

## Introduction to the FLOCK MASTER – Level 3

**Special Note:** If you are going to go into the final level of Poultry Master *once you complete* your Flock Master you must submit in writing your intentions ***before*** your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday to the national office of the APA-ABA Youth Program.

In each level section we will give you suggestions on how to achieve points. These are only suggestions to help you get started. Using your own imagination and skills to complete each project is up to the individual. The more you talk with other kids in the program, breeders, judges, show personnel, veterinarians, poultry suppliers, news media and your state leaders the more ideas will be available to you.

*It is very important that the student have practical hands-on experience in raising poultry.*

### RECORD BOOK:

No matter what level of achievement you are working on it is **mandatory** that you have a separate record book for that particular level. There are no exceptions to this rule.

*\* \* Whenever possible, the materials describing each activity project should include a note or letter, from someone who is not related to you, stating that you completed the project yourself.*

### ESTIMATING POINTS:

On the following pages for the Flock Master level we will tell you how to approximate the number of points you have for each project in activities, how to count competition points and how to estimate the number of points you have in education. Until your State Leader or the National Coordinator scores your record book you won't know the exact number of points you have earned. The more you communicate with your leader or other leaders will keep you on the right track. The more thorough you are with your project the higher the points. Be sure to have your record book/portfolio looked over at least twice a year to be sure you are following the state leaders guidelines.

### GETTING TESTED:

When you have completed all of your projects, have earned enough points and a state leader has accepted your record book as completed, you meet the age requirements, he or she will then set up a time for your level testing. You must communicate with your leader to take this final step. If you don't have a leader available in your area then you should communicate through the national office and the same procedures will be followed.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:**

<http://www.apa-abayouthprograms.org>

## FLOCK MASTER



**Points Needed:** Activities 200 Points  
Competition 100 Points  
Education 100 Points

**Age:** You must be 14 or older to test for this level.

**Record Book:** Mandatory

**To achieve this level, a young person should demonstrate:**

- ⇒ That he is fully able, on his own, to select, breed, raise, house, care for a poultry *flock*.
- ⇒ That he can evaluate and select birds for exhibition or other purposes.
- ⇒ That he can explain how and why he would choose a particular method of health care, nutritional needs, housing and rearing *different* types of poultry outside his own particular breed.
- ⇒ That he has shown several *different types* of poultry.
- ⇒ That he is involved in other poultry related activities.
- ⇒ That he knows all breeds of poultry.
- ⇒ That he can explain and give reasons for handling specific areas of poultry care, such as diseases/treatments, vaccinations, types of feed, removing spurs, dubbing.
- ⇒ He should be able to explain or show a special coop design that he feels would work best for him in raising the breed of fowl (s) he prefers working with.
- ⇒ He should be able to evaluate class of birds at a show, special qualities, defects, and disqualification's and special needs of different breeds, most notably his own breeds.
- ⇒ He should be able to demonstrate his knowledge of all types of poultry (chickens, waterfowl, turkeys as well as production birds) even though he is interested in one special type of poultry.

### **Suggested Activities:**

**PLEASE NOTE:** At this level you will need to be in communication with your state leader as to the points you will be receiving on your activity program. These are much more detailed and educational than the previous levels.

- ⇒ At age 15-16 you should be able to begin clerking for a licensed judge at a sanctioned show. Get a sample judging sheet from your state leader or the show secretary. Go before the class is judged, write down your choices. Then compare how you ranked the class with how the judge placed them. What did you learn? Ask the judge questions. This is a good practice of working with a judging sheet before you begin clerking at shows. It is very important that you are absolutely accurate in writing down the birds placing.

- ⇒ Serve as security at a sanctioned show or at your local fair poultry show.
- ⇒ Set up a program for a youth poultry club. Gather information from other clubs to put together your program.
- ⇒ Write a research paper with the length and references to be predetermined by you and your state leader.
- ⇒ Become an advisor and mentor to younger exhibitors.
- ⇒ Start working on a new variety in the poultry breed you prefer. This activity should also be included in your educational area of the notebook. Please make a note to cross reference this project. You may use this project as a continuing project in the Poultry Master level.
- ⇒ Conduct or assist in putting on a clinic or seminar for youth. This can be arranged with a show superintendent at a show you plan attending, at a local fair, with a 4-H leader in your area or other poultry leaders. Expand the clinic by asking other poultry people to hold a specific class for different aspects of learning about poultry (example: preparing for show, health care, caring for a flock at home, housing, etc.). Don't forget the new people coming into the fancy...they need to learn how to fill out entry forms and what all the poultry language means (how to read a coop tag, what does variety mean, etc.)
- ⇒ Assist your state leader by helping him keep records, organize a table at a show as a representative of the youth program or as an evaluator with the younger members in the club.
- ⇒ Develop a video on showmanship and donate it to the youth program.
- ⇒ Take an incubator to school to hatch eggs for a science project for your whole class.
- ⇒ Design a chicken coop or duck house. Build it with dad or a friend.
- ⇒ Build and sell transport cages.
- ⇒ Work the raffle table at a show.
- ⇒ Put on a junior show. This can be done in your own backyard using the cages people bring their birds in. Teach the exhibitors how birds are judged and evaluated. This is especially helpful to new exhibitors. For more information contact the youth program office.
- ⇒ Run a fun youth judging contest at a show under the guidance of your leader. Make up the sheets, charge a small fee to participate and divide this fee as the award in the junior, intermediate & senior class.
- ⇒ Hatch exhibition chicks and sell them. Make an ad up then hand them out. Contact your feed stores, 4-H clubs, FFA teachers, etc. Keep financial records.
- ⇒ Help at the local extension office just before fair week.
- ⇒ Help at the local fair.
- ⇒ Help older exhibitors coop in and coop out. Offer to carry their cages into the showroom for them. Help them find their cages.
- ⇒ Help a friend during butchering time.
- ⇒ Raise some broilers to sell locally to individuals or feed stores.....keep feed and income records.
- ⇒ Be a helper at another poultry farm....repair fencing, repair coops, muck pens, bathe birds, etc.
- ⇒ Ask permission to trail the judge when he is judging your breed class (don't tell him which birds are yours). You should ask him in advance if he will explain what he is looking for. Write up a report about what you learned and the experience.
- ⇒ Go to another poultry breeder and ask if you can help him or learn to set up breed pens, then go home and set up your own if you have one.

- ⇒ Create a science experiment to study calcium, protein or other minerals or nutrients and the effects on poultry.
- ⇒ Be a part of a Poultry Judging Team or Avian Bowl Quiz Team.
- ⇒ Write articles for the APA-ABA Youth Program newsletter or to be used on the web site or published in the newsletter.
- ⇒ Create your own web site.
- ⇒ Make a computerized feed and expense record for your farm.
- ⇒ Experiment by incubating eggs vs. setting eggs under a hen. Keep a record of the results showing pros and cons.
- ⇒ Work with your state leader to run a photography or other contest for youth

**Competition:** Utilize the competition worksheet supplied by the youth program.

**Education:**

At this level your record book and your test will show the value of the education you have acquired during your work on your projects. This level has encouraged you to utilize your own mind, decisions and imagination. We congratulate you for the hard work you have put into your projects and the knowledge you have gained.

***You are now ready to step into the final phase of the program, which is Poultry Master. If you intend to go into this part of the program you must, in writing state your intentions to the National Director/Coordinator of the APA-ABA Youth Program before your eighteenth birthday.*** At this time he/she will ask you to find a mentor or help you find a mentor to work with you to complete this program.