

4-H Poultry Bowl and Showmanship Questions

Primary

1. Is a chicken a bird?
 - a. Yes
2. What is one thing chickens have in common with all other birds?
 - a. Lay eggs, have feathers, have wings, have eyes, eat and poop
3. What is the most common type of comb?
 - a. Single comb
4. If a hen has white earlobes, what color eggs will she lay?
 - a. White
5. If a hen has red earlobes, what color eggs will she lay?
 - a. Brown
6. Do you need a rooster for a hen to lay eggs?
 - a. No (rooster needed only for fertile eggs)
7. Do chickens have ears?
 - a. Yes
8. Do chickens have teeth?
 - a. No (except for an egg tooth at hatching, to help break the shell)
9. What is a male turkey called?
 - a. A tom
10. Where do chickens get lice and mites from?
 - a. From other birds
11. What is the main difference between bantam fowl and large fowl?
 - a. Size! Bantams are smaller.
12. Name one chicken predator
 - a. Raccoon, dog, hawk, fox, opossum, mink, owl
13. What is a baby chicken called?
 - a. A chick
14. What is a baby turkey called?
 - a. A poult
15. What is a baby goose called?
 - a. A gosling
16. What is a baby duck called?
 - a. A duckling
17. What is the problem with keeping too many roosters together?
 - a. They fight
18. Why do you need a heat lamp for chicks in a brooder?
 - a. To keep them warm
19. What are two things a chicken does with its beak?
 - a. Eating, fighting, drinking, digging, grooming, panting, breathing
20. What mineral is important for strong egg shells?
 - a. Calcium

21. Where is the spur located on a chicken?
 - a. On the leg

Junior

1. What is a pullet?
 - a. A female chicken under 1 year
2. What is a hen?
 - a. A female chicken over 1 year
3. What is a cockerel?
 - a. A male chicken under 1 year
4. What is a cock?
 - a. A male chicken over 1 year
5. What is a capon?
 - a. A castrated male chicken
6. What are the two other names for the breast bone of chickens?
 - a. Sternum or keel
7. What are the most common feed ingredients used in poultry diets in the United States?
 - a. Corn and soybean meal
8. Why does the judge ask to see the feet and legs of birds?
 - a. To check for deformities, disease, and parasites
9. What are the feathers at the neck of a rooster called?
 - a. Hackles
10. If you have two chickens, one with red earlobes and one with white earlobes, can they be the same breed?
 - a. No
11. Is the snood a part of a chicken, duck, or turkey?
 - a. Turkey
12. How long does it take a chicken egg to hatch?
 - a. 21 days
13. How many standard breeds of chicken lay blue-green eggs?
 - a. Two, araucana and ameraucana
14. Do you find saddle feathers on a hen, cock, or both?
 - a. Cock only
15. Where are the sickle feathers on a cock?
 - a. On the tail
16. What harmful gas is produced by chicken manure?
 - a. Ammonia
17. Some geese have a knob. Where is it on the body?
 - a. On the head
18. Name 3 things that affect how many eggs a chicken lays.
 - a. Age, breed, health, length of daylight
19. Where is the preen gland located?
 - a. Above the tail

20. What is the preen gland used for?
 - a. Produces an oily substance the bird wipes onto its feathers with its beak, during preening. In ducks and waterfowl it helps waterproof feathers.
21. What does a “dual purpose” breed mean?
 - a. Good for both meat and eggs
22. Which of the following temperatures would work best for incubating eggs: 95, 100, or 105 degrees?
 - a. 100 degrees
23. Many chick-starter feeds are medicated. What disease is the medication able to prevent?
 - a. Coccidiosis
24. What is on a duck’s foot that helps make it a good swimmer?
 - a. Webs
25. What is the mouth on a duck called?
 - a. Bill (not a beak)
26. Name two ways you can tell a rooster from a hen.
 - a. Roosters: bright colors, larger combs, spurs, saddle feathers, hackle feathers, no eggs, larger wattles, larger body overall, crowing
27. Why should birds be removed from and replaced into cages head first?
 - a. To prevent wing damage and maintain control
28. What are three basic signs of a healthy chicken?
 - a. Alert, active, clear eyes, good manure consistency, free from external parasites
29. What is the name of the book which describes how every breed of poultry should look?
 - a. The Standard of Perfection
30. What does it mean when a hen goes “broody”?
 - a. She sits on her eggs and tries to hatch them into chicks
31. What does it mean when a chicken “molts”?
 - a. It loses old feathers and grows new ones

Intermediate

1. What are the eight chicken comb types?
 - a. Single, walnut, V-comb, strawberry, rose, pea, buttercup, and cushion
2. Where on the body of a chicken do you find the muff (on muffed breeds)?
 - a. Chin area
3. Where on the body of a chicken do you find a crest (on crested breeds)?
 - a. Top of the head
4. What are two crested breeds?
 - a. Polish, crevecoeur, sultan, houdan, others
5. What is the hairy patch on the front of a turkey called?
 - a. Beard
6. Do you find caruncles on a duck, chicken, or turkey?
 - a. Turkey
7. What type of comb does a Sicilian Buttercup have?
 - a. Buttercup comb

8. What is the function of the vent?
 - a. It is the uro-genital opening of the bird where the egg, uric acid and feces all exit. It is the external portion of the cloaca.
9. Is the vent common to all poultry?
 - a. Yes
10. What does it mean to “quarantine” new birds?
 - a. To keep birds in a separate location for three weeks to make sure they’re healthy before introducing them to your flock
11. For how long should you quarantine new birds before introducing them to your flock?
 - a. Three weeks
12. What are the three plumage differences in cocks and hens?
 - a. Cocks: Long, sharp hackle feathers. Saddle feathers. Sickles on tail.
Hens: Short, blunt hackle feathers. No saddle feathers or sickles on tail.
13. What anatomical features distinguish the male chicken from the female?
 - a. Cocks have larger comb and wattles, brighter coloring, and spurs.
14. It has been said eggs are a perfect food, but they are missing one vitamin. Which one?
 - a. Vitamin C
15. What does depth of body indicate in a laying hen?
 - a. A deep body is better able to hold forming eggs
16. Why do we measure flexibility of the pubic bones when judging laying hens?
 - a. To see if they will open enough for an egg to pass
17. What can happen if laying hens don’t get enough calcium in their diets?
 - a. Weak egg shells. Might crack in the oviduct, which is called egg-binding or impacted oviduct, and can kill the hen.
18. True or false: a chicken stops laying eggs when it molts.
 - a. True
19. What is the uropygial gland?
 - a. Preen gland
20. Which nutrient must birds have access to at all times?
 - a. Water
21. What are three requirements when artificially incubating eggs?
 - a. Heat (100 degrees), humidity, and turning
22. For what disease must all show-birds be tested in Washington State?
 - a. Pullorum typhoid
23. What and where are the covert feathers?
 - a. Small feathers on wing, fill in spaces above the primaries and secondaries
24. What is the function of the comb and wattles?
 - a. Attracting a mate, identification, and thermoregulation
25. Why is diarrhea a concern, and how can it be treated?
 - a. Diarrhea can lead to dehydration and death. Rehydrate the bird by providing electrolytes and water. Always determine why the bird had diarrhea: internal worms, coccidiosis, and bacterial disease in the intestine can cause diarrhea.
26. How can you tell an adult male turkey from a female?
 - a. Beard and size of bird

27. To keep a flock of laying hens producing eggs year round, what environmental factor needs to be altered?
 - a. Hours of daylight
28. How many hours of daylight must be maintained to keep hens laying year-round?
 - a. 16 hours
29. Name three dual purpose breeds.
 - a. Rhode Island Red, New Hampshire, Plymouth Rock
30. What is the difference between a broiler, a roaster, and a capon?
 - a. Broilers are young meat birds, 6-8 weeks of age.
Roasters are medium meat birds, 10-14 weeks of age.
Capon are castrated meat birds, 18-20 weeks of age.
31. What is the gizzard?
 - a. The gizzard (also known as the ventriculus) is an organ that grinds up food to aid in digestion. It's located behind the proventriculus (true stomach).

Senior

1. What is the ventriculus?
 - a. Gizzard
2. What is the proventriculus?
 - a. True stomach
3. In what part of the hen's reproductive tract is the shell produced?
 - a. In the uterus (also known as the shell gland)
4. What are five external parasites of chickens?
 - a. Lice, red coop mites, northern fowl mites, scaly leg mites, stick-fast fleas
5. How do you check for lice?
 - a. Check the skin around vent, under wings, and near the preen gland. Look for clumps of white eggs glued to feather bases, and for flat insects crawling over the skin.
6. How do you treat lice or northern fowl mites?
 - a. Use an insecticide like Sevin dust, pyrethrin, or Adam's Flea and Tick Spray on birds, roosts, and nest-boxes.
7. What makes red coop mites so hard to kill?
 - a. They live in the walls of the coop, and only crawl onto birds to drink blood at night.
8. How do you treat scaly leg mites?
 - a. Coat the bird's legs in Vaseline twice per day for a week to suffocate the mites. If needed, use an insecticide like Sevin dust, pyrethrin, or Adam's Flea and Tick Spray.
9. What is "bleaching"?
 - a. The loss of skin-color in laying hens, particularly in Leghorns, where the yellow pigment, xanthophyll, fades to white as the pigment is used to color the yolk.
10. What is the order of bleaching in laying hens?
 - a. Vent, eye rings, ear lobes, beak, bottoms of feet, shanks, tops of toes, hocks.
11. When hens stop laying eggs, does their pigment come back?
 - a. Yes, in the same order it bleached (beginning at the vent.)
12. Where does the yellow color of the skin, beak, and shanks come from?

- a. Xanthophyll, a yellow pigment in corn and grass
13. How long is the incubation period for chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese?
- a. Chickens: 21 days. Turkeys: 28 days. Ducks: 28 days. Muscovy ducks: 33-35 days. Geese: 30-32 days.
14. What is the purpose of turning eggs in an incubator?
- a. To keep embryo from sticking to membranes and becoming malformed
15. Why should incubators be disinfected prior to use?
- a. To remove any bacteria, virus, or mold organisms that might infect chicks
16. How many eyelids does a chicken have, and what are their names?
- a. Three. Upper eyelid, lower eyelid, and nictating membrane (moves from side to side and is transparent)
17. How many feather tracts to chickens have?
- a. Ten: head, neck, shoulder, wings, breast, back, abdomen, rump, thigh and legs
18. How many primary and secondary flight feathers do most chickens have?
- a. 10 primary and 14-18 secondary
19. Where is the axial feather found? How many does a chicken have?
- a. Found on the wing, between primary and secondary feathers. One on each wing.
20. How does salmonella get into eggs?
- a. Usually, though manure-contaminated shells. (Rarely, from the ovaries of an infected hen.)
21. What poultry disease has the potential to cause a high-mortality, worldwide epidemic if it mutates to become transmissible from human to human?
- a. Avian influenza (H5N1)
22. You notice the females in your breeding flock have bald spots on their heads and backs. Why is this?
- a. When the cock stands on the back of females to breed, he grips their feathers with his beak and sometimes pulls out patches.
23. Describe the medication in chick-starter and the disease it prevents.
- a. A coccidiostat, usually Amprolium or Coban. It prevents coccidiosis, a protozoan disease of the digestive tract. Medicated feed should never be used as a substitute for clean brooders, fresh water, and good hygiene.
24. What is the difference between starter, grower, maintenance, and layer feed?
- a. Starter is for chicks, 18-20% protein.
Grower is for cockerels and pullets, 16-18% protein.
Maintenance is for cocks and non-laying birds, 14-15% protein.
Layer feed (pellets or mash) is for laying hens, 16-18% protein and high calcium.
25. What is bumble foot?
- a. An infection in the foot pad of poultry, usually caused by a bacteria, *Staphylococcus aureus*, from the manure.
26. If the keel is crooked, what nutritional deficiency could be the cause?
- a. Rickets, a lack of calcium or an excess of phosphorous in the diet
27. Where is the crop and what is its function?

- a. The crop is an enlargement of the esophagus. It is located on the neck just above the junction with the body cavity. It holds food as the bird eats, and slowly releases it to the rest of the digestive tract.
28. What is the ratio of males to females that will provide the best fertility for a laying flock, without having more males than necessary?
- a. About 1 male for every 10 females
29. How many nest boxes should be provided for a flock of laying hens?
- a. Usually 1 box for each 5 hens
30. How can you tell if baby chicks under a brooder light are the proper temperature?
- a. Good temperature: they are spread evenly under the light.
Too hot: they are bunched in the corners, away from the light.
Too cool: they are bunched directly under the light.
Drafty: they are bunched all to one side of the brooder.
31. What temperature should be provided for brooded chicks?
- a. 95 degrees F for the first week. Drop by 5 degrees per week until at outdoor temperature.
32. How much floor space should be provided for standard and bantam adult laying hens reared on the floor?
- b. 1.5 to 2 square feet for standards and .75 to 1.5 square feet for bantams.
33. What is "biosecurity"?
- a. Biosecurity means preventing disease from entering your flock. Keep pests (mosquitoes, rats) and human traffic to a minimum. Remove ill-looking birds immediately. Keep a foot dip pan filled with disinfectant near the door to your coop and dip your shoes or boots prior to entering.
34. What is cannibalism and how can it be prevented?
- a. Cannibalism is a problem when birds peck each other, causing injury and death. Prevent by allowing plenty of space, feed, and water. Reduce light and heat (use a red light for brooding.) As a last resort, use beak trimming.
35. What precautions must be taken when you introduce new birds into your home flock?
- a. Check for disease. Quarantine for three weeks and re-check for symptoms before introducing to flock.

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Thank you to University of Connecticut and Monroe County 4-H:
<http://web.uconn.edu/poultry/4-H%20Poultry/questions.htm>
<http://www.mcpoultry.org/4hshowmanshipquestions.htm>

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