



Turkey Showmanship

Notes

In this class, you and your turkey will be judged on appearance and also on how well you show your turkey. Judges will be looking for the appearance and attitude of the member, showing of the turkey, the members knowledge of their turkey, and the appearance and condition of their turkey.

Dress Code

- **Shirt** Dress t-shirt, collared or button up shirt **PLUS** white lab coat
- **Pants** Long pants or shorts (no rips or tears)
- **Footwear** Hard soled footwear for member's safety

General

- The confidence and ability displayed by the member and the bird's response suggests previous work done with the bird. Handle the bird often before showing so they show well.
- The bird should be displayed in neat, properly constructed cages. The name of the exhibitor should be on each cage. The cage should have a hinged or sliding door to enable ease when removing birds from the cage. The cage should meet all requirements of size set out by the Nova Scotia 4-H program. Please refer to the Market Turkey Project Newsletter for more information.
- Bird should be removed head first from the cage. The bird should be placed back in the cage head first.

Showmanship Guidelines

- Turkeys are exhibited walking on the ground using a cane to guide them. Turkeys can be trained with relative ease. Walk in a clockwise fashion as indicated by the judge, use the cane to guide the bird; forward, right, left and to slow down (with handle) as required in order to keep the bird moving clockwise around the ring. When the judge ask to pose the bird calmly stop the bird, squat or kneel (one knee) beside the bird. With the left hand in front of the neck with an open palm (DO NOT GRASP the NECK), place the birds feet with your right hand. Now you are able to show the parts of the bird as requested by the judge.
- Turkey showmanship is very similar to poultry showmanship except that the turkey remains standing on the ground rather than being held due to their size.
- The judge may ask members questions regarding parts, disqualifications, etc to test a member's knowledge.
- To show the breast bone of the bird gently kneel (one knee) beside the bird. Reach over the bird and grasp the bird's legs with your right hand. Your right arm should control the wings. Gently roll the bird onto your thigh and expose the breast bone with your index and middle finger.