



Plano FFA Show Broilers

General Information

Purchase:

The cost of all materials relating to poultry projects is the 100% responsibility of the student and family. The exact cost should be determined by the family, student, and advisor; based upon the student's interest level, time, and goals. As a range, please expect to spend no less than \$350. Costs may differ based upon the feed that the student feeds and the additives. The Collin County poultry chairperson will travel to college station and pick up the birds from Ideal Poultry all students in Collin County will have birds that have hatched on the same date. Students are not allowed to exhibit any poultry other than the birds provided by Collin County Livestock Association. As soon as birds arrive the student and family become responsible for their daily needs.

Feeding

Chickens must be kept on a high quality ration and be fed no less than twice daily. The ideal feeding times for twice daily feedings would be on 12-hour increments (ie: 7 AM & 7 PM). The most important detail in successfully feeding any species of livestock is consistency. Create a schedule that works best for the student and maintain that schedule throughout the show season. If the student's schedule allows feeding the animal 3 times daily or more, please discuss this possibility with your advisor. Feed is purchased at Wells Brothers Farm Store in Plano at the at 5001 Avenue K at Spring Creek and Avenue K, right past Sam's Club. **Feed information will be provided by the advisor. The beginning feed will cost around \$15 for a 50 pound sack. Chickens can be expected to eat approximately 2-5 pounds a day. It may be best to purchase 2 sacks or more of feed each trip. In addition to feed, all birds need to be watered daily. Students will want to check waterers each time they check their birds that the waters are clean of feces and shavings.** Always ONLY take advice from the advisor that selected your animal. Other individuals may offer advice but they do not see the animal on a daily basis. Properly feeding an animal is essential for their overall health and their success in the show ring. The items mentioned above and the feeding recommendations by the advisor are all proven by years of success.

Time:

For six weeks prior to the show date exhibitors must check and stir their projects at least twice a day. The chickens will arrive on November 19th.

Location:

PISD offers a project center for exhibitors to use free of charge, but stipulations are enforced by means of district contract. This will be the first year to use the new facilities provided by the Plano ISD Agriculture Center. The temperature will be regulated by the computer automated system and will be adjusted on daily basis per advisor opinion. No other heat sources will be permitted in the poultry facility. Students will be assigned a pen and locker to store their items. The pen will not be altered in anyway. Students will receive a brooder to keep their chick in for the first few weeks. As the chickens grow they will need more space.

Materials:

Quantity	Material	Price	Vendor
3-4	Chicken Waterers	~\$5.00	Wells Brothers
3-4	Disposable Pie Pans	\$2.00	Walmart
2	Purina Turkey Starter	\$	Wells Brothers
1	Bag of Sugar	\$3.00	Walmart
1	Package of Aueromycin	\$15.00	Tractor Supply
3+	Purina Broiler Grower		Wells Brothers
6+	Bag of Pine Shavings		Wells Brothers
1	Outdoor Thermometer		Walmart/Lowes
1	Rooster Booster (B12)		Wells Brothers
1	Bottle of coconut oil		Whole Foods
7 + ounces	Mealworms	~\$20.00	Wells Brothers or Internet
2	Bags Oasis Topdress	\$75.00	281-446-9050 Sherry Stags
1	Bucket of High Octane® Power Fuel	\$40.00	Wells Brothers
1	Bucket High Octane® Champion Drive™	\$42.00	Wells Brothers
5	Bricks		Lowes
Varies	Bacon Grease		
Varies	Buttermilk		Walmart

Other various items throughout the show season

Shows:

Shows are an opportunity for students to showcase their animal and all of their hard work and dedication. We attend the Collin County Junior Livestock Show on Tuesday January 6, 2015. Students are excused from school the day of their show to exhibit their animal. The pen of three chickens is evaluated on the consistence of size as well as their breast size and other qualities. The top 1/3 of all chicken will make the premium sale. Students will exhibit a pen of 3 birds. Animals eligible to make the premium sale will be “sold” on the following Saturday. Students do not lose ownership of the animal; simply they will receive a donation or scholarship for their time and efforts.

At the beginning of the week - Begin to prepare for transport of birds to the show.

Locate card board box and purchase fresh shavings (shavings from house not recommended unless they are exceptionally clean)

Ensure availability of additional people to assist in holding birds for pen selection. If it is a morning show, select birds the night before. If it is an afternoon/evening show, select birds the morning of the show in cool weather only. During hot weather, select birds after 9:00 p.m. prior to show.

It is highly recommended for students to join The Friends and Family of Plano FFA to receive support at the Collin County Junior Livestock Show. Without being a member of a group, students will not be guaranteed a buyer, should they make the premium sale.

Friends & Family of Plano FFA (F&F) – person to contact: president@planoffa.org

Getting Ready:

Before your chicks arrive, be sure you are ready for them. Clean your coop and equipment. Scrape and sweep out all old litter, manure, dirt, and dust. Use a hose and wash the coop to knock down dust and cobwebs. Disinfect using water, a strong detergent, and/or a diluted bleach solution. Disinfect all equipment, but be sure to rinse it in clean water afterwards. After the floor of your house has dried, put 6 inches of clean, dry pine shavings on the floor. Arrange waterers and pie pans so that all of the chicks can easily find them.

Starting Your Chicks:

We will feed 1 bag of Purina Turkey Starter per 25 birds. Fill the waterers and pie pans so that both become warm. Add 3 tablespoons of sugar, a pinch of Aureomycin, and Rooster Booster to the water. Your chicks must have clean fresh water at all times. Wash the waterers at least once each day and disinfect them at least once each week. Keep your coop dry to prevent respiratory and skin diseases. Do not allow other chicks to mix with your chicks. They might spread a disease to your flock.

Growing Management:

Once the 1 bag of Turkey Starter is gone. Fill feeders $\frac{1}{2}$ full with Purina Broiler Grower. Make sure your chicks have plenty of feed and water and are comfortable. Remove any sick or crippled birds immediately. Chicks will let you know when they are not comfortable. If cold, they gather close to the heat source. If too hot, they will move away from the heat. When the temperature is correct, they spread out evenly around the coop. Ventilation is very important. Do not close up your coop tightly so that air cannot come in. Proper ventilation helps keep litter dry, pathogens low, and chicks growing. Turn the shavings often and remove wet spots. We will completely change shavings 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ weeks after delivery. As the chickens grow make sure you raise your feeders and waterers to minimize the birds' effort to consume. If you are choosing to mash feed remember to keep your pie pans and that organic fats will become rancid quickly so it is vital that you clean feeding pans often. Everyday sprinkle Oasis Topdress liberally on top of feed.

Supplements:

Week 3:

Add 8 oz. High Octane® Power Fuel™ supplement
Add 8 oz. High Octane® Champion Drive™ supplement
To every 20 lbs of feed (15 Turkey and 5 Broiler)

Week 4:

Add 8 oz. High Octane® Power Fuel™ supplement
Add 8 oz. High Octane® Champion Drive™ supplement
To every 20 lbs of feed (10 Turkey and 10 Broiler)
Add Meals worms, Coconut oil, bacon grease (or buttermilk)

Week 5:

Add 16 oz. High Octane® Power Fuel™ supplement
Add 8 oz. High Octane® Champion Drive™ supplement
To every 20 lbs of feed (10 Turkey and 10 Broiler)
Add Meals worms, Coconut oil, bacon grease (or buttermilk)

Week 6 & Week 7:

Add 8 oz. High Octane® Power Fuel™ supplement
Add 8 oz. High Octane® Champion Drive™ supplement
To every 20 lbs of feed (20 Broiler Grower)
Add Meals worms, Coconut oil, bacon grease (or buttermilk)

Culling

Students will be required to cull their birds as they grow. Culling can mean a few different things, but it is not optional. Students can separate the birds that they will not exhibit into a separate coop or they can discard the diseased birds. All culling should be completed in the most humane way possible. Students should only cull birds in the sink area of the poultry barn and be sure to clean everything up. No photography of the cullin should occur. Culling the birds will assist in keep the highest quality animals being feed the high quality products. Students must have culled all birds by January 10th.

Pen Selection

Do not over handle the birds.

Too much feeling, squeezing, and hanging upside down creates stress on the birds and causes birds to soften and possibly die.

Remember, prior to pen selection look for defects that would result in disqualification. Remove those birds (if any) and select the top birds for a pen to show.

Mark bird on the leg with magic/paint marker. Mark the first choice pen of birds all the same. Mark alternate birds with a different color or mark for quick identification.

Avoid tie wraps, string or leg bands for identification purposes.

Criteria for Pen Selection:

- Length of breast bone – Measure from the “V” in the breast to the end point of the breast (keel) bone.
 - The longer the breast (keel) bone the better!
- Depth of body – The measurement from the front of the breast to the backbone should be considered.
 - Deep bodied birds will exhibit more muscle mass!
- Width of the breast muscle – Using your hand, measure the width of the breast muscle
 - Wide breasted birds are desired!
- Tapering of the breast – measure the amount of taper (loss of muscling) as you evaluate the breast muscle toward the back of the breast (keel) bone.
 - Minimal amount of taper is best!

Additional Information

Should additional information be needed, please feel free to contact the advisor as listed below. Showing any species of livestock is a very rewarding experience for any student. This project can build friendships, knowledge instill strong work ethic in students, provide for future career paths, give opportunities for entrepreneurship endeavors and create memories that will last a lifetime. The Plano West advisor and myself are always willing to give all students the knowledge that may be necessary for a successful and enjoyable show season. We look forward to an enjoyable and educational year!

Remind101

Please join the remind text group. Text @ffapoultry to 81010

If you have questions or concerns please contact Ms. Boles

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