

# **POULTRY TERMS**

*Birds are classified according to class, breed, variety, sex, and age.*

## **POULTRY TERMS:**

**Class** – This refers to the origin of the bird as part of the classification system

Example: American Class – Rhode Island Reds, Plymouth Rocks, and New Hampshires

**Breed** – Each breed has a distinct shape and temperament of its own

**Variety** – Feather pattern, feather color, & comb determine the variety of a bird within a breed

Example: the White Leghorn and the Brown Leghorn are separate varieties because of the difference in their feather pattern: The Single Comb Rhode Island Red and the Rose Comb Rhode Island are in separate varieties because their combs are different shapes

**Symmetry** - Perfection of proportion of shape in all sections of the fowl

**Finish** - Completion of growth, ideal weight, ideal size, and perfection of plumage

**Sex** – Either male or female

**Poultry** – Any kind of domesticated bird

**Brooding** - The process of caring for newly hatched chicks

**Exhibition Birds** - Birds raised based on aesthetics, not on production capability

**Production Birds** - Birds solely raised on production capability

## **Structure/ Body Parts**

**Primary Feathers** - Longer wing feathers growing from the outer section (completely hidden when wing is folded under)

**Secondary Feathers** - Longer wing feathers growing from middle section (exposed when the wing is folded under)

**Axial Feathers (Key Feather)** - Short feather between primary and secondary feathers of the wing

**Coverts** - Feathers that cover primary and secondary wing and tail feathers

**Fluff** - Soft downy feathers located at the base of the shaft: Soft downy feathers on lower thighs and abdomen

**Quill** - Hollow shaft of where feather is attached to the body

**Shaft** - Extension of quill through the entire length of feather

**Hackle Feathers (Cape Feathers)** - Neck plumage: Males exhibit thin and pointed feathers, Females exhibit thick and rounded feathers

**Saddle Feathers** - Long and pointed back plumage of back at the base of tail feathers: Prominent on male fowl

**Sickle Feathers** - Long tail feathers of male fowl

**Parti-colored** – Fowl having feathers of 2 or more colors or shades of color

Ex: Barred Plymouth Rock

**Hock** – Joint between the thigh and shank

**Shank** – The portion of fowl's leg below the hock

**Spur** - Hard projectile on inner side of shanks

**Wattle** - Thin growths of red colored flesh on the sides of the upper throat on fowl: More pronounced on mature males.

## **CHICKEN TERMS:**

**Baby Chick** – Chick just hatched usually 1 to 7 days old

**Broiler or Fryer** – A young meat bird chicken of either sex butchered around 4-8 weeks of age

**Roaster** – A young chicken of either sex usually butchered after 8 weeks of age

**Cockerel** – A male chicken under 12 months of age

**Capon** – A castrated male chicken with soft skin or tender flesh

**Cock or Old Rooster** – A mature male over 12 months of age

**Pullet** – A female chicken under 12 months of age

**Hen** – A mature female chicken over 12 months of age

## **TURKEY TERMS:**

**Poult** – A young turkey before its sex can be determined

**Tom** – A male turkey

**Hen** – A female turkey

## **WATERFOWL TERMS:**

**Duckling** – A young duck

**Drake** – A male duck

**Duck** – A female duck

**Bean**- A hardened bean-like bulge on the upper portion of the bill

**Scoop Bill**- Depression located at the top of the bill- disqualification

**Gosling** – A young goose

**Gander** – A male goose

**Goose** – A female goose

## **Disqualification:**

**Squirrel Tail**- Any portion of tail that projects forward past a 90 degree angle

**Split Tail** - Distinct gap between feathers at the center of the base of the tail

**Wry Tail** - Tail permanently carried to one side

**Duck Foot**- Condition where hind toe is carried upward off the ground instead of carried backward to touch the ground

**Side Spring**- Projection growing from the side of a single comb

**Lopped Comb** - Comb that falls over to one side (disqualification except in specified breeds)

**Shafting** - Feather color characteristic where shaft is lighter or darker than web of feather

**Frosting** - Discoloration or faded area of tip of feather

## **Classes of Exhibition Poultry**

### **Chickens**

#### **Standard**

American

Asiatic

English

Mediterranean

Continental

All other Standard Breeds

#### **Bantam**

Game Bantam

Single Comb Clean Legged

Rose Comb Clean Legged

All Other Comb Clean Legged

Feather Legged Bantam

### **Waterfowl**

#### **Ducks**

Heavy Weight

Medium Weight

Light Weight

Bantam

#### **Geese**

Heavy

Medium

Light

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