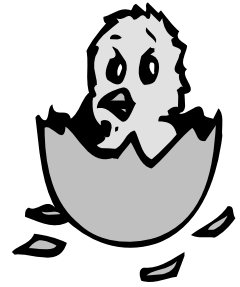


## 4-H/FFA LIVE BROILER PROJECT

The Broiler Project is an opportunity for a 4-H or FFA member to gain valuable experience in raising chicks to broiler-weight through partnership with a local business or individual sponsor. The sponsor buys the chicks, and the 4-H member raises the chicks and presents the best five of the processed birds to the sponsor as payment for the opportunity.



1. When a 4-H'er/FFA member signs up for the Broiler Project, s/he agrees to 1) raise the chicks to healthy broiler weight, 2) show the best three live broilers at the county fair 3) process and deliver the best five birds to the sponsor within the following week of the Buchanan County Fair, and 4) complete the Broiler Project records and submit them at record judging time the following fall.
2. The Broiler Show will occur as a separate show with live broilers prior to the Poultry Show at the County Fair.
3. **Participants at the Broiler Show will exhibit only live Broilers.**
4. A 4-H/FFA member does not have to enroll in Poultry to participate in the Broiler project.
5. Entry forms for the Broiler project will be distributed in the February 4-H family newsletter.
6. Cornish Rock chicks will be provided to the 4-H/FFA member. The Broiler Packet of information and records will also be provided at that time, if not before.
7. Reserve your cages on an Animal Entry form, due on May 15.
8. Local sponsors pay only for the chicks; the member is responsible for whatever is necessary to raise the chicks to healthy broiler weight (such as adequate feed, shelter, etc.) and processing.
9. Only the 4-H/FFA member enrolled in the project can select and show their three best live broilers to be judged.
10. The Broiler Judge at fair determines the Champion and Reserve Champion at Fair. An Overall Broiler Project winner will be announced at Awards Night.
11. The project participant is required and responsible for processing and delivering the best processed birds to the sponsor within the following week of the Buchanan County Fair. Processing the broilers can be done professionally or by the 4-H/FFA member.

141-E-1 Broiler Project

JUDGING CRITERIA

Members are to bring their 3 best **live** broilers to the Live Broiler Show at the Buchanan County Fair. Select birds that look as much alike as possible and that are similar in weight. Try to picture what they would look like dressed. Meat chickens are judged on the following criteria:

CLEANLINESS..... 10 POINTS

MEATINESS of breast, thigh, and drumstick .....45 POINTS

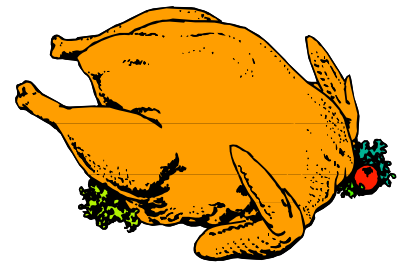
CONFORMATION or body structure (as close as possible to the ideal rectangular shape)....25 POINTS

GENERAL HEALTH and freedom from defects.....20 POINTS

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS: 100 POINTS

PROCESSING

During the week following the Live Broiler Show at the county fair, deliver your best dressed broilers to your sponsor. You will need to deliver 3 dressed broilers to your sponsor for every 25 chicks sponsored. You do not have to dress your own broilers for delivery to your sponsor. You may take your broilers to a professional poultry processor to dress the birds, for example, Urbana Poultry Processing (319-443-2335).



OVERALL PROJECT EVALUATION

Completed records are due September 15 within your record books.

In addition to the Live Broiler Show, members will also have their program records evaluated. They will be evaluated on the following:

COMMUNICATION W/SPONSOR.....30 POINTS

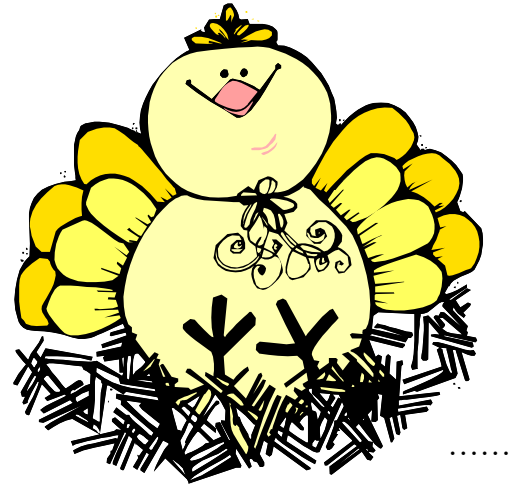
RECORDS & SUPPORTING MATERIAL.....70 POINTS

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS: 100 POINTS

4-H BROILER PROJECT OVERALL CHAMPION

To determine the 4-H Broiler Project Overall Champion, the points received in **both** evaluations will be added together. This award will be presented at the 4-H Awards Night in November.

# BABY CHICK CARE MANAGEMENT TIPS



Baby Chicks Need:

FEED, WATER, HEAT, LIGHT, VENTILATION AND SPACE

## GETTING READY FOR THE CHICKS

Clean the house thoroughly. Remove all litter and droppings. Sweep the house, floors, sidewalls, and ceiling to get rid of cobwebs, dust and dirt. Then disinfect by scrubbing with a solution of hot lye water (1 can lye to 15 gallons of hot water). Be careful when using this solution, it will burn if it comes in contact with your skin. Scrub and disinfect the feeders and waterers with a solution of quaternary ammonia compound or similar disinfectant.

## FEED

Use a commercial chick starter with a coccidiostat for the first 8 weeks. It is best to use egg flats or feeder flats to put the feed into the first 3 days or so, to allow the chicks to be able to get at the feed easier. Then put the feed into troughs low enough so the chicks can see and reach the feed easily. Use a 2 foot feeder for each 50 chicks.

BROILERS should be fed a 23% protein Broiler Starter Ration from day old through 30 days. From 31 to 42 days, a 20% protein Broiler Grower ration and from 43 days to market an 18% protein Broiler Finisher Ration. However, if the customer does not want to mix three different feed rations, keep the chicks on the higher protein ration the entire period of time it takes to grow the broilers. However, never feed drastically lower protein rations or grain only rations as the birds may develop severe and permanent leg or joint problems due to their rapid growth.

There is an IMPORTANT EXCEPTION to the above ... if you intend to raise the broilers past the 8 week time period, it would be advisable not to start them on the regular broiler starter ration. Instead, start them on a regular chick starter ration, then go to your regular broiler starter ration after 2 to 3 weeks. You can also restrict the feed somewhat so that the birds do not put on weight quite so fast and you reduce the risk of leg problems too early in their growth period.

## WATER

Have a one gallon chick waterer for each 50 chicks. **IMMEDIATELY AFTER BRINGING YOUR CHICKS HOME, DIP THE BEAK OF THE CHICK IN THE WATER BEFORE YOU TURN IT LOOSE.** Your chicks will be thirsty when you get them. A taste of water right away helps them to find more water soon. Most baby chick loss is caused because the chick does not start to drink right away. WATER IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVEN FEED THE FIRST DAY. **NEVER LET YOUR CHICKS RUN OUT OF WATER.**

## HEAT

The temperature where the chicks are should be 90 degrees to 95 degrees for the first week. Reduce the temperature 5 degrees per week until you get to 70 degrees. Then they shouldn't need any more heat (depending upon weather conditions, of course).

The best source of heat, particularly for broilers, is gas or electric brooders. Many people do not have these available and use heat lamps and/or a 250 watt heat bulb. (Red bulbs are sometimes better than white. They cause less picking.) Hang the bulb 18 inches from the floor. The temperatures directly under the bulb will be higher than 90 degrees, but the chicks will adjust themselves to the area they like. Use 1 bulb for each 50 chicks in cold weather. Use 1 bulb for each 100 chicks in warm weather. If using heat bulbs or a brooder, start the heat at least 24 hours before the chicks are to arrive.

## LIGHT

If you use a heat bulb this will also serve as the light you need. Otherwise, be sure to give your chicks light. Use a 75 watt bulb on dark days. Have a small light for night ... 15 watt or similar ... to keep them from piling.

## SPACE

### Floor Space

First 6 weeks .....	1/2 square foot per bird
6-12 weeks .....	1 square foot per bird
12-20 weeks .....	1 1/2 square foot per bird

### Birds in Cages

8-20 weeks .....	1/2 to 1 square foot per bird
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For starting 50 chicks, use a draft shield/chick guard and make a circle about 5 to 6 feet across. For 100 chicks, make the circle 7 to 8 feet across. The draft shield is a cardboard put in a circle about 12-18 inches high around the chicks that helps cut down drafts on the floor and keeps the chicks from straying or piling up in the corners. Be sure the circle is large enough to allow the chicks to get away from the heat if they want to. Widen the circle each day until at the end of the first week it includes all of the brooder house except the corners.

Provide 2 – 1 gallon water fountains and 100 inches of feed space per 100 birds.

After 6 weeks – increase floor space to 1 square foot per bird. Birds now need 10 gallons of water capacity and 300 inches of feed trough space per 100 birds.

**REMEMBER THAT WHEN BIRDS REACH 4 LBS. OR OVER, THEY MAY SUFFER MORTALITY FROM HEAT STRESS AT TEMPERATURES OF 95 DEGREES, SO BE CERTAIN PLENTY OF WATER IS AVAILABLE TO THEM.**

## **PICKING**

Baby chicks will pick each other **ONLY IF THEY ARE TOO HOT, TOO CROWDED, WITHOUT FRESH AIR OR SHORT OF ROOM**. Occasionally bright light also caused them to pick. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure when it comes to picking. Sometimes, however, they pick for no apparent reason. To stop it, try putting in fresh green grass clippings several times a day and darken the room. A special milk product put in several places around the brooding area may help. Chunks of grass sod can also be set around for the chicks to pick at. As a last resort, try cutting off about one-third of the top bill with a very sharp knife or razor blade. Cut from top to bottom, straight down. Be careful not to crush the bill by pushing too hard on the knife or razor blade. Do not cut the lower bill, just the top one. Many times the only cure for picking is to debek the birds or to touch up the beaks if they are debeaked as baby chicks.

To treat chicks that have been picked, smear pine tar, black grease, or Vicks on the area injured. Also Anti-Pick lotion is very effective. Keep up the treatment until healed.

## **LEG PROBLEMS**

Disease factors, nutrition and litter management can all contribute to the leg problems of broilers due to their rapid growth. Use vitamins and **ELECTROLYTES THE ENTIRE TIME YOU ARE RAISING YOUR BROILERS**.

## **FLIP OVER, FLOP OVER**

People have experienced broilers that appear perfectly healthy ... look perfectly healthy one minute and the next are lying on their backs dead. Many veterinarians and nutritionists agree that this is, in fact, heart attacks.

## **REAR END PASTING UP**

Sometimes the stress of shipping causes the manure to stick to the back of the chick. It is important to remove this daily. Pull off gently or, better yet, wash off with a cloth and warm water. It will disappear in a few days as the chicks start to grow.

## **VENTILATION**

Provide sufficient ventilation to meet oxygen requirements, minimize the ammonia concentration and permit necessary moisture removal from your chicken house. The use of fans to move air and reduce humidity in your chicken house is vital under heat stress conditions. Under high temperature conditions, humidity will increase rapidly if not removed from the house. **BE SURE TO PROVIDE PLENTY OF VENTILATION DURING THE ENTIRE BROODING PERIOD**.

## **BROILER GOALS**

**Healthy broiler weight is 6 pounds at about 7.5 weeks of age (the age that Broilers will be at fair).**

## **LITTER**

Use clean, dry and absorbent litter which is free of mold. We recommend wood shavings, ground corn cobs, peat, etc. If a fine product is used such as fine wood shavings or rice hulls, it should be covered for 1 to 2 days only ... just long enough for the chicks to learn what feed is. It is best to cover fine litter because the chicks can fill up on litter, starve out and death loss results.

Leg problems, such as spraddle legs can be caused from the use of slick paper, corn cobs or wet straw. Spraddle leg is when the socket pulls from the joint and the leg will then drag behind or can be off to the side. Once this joint has slipped, it will not go back in place. **THIS PROBLEM IS ALMOST ALWAYS CAUSED BY IMPROPER LITTER.**

## **GRIT**

Starting the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, sprinkle baby chick grit on the feed daily as if you were salting your food. Avoid putting out too much at any one time as the chick may fill up on it instead of the feed.

## **PROCESSING GUIDELINES**

If you choose to process your broilers on your own, here are some guidelines. Be sure your birds were fed a proper diet and always had ample water. Deliver your best dressed broilers to your sponsor. The best chickens are those with straight legs and straight breast bones. Pick chickens with large breast and legs with no bruises or broken wingtips. Check to make sure there is not a water sac at the top of the breast bone. Leave each chicken whole, place in a plastic bag, and close tightly with a twist tie. Keep the chickens refrigerated or buried in ice until you deliver them to your sponsor.

**NECK:** Trim out neck bones. The remaining flap may be removed. Excess fat should be removed in this area.

**WINGS:** Leave the whole wings on and don't trim the wingtips.

**LEGS:** Get the garters (feathers) off the end of the leg. Birds must be free of protruding pinfeathers.

**SKIN:** Free of cuts, tears, abrasions, and missing skin. Bleach the skin by placing them in ice cold water.

**TAIL:** The tail is left on. Be sure to get all the oil out of the gland. Yellow-oily substance needs to be completely removed.

**INARDS:** Cut sides back so you can reach and see inside the cavity. Clean out all the internal organs, especially lungs, sex organs, and "sweet bread."

### **HEART, GIZZARDS, AND LIVERS:**

Necks and giblets from all five chickens should be placed in a separate bag. Give these to your sponsor.