

Importance of the **YEPA ACE Program**

WHAT IS IT? HOW DOES IT WORK?

Our club is an educational poultry club. *The ACE program is our educational program for youth with a serious interest in “exhibition poultry”.* There are three types of poultry; egg layers and broilers associated only with the commercial industry and our “exhibition” type poultry. *Our focus is only about the exhibition poultry hobby.* We are sponsored by the American Poultry Association, the American Bantam Association and the Southern Ohio Poultry Association. Our guidelines follow the APA and ABA “standards” in raising and showing exhibition birds.

The A.C.E. Program stands for: Activities.....Competition.....Education, hence A.C.E.

To begin this journey a member must be 8 years old. Each member must keep a record book of their journey beginning with the first record book and working their way up through each level of this program.

First Book: Coop Tender

Second Book: Flock Tender

Third Book: Flock Master

Final Step: Poultry Master

The first three books must be completed by the members 18th birthday. The final step, Poultry Master, must be completed by the members 21st birthday.

ALSO available is the educational Pee Wee level of our program which is an introduction to record keeping. A member, with the help of their parents may begin the level at the age of 5 and must be completed by the age of 8 when they move into the Coop Tender level record book.

Being an active member of the ACE Program offers several opportunities. The first opportunity is to be active in our Showmanship Program and at the third book level may take a test to become a “certified showmanship judge at the age of 16”. The second opportunity is the student has the option to enter the “Pre-Apprentice Judges Program” for those interested in becoming a licensed APA or ABA poultry judge. This program is available when the final level of Poultry Master is completed. The licensing program must be completed by your 25th birthday. ONLY MEMBERS WORKING IN THE ACE PROGRAM CAN RECEIVE THESE OPPORTUNITIES.

Information about both of the above programs are available to all interested parties on our website and the guidelines can be ordered from the national office or found on our website.

When you have completed your record book for each level, you must contact the national office or a youth leader in your district of the country. A time will be scheduled to check your notebook for accuracy and go over your achievements, education and competition records. You will be tested verbally about the contents of your record book, usually done during a show and on the showroom floor using your bird entry as focal points.

Beginning with the Coop Tender level and following through each level, you will receive an achievement plaque, certificate of achievement and a patch showing you have reached this goal. These may be sewn on your show coat or hat.

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WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS AS A MEMBER OF YEPA?

Sometimes people ask – what can your club do for me? It all depends on the effort you put into belonging to YEPA. It's your participation that helps reach your goals.

- #1. We can and will recognize your achievements when you fill out and complete your record books.
- #2. We give you the member, the opportunity to become "Certified" Showmanship Poultry Judge while you work on your record books. This is an open book test that will be graded by YEPA's showmanship committee of licensed poultry judges & the director of our organization.
- #3. Once you compete all levels of the ACE Program you can enter the Pre-Apprentice Judges program which will give you the opportunity to clerk and work with licensed poultry judges. Each time you clerk the judge sends a written report to the YEPA office committee grading your ability and knowledge of the APA or ABA Standards. This is the same procedure used if you are studying for your license with the APA and the ABA,,,,,,,,,but you are getting a head start at a much earlier age. Both the APA and the ABA give special dispensations if and when you apply with them to become a part of their Apprentice Judges program but only if you have completed the YEPA ACE program.
- #4. This program is a very good reference for students that plan to attend college or to enter the workplace. A letter of recommendation will be provided at your request listing your achievements as member of YEPA.
- #5. We will provide special study sheets to members in our "For Members Only" section of our newsletter "Something to Crow About". These sheets are special for our members only to help give you the advantage in the showroom and in the showmanship competitions you might participate in (Please read the showmanship guidelines for members about our "Showmanship Points Program").

It's all up to you to be an active member and to take advantage of these special programs. This is what we can offer you.

YEPA also holds special events & contests that all members can participate in, these are open to all members. You don't have to be working in the ACE Program to participate in some of these events.

You have 2 years to complete each record book. IF you happen to join YEPA when you are older than the beginning age of 8 and you have been in the poultry hobby for a few years we will work with you to complete your records books in a timely manner to help you catch up and bring you up to date in your age level. To do this you must contact and work with your youth leader if one is available or you should contact the YEPA office so we can help you along to reach your goals.