

YOUTH EXHIBITION POULTRY ASSOCIATION
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FAQ

There is always a bit of confusion about the workings and requirements of Y.E.P.A. and how other poultry clubs work, especially the 4-H Association group. Sometimes if a leader has been or is a leader for another club the transition can be somewhat confusing. Both of the clubs are very important to the overall hobby of poultry. If you will look at both of our websites you can see some of the differences. The main difference is we (YEPA) are geared strictly to the exhibition hobby and 4-H is geared to the commercial and production bird industry. Both groups teach housing, breeding, incubation/hatching, brooding, feeding poultry, parasite prevention & care and learning about poultry diseases.

YEPA is the only poultry club that works directly with the USDA about the study of poultry diseases. We are the only group that has been given an achievement patch by the USDA for our members that learn about poultry diseases when they participate in our ACE Program.

Please be aware of these differences.

YEPA is focused on raising and showing "purebred, exhibition" poultry only. We are an **EDUCATIONAL** poultry club. We do not give out awards for showing the birds. This is left to the hosts of the sanctioned poultry shows. As mentioned above, 4-H has a main focus on production type birds, such as egg layers & meat birds geared towards human consumption. This type of bird is not entered into APA and ABA sanctioned shows as there is no production type classes involved.

YEPA is a progressive educational program that continues for several years or as long as a child is interested in raising and showing poultry year around, not just the school year as the 4-H group which has a program called the "chick chain". The 4-H accepts production/hatchery type birds and often individual 4-H clubs purchase these birds for their members to raise for several weeks, show at a 4-H function and then they auctions the birds to the highest bidder. Therefore the responsibility and relationship of the club member and their birds usually ends at these functions. This is a very good program for children not able to raise and show exhibition type birds. *Our common interest is raising a healthy flock and educating members how to achieve this.* YEPA studies regarding exhibition birds are more in-depth to the APA & ABA Standards.

We encourage members to buy purebred, exhibition type birds from the breeders of exhibition quality and that should meet the standards set forth by the American Poultry Association and the American Bantam Association in the APA "Standard of Perfection" and the "Bantam Standard". Our leaders should be as helpful as possible to put exhibition birds into our member's hands.

We encourage our members to show purebred/exhibition birds at shows that are sanctioned by the American Poultry Association and the American Bantam Association as often as possible and to participate in activities with the show host, such as setting up a showroom, tearing down following the show, perhaps participating in contests, showmanship & other activities.

We also hope our leaders will encourage our members to participate in the county and state fairs in their area if the show is open to exhibition type birds as well as production classes as we believe this will help to promote our purebred exhibition hobby.

We encourage our leaders to participate at local and county fairs and swap meets to educate and promote Y.E.P.A, the APA and the ABA to educate unknowing fair staff and the public about the exhibition hobby. It benefits your members and our club if a leader sets up a table at the shows they attend where people can learn about YEPA. This is a great place to meet and greet potential new members. Our leaders are encouraged to hold a special contest for their members at these shows and the information and ideas can be obtained from the main office.

Many of our leaders also help the host club at the show with their showmanship competition if it's sanctioned. This can be done by signing up the kids for each class and organizing the judging sheets for the judge of the competition and organizing the classes so it all runs smoothly. The leader may also fill out the show report and send it to our showmanship secretary which also saves work for the show secretary. This is appreciated by the host club and saves them a lot of work.

As a YEPA leader you are encouraged to put on clinics & seminars at your discretion and through several years' experience these clinics & seminars should focus on just on exhibition birds & the exhibition hobby.

Our YEPA leaders should fully understand the differences between our YEPA programs and the 4-H programs. We have 3 programs affiliated with our group. The ACE Program, the Showmanship Judge Certification Program and the Pre-Apprentice Judge Program.

CLUB FUNDING: YEPA is run strictly from contributions and is a non-profit organization. All members of YEPA are volunteers including the national director/coordinator.

Cackle Hatchery of Lebanon, Missouri is the sole sponsor of our Showmanship Points Program. YEPA does not use our general funds to support the showmanship points program.