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February 2020

Dear 2019 Poultry Project Members and New Members,

Please read this letter carefully for important information. It is time to order turkeys if you are planning to enroll in the Market Turkey Class at this year's Ashland County Junior Fair. Orders are due postmarked and paid by **Friday, March 27**. A minimum of 3 birds (market hens) per member must be purchased. You may also purchase breed turkeys through this order form. This year the commercial (Large White) Toms/Hens that were previously allowed to be shown in the breeding turkey class will not be permitted and only a Heritage breed (whether purchased through the committee or by the exhibitor) will be shown in the breeding turkey class. Heritage breeds include those on the order form as well as midget or small white, Narragansett and black.

Turkey orders must be sent with payment to: Amy Pickering, Treasurer, Ashland County Poultry Committee, 891 County Road 1904, Ashland, OH 44805. Fill out the enclosed form and send the completed form with a check or money order for your birds (made out to the Committee) to Mrs. Pickering. Orders must be made by March 27.

Members are limited to one (1) Market Turkey and one (1) Breed Turkey at the fair. It is **mandatory the market turkey be a hen and be ordered from us**. The breeding turkey can be either a tom or a hen. The committee decided all market turkeys would be hens again this year upon recommendation from the judges who feel the hens are ready for market more quickly and are also what the consumer wants. Breed turkeys do not have to be purchased through this program – members may get their breed turkey on their own if they wish but remember, they must be a Heritage breed.

Turkey pickup will be on May 13 at 7 p.m. at the Extension office. The clinic will begin at 6 p.m. You will receive further details on this after you place your order.

The 4-H Poultry Committee is sponsoring an **essay contest** for all youth who would like to take turkeys this year at the fair. The youth must agree to join 4-H this year and use the turkeys as a 4-H project. The entry should consist of a cover page with name, address, phone number, age, name of 4-H group and a signed statement of parental approval. The essay should be a minimum of one page with no identifying names and include the following general topics:

- What goals the member will set for project?
- How will the animal be cared for?
- What housing facilities are available for the animal?

Three market turkey poults will be awarded to one winner of the contest and three heritage turkeys will be awarded to another. Please indicate whether you would like to receive market or breeding turkeys. Essays for the turkey give-away are **due to the Ashland County Extension office by Friday, March 27**. Essay entrants should pay for their birds and, if selected as the winner, will be reimbursed by the committee. The Poultry Committee will have other essay contests later in the year for members to win broilers and possibly breeding pairs. Members may win only one category per year. For more information, please call the Extension office at 419-281-8242.

Sincerely,

Kathy Blackford  
Extension Educator  
4-H Youth Development



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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