Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

Teacher's Manual

2025 Sydney Royal School Commercial Egg Laying Competition

11 - 22 April 2025
Sydney Showground
Sydney Olympic Park

www.rasnsw.com.au

Sydney Royal
SINCE 1822

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Invitation

The Poultry & Pigeon Committee of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) is pleased to invite all NSW schools with poultry keeping facilities to participate in the 2025 Sydney Royal School Commercial Egg Laying Competition.

What the Competition aims to achieve

The School Commercial Egg Laying Competition aims to:

- Give students an insight into commercial egg production.
- Allow students to compete in a curriculum-linked trial that provides insights for the growing of commercial egg laying chickens.
- Offer students a practical, hands-on insight into future employment opportunities within the ever growing poultry industry.
- Provide students with the opportunity to compete against other NSW Schools at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.
- Provide a competition for schools that don't have the space for larger livestock.
- Encourage school participation and progression into purebred poultry competitions.

What the Competition involves

The 2025 Sydney Royal School Commercial Egg Laying Competition will run as a trial at your school before the 2025 Sydney Royal Easter Show and culminates at the Show by exhibiting three (3) of your Commercial layers. The RAS will provide six (6) egg laying pullets (young female chickens) to your school to enable the school to compete.

The Competition is judged by poultry industry experts and consists of three (3) mandatory components:

- **Presentation of Exhibits:** Three pullets are chosen by the school for judging. Birds are judged based on uniformity and, conformation fitness for showing.
- **Project Component:** Students are asked to create an A3 poster detailing how students prepare for and raise the pullets, referring to the Australian poultry industry and the school trial data. To be submitted via email to poultry@rasnsw.com.au. The Posters will be displayed throughout the Pavilion.
- **Egg Laying Component:** The quality of the eggs laid by the three pullets (during the first nine days of the show) are judged using both an External and Internal Criteria, noted in the Australian Poultry Standards (2nd Edn).

Following the conclusion of the show a results catalogue with all school's results will be published.

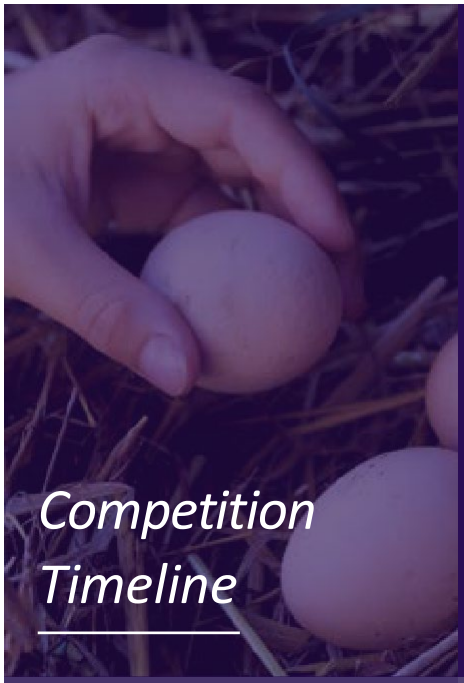
How to enter

To participate in the 2025 Sydney Royal School Commercial Egg Laying Competition at the 2025 Sydney Royal Poultry Show please enter via the RAS Poultry Website www.rasnsw.com.au/poultry-pigeon before Wednesday 25th September 2024.

The Competition is free to enter and all birds in this competition are Hy-Line Brown pullets provided by a Specialised Breeders Australia reseller. Should you have any questions regarding the Competition, please contact the RAS Poultry & Pigeon Section on (02) 9704 1227 or email poultry@rasnsw.com.au.

School collection centres

The RAS is pleased to provide competing Schools with a batch of 6 pullets aged approximately 6 weeks. For the safety of your poultry, the pullets will be delivered to a school collection centre, each school is then responsible for collecting their pullets from the collection centre. The RAS will assist with communication between schools and the dispatch centres, and we recommend liaising with schools in your local area to coordinate a bulk collection where possible.



Competition Timeline

01

ENTRIES CLOSE
Wednesday 25 September 2024. The link to enter can be found at: www.rasnsw.com.au/poultry-pigeon

02

HY-LINE PULLETS DISPATCHED by the RAS to your school in November 2024.

REFERENCE BOOKLETS
School Commercial Egg Laying Competition Teacher's Manual and Hy-Line Brown Management Guide distributed to teachers.

03

PULLETS ARE REARED AT SCHOOL
Each school is expected to keep records of the pullet rearing process to form the basis of the Project Component.

04

PROJECT COMPONENT DUE
Monday 31 March 2025.

05

PRESENTATION OF EXHIBITS: Schools select 3 pullets from the flock that best match the judging criteria.

BUMP IN: Schools organise transport of pullets to Sydney Showground for either 9 or 10 April 2025.

06

EGG LAYING COMPONENT
Eggs are collected over the first 9 days of the Show and Judged on Saturday 19 April 2025.

07

BUMP OUT: Schools organise to collect the pullets and return to school on Wednesday 23 April 2025 (if not listed for General Sale).

COMPETITION JUDGING TIMETABLE

Competition Component	*Due Date*	*Judging Date*
Project Component	Submission due Monday 31 March 2025	Friday 11 April 2025
Commercial Layer Trio	Penning Days - Wednesday 9 and Thursday 10 April 2025	Friday 11 April 2025
Egg Component	Coordinated by Sydney Royal Easter Show – eggs collected over the first 9 days of the Show	Saturday 19 April 2025

Returning the pullets to the Sydney Royal Easter Show for Competition

It is a condition of entry into the 2025 Sydney Royal School Commercial Egg Laying Competition that your school returns to the 2025 Sydney Royal Easter Show to exhibit three (3) Hy-Line Brown Layers for judging and participate fully in all three (3) components of the competition.

Discounted School Show Tickets

Participating Schools are eligible to apply for up to ten (10) one day entry passes, issued at the discretion of the Events Manager and only upon request. Contact poultry@rasnsw.com.au for further details.

Schools will also be eligible to purchase additional discounted tickets to visit the 2025 Sydney Royal Easter Show. These tickets can be purchased via the Sydney Royal Easter Show website, alternatively please contact education@rasnsw.com.au for more information.

Selling the Pullets

If you are not able to collect your three (3) Pullets, you are welcome to offer them for general sale at the Sydney Royal Easter Show by nominating them for General Sale (minimum $30) at the time of entry.

Most Successful Exhibitor Award Calculation

The Most Successful Award is calculated via the following:

- Presentation of the Hy-Line Trio - 40%
- Egg Laying Component - 40%
- Presentation Component - 20%

The school with the lowest overall score will win. If a school does not place in the top 8, 10 points will be added to the calculation for that component.

For example: Most Successful = School One

School One	**School Two**
1st Place in the Presentation of the Hy-Line Trio - 1x0.4 = 0.4	4th Place in the Presentation of the Hy-Line Trio - 4x0.4 = 1.6
2nd Place in the Egg Laying Component - 2x0.4 = 0.	5th Place in the Egg Laying Component - 5x0.4 = 2
3rd Place in the Presentation Component - 3x0.4 = 1.2	9th Place in the Presentation Component - 10x0.4 = 4
Total = 2.4	**Total = 7.6**

Competition Awards

The results of the 2025 Sydney Royal School Commercial Egg Laying Competition will be available on our website at the end of the Show. Results will not be given over the telephone. Following the conclusion of the show a results catalogue with all school's results will be published.

Awards Include:

Ribbons will be awarded up to 8th place depending on the number of Exhibits judged.

Prize cards will be awarded up to 8th place depending on the number of Exhibits judged.

Prize money will be listed in the 2025 Poultry & Pigeon Schedule.

USING THE COMPETITION FOR LEARNING

The 2025 Sydney Royal School Commercial Egg Laying Competition has been developed to engage students in many aspects of the process of commercial egg production and laying hens.

Participating in the rearing of egg laying pullets with your students can cover several curriculum areas supporting a unit of work on poultry.

NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum – Science K-10 Syllabus	
Early Stage 1	
Skills	**STe-4WS** A student explores their immediate surroundings by questioning, observing using their senses and communicating to share their observations and ideas.
Knowledge and Understanding	**STe-8NE** A student identifies the basic needs of living things.
Stage 1	
Skills	**ST1-4WS** A student investigates questions and predictions by collecting and recording data, sharing and reflecting on their experiences and comparing what they and others know.
Knowledge and Understanding	**ST1-10LW** A student describes external features, changes in and growth of living things.
Stage 2	
Skills	**ST2-4WS** A student investigates their questions and predictions by analysing collected data suggesting explanations for their finding and communicating and reflecting on the processes undertaken.
Knowledge and Understanding	**ST2-10LW** A student describes that living things have life cycles, can be distinguished from non-living things and grouped, based on their observable features.
Stage 3	
Skills	**ST3-4WS** A student investigates by posing questions, including testable questions, making predictions and gathering data to draw evidence-based conclusions and develop explanation.
Knowledge and Understanding	**ST3-11LW** A student describes some physical conditions of the environment and how these affect the growth and survival of living things.
Stage 4	
Skills	**SC4-6WS** A students follows a sequence of instructions to safely undertake a range of investigation types, collaboratively and individually. **SC4-7WS** A student processes and analyses data from a first-hand investigation and secondary sources to identify trends, patterns and relationships, and draw conclusions. **SC4-9WS** A student presents science ideas, findings and information to a given audience using appropriate scientific language, text types and representations.
Knowledge and Understanding	**SC4-14LW** A student relates the structure and function of living things to their classification, survival and reproduction.
Stage 5	
Skills	**SC5-6WS** A student undertakes first-hand investigations to collect valid and reliable data and information, individually and collaboratively. **SC5-7WS** A student processes, analyses and evaluates data from first-hand investigations and secondary sources to develop evidence based arguments and conclusions. **SC5-9WS** A student present science ideas and evidence for a particular purpose and to a specific audience, using appropriate scientific language, conventions and representations.
Knowledge and Understanding	**SC5-14LW** A student analyses interactions between components and processes within biological systems.

NSW Education Standards Authority (Board of Studies) Agricultural Technology Years 7-10 Syllabus

Stage 4

4.2.1 A student identifies and explains interactions between the agricultural sector and Australia's economy, culture and society

4.4.3 A student implements and appreciates the application of animal welfare guidelines to agricultural practices

4.5.1 A student performs controlled experiments in agricultural contexts

A student communicates experimental data using a range of information and communication technologies

4.6.2 A student performs plant and animal management practices safely in cooperation with others

Progression:

4.3.4 A student identifies and uses skills to manage the interactions within animal production enterprises

Stage 5

5.3.1 A student investigates and implements responsible production systems for plant and animal enterprises

5.4.3 A student implements and justifies the application of animal welfare guidelines to agricultural practices

5.5.2 A student collects and analyses agricultural data and communicates results using a range of technologies

5.6.2 A student performs plant and animal management practices safely and in cooperation with others

Progression:

5.3.4 A student explains and evaluates the impact of management decisions on animal production enterprises

NSW Education Standards Authority Technology (Mandatory) Years 7-8 Syllabus (2017) - Agriculture and Food Technologies

Outcomes	**TE4-5AG** A student investigates how food and fibre are produced in managed environments
Identifying and Defining	Students investigate how food and fibre production is managed in environments as a system and how sustainability can be improved, for example: • Plants and/or animal species grown in managed environments
Researching and Planning	Students investigate ideal conditions for growth and development of an agricultural plant or animal

JUDGING CRITERIA – PRESENTATION OF HY-LINE TRIO

When selecting three pullets for judging, consider the below criteria:

Live Commercial Judging Criteria				
Criteria	Score	Guidelines /10	Guidelines /20	Guidelines /30
General Type/Conformation	/20	**Low** Performing Score 0-4 **Average** Performing Score 5-7 **High** Performing Score 8-10	**Low** Performing Score 0-10 **Average** Performing Score 10-15 **High** Performing Score 16-20	**Low** Performing Score 0-15 **Average** Performing Score 15-25 **High** Performing Score 25-30
Handling/Egg Laying Qualities	/20			
Condition and Feather Quality	/10			
General Health	/20			
Trio Similarity	/30			
Total	/100			

General Type/Conformation

Commercial layers must be functional and structurally sound. Judges will review the head, back and body, wings, tail, legs, and feet to ensure birds can eat, drink and move freely and easily.

Handling/Egg laying qualities

Commercial layers must reach maturity and have a sound reproductive system. Judges will look for flushed red skin around the head (comb and face - an indication of point-of-lay), softer flesh and greater fullness of the abdomen and malleability of the pubic bones.

Condition and feather quality

Commercial layers must have adequate body condition to support their egg laying. Pullets are assessed on appropriate muscle and fat cover over their body and must not be obviously over or under commercial weight range. Feathers are the protective covering for the pullets, so it is important that they are well formed, with good texture and strong shafts. Feathers should be moderately abundant (no evidence of pecking or bald spots), broad, long, fitting fairly close to the body and with moderate fluff.

General health

The health of the birds is a very important aspect of poultry husbandry. Judges will assess the head, eyes, legs, and area around the cloaca to look for signs of illness or ill health. Judges will also note the weight of the pullets, and ensure eyes and nostrils are alert and free from weepiness or discharge.

Trio similarity

Pullets are to be exhibited as a trio (3). The three pullets should be matched as closely as possible using the criteria above, including similar weight, conformation, feather quality and colour. Judges will review the birds as a trio to ensure commercial standards are met.

Defects and disqualifications

- Evidence of ill health, illness, or infestation of parasites.
- Crooked or bent breastbone; broken bones, wounds, abrasions, or bruises.
- Twisted or malformed feathers.
- Excessive grime or faecal matter.

JUDGING CRITERIA – EGG COMPONENT

Eggs will be collected on an accumulative basis for the first nine (9) days of the Show. Eggs will be placed in a marked carton in the Egg Display Cabinet.

Eggs are judged on Saturday 19 April 2025, using External and Internal Criteria, noted in the Australian Poultry Standards (2nd Edn).

Egg Judging Criteria			
External Egg Criteria		Internal Egg Criteria	
Criteria	Score	Criteria	Score
Shape, size, and uniformity	/40	Yolk	/30
Shell texture	/20	Albumen	/30
Colour	/20	Chalazae	/10
Freshness, bloom, and appearance	/20	Freshness and air space	/30
Total	/100	**Total**	/100

Egg External

Judges will review the eggs that have been laid over the 9 days of the competition to the Australian Poultry standards. This includes the shape (ample breadth, good dome, greater length than width), size (approximately 50g), shell texture (smooth and free from indicators of stress, lines, cracks, bulges, or roughness), even colour (brown), freshness, bloom, and appearance. The eggs laid over the 9 days will be assessed by comparing the uniformity of the listed criteria.

Egg Internal

The Top 10 schools judged according to EXTERNAL CRITERIA will then qualify to be judged (3 eggs selected at random from the total eggs laid) based on INTERNAL CRITERIA. Judges will crack a sample of the eggs to assess the yolk (golden yellow (>10 on colour scale), free from bloodspots, well rounded and smooth), albumen (suitable height, dense, translucent in colour, free of blood spots), chalazae (thick cord of white albumen at each end of the yolk), air space (very small – indicating freshness) and freshness (indicated by small air space, high, smooth yolk that holds its shape).

Defects and disqualifications

- Polished or over-prepared shells
- Defective contents
- Staleness
- More than one yolk
- Addition of colouring to shells

JUDGING CRITERIA – PROJECT COMPONENT RUBRIC

Students are asked to create an A3 poster detailing how students prepare for and raise the pullets, referring to the Australian poultry industry and the school trial data. The project is to be submitted via email to poultry@rasnsw.com.au**.** The Hy-Line Brown Management Guide and the School Commercial Egg Laying Competition Information Booklet are provided as references for students to complete or create their own record of performance.

Project Criteria					*Score*
Category	Beginning	Developing	Proficient	Excellent	
Score	1-2	3-5	6-8	9-10	
Content – Project/ Growth	The content demonstrates little summary of the pullet growing phase. This includes: • Production • Husbandry • Housing • Economics	The content demonstrates a basic summary of the pullet growing phase. This includes: • Production • Husbandry • Housing • Economics	The content includes a good summarisation of the pullet growing phase. This includes: • Production • Husbandry • Housing • Economics	The content includes an excellent summary of the pullet growing phase. This includes: • Production • Husbandry • Housing • Economics	/30
Content – Industry	The content shows little inclusion of Australian Egg industry research and discussion. Including: • Production Types • Production in Australia	The content shows a basic attempt to include Australian Egg industry research and discussion. Including: • Production Types • Production in Australia	The content shows good inclusion of Australian Egg industry research and discussion. Including: • Production Types • Production in Australia	The content shows excellent inclusion of Australian Egg industry research and discussion. Including: • Production Types • Production in Australia	/25
Organisation of Growth Data	Data is not included.	Data collection has been attempted and included in the project.	Good use of collected data, including a table.	Excellent data collection and organisation such as tables, graphs and/or charts.	/30
Formatting & Presentation	The overall project has a limited structure and is poorly formatted.	The overall project has a basic structure, with some formatting mistakes.	The overall project is mostly structured, with minimal formatting mistakes.	The overall project is well structured, with appropriate formatting.	/15
				Total	/100

COMPETITION SAMPLE DATA COLLECTION

Arrival Data and Details	
Date of Arrival:	
Age when Received:	
No. of Pullets Received:	
No. of Pullets Alive:	
No. of Pullets Deceased:	
Average Weight of Pullets Received (alive):	

Trial Data and Details						
Week 1 Age: 7 weeks	**Losses**	**Chickens Alive**	**Temperature Min/Max**	**KG of feed used**	**Average Weight**	**Eggs Collected**
Record Date: / /2024						
Totals						
Week 2 Age:	**Losses**	**Chickens Alive**	**Temperature Min/Max**	**KG of feed used**	**Average Weight**	**Eggs Collected**
Record Date: / /2024						
Totals						
Continued…						
Week 24 Age:	**Losses**	**Chickens Alive**	**Temperature Min/Max**	**KG of feed used**	**Average Weight**	**Eggs Collected**
Record Date: / /2025						
Totals						

Trial Feeding and Husbandry Details					
Feed Details:					
Husbandry and Housing:					
Date of First Egg:					
Week	Survivability %	Total Feed Consumed (kgs)	Total Body Weight (kgs)	Average Body Weight (kgs)	Feed Conversion Ratio
1					
2					
3					
4					
…					
Final Week					
Final Assess Date: / /2025	Survivability % from arrival to completion of the trial	Total feed consumed during trial	Final total body weight of all birds	Average body weight of birds at the completion of the trial	Final feed conversion ratio
Totals					

Calculations

Survivability (%) = $\frac{Total\ birds\ alive}{Total\ birds\ received} x100$

Total body weight (kgs) = $Sum\ of\ all\ bird's\ body\ weight$

Average body weight (kgs) = $\frac{Total\ body\ weight\ (kgs)}{Number\ of\ chicks}$

Feed Conversion Ratio = $\frac{Total\ feed\ consumed\ (kgs)}{Total\ body\ weight\ (kgs)}$

Resources

Sydney Royal Poultry Show
www.rasnsw.com.au/poultry-pigeon

Royal Agricultural Society of NSW -Education Department
www.rasnsw.com.au/education/

NSW Department of Education Animals in Schools
www.nswschoolanimals.com/poultry-fowls/

Special Breeders Australia
www.specialisedbreeders.com.au/

Australian Eggs
www.eggs.org.au/

Exhibition Bird Biosecurity prepared by Australian Government Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation **www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTkr72FMN84**

POULTRY HUSBANDRY ASSISTANCE

Preparing for poultry arrival

	Check List	*Ready?*
1. Poultry Coop	A safe, spacious, solid construction with enclosed areas for chickens to roost at night, lay eggs and scratch during the day. Please ensure that if you are letting the chickens out to roam during the day that you have a fenced area to prevent attack from predators. Prior to pullet arrival – we advise that you clean and disinfect all areas of the coop.	
2. Bedding	Ensure that nest boxes have appropriate bedding for laying eggs: such as fine wood shavings, shredded paper, rice hulls or other absorbent materials. When cleaning the nest box, these materials can then be recycled into gardens.	
3. Food	Chickens will need a stable diet to promote growth and development. While the chickens will love your food scraps, please ensure you have a poultry ration suitable for pullets ready for their arrival. Ask your local stockfeed store for advice.	
4. Water	Chickens must have access to clean water at all times. Ensure your drinkers or watering system is clean, topped up and ready for your pullet arrival.	

On arrival at school

- We recommend that your new pullets are kept isolated from any other chickens as a biosecurity measure to reduce the risk of disease.
- Record the first round of trial data collection (sample on page 11 of this booklet).
- Ensure pullets are placed near feeders and waterers to ensure they learn their new surroundings.

Handling pullets

Stay calm when dealing with the chickens - slow, smooth movements stop birds from becoming agitated. If you are relaxed, the chicken will be too!

Animal in schools

Keeping poultry at your school is an enjoyable and rewarding experience for students. Appropriate care is paramount. Schools are required to be familiar with and satisfy the requirements of the Animal Research Act 1985 (NSW) and the Australian Code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes. More information about how to ensure you are meeting the guidelines can be found at the NSW Department of Education's Animals in Schools website: **nswschoolanimals.com/**

Water consumption

Water is the most important nutrient, and good-quality water must be available to the birds at all times. Generally, chickens will consume twice as much water as they do feed. Please consult the Hy-Line Management Guide for more information.

Nutritional Recommendations

Pullets require a well-structured nutritional program to ensure they achieve development and growth targets and reach 'egg-laying' maturity at the appropriate age. There are a large number of poultry nutrition companies that provide balanced mash/crumble/pellet/scratch rations to be fed to all stages of your pullet's development. Please consult the Hy-Line Management Guide for more information.

PREPARING FOR THE SYDNEY ROYAL POULTRY SHOW

Once you have selected the three (3) pullets for the Show – it is now time to prepare! Poultry are judged on their physical appearance, so it is important that your pullets are looking their best!

	Checklist	*Ready?*
1. Handling & Training	The pullets will be picked-up, moved and handled multiple times while preparing for and at the show. Students should handle the pullets correctly and give pullets time in a training pen if possible.	
2. Washing & Cleaning	While the pullets will be cleaning themselves regularly, it is important you give them a wash to ensure they look their best. Using warm soapy water, ensure you clean the pullets' body feathers, tail, wings, and cloaca area. Take care to scrub the legs, feet and under the nails. Ensure you rinse all soap and grime off the feathers and body after washing.	
3. Drying	Take care when towelling down or hair-drying the feathers of the pullet. Do not push feathers back against their growth direction, taking care not to split feathers.	
4. Feeding & Watering	After washing and drying, ensure your birds have immediate access to feed and water.	

	Preparing for transport checklist	*Ready?*
1. Health	Your pullets should be in good health, of adequate weight and of the correct age prior to transport.	
2. Boxes	Before transporting, please ensure you have a safe, adequate unit of transport for all three birds. Consider: • Size: pullets must be able to stand, sit and turn safely within the space. • Ventilation: each unit of transport must have adequate sources of ventilation such as air holes	
3. Transport	A plan of transport that includes a safe and efficient vessel (vehicle, trailer) and route should be prepared well before departure. Trips over 3 hours should allow for stoppages.	

OTHER POULTRY COMPETITIONS FOR SCHOOLS & SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN

Youth Poultry Showmanship Competition

The Youth Poultry Showmanship Competition supports young people in handling, preparation, and interest in the poultry sector, with competitors demonstrating their presentation and showmanship skills and their knowledge of the poultry industry. During the judging process, competitors are asked to describe the preparation required to show their exhibits (birds), the specific features of their chosen exhibit (bird), and judges look for correct technique and confidence in handling the exhibit (bird) during the judging process.

The Competition is open to both 'Schools' competitors and 'Open' competitors aged between 13-18 years and will take place on the Stage in the Poultry & Pigeon Pavilion on Saturday 12 April 2025.

School Poultry Classes

The School Poultry Classes are exclusively for exhibits owned by schools. The purpose of the School Classes Competition is to foster competition among schools that breed poultry as part of their educational programs. Poultry judging will follow the current Australian Poultry Standards. For more information on available classes, please refer to the Sydney Royal Poultry & Pigeon Schedule.

Poultry Young Judges Competition

The 2025 Sydney Royal Poultry Show also hosts the RAS Poultry Young Judges State Finals during the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

If you have any students who see themselves as a poultry judge either at the Sydney Royal or regional shows, this competition is for them!

The Judging Competition is open to young people between the ages of 15-24 years old. Competitors can compete in Hard Feather, Soft Feather and Waterfowl Judging Competitions and competitors entered in all three (3) competitions will be eligible to be judged in the Champion Poultry Judging Competition. Please refer to: **www.rasnsw.com.au/youngjudges**

For more information on any of the School Poultry Competitions please visit our website: **www.rasnsw.com.au/poultry-pigeon** or contact **poultry@rasnsw.com.au**

Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

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Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

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