

JUDGE ALONG AT THE KANSAS STATE FAIR CHICKEN



What the judge looks for in a chicken:

- Shape that fits the breed as shown in the book Standard of Perfection.
- Weight and size evenly balanced, legs are in the middle of the body and tail is at the right degree of angle.
- Appearance, alertness, feather quality & grooming.

What the judge looks for in the show cage:

- A good exhibitor is polite and courteous to other exhibitors and pays attention to both the animal and to the judge at all times.
- The chicken is taken out of its cage and carefully examined by the judge and in some classes the judge will ask the exhibitor questions concerning the breed being shown.
- The judge handles the chicken to check grooming, quietness, feather quality, defects to the scale of points located in the book of Standard of Perfection.

**Give it a try and see how your placings
compare to the judge's (fill in the exhibitor's number):**

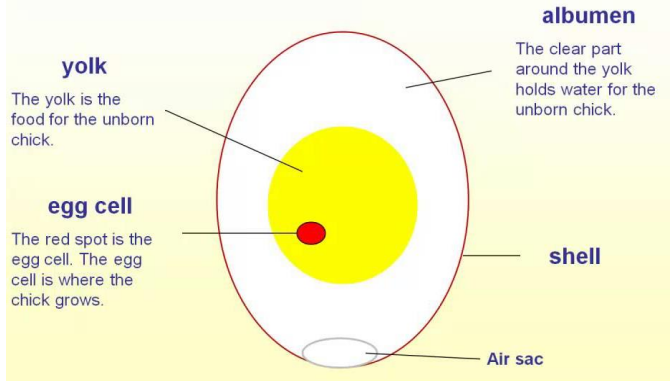
Your Choice	Judge's Decision
1st place	1st place
2nd place	2nd place
3rd place	3rd place

Fun chicken facts:

Chickens eat almost anything – grass, worms, insects, fruit, vegetables, grains, seeds and table scraps. If you don't clean your plate, your chickens will! The gizzard, which is a part of the stomach contains tiny stones to help grind up the food. Most chickens will swallow gravel to help mash their food.

In Japan, people eat fried chicken and strawberry shortcake on Christmas Eve.

The inside of the egg looks like this-



A healthy chicken lays about 265 eggs each year. Chickens cluck after laying an egg.

Chickens are related to the Tyrannosaurus Rex.

Chickens will be less nervous if you walk backwards when entering the coop.

The typical interval between eggs laid is about 25 hours, so a hen that lays an egg every day will lay a bit later each day.

Hens don't usually lay eggs in the dark, so once a hen's laying cycle reaches dusk time, she will usually not lay till the following morning.

Did you know...

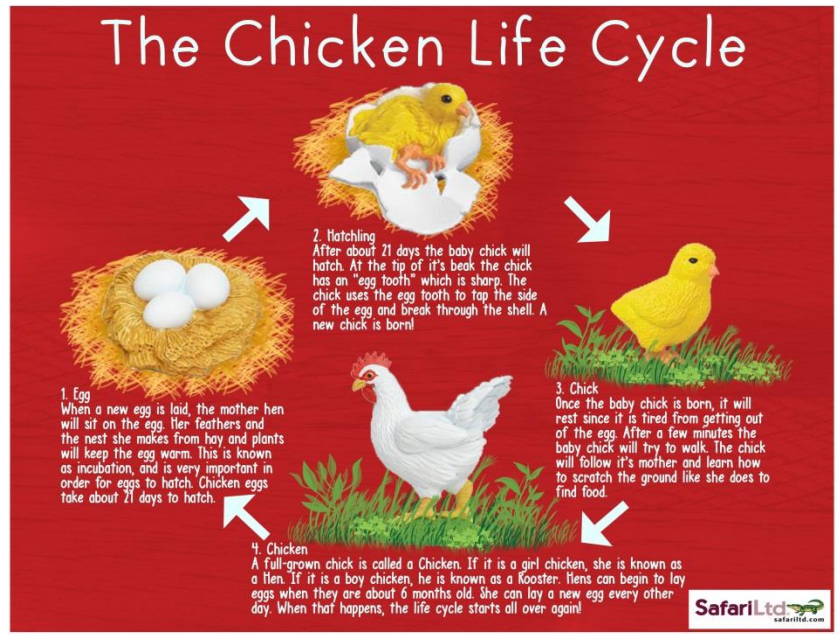
People have been raising chickens for more than 7,000 years. Chickens were first domesticated in India and China. You might think of chickens as farm animals, but even people in cities can raise a few chickens in the backyard. Chicken coops don't take up much room.

Animals like the hawks, bobcats, snakes, skunks, owls, raccoons, foxes and opossums prey on chickens.

There are approximately 175 varieties of chickens.

The hen does not need a rooster to lay eggs. However, the eggs will not hatch because they are not fertilized. Chicken eggs come in different colors like white, brown, blue or bluish green and pink. Most chickens will stop laying eggs when the weather is cold. They will start laying again, when it gets warmer.

The hen will sit on her eggs to keep them warm so that they will hatch into chicks. A fertilized egg starts developing into a chicken when its temperature reaches 86 degrees farenheight. A chick takes 21 days to hatch.



Word Search

hatchling	A	W	B	G	L	N	B	C	S	F	R	Y	E	R	S
grooming	S	L	L	E	H	S	Z	F	T	N	U	T	S	B	T
rooster	Y	J	L	T	R	O	E	G	G	S	Z	R	R	H	H
cluck	Y	X	U	U	K	J	X	I	R	O	C	Y	X	O	A
shell	A	A	D	C	Q	O	B	D	I	O	O	E	Z	R	T
chick	U	K	O	E	O	H	E	X	P	L	M	I	W	U	C
fryer	R	L	H	V	F	O	H	T	P	U	B	M	I	D	H
eggs	F	Y	M	C	U	M	P	G	I	L	K	R	D	Q	L
comb	K	O	R	T	G	J	W	R	L	I	G	V	D	W	I
coop	N	L	U	W	H	W	A	O	M	L	W	J	P	T	N
yolk	C	K	L	R	P	J	C	O	Q	O	T	U	H	P	G
hen	H	A	U	Y	S	T	L	M	N	U	Z	X	J	I	R
flock	I	O	Q	H	H	Q	U	I	J	O	O	S	O	Q	U
feathers	C	Q	Q	M	E	T	C	N	R	O	O	S	T	E	R
	K	T	A	R	N	V	K	G	T	H	S	H	W	S	B

Terms:

- Cock/Rooster: male over 1 year of age
- Hen: female over 1 year of age
- Cockerel: male under 1 year of age
- Pullet: female under 1 year of age
- Broiler: meat chicken 8-12 weeks old
- Fryer: meat chicken 12-14 weeks old
- Chick: baby chickens
- Flock: a group of chickens

Chickens are domestic or farm birds. The life span of a chicken is about 8 to 10 years. The male is larger and more brightly colored than the female. This is a common feature in birds. The males show off their colorful feathers to attract the females.

A chicken has a comb on the head and two wattles under the neck. The male has a larger comb compared to the female. The female is usually ready to lay her first eggs when she is around six months old.