

Guideline for Judging Criteria of Eggs at County Fairs

County fair egg displays are evaluated primarily on exterior quality, though some shows will candle them or break out a sample of each entry to evaluate the interior. In our local county fairs in West TN, we will evaluate only the exterior qualities.

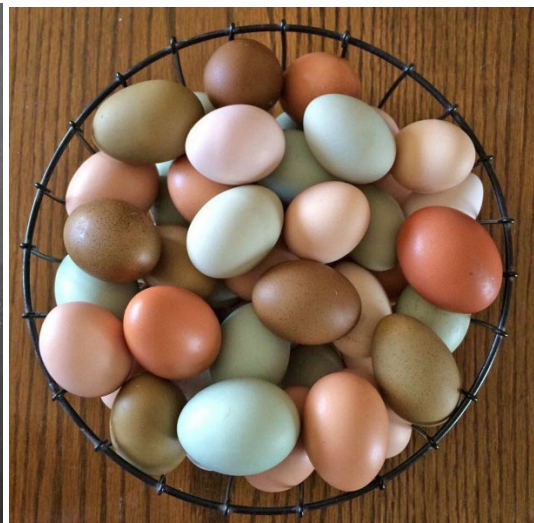
Factors that determine exterior quality are: Color, Shape, Size, Cleanliness, Texture, Thickness, and most importantly **Uniformity** with in each sector and overall.

Uniformity

- Uniformity is the determining factor in every sector! Likeness within an entry is the main thing that judges should be looking for. If there is a question between 2 entries, uniformity will be the ultimate guide for grading.

Color

- Colors should be vibrant and consistent. White should be clear white, and brown should be uniformly brown. Colors should NOT be mixed in a single entry.
 - Ex: all eggs entered in a Blue Egg category should be blue (not green or speckled).
- All eggs in the entry should be as close to the same color as possible. Color Uniformity overrides actual shade of color.
 - Ex: While an entry of chocolate brown eggs may be pleasing to the eye, another entry that is more uniform in color should be rated higher.
- Typical color categories include: White, Brown (includes all shades from light tan to dark brown), Blue, and All Other (includes greens, olives, and speckled).
- Fun Fact: Only pure Araucana hens produce true blue eggs. Green shades are the result of cross breeding. These hens are called Easter or Olive Eggers.



Size

- Uniform size throughout the entry
- Larger eggs are graded more highly and could be used as a determining factor
 - Ex: If you have 2 entries in a White Egg category that are equal in all other respects, size could be the determining factor
- Some types of fowl naturally lay smaller eggs (Guinea, Quail). These eggs will likely be in the All Other category and size would not be a determining factor among this group.

Shape

- Shape is typically less pronounced than other factors since abnormal shaped eggs are easily discarded. Uniformity in shape is the key identifier.
- Eggs that have the correct “egg shape” are graded more highly. If they are decidedly misshapen (irregular or unusual in shape) they receive lower grades.

Texture/Thickness/Soundness

- No cracks
- An even smooth texture indicates a sound egg.
- Rough areas of calcium deposits, and pronounced ridges indicates that the egg is weaker in soundness/strength.
- Thin spots in the shell also receive lower marks.

Cleanliness

- This includes being clean of debris, unstained, and without adhering dirt.
- Vigorous scrubbing of eggs can mute tones in eggs with color
- Dirt that has been adhered to the shell for a long period can leave stains, we are looking for blemish free shells without stains