

Ducks



Before Fair



- ❑ You typically get ducklings when they are only a day old, about 2 months before your fair. You can buy duck food at any farm supply store. When they are really little, you will either want to buy starter food, or crush up the regular sized food because they won't be big enough to fit the whole pellet in their mouth.
- ❑ When you first get your ducklings, you will want to keep them in a warm environment. We typically use a 20 gallon storage container (without the lid of course) and put shavings in the bottom and use a heat lamp to keep them warm. At this point, we keep them in the garage to make sure that no animals can get anywhere close to them.
- ❑ After about 2 weeks, we will move them outside to a small hut. Since they are still very small, you want to make sure they are somewhere where wild animals cannot get to them. You will want to make sure they can get out of their cage to get exercise in a grassy area a few times a day, but you will need to be watching them until they are a little bigger.
- ❑ Once they become almost full grown, you can leave them outside all day, but make sure to still lock them up at night. You will want to make sure their water bowl is big enough that they can get in it because this is how they clean themselves and cool themselves down. If you have the space, I would recommend getting a baby pool for home if you have more than 2 ducks so that they have lots of water. Since this is also the water they will be drinking, make sure you add fresh water at least twice a day and dump it out a refill it completely at least once a day.

Fair

- ❑ When you bring them to the fair, there will only be two ducks in a pen. You will still want to make sure the water bowl is big enough for them to get in so they can be nice and clean for the show, but you also have to make sure it is small enough to fit in the cage. Since the water bowl is smaller, you will need to give fresh water more often. You will also want to bring shavings to bed your cage and give fresh shavings at least once a day.
- ❑ For weigh in, show, and sale, you will have to carry both ducks, so I would recommend getting a laundry hamper with a lid (also with holes so that your animal can breathe) to carry both animals at once and reduce the risk of having to chase it down if it gets away from you.



Show Day



- ❑ When you show your animals, you will bring both your ducks into the show ring and choose one of the cages and place both of them in the same cage. The judge will come around and feel the meat on your duck. He or she will probably tell you what they like or dislike about your ducks so that you know what to look for for the next year. They may also ask you questions about where you keep your ducks or what you loved about taking care of them.
- ❑ If you get first or second place in your class, you will be in the running for grand and reserve champion and you will need to bring your ducks back into the ring for the championship drive.

Tips

- ❑ When leaving the fair, you will need to make sure you take ALL of your materials home with you and clean up the bedding as good as you can.
- ❑ Have fun with your ducks!