provide students with the opportunity to compete at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, in particular, schools with limited space for larger livestock.

What the Competition involves

The 2023 Sydney Royal School Meat Bird Pairs Competition will run as a trial at your school before the 2023 Sydney Royal Easter Show and culminate at the Show by exhibiting two pairs (2 males and 2 females) of meat chickens.

Competing Schools will receive a batch of day-old chicks that will be dispatched to a School Collection Centre, for pick up by a representative of your school, in late February 2023. The Poultry Coordinator will contact you with further dispatch details closer to the date. Schools are then required to rear the meat chickens and prepare the best four (4) chickens (a pair of females and a pair of males) to compete at the 2023 Sydney Royal Easter Show.

The Competition is judged by poultry industry experts and consists of three (3) components:

- **Presentation of Exhibits:** Best male pair and best female pair to be exhibited per school. Judged on bird health, confirmation and growth.
- **Project Component:** students are asked to create a PowerPoint presentation detailing how the chickens were raised and prepared for the Show. To be submitted online. The PowerPoint Presentation (min.15 - max. **20** slides) must detail how students prepare for and raise the chickens, referring to the Australian poultry industry and the school trial data.
- **Carcase Component:** birds are processed (organised by the Sydney Royal Easter Show) and carcasses are judged to commercial standards.

To enter

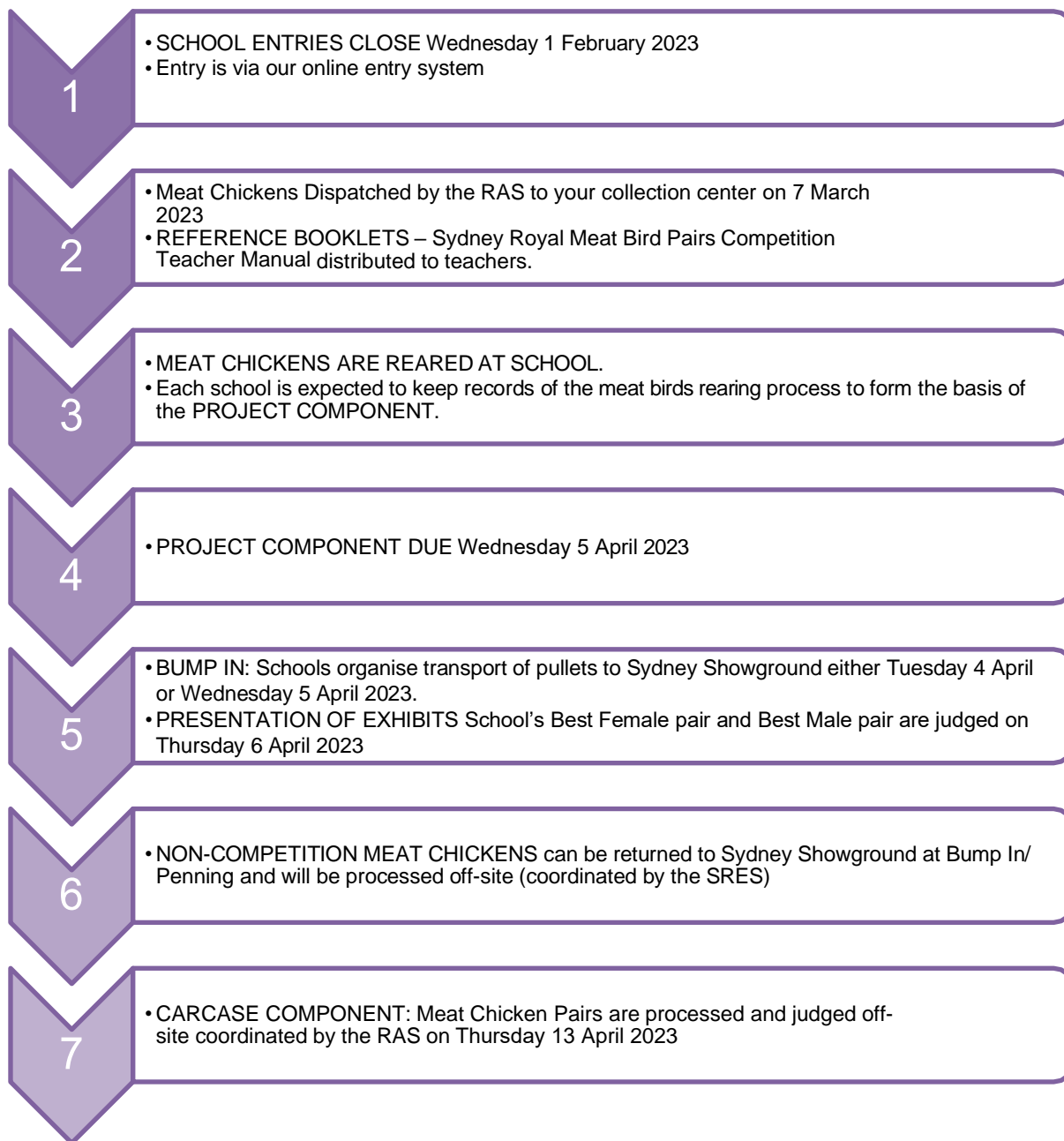
To participate in the 2023 Sydney Royal School Meat Bird Pairs Competition at the 2023 Sydney Royal Poultry Show please complete an entry form found on the RAS Poultry Website www.rasnsw.com.au/poultry before 1 February 2023.

The Competition is FREE to enter and all birds in this competition are provided by the RAS of NSW. Should you have any questions regarding the Competition, please contact the RAS Poultry Coordinator on (02) 97041270 or email poultry@rasnsw.com.au

School collection centres

The RAS are pleased to provide competing Schools with a batch of 12 day old chicks. For the safety of your poultry, the chicks will be delivered to a school collection centre within 2 hours of your school for collection. The RAS will assist the communication between schools and the dispatch centres, and we recommend liaising with schools in your local area to coordinate a bulk collection.

COMPETITION TIMELINE



Competition Judging

Competition Component	Due Date	Judging Date
Project Component	Submission due Wednesday 5 April 2023	Thursday 6 April 2023
Live Meat Bird Pairs	Penning 4 - 5 April 2023	Thursday 6 April 2023
Carcase Component	Coordinated by SRES	Thursday 13 April 2023

Returning the meat chickens to the Show for Competition

It is a condition of entry into the Sydney Royal School Meat Bird Pairs Competition 2023 that your school returns to Sydney Royal Easter Show to exhibit four (4) meat bird pairs in total, two female and two male meat birds for judging and participate fully in all three (3) components of the competition.

Non-competition (excess) meat chickens

After selecting the two best female and two best males, schools will have at least 10 meat birds remaining. These birds are excess to the competition, are not suitable for long term care and are therefore required to be humanely and ethically managed. Schools are advised that slaughter is considered a 'Category 5 Activity' (as per Animals in Schools for NSW) and hence, these birds cannot be processed or euthanized on site.

To assist all schools with management of their non- competition meat chickens, the RAS offers to organise suitable processing of excess birds for any school with no alternate arrangements. The RAS will receive excess meat chickens from competing schools at the time of penning for the competition (4 -5 April 2023). Please advise the Poultry & Pigeon Coordinator should you require the RAS' support.

Discounted School Show Tickets

Schools entering the competition will be offered tickets to visit the Sydney Royal Easter Show at a discounted school student price.

Competition Awards

The Sydney Royal School Meat Bird Pairs Competition awards include:

1. Live Competition of Meat Bird Pairs

- Meat Bird Pairs Male Meat Bird Pairs Female (live) 1st place (live) 1st place
 - Meat Bird Pairs Male Meat Bird Pairs Female (live) 2nd place (live) 2nd place
 - Meat Bird Pairs Male (live) 3rd place Meat Bird Pairs Female (live) 3rd place
- Best Meat Bird Pair Commercial Annual Trophy

2. Carcase Competitions of Meat Bird Pairs

- Meat Bird Pairs Male Meat Bird Pairs Female (Carcase) 1st place (Carcase) 1st place
- Meat Bird Pairs Male Meat Bird Pairs Female (Carcase) 2nd place (Carcase) 2nd place
- Meat Bird Pairs Male Meat Bird Pairs Female (Carcase) 3rd place (Carcase) 3rd place
- Best Meat Bird Pair Carcase Commercial Annual Trophy

3. Project Competition - Submission Winner

- Project - First Place; Second Place; Third Place.
- Annual Trophy Meat Bird Pairs Rearing Competition.

4. Overall Commercial Champion School

The school who completes the three components of the Competition most successfully will win:

- Commercial Annual Trophy

USING THE COMPETITION FOR LEARNING

The 2023 Sydney Royal School Meat Bird Pairs Competition has been developed to engage students in many aspects of the commercial egg production and laying hens.

NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum – Science K-10 Syllabus	
Early Stage 1	
Skills	STe-4WS A student explores their immediate surroundings by questioning, observing using their senses and communicating to share their observations and ideas.
Knowledge and Understanding	STe-8NE A student identifies the basic needs of living things.
Stage 1	
Skills	ST1-4WS A student investigates questions and predictions by collecting and recording data, sharing and reflecting on their experiences and comparing what they and others know.
	ST1-10LW A student describes external features, changes in and growth of living things.
Stage 2	
Skills	ST2-4WS A student investigates their questions and predictions by analysing collected data suggesting explanations for their findings, and communicating and reflecting on the processes undertaken.
Knowledge and Understanding	ST2-10LW A student describes that living things have life cycles, can be distinguished from non-living things and grouped, based on their observable features.
Stage 3	
Skills	ST3-4WS A student investigates by posing questions, including testable questions, making predictions and gathering data to draw evidence-based conclusions and develop explanation.
Knowledge and Understanding	ST3-11LW A student describes some physical conditions of the environment and how these affect the growth and survival of living things.

NSW Education Standards Authority (Board of Studies) Agricultural Technology Years 7-10 Syllabus

Stage 4

AG4-3 A student identifies and explains interactions between the agricultural sector and Australia's economy, culture and society.

AG4-10 A student implements and appreciates the application of animal welfare guidelines to agricultural practices.

AG4-11 A student undertakes controlled experiments in agricultural contexts.

AG4-12 A student communicates experimental data using a range of information and communicates technologies.

AG4-14 A student demonstrates plant and/or animal management practices safely and in collaboration with others.

AG4-7 A student identifies and uses skills to manage the interactions within animal production enterprises.

Stage 5

AG5-4 A student investigates and implements responsible production systems for plant and animal enterprises.

AG5-10 A student implements and justifies the application of animal welfare guidelines to agricultural practices.

AG5-12 A student collects and analyses agricultural data and communicates results using a range of technologies.

AG5-14 A student demonstrates plant and/or animal management practices safely and in collaboration with others.

AG5-7 A student explains and evaluates the impact of management decisions on animal production enterprises

NSW Education Standards Authority Technology Mandatory Years 7-8 Syllabus(2017) - Agriculture and Food Technologies

Outcomes	TE4-5AG A student investigates how food and fibre are produced in managed environments
Identifying and defining	Students investigate how food and fibre production is managed in environments as a system and how sustainability can be improved, for example: Plants and/or animal species grown in managed environments
Researching and Planning	Students investigate ideal conditions for growth and development of an agricultural plant or animal

Judging Criteria - Live Meat Bird Pairs

When selecting the two (2) meat bird pairs, consider the below criteria

Live Meat Bird Judging Criteria		
<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Guidelines /10</i>
Conformation	/10	Low Performing Score 0-4 Average Performing Score 5-7 High Performing Score 8-10
Muscularity	/10	
Fat Cover	/10	
General Health	/10	
Pair Similarity	/10	
Total	/50	

Conformation

Meat birds must be functional and structurally sound. Judges will review the head, body, legs and feet to ensure birds can eat, drink and move freely and easily. Legs and feet are particularly important to ensure birds are healthy and will grow efficiently.

Muscularity

Meat birds are grown to produce chicken meat. Therefore the muscularity of the bird is very important. A judge will review the breast (width and depth), back/ loin area (width) and thigh (depth). These areas are the most valuable retail cuts of the bird so birds with a large percentage of muscling in these areas are desirable.

Fat cover

Chicken meat is generally recognised as a lean source of protein. A small percentage of fat in the bird is important for meat quality characteristics such as flavour and tenderness, however excessive fat cover will reduce the meat yield and feed efficiency of the bird. Judges will palpitate the birds' breast, back and thigh to review fat cover.

General health

Producing healthy birds is the most important aspect of raising poultry. A healthy bird will be approximately 2.0 kg-2.5kg at 35 days and displays no signs of ill health.

Pair similarity

Meat birds are to be exhibited in pairs, either two (2) males or two (2) females. Pairs should match as closely as possible using the criteria above. Judges will review the birds as a pair to ensure a uniform product is produced, as per commercial standards.

Defects and disqualifications

- Incorrectly sexed meat birds
- Evidence of ill-health, illness or infestation of parasites
- Unable to stand or move normally
- Crooked breast bone
- Breast blisters
- Broken bones, wound's, abrasion's or bruises
- Excessive grime or faecal matter.

Judging Criteria - Meat Bird Carcase

Meat Bird Carcase Judging Criteria		
<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Guidelines /10</i>
Conformation/General Health	/10	Low Performing Score 0-4 Average Performing Score 5-7 High Performing Score 8-10
Muscularity	/10	
Fat Cover	/10	
Pair Similarity	/10	
Total	/40	

Conformation/General

Carcases must be well balanced across the body and be two (2) free from defects. Judges will review carcasses to ensure they should be matched as birds have reached commercial standard with a dressed carcase weight (fully processed) of 1.6 to 1.8kg, there are no injuries (broken wings, skin tears, etc) or missing parts (portion of breast, wing etc).

Muscularity

Therefore, the muscularity of the bird is very important. A judge will review the breast (width and depth), back/ loin area (width) and thigh (depth). These areas are the most valuable retail cuts of the bird so birds with a large percentage of muscling in these areas are desirable.

Fat cover

Chicken meat is generally recognised as a lean source of protein. Judges will review the breast, back and thigh to determine fat cover and content of the carcase.

A small percentage of fat in the carcase is important for meat quality characteristics such as flavour and tenderness, however excessive fat cover will reduce the meat yield of the carcase.

Pair similarity

Meat birds are to be exhibited in pairs, males or two (2) females. Pairs should be matched as birds have reached commercial standard with a dressed carcase weight (fully processed) of 1.6 to 1.8kg, there is no discoloration or bruising on the carcase, there

Defects and disqualifications

- Incorrectly sexed meat birds
- Evidence of ill-health, illness or infestation of parasites
- Broken bones
- Crooked breast bone
- Bruises and skin discoloration
- Processing defects will be reviewed: skin tears, missing skin or missing flesh

Judging Criteria - Project Component Rubric

Students are asked to create one PowerPoint presentation per school detailing how the chickens were raised and prepared for the Show, whilst demonstrating the school's interest in poultry. The Competition Sample Data Collection Tables have been provided as reference for students to complete or create their own record of performance. **The project is to be submitted online.**

The PowerPoint Presentation (min. 15 - max. 20 slides) must detail how students prepare for and raise the chickens, referring to the Australian poultry industry and the school trial data.

	Project Criteria				Score
Category	Beginning	Developing	Proficient	Excellent	
Score	1-2	3-5	6-8	9-10	
Content – Project 30%	The content demonstrates little summary of the layer show preparation. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production - Husbandry - Housing - Economics 	The content demonstrates a basic summary of the layer show preparation. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production - Husbandry - Housing - Economics 	The content includes good summarisation of the layer show preparation. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production - Husbandry - Housing - Economics 	The content includes an excellent summary of the layer show preparation. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production - Husbandry - Housing - Economics 	
Content – Industry 20%	The content shows little inclusion of Australian Egg industry research and discussion. Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production Types - Production in Australia 	The content shows a basic attempt to include Australian Egg industry research and discussion. Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production Types - Production in Australia 	The content shows good inclusion of Australian Egg industry research and discussion. Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production Types - Production in Australia 	The content shows excellent inclusion of Australian Egg industry research and discussion. Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production Types - Production in Australia 	
Organisation of Growth Data 30%	Data is not included.	Data collection has been attempted and included in the project.	Good use of collected data, includes a table.	Excellent data collection and organisation such as tables, graphs and /or charts.	
Media 15%	Incorrect media (eg: Microsoft Word). No/little use of images and/or multimedia.	Basic use of media (eg: Microsoft Powerpoint, Keynote). No/little use of images and/or multimedia.	Good use of appropriate media (eg: Microsoft Powerpoint, Keynote). Includes some images and/or multimedia.	Advanced use of appropriate media (eg: Microsoft Powerpoint, Keynote). Includes supporting images and/or multimedia.	
Formatting 5%	The overall project has limited structure and is poorly formatted.	The overall project has basic structure, with some formatting mistakes.	The overall project is mostly structured, with minimal formatting mistakes.	The overall project is well structured, with appropriate formatting.	
				Total	

COMPETITION SAMPLE DATA COLLECTION

<i>Arrival Data and Details</i>	
Date of Arrival:	
No. of Chicks Received:	
No. of Chicks Alive:	
No. of Chicks Deceased:	
Total Weight of chicks Received (alive):	

<i>Trial Data and Details</i>					
Week 1 Age: 7 wks	Losses	Chickens Alive	Temperature Min/Max	KG of feed used	Average Weight
Record Date:					
Totals					
Week 2 Age:	Losses	Chickens Alive	Temperature Min/Max	KG of feed used	Average Weight
Record Date:					
Totals					
Continued...					
Week 24 Age:	Losses	Chickens Alive	Temperature Min/Max	KG of feed used	Average Weight
Record Date:					
Totals					

<i>Trial Feeding and Husbandry Details</i>					
Feed Details:					
Husbandry and Housing:					
Week	Survivability %	Total Feed Consumed (kgs)	Total Body Weight (kgs)	Average Body Weight (kgs)	Feed Conversion Ratio
1					
2					
3					
4					
...					
Final Week					
Final Assess Date:	Survivability % from arrival to completion of trial	Total feed consumed during trial	Final total body weight of all layers	Average body weight of layers at completion of trial	Final feed conversion ratio
Totals					

CALCULATIONS

$$\text{Survivability\%} = \frac{\text{total birds alive}}{\text{total birds received}} \times 100$$

Total Body Weight (kgs) = *sum of all birds body weights*

$$\frac{\text{total body weight (kgs)}}{\text{number of chicks}}$$

Average Body Weight (kgs) =

$$\frac{\text{total feed}}{\text{consumed (kgs)}}$$

Feed Conversion Ratio=

$$\frac{\text{total body weight (kgs)}}{\text{consumed (kgs)}}$$

ANIMAL IN SCHOOLS

Keeping poultry at your school is an enjoyable and rewarding experience for students.

Appropriate care is paramount. Schools are required to be familiar with and satisfy the requirements of the Animal Research Act 1985 (**NSW**) and the Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes.

More information about how to ensure you are meeting the guidelines can be found at the NSW Department of Education's Animals in Schools website: nswschoolanimals.com/

RESOURCES

Sydney Royal Poultry Show
www.rasnsw.eom.au/poultry

Royal Agricultural Society of NSW - Education Department

www.rasnsw.eom.au/education/

NSW Department of Education Animals in Schools
www.nswschoolanimals.com/poultry-fowls/

Australian Chicken Meat Federation
www.chicken.org.au/

Poultry Hub
www.poultryhub.org/

Exhibition Bird Biosecurity prepared by Australian Government Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation
www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTkr72FMN84

Cobb-Vantress
www.cobb-vantress.com/products/cobb-500

Aviagen
en.aviagen.com/brands/ross/products/ross-308

POULTRY HUSBANDRY ASSISTANCE

PREPARING FOR POULTRY ARRIVAL

	Check List	Ready?
1. Poultry Coop	<p>On arrival, day-old chickens will require a warm dry environment that should include a provision of heat - such as a brooder or heat lamp.</p> <p>Prior to chicken arrival -we advise that you clean and disinfect all areas of the coop.</p> <p>As the chickens grow, a safe, spacious, solid construction with enclosed areas for chickens to roost at night, move freely during the day is recommended.</p> <p>Please ensure that if you are letting the chickens out to roam during the day that you have a fenced area to prevent attack from predators.</p>	
2. Bedding	<p>Ensure that brooders bedding with absorbent qualities, such as fine wood shavings, shredded paper, rice hulls or other absorbent materials. When cleaning the nest box, these materials can then be recycled into gardens.</p>	
3. Food	<p>Chickens will need a stable diet to promote with growth and development. While the chickens will LOVE your food scraps, please ensure you have a poultry ration suitable for day-old-chicks ready for their arrival. Ask your local stockfeed store for advice.</p>	
4. Water	<p>Chickens MUST have access to clean water at all times. Ensure your drinkers/ watering system is clean, topped up and ready for your chicken arrival.</p>	

On arrival at school

- We recommend that your new chickens are kept isolated from any other chickens as a biosecurity measure to reduce the risk of disease.
- Record the first round of trial data collection (sample on page 10 in the booklet)
- Ensure chickens are placed near feeders and waterers to ensure they learn their new surroundings.

Water consumption

Water is the most important nutrient, and good-quality water must be available to the birds at all times.

Generally, chicken will consume twice as much water as they do feed.

Please note: these consumption rates are guides for nipple drinker systems. Please ensure ample clean drinking water is available at all times.

Nutritional recommendations

Chicken require a well-structured nutritional program to ensure they achieve development and growth targets and reach maturity at the appropriate age. There are a large number of poultry nutrition companies that provide balanced mash/crumble/pellet/scratch rations to be fed to all stages of your chickens' development.

Sexing

While meat birds can be identified as male or female using a range of methods - the simplest form of sexing is by identifying noticeable differences in secondary sex characteristics. Physical differences such as a more rapid growth rate, larger combs and wattles in males, plus the beginning of male vocalisation such as crowing can be used to distinguish the sex of the meat birds.

PREPARING FOR POULTRY SHOW CHECKLIST

Once you have selected the TWO (2) MALES and TWO (2) FEMALES for Show - it is now time to prepare! Poultry are judged on their physical appearance so it is important that your chickens are looking their best!

	Checklist	Ready?
1.Handling & Training	The meat chickens will be picked-up, moved and handled multiple times while preparing for and at the show. Students should handle the meat chickens correctly and give chickens time in a training pen if possible. Stay calm when dealing with the chickens - slow, smooth movements stop birds from becoming agitated. If you are relaxed, the chicken will be too!	
2.Washing & Cleaning	While the chickens will be cleaning themselves regularly, it is important you give them a wash to ensure they look their best. Using warm soapy water, ensure you clean the chickens' body feathers, tail, wings and cloaca area. Take care to scrub the legs, feet and under the nails! Ensure you rinse all soap and grime off the feathers and body after washing.	
3.Drying	Take care when towelling-down or hair-drying the feathers of the chicken. Do not push feathers back against their growth direction, taking care not to split feathers.	
4.Feeding & Watering	After washing and drying, ensure your birds have immediate access to feed and water.	

PREPARING FOR TRANSPORT CHECKLIST

	Checklist	Ready?
1.Health	Your chickens should be in good health, of an adequate weight and of the correct age prior to transport.	
2.Boxes	Before transporting, please ensure you have a safe, adequate unit of transport for all four birds. Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Size: chickens must be able to stand, sit and turn safely within the space. - Ventilation: each unit of transport must have adequate sources of ventilation such as air holes. 	
3.Transport	A plan of transport that includes a safe and efficient vessel (vehicle, trailer) and route should be prepared well before departure. Trips over 3 hours should be allow for stoppages.	

Remember,

The RAS offers assistance to any school that is unable to organise suitable processing of excess birds or has no approved meat processing facility nearby. The RAS will take receipt of any excess birds from competing schools at the time of penning for the competition. The RAS will arrange for the processing of these birds.

Please advise the Poultry & Pigeon Coordinator should you require the RAS' support via poultry@rasnsw.com.au

OTHER POULTRY COMPETITIONS FOR SCHOOLS & SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN

YOUTH POULTRY SHOWMANSHIP COMPETITION

The Youth Poultry Showmanship Competition supports young people in the handling, preparation and interest in the poultry sector, with competitors demonstrating their presentation and showmanship skills and their knowledge of the poultry industry. During the judging process, competitors are asked to describe the preparation required to show their exhibits (birds), the specific features of their chosen exhibit (bird), and judges look for correct technique and confidence in handling the exhibit (bird) during the judging process.

The Competition is open to both 'Schools' competitors and 'Open' competitors aged between the 13-18 years and will take place on the Stage in the Poultry Pavilion.

POULTRY YOUNG JUDGES COMPETITION

The Sydney Royal Poultry Show also hosts the RAS Poultry Young Judges State Finals during the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

The Judging Competition is open to young people between the ages of 15-24 years old. Competitors can compete in Hard Feather, Soft Feather and Waterfowl Judging Competitions and competitors entered in all three (3) competitions will be eligible to be judged in the Champion Poultry Judging Competition. Please refer to:

www.rasnsww.com.au/young-judges-competitions/

For more information on any of the School Poultry Competitions please visit our website: www.rasnsww.com.au/poultry or contact poultry@rasnsww.com.au

Sydney Royal School Purebred Egg Layer Competition

The Competition takes place at your school before the 2023 Sydney Royal Easter Show and culminates at the Show by exhibiting your birds. Schools rear (3) pure-bred pullets of their chosen breed and prepare them for show at the 2023 Sydney Royal Easter Show. The Competition is judged by poultry industry experts and consists of three (3) components:

- **Presentation of Exhibits:** Three pullets are chosen by the school for judging. Birds are chosen based on uniformity and fitness for showing.
- **Project Component:** students are asked to create a PowerPoint presentation detailing how the pullets were raised and prepared for the Show. To be submitted via Dropbox.
- **Egg Laying Component:** the quality of the eggs are laid by the three pullets (during the 10 days of Competition) are judged to commercial standards.

Sydney Royal School Egg Laying Competition

The Competition takes place at your school before the 2023 Sydney Royal Easter Show and culminates at the Show by exhibiting your birds. Schools rear (3) Hyline pullets of their chosen breed and prepare them for show at the 2023 Sydney Royal Easter Show. The Competition is judged by poultry industry experts and consists of three (3) components:

1. **Presentation of Exhibits:** Three pullets are chosen by the school for judging. Birds are chosen based on uniformity and fitness for showing.
2. **Project Component:** students are asked to create a PowerPoint presentation detailing how the pullets were raised and prepared for the Show. To be submitted via Dropbox.
3. **Egg Laying Component:** the quality of the eggs are laid by the three pullets (during the 10 days of Competition) are judged to commercial standards.



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