

# Morgan County Market Poultry Project

## Selecting your Market Poultry

Whether you are brand new to the Poultry project, or a veteran with many years under you belt, here are some tips on the animal you are looking for.

- Make sure you pick a reputable hatchery that participates in NPIP if you are purchasing your animal.
- Know the genetic makeup of the animal you are going to purchase.
- Choose birds that are free from defects, have good confirmation, fleshing and uniformity.
- Water is the most critical ingredient to making sure your bird stays on feed and gains weight, so have clean water available at all times.
- You should get them approximately 8 weeks before fair.
- Your poultry weights at fair are in the table below.
- Your birds can be a maximum of 70 days old at fair, 56 is ideal.
- Feed them clean, fresh feed that is formulated as a balanced ration for them to make sure they get the right nutrients.



## Additional Information

- Make sure you disinfect your coop, feeders, and waterers before bringing new birds in. It should be well ventilated with plenty of room for your birds to grow, with a heat lamp or brooder for small chicks.
- If you can provide at least 23 hours of light to broilers it will increase their growth rate through increasing their feeding time.
- Keep your birds clean, dry and protected to keep them healthy. Keep checking your birds. If you find mites or lice, use a poultry dust, but make sure you adhere to the withdrawal time so birds can be shown and sold at fair.
- Make sure you work with your birds daily to get them used to you and being shown. Practice and patience are key!
- When treatment or injections are necessary for animal health read the label, administer properly, adhere to withdrawal times, and keep accurate records.
- Ask for Help: 4-H Agent, Leaders or other members in the 4-H Poultry Project.

## How Much Should My Poultry Weight?

Number of Poultry	Species	Desired Market Weight at Show each
3	Chickens - one breed	3 - 10 pounds
1	Tom Turkey	20 - 43 lbs.
1	Hen Turkey	13 - 30 lbs.
2	Ducks - one breed	6 - 9 lbs.
2	Geese - one breed	7 - 14 lbs.

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## Upcoming Events:

- Market Poultry ID's due 6/25/2024, by 4 pm, Extension Office
- Breeding Poultry Primary Care begins 6/1/2024
- Meat Quality Assurance 5/13/2024 or 5/14/2024 , 4:30-6:30 pm, MCFG
- Fair entries and record books due, 7/10/2024, 4 pm, Extension Office



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