

Alberta Poultry Breeders Association

Tips for new Exhibitors

Topic: APA Shows and Classes

WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN A SHOW IS APA/ABA SANCTIONED?

Most APBA poultry shows are sanctioned. This means that Alberta Poultry Breeders Assoc. has joined with the American Poultry Association and/or the American Bantam Association to host a poultry show that follows the rules and guidelines of these associations.

By hosting an APA sanctioned show, APBA must hire licensed poultry judges and arrange the bird classes as set out by the association. The judges will assess and place birds according to the APA standards and judging guidelines.

ABOUT CLASSES

The first time you walk into a poultry show and see all those rows of cages it might seem a bit chaotic. But once you have a chance to take a closer look you'll notice that the cages have all been carefully organized. This is because the showroom is set up according to bird classes.

There are several breeds included in each class, and breeds are further sub-divided into varieties. The variety refers to plumage colour, comb type or the presence of beards or muffs. A list of all recognized breeds and varieties is available on the APA website, and descriptions of each breed and variety are detailed in the APA Standard of Perfection book. When APBA is ready to host a show, the club will prepare and post their Show Book, which also outlines the classes to help you to enter your birds in the correct category. Later, when the show takes place, all the birds that have been entered will be grouped in the show hall according to class.

Large Fowl chicken classes are named after the area of their origin and includes the American Class, Asiatic Class, English Class, Mediterranean Class, Continental Class and an "All Other Standard Breeds" Class (AOSB).

Bantam classes are named after physical characteristics of the chickens. These include Game Bantams, Single Comb Clean Legged (S.C.C.L.), Rose Comb Clean Legged (R.C.C.L.), All Other Comb Clean Legged (A.O.C.C.L.), and Feather Legged Classes.

Ducks and Geese are categorized according to weight, and there are also classes for Turkeys and Guinea Fowl. Most of our shows also include Egg Show Classes. Be sure to indicate if you are showing as a Junior (age 17 and under).

If you plan to show a breed or variety that is not recognized by the APA, please contact the APBA show committee prior to entering. We can advise you of how to enter the bird correctly, and it also allows us to be prepared with proposed breed standards, if applicable.

