



**YOUTH EXHIBITION POULTRY ASSOCIATION  
PRE-APPRENTICESHIP JUDGING PROGRAM**  
(For Potential Future Licensed Judges)

**Pre-Apprentice Judges Program Advisors:**

Doris Robinson, YEPA National Director  
Mr. Pat Malone, APA & ABA Licensed Judge  
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This program is available for those youth members that are seriously considering becoming ABA or APA Licensed Judges (or both).

This part of the program is not mandatory to reach the top level of YEPA's A.C.E. Program.

**OBJECTIVE:**

The objective of this final stage of the youth ACE program is to help educate and train eligible young fanciers in the field of judging exhibition poultry. Both the APA and ABA always benefit from young fanciers taking a genuine interest in this aspect of our hobby. It is the hope of this program's organizers that the Pre-Apprentice Program will help prepare out youth to become knowledgeable judges and educators that will help see our great hobby into the next generation.

This part of the YEPA's Program is to encourage and help youth that have the future goal of becoming a certified, licensed poultry judge. This program is designed to help give our youth a head start studying the Standard's of the American Poultry Association or the American Bantam Association or both by working with licensed judges in each field.

**Eligibility:**

If you wish to participate in this portion of the program, a young person that has achieved all of the previous levels (Coop Tender, Flock Tender, Flock Master and Poultry Master) must request in writing permission to participate in the Pre-Apprenticeship Judging Program. This written request is mandatory. Your request should be sent to the National Director of YEPA. When your request is acknowledged you will be provided with an identification card stating that you are a participant of the YEPA Program Pre-Apprenticeship Judging Program.

**Age:**

You must be age 17 or older to begin participating in the Pre-Apprenticeship Judging Program and the Poultry Master level must be achieved before you can move into this part of the APA-ABA Youth Poultry Club program. This part of the program must be completed by your 25<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## PROJECTS:

### Step 1: Clerking Assignments with APA-ABA Licensed Judges.

**A.** Each program participant must complete six clerking assignments (for a minimum of five hours each) with a judge licensed by either the APA and/or the ABA.

**B.** It is mandatory that two clerking assignments be completed in each of the following three areas: Bantams Chickens, Standard Chickens  
Waterfowl, Turkeys, Guineas (combined)

The judge for which the participant clerks must be fully licensed in that area (i.e. participants cannot clerk for an ABA judge who is judging Turkeys and receive credit.

**C.** Participant will be provided with "Report Forms" to be completed by each judge (1) stating the breeds clerked for that day and (2) giving a brief evaluation of the participant's knowledge of the judging process, etc. This form will be mailed to the APA-ABA Youth Program office when completed. (See more information below).

**D.** If you wish to apprentice clerk at a show, you must contact the show secretary in advance (a week or two) before the show to request permission to clerk. If you find you cannot attend the show you should have the courtesy to call and cancel your date so they can find a replacement. *Please* do not expect to walk into a showroom at the last minute and expect to clerk.

### Step 2 – Written Essays

**A.** This section involves the participant writing three separate essays, a minimum of five hundred (500) words each. Each essay should be written on (1) bantams, (2) large fowl, and (3) waterfowl, turkeys and guineas (combined).

These papers are to include breed specific information on the judging of one breed within each class in that groups (i.e. SCCL, Medium Ducks, Asiatic Class, etc.) as well as general judging guidelines that would relate to judging all breeds and varieties in that specific group (i.e. general defects, disqualifications, etc.)

The information in these essays is to be taken from the APA and ABA Standards, with proper credit given at the end of the essay.

### Step 3 – Written Exam

**A.** Following the submission of each essay, if the essay is deemed sufficient by the program supervisor, the participant will then take a written examination on the judging of poultry in that group.

This test will not be an "open book" format, and the written test is to be administered by a Licensed Judge or by an appropriate supervisor (as designated by the program supervisor).

⇒ The format of each of the three tests will be true/false and multiple choices.

- ⇒ The minimum passing grade for each test must be 80%.
- ⇒ Should the participant not be successful in obtaining this grade, he or she will have the opportunity to take the test a maximum of two more times to reach the passing grade of 80%.
- ⇒ Upon successful completion of the first test, the participant can then proceed to write their next essay, followed by a written test, until three essays and three tests are completed.
- ⇒ The participant is free to choose which topic (i.e. Large Fowl, etc.) that he or she would prefer to complete first, second, and third.

### **Rewards:**

Upon the successful completion of the three above described steps, the participant will have finished the YEPA Pre-Apprenticeship Program and will be awarded a certificate stating such and a Youth Program Logo Patch stating "Pre-Apprenticeship Judge".

The successful applicant will also have their accomplishment noted in each organization's regular newsletter.

### **Added Bonus:**

Any graduate of this program that wishes to enter either organizations "true" Judge License Program as agreed upon by the American Poultry Association and the American Bantam Association may:

1. Use this achievement at any time he is ready to begin the APA or ABA judge apprenticeship program.
2. Will have the opportunity to waive 50% of the clerking assignments required by these associations and will be required to pay only 50% of the required Judge License application fee.

## **Poultry Judging Techniques**

By: Doris Robinson, YEPA National Director



"Judging instills the confidence in those people who may be timid and humbles those who tend to be conceited."

Poultry judging consists of carefully analyzing animals and measuring them against a standard that is commonly accepted as being ideal. In this case the American Standard of Perfection and the Bantam Standard.

Poultry judging also has been defined as a study of the relationship between an animal's form and function in both the fancy purebred at sanctioned shows and commercial class's at most fair shows.

There are numerous benefits to gain from learning to judge poultry, both purebred and commercial birds. In the course of training and competition you are given the opportunity to interact with future leaders of the poultry hobby and industry. You develop a keen sense of judgment and confidence to make a decision that you can defend in a set of oral reasons if needed.

Most prominent poultry judges who are masters of judgment and selection have been affected by their involvement with poultry judging.

Participation in judging poultry builds your character and makes you a more complete person.

### ***TAKING THE RIGHT STEPS***

**Techniques for judging poultry can be broken into four steps:**

1. Information: You must develop a mental image of the ideal for the species, breed and sex involved.
2. Observation: Successful poultry judging requires a sharp eye and a keen mind. As poultry judge you must learn to develop a greater perception for the animals that are being judged. Furthermore, these observations must be accurate and complete in every way.
3. Comparison: A successful judge must make comparisons of each animal against each of the other animals in the class. Judges must be able to weigh the good and bad characteristics of each animal and make their decisions based upon their findings. The animal that will eventually be selected to top the class will be the one with the "most of the best points for its breed."
4. Decision: The final, and perhaps most difficult, step involves ranking, or placing, the animals in the class. Many people have the necessary information and the ability to observe and compare but they may lack the skill and courage required to make the right decision. Judges' decision must be accurate and logical, and they must be able to stand by that decision.

### **Tips for judging a poultry class:**

See the animals exactly as they are, not as you would like to see them.

Break each class down into sections: 1st Cock, 2nd Cock, 3rd Cock, etc., using the same technique in each of the hen, cockerel, and pullet classes.

When evaluating a class, your first impression is usually the most unbiased and most accurate if it is the result of careful analysis.

For general observation of a class, maintain a minimum distance 2 – 3 feet if possible. This will allow you a full unobstructed view of the class. If you need to see two possible top place birds together, ask a clerk to move them along with their coop tags into cages that are side by side.

When finishing a placing on a class, make sure to mark the coop card. Double check to make sure you placed the birds as you want them. There should be no room for error once you leave the class.

Nearly all judges go into a slump at some time during their judging careers. When this happens, do not get discouraged or upset with yourself. Just keep your wits, maintain a positive attitude and work hard — you will pull out of it.

### **Benefits of giving reasons**

There are two parts to the format when judging livestock: Placing the birds and giving oral reasons on your placing. The second part can be the most difficult because you have to learn to communicate your thoughts to the other judge or judges you are working with.

1. You learn how to become organized; you get your thoughts in line with what you have written on the coop tag. You learn to recall a situation clearly in your mind that happened several hours ago or longer. You learn to express yourself in a convincing manner.

2. You become able to clearly enunciate words.

3. You learn to defend your decisions. This not only benefits you in judging poultry, it is also an asset for everyday life. You learn how to sell yourself and your ideas.

### **Evaluating a set of reasons:**

There are several schools of thought concerning oral reasons. The style you choose to express yourself is of little importance. The truly important factors involved in giving an effective set of oral reasons include:

1. Accuracy of statements.
2. Completeness of all the important points.
3. Ability to bring out the important points between selections of birds.
4. Complete vocabulary of poultry terminology.
5. Correct grammar.
6. A sincere, emphatic and precise presentation.
7. Clear enunciation, don't mumble.
8. Voice inflection.
9. A logical order to your reasons.
10. Proper presence, e.g., eye contact, correct posture, no distracting mannerisms.
11. Use carcass terms in production classes.
12. Ability to communicate from a visual image of the birds either set by the purebred standards or industry standard.