Extra Extra: People Flock to The Ohio National!

Reported by: Gwyneth Lynch

Like how the Superbowl is to football, the World Series is to baseball, the Ohio National is to poultry exhibition. Each year, hundreds and thousands of chickens, geese, and ducks alike are brought to Ohio to compete for the ultimate title of Grand Champion. Originally established in 1956, for the last 58 years this show has been one of the most sought after shows to attend every November. It has hosted the American Poultry Association (APA) and American Bantam Association (ABA) national meets, along with a plethora of breed club meets. In fact, several times, the Ohio National has hosted a dual APA and ABA meet with entries ranging from over 9,000 to a record-breaking 12,243!

What does it take to show? The Ohio National has poultry breeders working year-round to hatch, train, and condition the perfect poultry! A lot of choosing and thinking goes into deciding the chickens you want to bring to the show. When you compete in this show, you're going up against some of the biggest names in the country, there's no playing around here! The judges will be judging the birds' type, color, and condition to the Standard of Perfection to find the champions!

The Ohio National hatched from a small club of Ohio poultry breeders that sponsored, what would be called the first Ohio National show. "No matter where you and your birds live, you are still welcome to come show with us!" There's no sitting around when there's plenty to do! From shopping, to showing, to showmanship, nobody gets left out! In 1990, the first Junior Poultry Show came to life, letting the youths compete against their age-group and have their own section of awards!
Looking for that cook for your flock? Or that hen for your house? Head over to the sale area where breeders from all over are selling every type of land or water fowl you can imagine! In addition, there's feed, cage, and supply vendors. Along the way you may find multiple raffles at breed club tables, educational seminars, and handmade crafts! The chickens won't leave your sight!

Whether you're a seasoned exhibitor, or thinking about becoming involved, any one you ask will tell you: "Once you go one year, you'll want to keep coming back!" There's something here for everyone, even if you just wanted to check out what's going on! See you in November! 😊