Ekka

ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW

RAISING HYLINE HENS COMPETITION 2027





ABOUT THE COMPETITION

Competing schools are providedwith six (6) Hy-Line Brown hens and are required to raise the hens to 26 weeks. The aim is to have the hens laying and ready to compete at the Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) in August. Schools submit their three (3) best hens to take to Ekka, with the competition consisting of three main elements:

- Birds
- Eggs
- Project

All three elements are judged on Saturday 14 August 2027 at 9.30am, with the presentation to follow. Representation from each school (one teacher and four students) must be present at the time of judging. The competition is judged by experts from the commercial poultry industry and the birds are judged to
a commercial standard. Each component is assessed by industry experts, with ribbons and place cards awarded to all place getters.

Workbooks will be provided once your entry is confirmed.

Entry Process

Due to limited places, entry into the 2027 Raising Hy-Line Hens Competition will be done through an Expression of Interest process, with successful schools chosen based on time of entry and geographical location. Interested schools must submit their expression of interest online through our online exhibitor portal by Friday 19 March 2027.

Animals in Education

When keeping poultry at your school, you have a duty of care to the animals. Schools are required to be familiar with and satisfy the requirements of the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 (Qld) and the Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes (Cwlth) 8th Edition 2013. The Queensland Schools Animal Ethics Committee (QSAEC) assists schools with meeting their legal obligations under these codes. A copy of your QSAEC approval must be provided to the RNA before picking up your poultry for the competition. If you have any questions about your QSAEC approval, please contact the Animal Ethics Officer on 07 3513 5916 or email animal.ethics@qed.qld.gov.au.

1. Birds – Best presented trio of birds

Schools select their best three (3) hens to compete at the 2027 Ekka. What to look for when selecting your best three (3) hens:

- Trio are uniform - appear to be of similar weights, body condition and maturity
- Birds are sexually mature and producing eggs, evidenced by comb size and colour (large and red), presence of eggs and spread of pelvic bones
- Birds conform to breed standard in terms of general conformation and stance
- No evidence of illness including runny/weepy eyes or nostrils, foot pad lesions and mites etc.
- Even feather coverage - no evidence of pecking or feather defects
- Bright eyes - birds are alert and responsive

2. Eggs

Eggs will be collected on an accumulative basis over the eight days prior to judging. Stewards in the Poultry, Pigeons, Birds and Eggs Pavilion are responsible for the collection of eggs during this time. The best 9 eggs will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Number of eggs laid
- Egg colour (brown)
- Egg uniformity - eggs appear to be a similar size (no double yolkers etc), have limited indicators of stress (calcified eggs) and no shell defects

The best 9 eggs will then be checked for internal quality and three eggs randomly tested, with the judges looking at:

- Egg weight
- Yolk colour – greater than 10 on the colour scale is ideal
- Albumin height – measurement of egg white quality and freshness

3. Project

A worksheet is provided as a guideline for students to complete or they can create their own record of performance. The best project will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Students have recorded the chickens' development from when they are received by the school through to the Ekka including weights, feed used, eggs collected, health problems and other points of interest
- Project includes photos and/or diagrams of the chickens and their enclosure set-up
- Some research into poultry is shown – e.g. industry information, breed information, investigation into nutrition, health and welfare and how this knowledge has been incorporated into caring for the birds The information is related in a clear and concise manner, as expected for scientific reporting
- The project can be completed in a book, poster form or similar format, with preference given to those who go beyond fact recording and design a project portfolio
- The project should highlight the school's interest in poultry and pride in their work





IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Key Dates

Expressions ofinterest close	Friday 19 March, 2027
Successful schools contacted Chickens	By Monday 22 March, 2027
to be collected by schools from Brookies Capalaba	Wednesday 28 April - Saturday 1 May, 2027 (7:30am – 5:00pm)
Royal Queensland Show (Ekka)	7 – 15 August, 2027
Penning Day	Tuesday 10 August 2027. 6:00am – 8:00am (Schools own transportation)
Submit project for assessment	Tuesday 10 August, 2027
Judging day – Birds / Project / Eggs	Saturday 14 August, 2027 from 9.30am with presentation to follow

Prizes

Ribbonsand place cards will be awarded to three places from each section:

Best Hy-line Commercial Layers – (3) Three Hens

First: $100, Second: $75, Third: $25

Best Hy-line Commercial Layers – Eggs

First: $100, Second: $75, Third: $25

Best Project – Primary

First: $50, Second: $37.50, Third: $12.50

Best Project – Secondary

First: $50, Second: $37.50, Third: $12.50

2027 Overall Raising Hy-Line Hens Champion

Champion Rosette, trophy and $200

Judges Debrief

The RNA Poultry, Pigeons, Birds and Eggs Committee kindly asks all schools taking part in the competition to be represented by one teacher and four students at the judging and debriefing.

Judging will be held on Saturday 14 August 2027 at 9.30am, followed by the presentation and the judges debrief.



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Ekka

ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW

INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNERS

The Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) is recognised for its excellence, over many years, by winning numerous awards at the International Fairs & Expos (IAFE) Awards.

IAFE has more than 1,000 members representing agricultural fairs from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia.

These awards represent the continued dedication the Ekka plays in bridging the country city divide, and educating the next generation on the essential role farming and agriculture plays in their everyday lives.

