

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 6/25/2025, by 4 pm, Extension Office
- Breeding Poultry Primary Care begins 6/1/2025
- Meat Quality Assurance 5/12/2025 or 5/13/2025 , 4:30-6:30 pm, MCFG
- Fair entries and record books due, 7/9/2025, 4 pm, Extension Office



MORGAN COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Morgan County Market Poultry Project

Please read carefully.

1. LITTER/BEDDING . . . Should cover the entire starting area to a depth of 2-3 inches. Peat moss, wood chips, rice hulls, or ground cobs work the best.
2. HEAT . . . Make sure heat lamps or brooders have been on for 24 hours and temperature should be in 90-95 degree range with the bulb of the thermometer 2-3 inches off the floor. Drop the temperature 5 degrees per week down to 70 degrees after which the birds should need little or no heat. Figure 2-125 watt heat bulb per 100 chicks.
3. WATER . . . Un-chilled water should be in the waterers when chicks arrive. To this first water, **add one-fourth cup of sugar to each gallon.** Let chicks drink this water for **one hour before** providing them with feed.
4. DRAFT SHIELD . . . Should surround the area where the chicks will be started. Corrugated paper, 12-18 inches high or baled straw or hay work well for this.
5. PREDATORS . . . Can be devastating to all types of poultry. Cats, dogs, fox, mink, and skunks are some of the worst offenders. Make sure your building area is tight against animals of all kinds. **Follow the recommended feeding program for the poultry you plan to grow as outlined below!**

Well Managed Cornish-Rock Broiler Live Weights

Age	Male Weight	Female Weight
1 Week	.31 lbs.	.23 lbs.
2 Weeks	.89 lbs.	.67 lbs.
3 Weeks	1.80 lbs.	1.34 lbs.
4 Weeks	3.08 lbs.	2.31 lbs.
5 Weeks	4.51 lbs.	3.38 lbs.
6 Weeks	5.91 lbs.	4.43 lbs.
7 Weeks	6.70 lbs.	5.03 lbs.
8 Weeks	7.50 lbs.	5.62 lbs.

Figure 2-125

CORNISH ROCK BROILERS

Start you Cornish-Rock Broiler chicks on a 20-22% Chick and/or Broiler Starter. Keep them on that ratio for the first 4-1/2 to 5 weeks. At that age, switch them to an 18% Chick Grower. **Make very sure you restrict the feed as we outline below.** Provide 3 inches of feeder space and 1 inch per chick of watering space. You will **“full feed”** your broiler chicks **around the clock for the first 5 days** (of age). At **7:00 PM of the 5th day**, make sure your broiler chicks are completely out of feed. That means there is **positively no feed in the feeders from 7:00 PM on the 5th day of age until 7:00 AM the following morning.** You want them out of feed for **12 CONSECUTIVE HOURS.** Water, yes . . . But no feed. **NOT EVEN A 1/4 teaspoon FULL!** Continue this “minor feed restriction” program **removing the feed every night, until time of slaughter.** Failure to follow this feeding program may result in heart attacks . . . Sudden Death Syndrome or FLIP as it is sometimes called. If this occurs, it is the result of the very rapid growth of your broiler chicks. **Following the restriction outline to the left, religiously, every night commencing the 5th night of their 5th day of age, will reduce the “flip” substantially.**