

YOUTH MARKET TURKEYS

Superintendent: Dr. Mary Fosnaught (mhfosnau@ncsu.edu)

YOUTH MARKET TURKEY SHOW

Entry Fee: \$35 per exhibitor

Registration Opens: Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026 at 9 AM

Registration Closes: Wednesday, April 1st, 2026 at 11:59 PM or the first 300 entries

Poult Pick Up: June 21st-23rd, 2026 - NC State Poultry Teaching Unit, 3841 Inwood Rd, Raleigh, 27603

- Youth do not need to be present for Poult Pick Up; agents, teachers, or parents, may pick up for youth

Weigh-In: Wednesday, October 7th, 2026 from 9 AM-4 PM - N.C. State Fairgrounds, Kelley Building

- Youth do not need to be present for Weigh-In; agents, teachers, or parents, may drop off for youth

Show & Judging: Thursday, October 8th, 2026 starting at 9 AM - N.C. State Fairgrounds, Kelley Building

- Youth must be present to show

RULES & REGULATIONS

1. The first 300 exhibitors to complete their registration online will be eligible to compete.
2. Three poults will be provided (only one will be shown) to each exhibitor by the NCSU Prestage Department of Poultry Science, along with a 5 lb. bag of starter feed and a t-shirt. Turkeys may be beak or toe-conditioned, or subjected to any practice generally accepted in the commercial production of meat type turkeys. Exhibitors will be contacted by email on June 1st, 2026 to schedule a pick up day/time for their poults.
3. Exhibitors are limited to **one** (1) entry.
4. Exhibitors must upload a completed NC Sub W-9 form at the time of registration to be eligible to receive premiums. Exhibitors who decline to submit this form will forfeit all premiums.
5. Exhibitors are required to sign and [upload here](#) a Code of Ethics, Liability Waiver, and Photo Release form by **May 15th, 2026** to be eligible for Poult Pick Up scheduling. Any exhibitor in violation of the Code of Ethics may result in forfeiture of premiums and be banned from attending future YMTS events.
6. There is a minimum weight limit of **15 pounds** for hen turkeys. Exhibitors are encouraged to attend Turkey Talk Instructional Presentations throughout the growing period and weigh birds regularly to ensure birds are on track for target body weight (BW).
7. On Weigh-In day, turkeys must be transported in secure caging with bedding and cover that ensures safety and protection from weather elements. Birds must arrive clean and in agreeable, show-ready condition; failure to do so may result in refusal of acceptance for show. Upon arrival, birds must be taken to the drive through line for a health screening. Visible signs of infectious disease or injuries compromising animal health or welfare, may not be approved for show. If a bird doesn't pass the health screening, a replacement bird from the youth's flock that is able to pass the health screening may be brought before 4 PM on Weigh-In day.
8. After health screening, birds will be assigned a pen number, leg band, removed from vehicle (unless exhibitor requests self-unloading), and weighed by superintendents. The exhibitor is responsible for taking birds from the scales and getting them situated in their assigned pen with the provided shavings. Feed and non-spillable feeders and waterers are the responsibility of the exhibitor.
9. Handling of birds by anyone (other than the exhibitor) after they are in their pens is strictly prohibited, except with the permission of the Superintendents of the show.
10. It is the prerogative of Show Staff to feed, water, clean pens, and separate aggressive birds as necessary. If feed cannot be located, Show Staff will use NC State Turkey Farm Grower Feed.

YOUTH MARKET TURKEYS

YOUTH MARKET TURKEY SHOW CONTINUED...

- Market Turkeys will show in class order: Lil' Gobblers (ages 5-7), Juniors (ages 8-13), then Seniors (ages 14-18). Only Juniors and Seniors will be competitive for overall Grand & Reserve Champion. Rules differ from State Fair Livestock age eligibility due to being a university-sanctioned program.
- Exhibitors will be placed in groups within each class to show their turkeys. Each group will have no more than 15 turkeys. The number of exhibitors will be divided as evenly as possible across the groups for each class.
- All birds become the possession of the N.C. State Fair upon Weigh-In. This is a terminal show; therefore, all birds will be sold and harvested upon completion of the show. No birds will be returned to exhibitors.
- The Overall Grand & Reserve Grand Champion Market Turkeys will be sold at the Sale of Champions auction in the Jim Graham Building on Sunday, October 25, 2026 at 2 PM. Exhibitors must be present.

YOUTH MARKET TURKEY SHOW CLASSES

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| 01 - Lil' Gobbler | Ages 5-7 |
| 02 - Junior | Ages 8-13 |
| 03 - Senior | Ages 14-18 |

PREMIUMS

| 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 5th | 6th-10th | 11th-15th |
|------|------|------|------|------|----------|-----------|
| \$35 | \$28 | \$21 | \$19 | \$17 | \$15 | \$10 |

Add-on dollars will be paid to each exhibitor based on sponsorship availability.

YOUTH MARKET TURKEY SHOW SPECIAL AWARDS

| | PREMIUMS |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Lil' Gobbler Grand Champion | \$20 and Banner |
| Lil' Gobbler Reserve Grand Champion | \$15 and Banner |
| Junior Grand Champion | \$20 and Banner |
| Junior Reserve Grand Champion | \$15 and Banner |
| Senior Grand Champion | \$20 and Banner |
| Senior Reserve Grand Champion | \$15 and Banner |
| Overall Grand Champion | Sale of Champion Proceeds and Banner |
| Overall Reserve Grand Champion | Sale of Champion Proceeds and Banner |

T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

Entry Deadline: February 15th, 2026 at 11:59 PM

RULES & REGULATIONS

- The contest is open to all youth, ages 5-18; participation in YMTS and affiliation with 4-H or FFA are not required.
- Participants will create a t-shirt design to promote youth, turkeys, North Carolina, and/or the N.C. State Fair. Preference will be given for hand-drawn or digitally created original artwork.
- Participants will submit their entries by completing the [submission form](#) by February 15th, 2026 at 11:59 PM. Providing your full name, mailing address, email address, youth affiliation (if applicable), and uploading an image of the design/artwork are required.
- Entries may be submitted by a team; however, only one award will be given per placing.

YOUTH MARKET TURKEYS

T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST CONTINUED...

- Premiums and ribbons will be awarded to the top 5 t-shirt designs. All participants will receive a participation certificate.

PREMIUMS

| 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 5th |
|------|------|------|-----|-----|
| \$15 | \$12 | \$10 | \$8 | \$5 |

PEN SIGN CONTEST

Entry Deadline: Pen signs must be secured on your turkey's pen by 5 PM on Wednesday, October 7th, 2026 (Weigh-In day) to be considered for judging.

RULES & REGULATIONS

- This contest is open to registered exhibitors of the Youth Market Turkey Show.
- Exhibitors will create a sign to be displayed on the pen their turkey is housed in for the Youth Market Turkey Show.
- Sign requirements are as follows:
 - Signs must be 12" x 6" (license plate size).
 - May be composed of any type of material.
 - Must have the ability to be secured to a pen (e.g. pre-drilled holes, zip ties, etc.).
 - Must be hung out of reach of the turkeys in the pens.
 - Using up-cycled materials is encouraged.
- Any pen signs not retrieved by exhibitors by the end of the Youth Market Turkey Show on October 8th, 2026 will be displayed during the State Fair in the Poultry Tent. Pen signs displayed at the State Fair must remain on display the entire duration of the fair.
- Exhibitors wanting their pen sign returned to them should include their county and contact information on the back of their sign and make arrangements with Dr. Mary Fosnaught.
- Premiums and ribbons will be awarded to the top 5 pen signs in each class. A ribbon will be awarded for the overall Best of Show pen sign.

PEN SIGN CONTEST CLASSES

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| 01 - Lil' Gobbler | Ages 5-7 |
| 02 - Junior | Ages 8-13 |
| 03 - Senior | Ages 14-18 |

PREMIUMS

| 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 5th |
|------|------|------|-----|-----|
| \$15 | \$12 | \$10 | \$8 | \$5 |

PEN SIGN CONTEST SPECIAL AWARDS

Best of Show

PREMIUMS

Ribbon Only

For more information regarding the Youth Market Turkey Show and its associated contests, please visit go.ncsu.edu/YMTS or contact Dr. Mary Fosnaught (mhfosnau@ncsu.edu).

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Prestige Department
of Poultry Science