Jackson County 4-H

Exhibition Ducks & Market Ducks

Livestock Guidebook 2023

Jackson County OSU Extension

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Adapted from the Union County 4-H Youth Development "Exhibition Ducks & Meat Ducks Handbook"

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4-H Livestock Project Checklist

☐ Stay up to date by checking the Jackson County 4-H Calendar, reading the monthly 4-H Newsletters, and going through the jackson.osu.edu website.

☐ Enroll in 4-H through 4-HOnline at https:/oh.4honline.com/ by April 15. (NOTE: Individual clubs may set an earlier date!)

☐ Order your Market Ducks at go.osu.edu/JacksonDuckForm by April 15.

☐ Attend Quality Assurance Training. Check the 4-H calendar for up-to-date information. **QA must be completed no later than June 1.**

- In the case of inclement weather, pay attention to the Jackson County OSU Extension Facebook page for cancellations.

- Monday, March 20th – Jackson County OSU Extension (6-8 PM)
- Saturday, April 1st – Jackson County Fairgrounds (10 AM – 12 PM)
- Saturday, April 15th – Jackson County Fairgrounds (10 AM – 12 PM)
- Thursday, May 11th – QA Make-up training ($10. Registration Required)

☐ Project Record Book: Purchase, complete, and bring to your club advisor, Skillathon, or Project Judging. Guidelines for raising and caring for your project are available in the Project Book.

☐ Junior Fair Book: Obtain and read the Jackson County Junior Fair Book for rules and regulations for our county fair. Available at the Jackson County Extension Office, through club advisors, and online at jackson.osu.edu.

☐ Obtain and care for your poultry projects by the required obtainment date.

☐ Animal ID: Enter ALL possible and eligible animals (including family back-ups) that you could possibly enter in the fair into 4-HOnline by June 15th (Poultry & Rabbits deadline: July 1st). Help sheets are available at go.osu.edu/JacksonHelp

☐ Project Completion: Attend and participate in a virtual or in-person livestock Skillathon or project judging.

☐ Fair Entries - Due June 15: Make ALL fair entries online at https://fairentry.com/Fair/SignIn/17821 for your animal(s).

☐ Enjoy the Jackson County Fair!

Optional:

☐ Learn more about exhibiting your poultry projects at the Ohio State Fair! More information can be found at: https://www.ohiostatefair.com/p/get-involved/livestock/livestock-competitions

☐ Learn more about participating in Skillathon competitions at the Ohio State Fair! More information can be found at: https://ohio4h.org/animalsciences/ohio-4-h-skillathons

Project Description

150DE Duck, Exhibition
At the Jackson County Fair, the Duck exhibition project consists of a pen of 2 birds. Members show a male and a female of the same breed as a pair. Exhibitors are limited to 2 entries (2 pair) of exhibition ducks. **NPIP papers are required for the exhibition duck project.**

150DM Duck, Market
Exhibitors will be required to bring a pen of 2 market ducks (Heavy Class) and will be taking their best matched 2 ducks in for competition at the time of the show. Ducks are required to be no more than 11 weeks in age and will have a hatch-date that aligns with this requirement. The hatch-date will be published each year.

4-H Poultry Exhibitors are HIGHLY encouraged to review the poultry resource list at https://ohio4h.org/poultryresources for the greatest success with their poultry projects.

Purpose of the Market/Exhibition Duck Project

- Learn how to brood, feed, and care for ducks.
- Learn responsibility by having a flock of your own.
- Develop business ability by having a business enterprise of your own.
- Learn how to keep and use records.
- Learn new, interesting things about poultry.

Advantages of the Market/Exhibition Duck Project

- Ohio's climate is favorable for poultry production.
- Poultry are easier to handle than larger livestock projects.
- Only a small area is required for poultry projects.
- You will gain valuable knowledge of poultry production, which will be helpful if you decide to become a commercial poultry producer.
- There is a very large poultry industry in Ohio and the United States that is always looking for knowledgeable individuals to employ.
- You can help provide food for your family or you can sell eggs and/or birds for income.

Choosing a 4-H Project

- Identify your objective. Do you want: To have fun? To add to the family food supply? To make money? To explore a career? To have something different for show?
- Determine the space and equipment needed.
- How much money can you invest?
- What are the city and county ordinances where you live? Are there any restrictions?

Purchasing Your Birds

ALL market poultry (including ducks, chickens, and turkeys) must be ordered and distributed through the Jackson County OSU Extension Office

Market Duck Orders:

Market Ducks can be ordered through the Jackson County OSU Extension Office. Information about ordering your Market Poultry projects can be found online at Jackson.osu.edu.

Market Poultry orders are placed online through online payment or via check and confirmation will be sent following the completion of your order. **Orders must be placed by April 15th.**

Market Duck Order Form: go.osu.edu/JacksonDuckForm
Market Duck Pricing: $5.00 per bird + $5.00 Exhibitor Fee

Tips for Ordering Market Ducks:

- Start with more than a pair of ducks (minimum requirement is 6 ducklings; 6 to 8 ducklings are recommended for market projects). You need to be able to show 2 that match so you don't want to limit your choices. If you have space, you might want to consider 8 or 10.

- Meat ducklings must be in the heavy class. **Pekin ducks** are the breed of duck chosen for Jackson County Market Duck orders.

Purchasing Exhibition Ducks:

- Buy from a reliable source.

- Because you may want only several birds, go to a hatchery to pick them up or order extra market ducks as part of Jackson County's order. These birds could be raised as future Exhibition Duck projects.

- A list of approved hatcheries is available from the Ohio Department of Agriculture. When purchasing ducks, purchase only from producers who participate in the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP). This is a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program in which all breeders from NPIP flocks are tested for some of the important diseases of poultry. This assures you that the ducks you receive are not infected with diseases.

Classifications for Breeds of Ducks

Ducks are classified by size (weight)

- **Heavy Class:** Pekin, Aylesbury, Rouen, Muscovy
- **Medium Class:** Cayuga, Crested, Swedish, Buff
- **Light Weight Class:** Runner, Campbell, Magpie
- **Bantam Class:** Call, East Indie, Mallard

Jackson County Junior Fair Requirements: Market Ducks

Age: No more than 11 weeks of age.

Obtainment: Must be ordered through the Jackson County OSU Extension Office by April 15th.

Obtainment Date: When they arrive (~11 weeks before the Jackson County Fair).

Weight: 6-9lbs

Required Identification/Weigh In/Testing:

Weigh In – Saturday, July 15th, 2023.

Jackson County Junior Fair Requirements: Exhibition Ducks

Age: Determined as of breed standards.

Obtainment: Must be obtained from a reputable, NPIP hatchery.

Obtainment Date: June 23rd, 2023.

Weight: Within standards for the specified breed.

Required Identification/Weigh In/Testing: N/A

Caring for Your 4-H Livestock Project: Ducks

Getting Started

Preparation and Brooding

The term *brooding* refers to the period immediately after hatch when special care and attention must be given to ducklings to ensure health and survival.

The term *rearing* refers to the remainder of life after brooding until maturity.

Handling of day-old ducklings has a direct relationship on the life-time production of the bird. Effective management begins before the day-olds arrive.

The three factors to control are **environment, feed, and water**.

Environment

- Brooding houses should be isolated from other houses containing older birds. The producer should follow an “all-in, all-out” program, never mixing birds of different ages.
- Brooders must be set up in a draft-free environment.
- Heat lamps must be checked to ensure that they are working properly before the arrival of the ducklings. This is a routine check to be carried out daily.
- Ventilation should be adequate to remove undesirable gases such as ammonia and provide clean air but not so much to remove heat or create drafts.
- The brooding area should be heated to 95-98° before the arrival of the ducklings. Be careful to always check the temperature at the level of the ducklings.
- A hatched duckling cannot maintain a proper body temperature without your help. Exposing a duckling to cool temperatures in the first three weeks of life makes the bird uncomfortable and less likely to eat the feed and drink the water needed for a good start.
- Turn the heat on at least one day before the birds arrive. The temperature ½ " below the litter surface should be at least 80ºF. Even if the air is the correct temperature, the birds can be chilled by the cold floor under them.
- Pine shavings are the ideal bedding choice for brooding and rearing your poultry. Meat birds need at least 1” of clean fresh bedding for each week of age. A 3-week-old bird should be on 3” of bedding.
- Bedding is used to conserve heat and must be leveled and compacted to prevent chick crowding.
- Bedding should not contain too much dust as it can cause your birds to have breathing problems.
- Cedar and hard-Wood chips should not be used as it will stain your birds.
- It is important to always keep your bedding clean and dry. Dirty bedding can cause health problems for your birds.
- Always remove any wet or caked bedding and replace it with dry shavings.
- The following chart shows the average temperatures for brooding chicks as they mature week by week.
- Larger breed ducks are usually comfortable at a temperature of 65° by 21 days of age.

- For ducks you can decrease the brooder temperature by 10 degrees per week following the first week.

Age of Ducklings (weeks)	Temperature
1	95 °
2	85 °
3	75 °
4	65 °

Recognizing Your Bird's Comfort

The behavior and sounds of the ducklings will indicate their comfort level. Comfortable birds will form a circle under the lamp while cold birds will huddle and pile. If birds are too hot, they will crowd as far from the lamps as possible. Some birds will pant if the temperature is too high. Ducklings won't make the same noises as chicks do when they are uncomfortable. You will have to watch for signs to show if they are too hot or too cold. Your birds will do a better job than a thermometer of telling you if they are comfortable. The diagrams below show how birds will move away or towards the heat lamp if they are hot or cold.

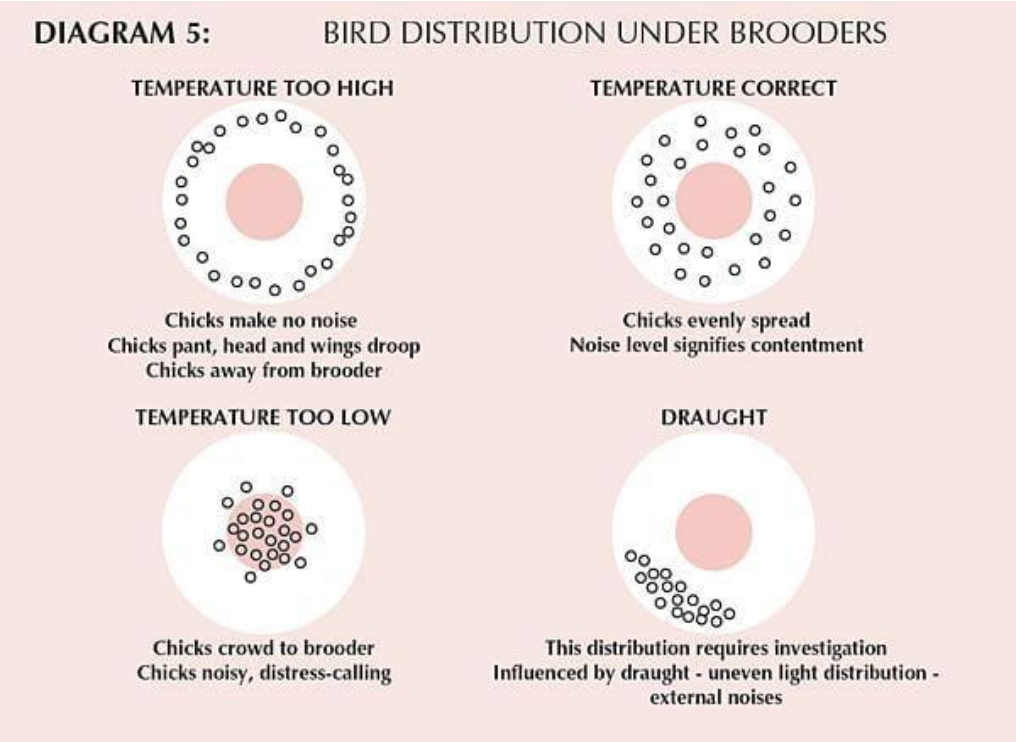


Diagram from Ross Broiler Management Manual, August 2, 2007. Reprinted with permission of Aviagen Incorporated, Aviagen Limited, Newbridge, Midlothian, Scotland, UK, and Huntsville, Alabama, USA.

Feed and Water

- Fresh food and water should be available on arrival of the day-old ducklings.
- Young ducklings can easily drown so it is important to use chick waterers, not open trays.
- Do not place them directly under the light source.
- Fresh water should be always available. The waterers need to be cleaned on a routine basis. Ducklings make more of a mess than chicks and tend to drop feed into the waterer. It is very important to keep it clean.
- It is helpful to dip the ducklings' beaks into the water when you first place them into the brooder ring.
- Feed should be provided continuously. Never restrict feed during the brooding stage of duckling development.
- Water is the most important nutrient you can provide for your birds. If the water is not clean, your birds may not drink enough thus limiting their feed intake and their growth rate.

Guidelines for Feeding Your Ducklings

Proteins

- Protein is a nutrient that must be present in adequate amounts in poultry food.
- Proteins are broken down into amino acids during the digestive process.
- Amino acids are classified as "essential" or "nonessential."
- The "essential" amino acids are those that cannot be produced in sufficient quantity in digestion to meet a bird's nutritive requirements. They must be supplied in the diet.
- Since most protein sources individually will not supply all essential amino acids, it is common to use combinations of materials containing protein.
- Common protein sources include meat meal, fishmeal, soybean meal, alfalfa meal, and corn gluten meal.
- All feed manufacturers are required to list the percentage of protein contained in their feed on a tag attached to the bag.
- Always check the feed you buy to ensure it has the required protein content.
- The amount of protein required in the ration varies by species, and in some cases, changes as the birds grow.
- Begin feeding your day-old ducklings a non-medicated starter ration.
- Protein requirements need to be higher when your ducklings start out and will decrease as they mature.
- Meat duck rations are higher in protein than they are for exhibition ducks due to their quick rate of growth.
- A typical duck starter feed should be between 20-22%.
- When your ducklings are approximately 3 weeks of age you may want to switch them to a grower finisher until the show.
- Gower-finisher feeds are typically 18-20%.
- The starter helps build a strong skeletal system and the grower-finisher helps put the meat on the bird.
- Since meat ducks are only about 11 weeks of age at show, it is important to always have a light on so that your flock can eat and drink during the night.

Carbohydrates and Fats

- Both carbohydrates and fats serve as sources of energy for the birds.
- Most grains supply carbohydrates in large amounts but do not contain enough protein, minerals, or vitamins in amounts or quality to produce strong, vigorous birds.
- Carbohydrates also are found in other ingredients of vegetable origin, such as soybean meal. The most common carbohydrate source in typical poultry diets is corn.
- Fats are found in limited amounts in grains, and to a greater extent in some other feedstuffs such as meat or fish meals as well as in pure form.
- Usually, when fats must be added to poultry diets, they are added as either vegetable oils or tallow (rendered animal fat).

Minerals

- Minerals are essential inorganic elements, and unless provided in sufficient supply, both egg production and hatchability may drop.
- Grains, their by-products, and other vegetable feed stuffs are low in minerals and must be supplemented with ingredients of higher mineral content. In nearly all poultry diets, a trace mineral premix is added to meet the birds' mineral requirements.

Vitamins

- Vitamins are required in small amounts for normal health, growth, and reproduction.
- Vitamins essential for viability and growth of chicks include among other Vitamins A, B12, D, riboflavin, and pantothenic acid. As with minerals, a vitamin premix is added to nearly all poultry diets to meet basic needs.

You can learn more about livestock nutrition by using the Jackson County Sample Feed Kit – which includes samples of typical feed ingredients that youth can learn to identify and understand their use. Learn more at ohio4h.org/livestock.

Rations

- Commercially mixed feeds usually are the best way to make sure poultry receive a proper balanced diet. Because duck requirements change with age and productive status, feed names typically reflect the age and production level of the birds. For example, young ducks from hatch to about 6 weeks of age should receive "starter" feeds.
- Birds being raised for meat should be fed a diet that is specifically formulated for meat birds. Scratch is not a balanced feed. Because it usually is cracked corn and wheat, consider it a supplement.
- Most duck feed fed daily must be a prepared ration.
- Today, almost all feed is available in crumble or pellet form. This is the ground feed (formerly called mash) that is formed into a pellet, and sometimes crushed into a crumble.
- It is not advisable, and usually not successful, for 4-H members to mix their own feed. Poultry require additional sources of grains and protein because their diets require vitamin and trace mineral premixes. You also must own a grinder and mixer to mix your own feed. If you wish to mix your own poultry rations, visit with your local Extension faculty or the OSU Department of Animal Sciences.

Medicated vs. Non-Medicated Feeds – What to Feed Your Ducks??

After consulting with the Poultry Extension Specialist for The Ohio State University Extension, Poultry Extension Specialist for the University of Kentucky Extension, representatives from the Ohio Poultry Association and CSA Animal Nutrition, here is the factual evidence and written rules regarding feeding medicated feeds to ducks:

It is recommended that anyone raising ducks or geese feed a non-medicated duck feed.

According to the 2023 Feed Additive Compendium, which lists all the federal drug clearances for animals, the only species approved for use for Amprolium (the active ingredient in most chick starters to prevent coccidiosis) are chickens, turkeys, and pheasants. Most starter feeds have a coccidiostat added to the poultry ration to prevent coccidiosis- you do not want to use these feeds. Feeding a medicated feed to ducks would be ***off-label drug use*** and is not permitted, and not recommended. Again, it is illegal to feed a medicated feed to waterfowl as it is off-label drug use and is not permitted by the FDA.

Ducks and Geese require a higher level of niacin for early leg development than other poultry species. Chicken/turkey feed would not be high enough as they need to have 65 mg/kg of niacin in the feed to prevent splayed or bowed legs. Ducks and geese cannot convert niacin from tryptophan in their body as well as other poultry species can. **Ducks eat more feed per ounce of body weight than chickens, which can cause them to overmedicate if fed medicated starter feeds like chicks.**

Additionally, here are some other duck nutrition resources:

- Feeding Ducks, NC State Extension
- Cornell University - Duck Nutrition
- Extension.org - Raising Meat Ducks in Small Backyard Flocks
- Extension.org - Raising Ducks Intended for Consumption

Many of these resources can be found on **go.osu.edu/JacksonPoultry** on our poultry resources page.

You can learn more about poultry nutrition by visiting https://ohio4h.org/poultryresources.

Check out the "Feeding Ducks Intended for Consumption" article!

Selecting, Preparing and Showing Ducks

Male vs Female

There are several ways to tell the difference between a male and a female duck.

- Male ducks (drakes) have two sex feathers located on the tail.
- Male ducks can have a different color patter than the female duck. Check the Standard of Perfection.
- Female ducks have a louder quack than male ducks.

Exhibition Ducks:

Make a preliminary selection from your entire flock a week or two before the show.

- Take time to handle your ducks before the show so they get used to being picked up.
- When making your final decision on which ducks are in the best "condition," here are the things to consider:
    - Feather Quality
    - Best coloring for breed
    - How close do they match the Standard of Perfection
    - Does the bird have any disqualifications as listed in the Standard of Perfection.
    - How close does the drake and duck match each other.

Meat Ducks:

A week or so before the show, make a preliminary selection from your entire flock.

- Take time to handle your ducks before the show so they get used to being picked up.
- Examine all birds for defects that could cause them to be downgraded. General defects can include cuts and tears, broken or dislocated bones, bruises, crooked keel bone, deformed legs or wings, breast blisters or external parasite damage.
- When making your final decision on which ducks to place in your pen there are several things to consider: Confirmation, Fleshing, and Uniformity.

    - ***Confirmation:*** The shape of the duck's breast. It should be long, wide and carry back as far as possible on the keel bone. The closer the breast is to the shape of a brick, the better the breast is.
    - ***Fleshing:*** Refers to the amount of meat or muscle.
    - ***Uniformity:*** All the birds need to match. They should be similar in weight, confirmation, and fleshing. You want both birds in your pen to be as close as possible so that if the judge were to close his/her eyes they would all feel the same.

Bathing Your Ducks:

After selecting your ducks, make sure you give them a beauty bath.

- Always sponge or rub the bird with the feathers, not against them.
- Rinse the bird completely after shampooing, removing any residue.
- After rinsing, remove extra water from the bird with a towel and allow the bird to dry.

Ducks are better than chickens at keeping themselves clean. Check for stains on white ducks. Always check their feet and bill for dirt. It is easier to clean a duck for show if it has been kept clean while growing.

Before the show, spot clean or rewash your birds, depending on how clean they are. Check the shanks and feet as well. The judge likes a clean duck!

Duck Showmanship

General Tips:

- Always take clean birds into the show arena for showmanship.
- Always put a bird into or take a bird out of the cage headfirst.
- Make sure you hold your bird securely so that it feels safe. Grasp the bird's legs between your fingers and rest the breastbone on your arm.
- When showing your birds, be proud of a job well done. Demonstrate to the judge all that you have learned.
- Have Fun!

What Do I Study?

- Your Poultry 4-H Project Book.
- Read the resources located at **https://ohio4h.org/poultryresources.**
    - **NOTE:** Because there is no print version of the Poultry Resource Book, the above website serves as the handbook until a print version is sold. Read these resources!
- Anatomy (parts of the duck).
- Health and diseases.
- Medication usage and labeling.
- Breeds (and breed selection).
- Behavior
- Flock management (biosecurity, wing clipping, beak trimming, predator awareness, etc.)
- Nutrition
- Breeding, Brooding, and Hatching

Biosecurity & Prevention

Biosecurity

Biosecurity is defined as “procedures intended to protect humans or animals against disease or harmful biological agents.” Biosecurity is an important and necessary part of raising any livestock, especially poultry!

A good sanitation program is essential to a successful 4-H poultry project.

- Thoroughly clean and disinfect the place in which the ducklings are to be brooded at least 1 week before the ducklings arrive.
- Remove all litter and manure from the previous brood.
- Scrape or sweep bits of manure and other debris from the sidewalls and floor.
- Sweep the dust from the sidewalls and ceiling. This is important because one tiny bit of manure can harbor millions of disease-causing organisms for months.
- Thoroughly wash the brooding area with water and a good detergent. After the area has dried, disinfect the area with an approved disinfectant (ask your local Extension faculty for advice).
- Thoroughly wash and rinse all waterers and feeders and set them in the sun. The sun is one of the best disinfectants available, but it must strike all surfaces. Turn the equipment for complete coverage.
- Place a pan of disinfectant near the door and always step in it when entering or leaving the duck brooding area.
- During the brooding period, one of the messiest areas in the house will be around the waterers. Lessen this problem by placing the waterers on raised platforms. Such platforms can be made using 2 x 4s. Cut four pieces of 2 x 4-inch boards into 30-inch lengths. Place the pieces on edge to form a square and nail the corners. This makes a platform 4 inches high and 30 by 30 inches square. Cover with 1-inch hardware cloth or welded wire fabric.
- When bringing in new adult birds or returning birds to your flock after showing, it is a good idea to quarantine them for about 2 weeks prior to returning them to the flock.
- Ducks that appear healthy may be carrying disease organisms from contact with other birds.
- A quarantine area consists of several small pens that are a distance from your main flock. Care for the quarantined birds after caring for the rest of your flock. If the birds in quarantine are infected, they will show signs of disease in 2 to 3 weeks.

Preventing Health Problems

- If your flock becomes sick, it is important to obtain an accurate diagnosis. The problem can be poor nutrition, poor management, or an infectious disease. You need to know the source of the problem to treat the birds properly and prevent future losses. Check your flock daily to spot diseases or parasites so you can start treatment right away.
- For more information about identifying and treating poultry diseases contact your local veterinarian.
- Everyday sanitation: Disease is often transmitted from older birds to younger ones.
- Feeders need to be cleaned frequently to remove caked feed. Never use moldy feed.
- Wash your waterers daily and disinfect at least once per week using a brush to clean them out.
- Proper ventilation in the brooder and the coop will reduce moisture and disease organisms.
- Caked or wet litter should be removed as soon as it forms to keep the house clean and dry.

Diagrams & Tools

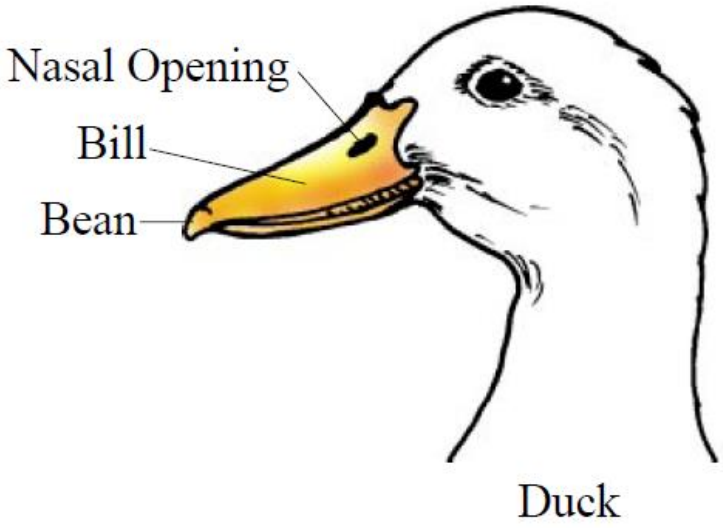


Figure 1. Parts of a duck's head (Image from University of Illinois Extension)

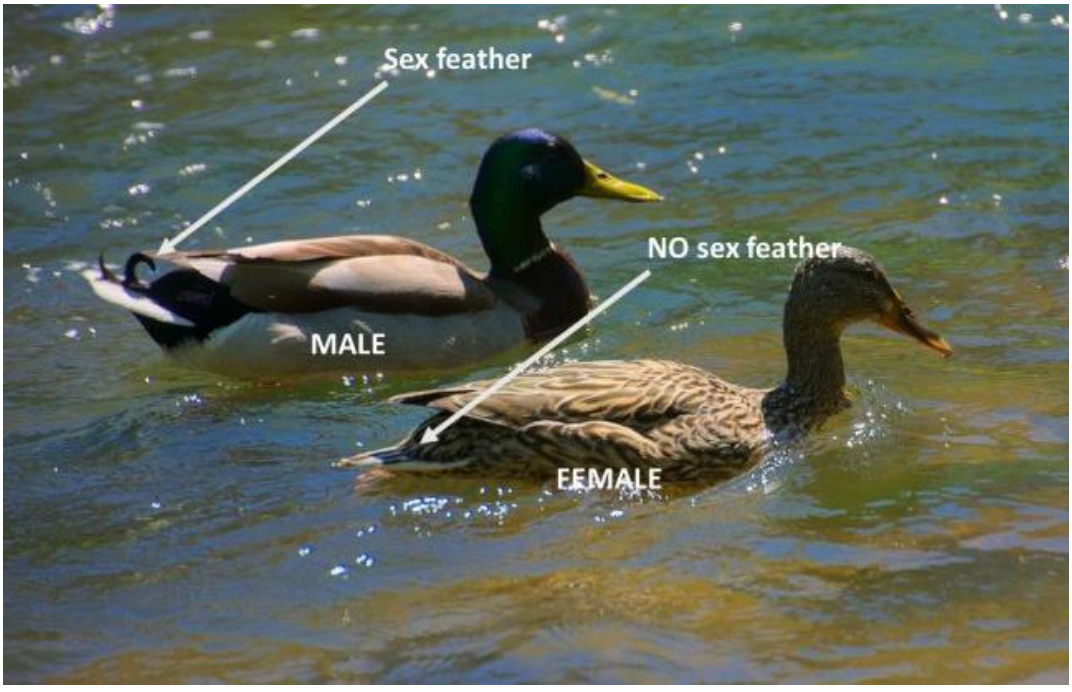
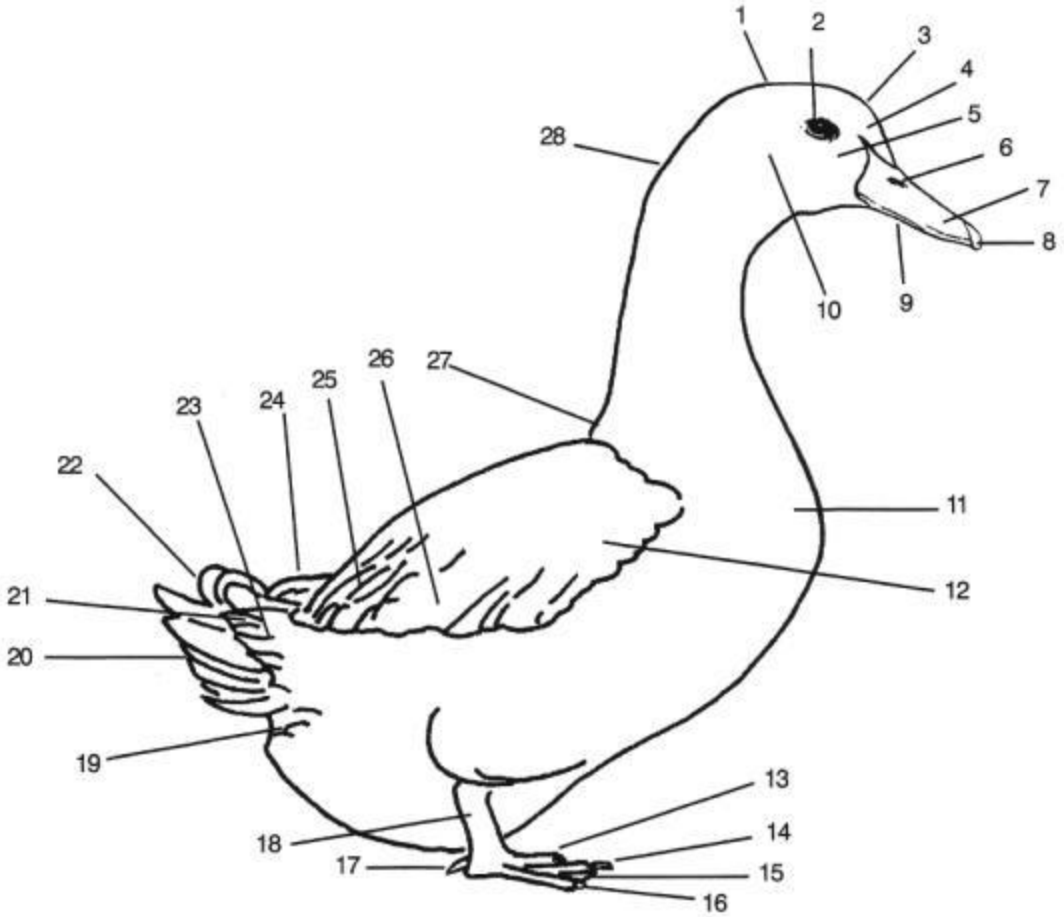


Figure 2. Comparison of male and female ducks, showing the location of the male sex feather (Image created by Dr. Jacquie Jacob, University of Kentucky from original photo by Janfe on Shutterstock.com)



1. Crown
2. Iris
3. Forehead
4. Face or lores
5. Molar region
6. Nostril
7. Upper Mandible
8. Bean
9. Lower mandible
10. Ear coverts
11. Breast
12. Wing coverts
13. Inner toe
14. Middle toe
15. Webbing
16. Outer toe
17. Hind toe
18. Shank or tarsus
19. Under tail coverts
20. Tail feathers
21. Upper tail coverts
22. Sex feathers
23. Rump
24. Primary feathers
25. Secondary feathers
26. Speculum
27. Mantle
28. Nape

Figure 3. Parts of a Duck. University of Wisconsin, Madison. Preparing Ducks for the Fair. Laatsch, David R. https://livestock.extension.wisc.edu/articles/preparing-ducks-for-the-fair/

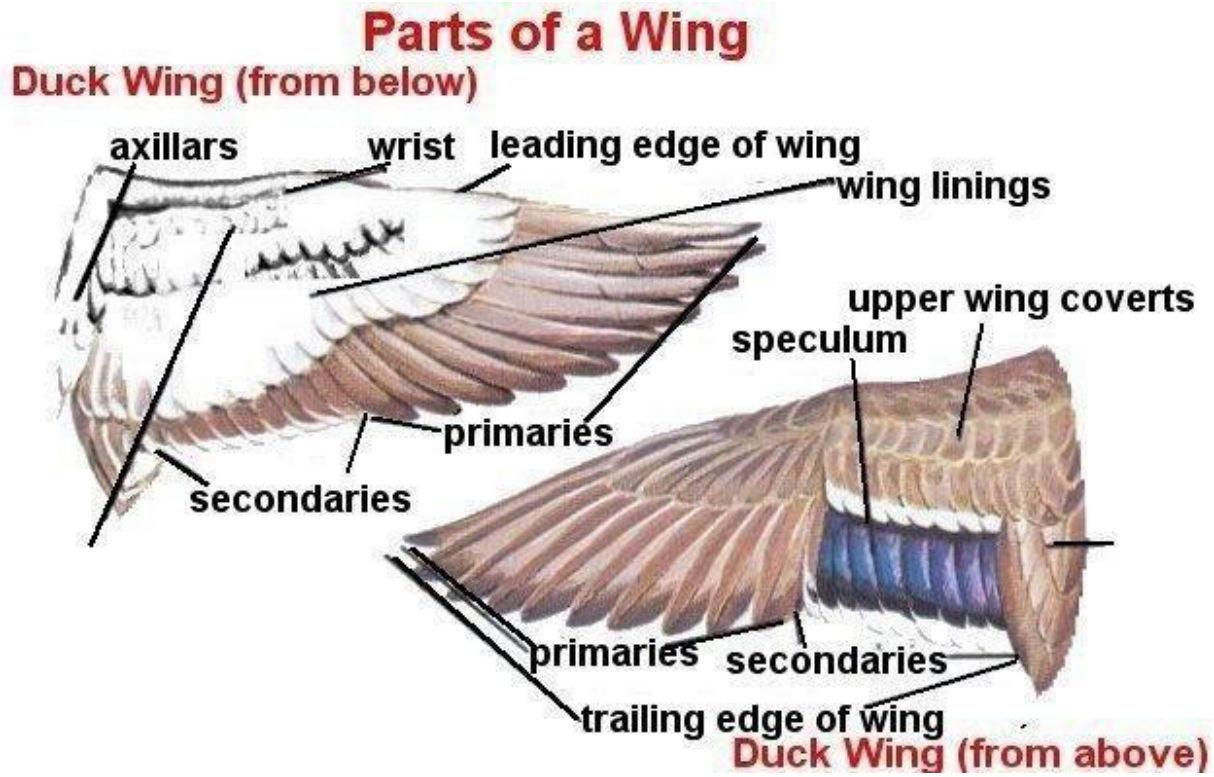


Figure 4. Parts of a Duck Wing. https://ohio4h.org/poultryresources

Glossary

Abdomen—The underpart of the body from the point of the keel to the tail.

Amino Acids—Amino acids are building blocks of protein. For example, if a brick wall represented protein, each brick in the wall would be an amino acid.

Anticoccidial—A drug to prevent coccidiosis.

Axial feather—The short feather growing between the primaries and secondaries of the wing.

Bantam—A diminutive fowl—some being distinct breeds, others being miniatures of a large breed or variety, approximately one-fourth to one- fifth their size. Usually ornamental in character, some breeds have considerable merit as egg producers, a few as meat fowl.

Breast—The entire forward part of the body of live fowls from the juncture of the neck and body down to the rear point of the keel bone.

Brood—1. A distinct group or birds, usually of the same age, placed as a group. 2. The act of rearing chicks using heat and other management options.

Cock—A male fowl 1 year old or more. Cockerel—A male fowl less than 1 year old.

Condition—The state of a fowl regarding health, including cleanliness and brightness of plumage, head parts, legs, and feet.

Coverts—Those feathers that cover the base of the primary and secondary wing and main tail feathers.

Dubbed/dubbing—A term used to describe the close trimming of the comb, wattles, and earlobes of the male.

Earlobes—The fleshy patch of bare skin below and behind the ears, varying in size and shape with color, either red, white, blue or purple, according to the breed.

Enamel-white—The satin-like white surface color found in the earlobes of Mediterranean *breed*

Faking—A self-evident attempt to remove or conceal a disqualification or serious defect to create merit which does not naturally exist. Results in disqualification.

Hock—The joint between the lower thigh and shank, sometimes incorrectly referred to as the knee.

Keel—In chickens and turkeys as well as most birds, large bony protrusion on the midline of the breastbone; it resembles the keel of a boat, both as to shape and position.

Keelbone—The large bony protrusion on the midline of the breastbone or sternum.

Line-breeding—Mating of distantly related individual birds.

Plumage—The collective feather covering of the entire body of a fowl, including the head, neck, wings, tail, and, where specified for breed, the shanks, and toes.

Poult—The young of the domestic turkey before the sex can be determined.

Poultry—A general term applied to all domesticated fowl, including chickens, turkeys, and waterfowl.

Primary feathers—The long, stiff feathers of the wing, growing from the last segment of the wing. When at rest, these feathers are folded under and are completely hidden by the secondaries when the wing is properly folded; also known as “primary flight feathers.” These feathers are responsible for power during flight.

Pubic bones—The thin, terminal portion of the hip bones that form part of the pelvis. Considered important in evaluating productivity of the female fowl.

Pullet—For exhibition purposes, a female fowl less than 1 year old.

Secondary feathers—The long, stiff wing feathers growing from the middle wing segment. When the wing is folded, the exposed secondaries form a triangular area known as the “wing bay.” These “secondary flight feathers” are responsible for lift during flight.

Shank—The portion of the leg below the hock, exclusive of the foot and toes; the metatarsus.

Spur—A stiff, horny projection from the rear inner side of the shanks, rounded or pointed according to age, prominent in the male fowl, may be present in female fowl, increasing greatly in size with age.

Stern—The rear underpart of a fowl extending from the rear end of the keel bone to the ends of the pubic bones.

Sternum—The breastbone to which the ribs and keel are attached.

Strain—Fowl of any breed or variety that have been line-bred for a number of years and that reproduce uniform characteristics with marked regularity.

Stub—A short section of the stem of a feather, sometimes with a few short barbs attached. A disqualification when found on shanks or between the toes of clean-legged breeds

Uropygial gland—The oil or "preen" gland, the only skin gland in birds. A large gland opening on the back at the base of the tail feathers, secreting an oily fluid which the fowl applies to its feathers during preening. It is especially developed in waterfowl because the oil helps make the plumage shed water.

Variety—A subdivision of a breed, distinguished either by color, color and pattern, or comb.

Wattles—The thin, hanging growths of flesh at either side of the base of the beak and upper throat; usually much larger and longer in males than in females. Usually red in color, but purple in Sumatras and Birchen, and brown in Red Modern Games and Silkies. Should be fine and soft in texture, slightly concave in surface, regular in outline, and uniform in size.

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