



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

Teacher's Manual

2027 Sydney Royal
School Commercial
Egg Laying
Competition

19-30 March 2027
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 2027 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 2027 Sydney Royal School Commercial Egg Laying Competition will run as a trial at your school before the 2027 Sydney Royal Easter Show and culminates at the Show by exhibiting three of your Commercial layers. The RAS will provide six 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 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 external and internal criteria, noted in the Australian Poultry Standards (2nd Edn).

How to enter

To participate in the 2027 Sydney Royal School Commercial Egg Laying Competition at the 2027 Sydney Royal Poultry & Pigeon Show please enter via the RAS Poultry Website www.rasnsw.com.au/poultry-pigeon before Wednesday 9 September 2026.

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 designated 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 9 September 2026. 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 October 2026.

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

Friday 5 March 2027.

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 17 or 18 March 2027.

06

EGG LAYING COMPONENT

Eggs are collected over the first 9 days of the Show and judged on Saturday 27 March 2027.

07

BUMP OUT: Schools organise to collect the pullets and return to school on Wednesday 31 March 2027 (if not sold in the General Sale).



COMPETITION JUDGING TIMETABLE

<i>Competition Component</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Judging Date</i>
Project Component	Submission due Friday 5 March 2027	Prior to Show
Commercial Layer Trio	Penning Days – Wednesday 17 and Thursday 18 March 2027	Friday 19 March 2027
Egg Component	Coordinated by Sydney Royal Easter Show – eggs collected over the first 9 days of the Show	Saturday 27 March 2027

Returning the pullets to the Sydney Royal Easter Show for Competition

It is a condition of entry into the 2027 Sydney Royal School Commercial Egg Laying Competition that your school returns to the 2027 Sydney Royal Easter Show to exhibit three Hy-Line Brown Layers (must be the same pullets as the RAS issues) for judging and participate fully in all three components of the competition.

Discounted School Show Tickets

Participating Schools are eligible to apply for up to ten 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 2027 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 Pullets, you are welcome to offer them for general sale at the Sydney Royal Easter Show by nominating them for General Sale (minimum \$35) 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 highest overall score will win. Eight points are awarded for a 1st Place, 7 for 2nd, up until 1 point for 8th place.

For example: Most Successful = School One

School One	School Two
1 st Place in the Presentation of the Hy-Line Trio - 8×0.4 = 3.2	4 th Place in the Presentation of the Hy-Line Trio - 5×0.4 = 2
2 nd Place in the Egg Laying Component - 7×0.4 = 2.8	5 th Place in the Egg Laying Component - 4×0.4 = 1.6
3 rd Place in the Presentation Component - 6×0.2 = 1.2	9 th Place in the Presentation Component - 0×0.2 = 0
Total = 7.2	Total = 3.6

Competition Awards

The results of the 2027 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.

Awards Include:

Ribbons will be awarded for Champions in each section.

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

Prize money will be listed in the 2027 Poultry & Pigeon Schedule.

USING THE COMPETITION FOR LEARNING

The 2027 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 student 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 days of the Show. Eggs will be placed in a marked carton in the Egg Display Cabinet.

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

<i>Egg Judging Criteria</i>			
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 nine 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 nine days will be assessed by comparing the uniformity of the listed criteria.

Egg Internal

The Top 8 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.

There are two sets of project criteria: one for primary students and one for secondary students. Please clearly indicate which one applies to you on your project, and ensure you use the correct rubric.

<i>Project Criteria – Primary Schools</i>					<i>Score</i>
Category	Beginning	Developing	Proficient	Excellent	
Score	1-6	7-13	13-19	19-25	
Growing of pullets	Shows very little about chicks or their needs.	Tells a little bit about chicks and their care.	Gives clear info on how chicks grow and what they need.	Has excellent info with fun facts and good explanations.	/25
Egg Industry	Doesn't say anything about eggs or farms.	Says a small bit about where eggs come from.	Talks about egg farming and different types of egg farms.	Great detail about egg farming in Australia. Easy to follow.	/25
Images, Charts or Diagrams	Has no pictures or drawings.	Has 1 or 2 simple pictures or drawings.	Includes neat diagrams or charts that match the topic.	Creative, colourful and helpful visuals that explain things.	/25
Presentation	Messy or hard to read.	Somewhat tidy, a few things are hard to follow.	Clear layout and mostly neat writing/drawing.	Very tidy, colourful, easy to read and well organised.	/25
Total					/100

<i>Project Criteria – Secondary Schools</i>					<i>Score</i>
Category	Beginning	Developing	Proficient	Excellent	
Score	1-6	7-13	13-19	19-25	
Content – Pullet Growth Phase	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	/25

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
Data & Visuals (e.g. graphs)	No data or visuals included.	One or two unclear or incomplete visuals.	Visuals are relevant and mostly accurate.	Graphs or diagrams clearly support and explain the content.	/25
Poster Design & Structure	Hard to read; poor layout or spelling.	Some structure, but messy or inconsistent.	The overall project is mostly structured, with minimal formatting mistakes.	The overall project is well structured, with appropriate formatting.	/25
Total					/100

COMPETITION SAMPLE DATA COLLECTION

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

<i>Trial Data and Details</i>						
Week 1	Losses	Chickens Alive	Temperature Min/Max	KG of feed used	Average Weight	Eggs Collected
Age: ... weeks						
Record Date: / /2026						
Totals						
Week 2	Losses	Chickens Alive	Temperature Min/Max	KG of feed used	Average Weight	Eggs Collected
Age:						
Record Date: / /2026						
Totals						

Continued...						
Week ... Age:	Losses	Chickens Alive	Temperature Min/Max	KG of feed used	Average Weight	Eggs Collected
Record Date: / /2027						
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: / /2027	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

$$\text{Survivability (\%)} = \frac{\text{Total birds alive}}{\text{Total birds received}} \times 100$$

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

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

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

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/

Specialised Breeders Australia

POULTRY HUSBANDRY ASSISTANCE

Preparing for poultry arrival

<i>Check List</i>		<i>Ready?</i>
1. Poultry Coop	Prepare a safe, spacious coop with solid construction. It should include: • Enclosed areas for roosting and laying • Open space for scratching during the day If chickens will roam outdoors, ensure there is a secure fenced area to protect them from predators. Before the pullets' arrival, thoroughly clean and disinfect the entire 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	Have a balanced poultry ration suitable for pullets ready for their arrival. While chickens may enjoy kitchen scraps, these must not replace a complete diet. Ask your local stockfeed store for suitable feed recommendations.	
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 pullets' 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!

Animals 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 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!

<i>Checklist</i>		<i>Ready?</i>
1. Handling & Training	Pullets will be picked up, moved, and handled multiple times during preparation and throughout the Show. Students should practice gentle, correct handling techniques. Where possible, provide time for pullets in a training pen to build confidence and familiarity	
2. Washing & Cleaning	Although pullets groom themselves, it is essential to wash them before the Show to ensure they present well. Use warm soapy water to gently clean the body feathers, tail, wings, and cloaca area. Carefully scrub the legs, feet, and under the nails. Rinse thoroughly to remove all soap and residue.	
3. Drying	When drying the pullet (using a towel or hairdryer), always dry feathers in the direction of growth. Avoid splitting or damaging feathers. After drying, ensure pullets have immediate access to fresh feed and clean water.	
4. Feeding & Watering	In the lead-up to the Show, gradually transition pullets to the same feed ration they'll receive at the event. This will minimise stress and support consistent health and digestion during the Show.	
5. Caging	Pullets will be housed in cages for the entire 12 days of the Show. It is important that they spend time in cages beforehand to reduce stress and help them adjust to the Show environment.	

<i>Preparing for transport checklist</i>		<i>Ready?</i>
1. Health	Ensure all pullets are in good health, of appropriate weight, and correct age before transport. Avoid transporting birds that appear unwell or underdeveloped.	
2. Boxes	Prepare a safe, secure transport container for all three birds. Consider the following: • Size: Each pullet must be able to stand, sit, and turn around comfortably. • Ventilation: Each transport unit must have adequate airflow, such as vents or air holes.	
3. Transport	Plan your transport method and route in advance. Ensure the chosen vehicle or trailer is safe, stable, and weather-appropriate. • For trips longer than 3 hours, plan for rest or monitoring stops. • Secure cages to prevent tipping or sliding during travel.	

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.

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.



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

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