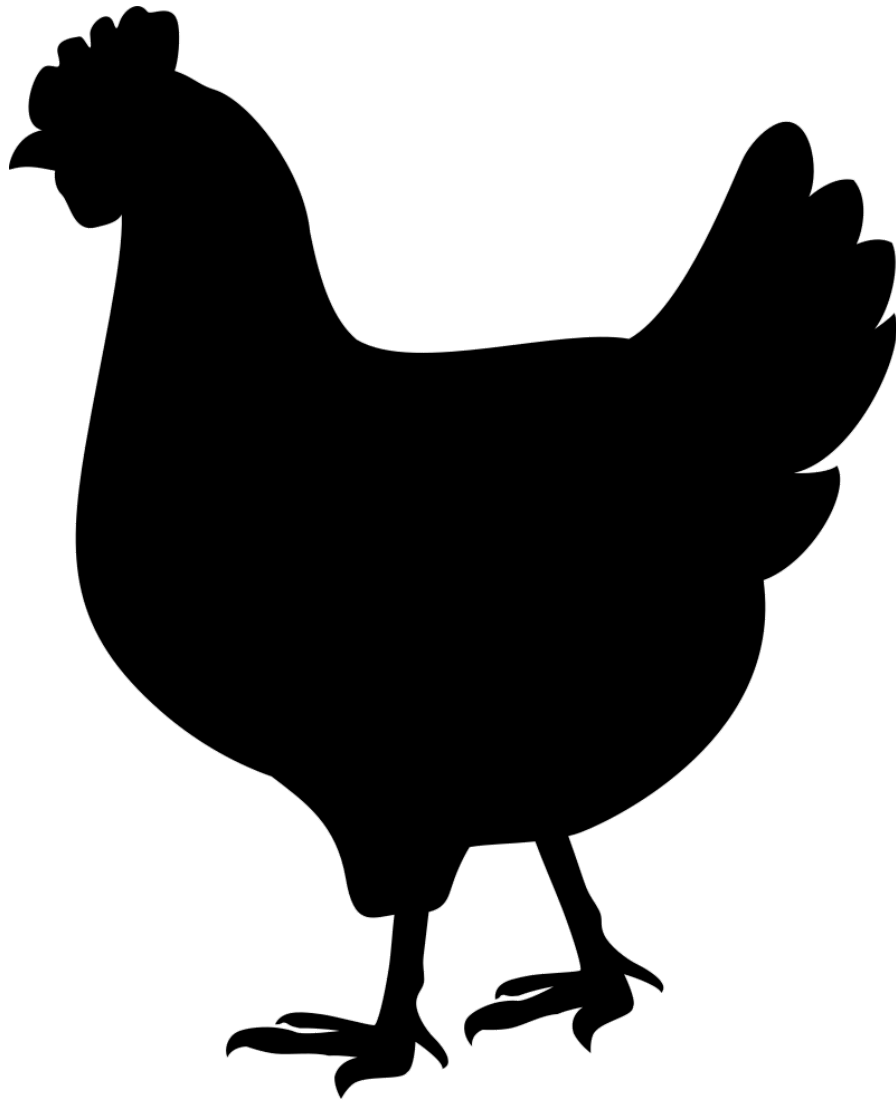


Poultry Exhibitor Handbook



Mrs. Kaitlyn Pettit

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Basic Equipment

****All Supplies can be found at Tractor Supply or Jackson Bros.****

*****If you are stalling at the barn, I would recommend waiting to see what is available at the barn*****

Housing:

The area for the chicks should be rounded off to avoid any trampling in the corners and be 2-3 sq.ft. per bird. This pen needs to be placed in a well ventilated area that will reduce ammonia and provide fresh air flow.

**It is highly recommended that you utilize the school farm. However, pens are reserved on a first come, first serve basis as there are a limited number of pens available. It is also available under the understanding that the care of the project animals is still the sole responsibility of the exhibitor and his/her family, not the advisors. The equipment that was leftover from last year is property of the school and can be used by all exhibitors who house in the barn. They definitely need to be disinfected heavily before use.

Temperature Regulators:

2 lamps needed to hang above the pen (replacement red bulbs, extension cords and hanging mechanisms may also be needed)

Cheap, Plastic Outdoor Thermometer to assist in regulating the correct temperature



Waterers:

Water should be cleaned out and replaced with lukewarm water 2-3 times daily. Rinse it out completely and disinfect weekly to reduce health issues.



Feeders:

Pan Feeders = only used the first 4 weeks



Hanging Feeders (x2) = added after 3 weeks



Bedding:

Big Flake Pine Shavings are recommended. Here are 2 options; Champion is the preferred. They may need to be changed or added to as the project progresses. The pen should always have 4-6 inches of bedding and remain thick and fluffy for the duration of the feeding period. Wet and soiled bedding should be removed and replaced, so always have a bag of shavings open and ready. A cheap, white sheet can be used for the first 5 days when chicks arrive and then removed to ensure longevity of the bedding.



Daily Care

Stirring:

Birds should be woken up and gently stirred every 1-2 hours to ensure proper movement (not necessarily exercise) to improve their metabolism and consumption.

Culling:

Rigidly cull the birds during the entire growing period to optimize performance. Remove small, sick, stunted, or deformed birds. Reduce flock size when the chicks are 4 weeks old by removing the smaller and poorer fleshed birds. The goal is to have 16-17 left at this point (this number will be different if you are sharing a pen of 25). Reducing flock size increases floor and feeder space per bird and reduces social pressure, thus improving fleshing, uniformity, and finish of the birds. With fewer birds in the pen, manure production will be less, so litter quality will also be easier to maintain. The goal is to have 8-10 birds the week before county.

Bird Behavior:

cold...crowding, head into shavings

hot...escaping heat lamp, cling to wall

comfortable...scattered around feed and water

Transportation:

Properly raised birds are usually reasonably clean. Washing birds is not recommended. Large cardboard boxes are ideal carriers. Never place more than four broilers or two roasters in a box when transporting them to a show. Do not crowd. If possible, transport each broiler in a separate box to prevent them from scratching or damaging one another during transport. Put 4 inches of litter in the container so breasts will not bruise or become reddened. Be certain to cut adequate air holes in the sides. Avoid bruising birds while putting them in or taking them out of the container and take extra precaution to prevent them from hitting their wings on anything else. Above all, do not drop the container.

Family Safety

•Public health agency investigations have implicated improper handling of poultry with occasional outbreaks of disease in humans. Protect your family from bird-transmitted diseases by following these guidelines:

1. Do not bring live poultry of any age into the home;
2. Always wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after contact with poultry;
3. Do not allow toddlers to handle poultry;
4. Avoid contact with poultry feces;
5. Wash your hands, counter tops and utensils with hot, soapy water after handling raw poultry.

Project Schedule

1. Complete the Google Form + pay your purchase fee by September 7th at 3:40PM
 - a. If you will be housing at the school farm, complete barn contract then submit pen deposit and animal fee
2. Gather and Disinfect all supplies
 - a. Using a 10% bleach solution or a poultry approved disinfectant
 - b. Housing should be disinfected two weeks prior to arrival date and set-up with bedding a week prior to arrival date with the heat source regulating to the correct temperature
3. Mrs. Pettit will deliver your chicks and check your supplies
 - a. feed and water must be ready for chicks upon arrival
4. Follow the Project in accordance with the feed and water that should be provided.
5. The Taylor County Livestock Show will be your final destination. You will need a plan for your leftover chickens upon the completion of the show.



Feeding Schedule TBA

Feeding

****all feed and supplements can be found at Jackson Bros.****

Feeders should be checked 2-3 times daily and filled. Once a day, generally evenings, it is recommended that you replace any remaining feed and completely fill the feeder. Birds can be very picky about feed and will not eat well if only given stale food. The more often the feed is filled, the more likely they are to eat well.

When feeding, reference the Project Schedule to understand how much and of what feed you should be using. The amount will depend on your feeder size. If it says to feed 1/2 of one feed and 1/2 of the other, make sure you scoop out the amount and mix them together in the feeders. You should never have 2 different feeds in 2 different feeders.

30% Turkey Starter Crumble



26% Broiler Pellets

Purina® Honor® Show Poultry Grower

22% Broiler Pellets

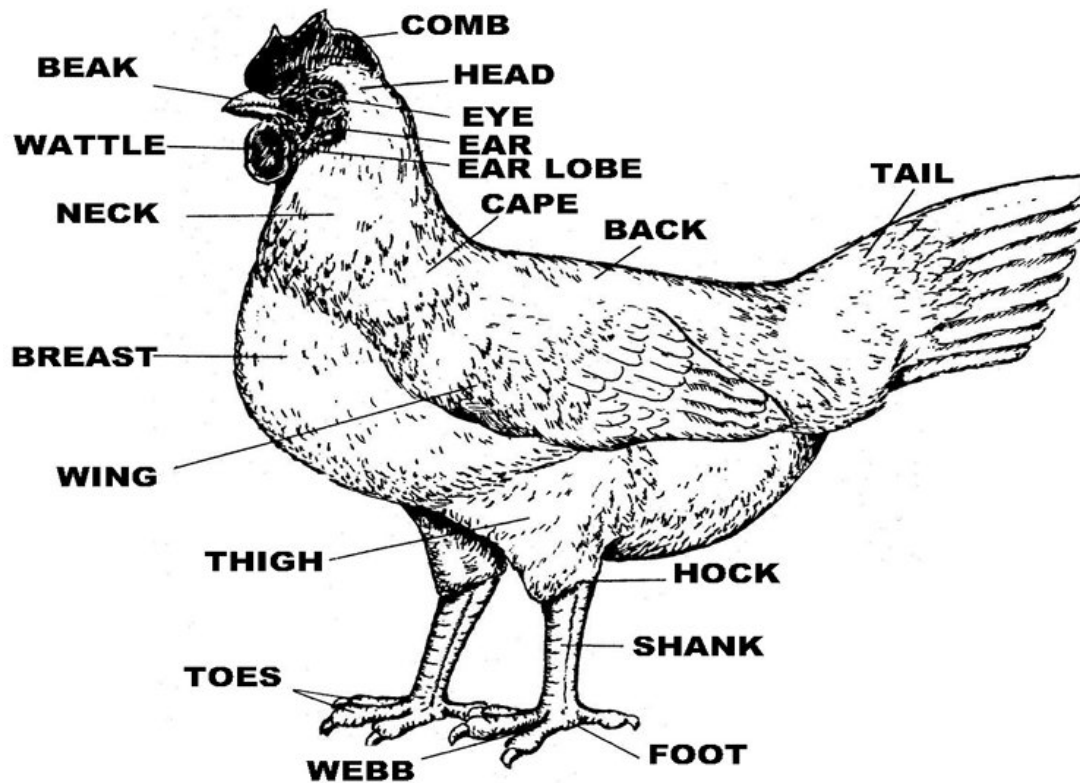
Purina® Honor® Show Poultry Finisher



Judging Broilers

Parts of the Chicken:

PARTS OF A CHICKEN



What Judges are looking for in Pens of 3:

Carefully consider the following factors when selecting the show entry:

- Conformation (skeletal system or shape of the bird)
 - Length. The breastbone should be long, straight, free from defects such as dents or knobs, carry well forward and back between the legs, and parallel to the backbone.
 - Width. The back should be long and wide with a broad spring of ribs.
 - Depth. The body should be full and deep. Body depth must be consistent with breast width. Length, width, and depth are well balanced.
- Fleshing (amount and distribution of muscle or flesh on the bird)

- The breast meat is the most valued part of a bird and should be given maximum consideration. The breast muscle should be wide throughout the length of the keel bone. The muscle should carry well up to the crest of the bone. A dimpled breast is desirable (the breast muscle protrudes from the body farther than the breastbone).
- Uniformity
 - Each broiler should be as near a carbon copy of its pen mates as possible in size, shape, fleshing, and finish. If one bird has a defect, it affects the rating of the entire pen. Defects could be resembled as blisters, bruising or something similar
- Finish (amount of fat in and immediately under the skin)
 - Finish is usually adequate on well-fleshed birds. Without satisfactory finish, a well-fleshed broiler loses a great deal of "eye appeal." The fat deposition between feather tracts on the side of the breast is the best indication of finish. Do not confuse finish and pigmentation.
- Skin pigmentation
 - Skin pigmentation results from the deposition of yellow or yellow-orange pigments in the outer skin layer. It is not an indication of finish. Place little to no emphasis on pigmentation.

What Judges are looking for in Singles:

Broilers entered as a single are judged with similar criteria as the pens of 3 except for the uniformity.