POULTRY TERMS

Birds are classified according to class, breed, variety, sex, and age.

POULTRY TERMS:

- **Class** – This refers to the origin of the bird as part of the classification system.
  Example: American Class – Rhode Island Reds, Plymouth Rocks, and New Hampshires
- **Breed** – Each breed has a distinct shape and temperament of its own.
- **Variety** – Feather pattern, feather color, & comb determine the variety of a bird within a breed.
  Example: the White Leghorn and the Brown Leghorn are separate varieties because of the difference in
  their feather pattern: The Single Comb Rhode Island Red and the Rose Comb Rhode Island are in separate
  varieties because their combs are different shapes
- **Symmetry** – Perfection of proportion of shape in all sections of the fowl
- **Finish** – Completion of growth, ideal weight, ideal size, and perfection of plumage
- **Sex** – Either male or female
- **Poultry** – Any kind of domesticated bird
- **Brooding** – The process of caring for newly hatched chicks
- **Exhibition Birds** – Birds raised based on aesthetics, not on production capability
- **Production Birds** – Birds solely raised on production capability

CHICKEN TERMS:

- **Baby Chick** – Chick just hatched usually 1 to 7 days old
- **Broiler or Fryer** – A young meat bird chicken of either sex butchered around 4-8 weeks of age
- **Roaster** – A young chicken of either sex usually butchered after 8 weeks of age
- **Cockerel** – A male chicken under 12 months of age
- **Capon** – A castrated male chicken with soft skin or tender flesh
- **Cock or Old Rooster** – A mature male over 12 months of age
- **Pullet** – A female chicken under 12 months of age
- **Hen** – A mature female chicken over 12 months of age

TURKEY TERMS:

- **Poult** – A young turkey before its sex can be determined
- **Tom** – A male turkey
- **Hen** – A female turkey

WATERFOWL TERMS:

- **Duckling** – A young duck
- **Drake** – A male duck
- **Duck** – A female duck
- **Bean** – A hardened bean-like bulge on the upper portion of the bill
- **Scoop Bill** – Depression located at the top of the bill- disqualification
- **Gosling** – A young goose
- **Gander** – A male goose
- **Goose** – A female goose

STRUCTURE/ BODY PARTS:

- **Primary Feathers** - Longer wing feathers growing from the outer section (completely hidden when wing is folded under)
- **Secondary Feathers** - Longer wing feathers growing from middle section (exposed when the wing is folded under)
- **Axial Feathers (Key Feather)** - Short feather between primary and secondary feathers of the wing
- **Coverts** – Feathers that cover primary and secondary wing and tail feathers
- **Fluff** – Soft downy feathers located at the base of the shaft: Soft downy feathers on lower thighs and abdomen
- **Quill** – Hollow shaft of where feather is attached to the body
- **Shaft** – Extension of quill through the entire length of feather
- **Hackle Feathers (Cape Feathers)** - Neck plumage: Males exhibit thin and pointed feathers; Females exhibit thick
  and rounded feathers
- **Saddle Feathers** – Long and pointed back plumage of back at the base of tail feathers: Prominent on male fowl
- **Sickle Feathers** – Long tail feathers of male fowl
- **Parti-colored** – Fowl having feathers of 2 or more colors or shades of color
  Ex: Barred Plymouth Rock
- **Hock** – Joint between the thigh and shank
- **Shank** – The portion of fowl's leg below the hock
- **Spur** – Hard projectile on inner side of shanks
- **Wattle** – Thin growths of red colored flesh on the sides of the upper throat on fowl: More pronounced on mature
  males.