

# Waterfowl

## 4-H Project Newsletter

*This Waterfowl Project Newsletter contains information specific to the Waterfowl Project. Please use it in conjunction with the General 4-H Information Bulletin, so that you are aware of Achievement Day completion requirements as well as general opportunities and information pertaining to all 4-H members. This Project Newsletter, as well as the General 4-H Information Bulletin, will be updated in December of each year, if necessary, based on changes made at the 4-H Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting.*

Welcome to the 4-H Waterfowl Project! This newsletter will give you an overview of the Waterfowl project, answer some of your questions concerning expectations of the project and provide you with project ideas and some resources. Project newsletters are an excellent reference to keep on hand to refer to throughout the year. Enjoy your year in the Waterfowl project and when working on your project, remember to "Learn to do by Doing." If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Agriculture Extension Coordinator (AEC).

### **Waterfowl Project Work Requirements**

On Achievement Day, Waterfowl members must complete showmanship with one of their registered 4-H waterfowl birds. Members are **permitted** to exhibit to a maximum of 3 single birds. Any single bird combination of drake or duck will be permitted. Conformation and Showmanship classes will be held at all other shows i.e. exhibitions and 4-H Nova Scotia Show. Members should bring their own carpet for showmanship, as it will not be provided. A size has not been standardized but 46 cm x 46 cm is adequate.

4-H members must complete their project at Achievement Day to compete in, or to participate in, any further county, provincial, or national 4-H competitions relating to that project in the current 4-H year. (e.g. judging, project competitions, etc.)

The **amended dress code** for all waterfowl showmanship and conformation classes is a **white lab coat or white shirt and black or white pants**. Sneakers may be worn in waterfowl classes, but in grand champion livestock classes hard soled boots are encouraged for members' safety. A tie is optional. Members can wear sun-safety hats when showing livestock in an outdoor area. The dress code will be enforced at the 4-H Nova Scotia Show.

### **Livestock Registration**

4-H members must select their 4-H animals by May 1st of the current 4-H year and must submit livestock registration information to the Regional AEC by May 15th of the current 4-H year, **except for waterfowl which is May 22<sup>nd</sup> of the current 4-H year**. This information is necessary

to assist with county show/exhibition planning, including judges, class schedules, awards, etc. The following information must be submitted for Livestock Registration requirements: name of member, junior member/senior member, conformation class entered, sex of animal, breed of animal, and date of birth of animal.

4-H animals may be substituted between the registration deadline of May 22<sup>nd</sup> and Achievement Day in the case of injury, sickness, disease or death of the animal. If an animal is to be substituted prior to Achievement Day, pre-approval from the Regional AEC is necessary. A vet certificate may be required. After Achievement Day, no substitutions are permitted. 4-H members who complete their livestock project with their own registered/approved animal on Achievement Day may use another 4-H member's 4-H animal in a showmanship class at county show/exhibition and the 4-H Nova Scotia Show.

### **Conformation Classes**

Members will be permitted to exhibit a maximum of 3 single birds. Any single bird of ducks (goose) or drakes (gander) will be permitted. Members must use one of their 3 registered birds as their showmanship bird. Although conformation is not an Achievement Day requirement, livestock conformation classes are commonly held at county level competitions and 4-H Nova Scotia Show. Each county is eligible to send the top bird from each section to the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. A waterfowl conformation judging card has been developed to provide feedback from confirmation judging.

- All waterfowl must be hatched by May 22<sup>nd</sup>, of current 4-H year
- 4-H Nova Scotia does not provide ducklings for purchase. It will be the responsibility of members to provide their own birds.
- Members are encouraged to explore different breeds but are not excluded from showing in only one section exclusively.
- Waterfowl do not have to be vaccinated for show.
- Waterfowl single bird conformation classes will be divided by the sections below and judged on breed standards.

### **Class #31: Waterfowl**

<b>Section 1:</b>	<b>Duck / Heavy Section</b> - Pekin, Aylesbury, Rouen, and Muscovy (colored, white, blue, chocolate)
<b>Section 2:</b>	<b>Drake / Heavy Section</b> - Pekin, Aylesbury, Rouen, and Muscovy (colored, white, blue, chocolate)
<b>Section 3:</b>	<b>Duck / Medium Section</b> - Crested (white and black), Blue Swedish, Cayuga and Buff
<b>Section 4:</b>	<b>Drake / Medium Section</b> - Crested (white and black), Blue Swedish, Cayuga and Buff

<b>Section 5:</b>	<b>Duck / Light Section</b> - Runner (fawn and white, white, penciled, black, buff, Cumberland Blue, chocolate and gray), Khaki Campbell and Magpie (Black and White, Blue and White).
<b>Section 6:</b>	<b>Drake/ Light Section</b> - Runner (fawn and white, white, penciled, black, buff, Cumberland Blue, chocolate and gray), Khaki Campbell and Magpie (Black and White, Blue and White).
<b>Section 7:</b>	<b>Duck / Bantam</b> - Call Ducks (Blue, Gray, Snowy and White), East Indie and Mallard
<b>Section 8:</b>	<b>Drake / Bantam</b> - Call Ducks (Blue, Gray, Snowy and White), East Indie and Mallard
<b>Sections 9:</b>	<b>Goose / Geese</b> – Toulouse, Embden, African, Pilgrim, Chinese
<b>Sections 10:</b>	<b>Gander / Geese</b> – Toulouse, Embden, African, Pilgrim, Chinese

## CAGE GUIDELINES

Below is a list of cage guidelines from the SPCA. Please read this section carefully. The perfect cage should:

- Be structurally sound and in good repair (i.e. No sharp edges or abrasive surfaces in contact with the animal);
- Allow freedom of movement for normal postural changes Be escape proof;
- Allow food and water to be provided so that spillage is not a problem;
- Be easy to clean;
- Allow adequate view of the animal both for exhibit purposes and for general observation to prevent problems (i.e. birds becoming ill, no food or water, heat stressed).

## CAGE SIZES

The suggested minimum cage sizes to allow for easy movement and protection of feathers for a bird in a single cage.

<b>Cage Sizes</b>	<b>Width and Length</b>	<b>Height</b>
<b>Large Bird</b>	60 cm x 60 cm per bird	Cage must be high enough that bird have a minimum of 10 cm of head room when standing fully erect
<b>Medium Bird</b>	45 cm x 45 cm per bird	Cage must be high enough that bird have a minimum of 10 cm of head room when standing fully erect
<b>Bantam Sized Bird</b>	37.5 cm x 37.5 cm per bird	Cage must be high enough that bird have a minimum of 10 cm of head room when standing fully erect
<b>Geese</b>	100 cm x 100 cm per bird	Cage must be high enough that bird have a minimum of 10 cm of head room when standing fully erect

**Please note that the National Farm Animal Code of Practice should be followed when housing animals for 4-H events.**

**These standards can be found at: <http://www.nfacc.ca/>**

### **Preparing for Duckling Arrival**

No matter if you purchase or hatch your own birds, it is essential that you are prepared for the arrival of your ducklings. Ducklings can be brooded with ducks, hens or artificially. If hens are used, they must be confined, and the ducklings given free range as the hens are likely to tire the ducklings by wandering too far. With an artificial brooder, any type of equipment that is suitable for chickens is satisfactory for ducklings. Ducks are moved to the brooder house about 24 hours after the hatch is completed. Maintain the temperature under the brooder at 29.4 °C - 32.2 °C for the first week, 23.9 °C - 26.7 °C for the second week, 21.1 °C - 23.9 °C for the third week and thereafter at not more than 21.1 °C. The length of time that heat is needed depends on the season of the year and the weather conditions. Keep the ducklings close to the hover with a brooder guard during the first 3 or 4 days until they learn where to get warm. Provide 7-10 cm of good litter in the pen. Litter must be maintained in a clean, dry condition always. If the weather is good, ducklings can run outdoors after 1 week of age. In cold weather, keep them indoors until they are 2 or 3 weeks old. Ducklings need shade in very warm weather and protection in cold, wet weather. Good ventilation and sanitation are necessary always. As a rule, do not allow ducklings to swim until they are 5 to 6 weeks old. Breeder ducks require very little equipment for their care. For farm flocks, a shed or brooder house is satisfactory. Provide 153 square cm of floor space per bird in the house. Any feed or water equipment that is satisfactory for chickens can be used for ducks. Water troughs should be designed to keep birds out. If not, the water will become filthy and a potential health hazard.

### **WATERFOWL PROJECT MEETING IDEAS:**

- Have a session on nutrition, management, and showing, judging; ask a guest speaker to come in to discuss one of these topics.
- Visit a waterfowl farm, a waterfowl show, or local waterfowl organization.
- Take on a special project promoting the waterfowl products. Arrange to have a club/community try these projects at your Achievement Day. Try recipes with waterfowl and egg products.
- Invite a veterinarian to discuss waterfowl health care.
- Learn about traceability and the Provincial Identification Programs at <https://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/industry-protection/PID/>

## **CONTAGIOUS/INFECTIOUS DISEASE:**

4-H members, leaders, parents and livestock owners are reminded that 4-H achievement days and shows are showcases for the 4-H program, and the agricultural industry in this province. They are reminded that infectious diseases can be transmitted during transport, as well as at the show. As such, it is strongly recommended for the protection of the public, participants, and the animals at the show, that animals having or showing signs of infectious diseases not be brought to shows. As well, livestock exhibitors and owners must understand that in attending 4-H Shows, there is a risk of their animal contracting disease regardless of the best efforts of all involved.

If you suspect that your animal has a contagious/infectious disease, please contact your local veterinarian immediately and learn more about the consequences, treatment, and transmission of the disease.

A brochure providing additional information on "Infectious and Contagious Diseases Affecting 4-H Livestock" is available. If you wish to receive a copy by mail or email, please contact your ALC for this information. It contains important information for all livestock members on this topic and will be critical to review with 4-H Clubs, livestock owners, and your local veterinarian when making decisions about attending 4-H achievement days and shows.

**ANIMAL MOVEMENT REPORTING** – Regulations around moving animals to and from Fairs, Exhibitions, Achievement Days, Pro Show and other events are in place or coming into place for some species. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is responsible for these regulations regarding the identification of animals and how livestock owners report moving animals on and off the farm. This includes individual animal ID tags and reporting the movements of animals. Tag numbers are to be reported by the owner/operator of a premise when the animals enter, and then by the farmer/owner when the animals are brought back to the farm or where they are housed for the species affected.

**MOVEMENT DOCUMENT** – A Movement Document is to travel with the animals. This document will record the departure premise and destination premise, as well as the quantity of livestock being transported. These documents will be made available by CFIA once the regulation changes come into effect.

There are three things 4H members can do to prepare for these changes.

1. **Identify your livestock premises** by applying for or confirming a premises identification (PID) number with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture. [www.novascotia.ca/agri/pid](http://www.novascotia.ca/agri/pid)
2. **Confirm or set up a Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS) database account** at <http://www.clia.livestockid.ca> with Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) by toll-free telephone at **1-877-909-2333** or email: [info@canadaid.ca](mailto:info@canadaid.ca) **CLTS MOBO** - a free app to submit animal movement events **quickly** and **easily** to your CLTS database account using a mobile device

3. **Voluntarily report receipt (move in) event data** to your CLTS database account for livestock arriving at your livestock premises using the individual animal identification, within seven days of receipt.

The NS Department of Agriculture has a Traceability Coordinator that reviews Premises ID (PID) applications and can be reached at 1 (902) 890 9840 or [daniel.muir@novascotia.ca](mailto:daniel.muir@novascotia.ca) to answer any questions surrounding these changes.