



Schertz- Cibolo
Universal City ISD

POULTRY RAISER HANDBOOK

SAMUEL CLEMENS / BYRON P. STEELE II
2024 - 2025

Schertz Cibolo Universal City ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability in its programs or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.
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Contact Information

Samuel Clemens High School

Broiler Advisor: Adam Lampman

Email: alampman@scuc.txed.net

Clemens Poultry Parent Square:

<https://www.parentsquare.com/groups/join/0tplxhsa13>



Steele High School

Broiler Advisor: Arely Hernandez

Email: arhernandez@scuc.txed.net

Steele Poultry Parent Square:

<https://www.parentsquare.com/groups/join/zohugnr8c0>



General Broiler Project Information

Broiler Project Cost (Estimated)

- Guadalupe County Youth Show Broilers: Est. (\$56.25 for 25 birds or \$112.50 for 50 birds) Subject to change
- Houston Livestock Show/Rodeo Austin Broilers: Est. (\$50.00 for 25 birds, \$100 for 50 birds, \$175 for 75 birds) (Subject to change)
- Feed: Approximately \$400
- Equipment:
 - Estimated \$550
- Entries:

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- Guadalupe County: \$50.00 - \$25.00 per pen
- Houston Livestock Show: \$27
- SAE Fee: \$100 flat fee

Lockers

- Lockers are assigned by the Agricultural Science Teacher
- All feedstuffs must be stored in sealed containers.

Guadalupe County Youth Show Broilers

- a) Will arrive on the week of December 9th. An exact date will be given when known.
- b) Payment of **county broilers** and SAE fee will be due **Sept. 10th, 2024**
- c) Minimum of 25 birds and a maximum of 50 birds may be ordered per exhibitor (Must be ordered in increments of 25). Please understand if you choose to show 25, and we are short on space, you will be penned with another exhibitor.
- d) There are only 10 pens available, so first come first serve. The sooner you pay the better! Priority goes to high school members, junior FFA members that have raised before and then junior FFA members.
- e) Families may share birds for County
- f) You can show up to 2 pens (6 birds) per exhibitor at County
- g) You are responsible for obtaining broiler holders for the Guadalupe County Youth Show. It is recommended that you have two other broiler holders besides yourself to help you at the show. Try to obtain holders that are already excused for being at the stockshow to help you. These holders must be of showing age.
- h) You are responsible for transporting your birds to county. I recommend large boxes or large dog kennels to allow for breathing room. You can transport them in the back of your car.
- i) You will be responsible for feeding every day, twice a day, sometimes more. This includes Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Years Eve and New Years Day. Failure to feed your animals is considered animal cruelty!
- j) **Guadalupe County Youth Show will be held the week of January 20th**
- k) **County birds:** After the completion of your project, you have 7 days to remove your birds. Birds should be out of the house and the pen should be completely cleaned out. This gives us very little time to disinfect for the Houston birds that will be coming in about a week after.

Houston Livestock Show/Rodeo Austin Broilers

- a) Arrive on or around the last week in January. An exact date will be given when it is known.
- b) Payment for **Houston birds** and SAE Fee will be due by **Sept 10th, 2024** Minimum of 25 birds and a maximum of 75 birds may be ordered **per exhibitor.** Families cannot share major broilers
- c) Once again, this is first come first serve.
- d) You can only show one pen (3 birds) per exhibitor per show at majors
- e) I will travel to the Houston Livestock Show and Star of Texas Livestock Show depending on if 5 or more exhibitors are entered. All birds going to these shows will be hauled in the trailer if I am attending.
- f) **Houston LivestockPoultry Show is held on TBD**
- g) **Rodeo Austin Poultry Show is held on TBD**
- h) Houston may require you to purchase a hotel room overnight. Please plan accordingly

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- i) All project animals MUST be removed from the facilities within **7 days** following your last show.

Getting rid of the extra birds

- a) You will have extra birds at the end of your project. You are responsible for getting them processed and or selling them.
- b) I will provide you with a contact to process birds
- c) Cost is approx. \$5.50 per bird to be processed
- d) I recommend selling processed birds for \$8-\$10 each
- e) You will need to make arrangements to drop your live birds off for processing and picking up the processed birds on ice.

General Feeding and Care Information:

- Before the birds arrive, you must do the following **within a week** of the birds arriving:
 - I will assign you a pen. This will be emailed out and will be posted on the broiler room door.
 - Buy shavings and have them put down! Shavings should be 2-3 inches deep in your pen. This should take you approx. 6 bags, possibly more.
 - Clean your feeders and waterers with soap and water. Allow them to dry in the sun (unless they are brand new).
 - I suggest using the round feeders and waterers to start with. I then suggest moving to a trough type feeder that you can hang around the edge of the pen. This frees up space. Many people make these out of cheap gutters.
 - **Purchase Feed!!!**
- The following must be done at least **48 hours** before your broilers arrive:
 - Round off the edges of the pen. Put cardboard in the corners so that the birds do not cram in the corners.
 - The temperature of the pen should be 86°F for the first 5 days. Then decrease by five degrees every 5 days until you reach about 65°F. I will be adjusting the thermostat for the pens.
 - PLEASE keep a thermometer **in your pen** and check the temperature on a regular basis. Please let me know if the temperature is drastically off of the desired temperature.
- The following must be done at least **24 hours** before your broilers arrive:
 - **Water**
 - **Have your water ready and in the room 24 hours in advance.** Water needs to be room temperature when the chicks are young. If it is not, it could possibly shock the birds system.
 - During the first 4 hours that you have the birds, mix 1 cup of sugar to 1 gallon of water.
 - After the first 4 hours, empty the waterers and clean them.
 - During the first week, place colored marbles in the waterers.
 - Birds are curious animals and will peck at them, thus causing them to eat and drink

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- **When Broilers Arrive:**
 - During the first few days, feed out of aluminum pie pans.
 - At least 1 per 10 birds.
 - During the first week, place colored marbles on top of the feed and in the waterers.
 - The first week is the most important time to watch the birds.
 - If you have any cannibalism problems, please let me know immediately.
 - You will need to purchase rooster booster peck no more.
 - You will be responsible for feeding your own broilers, but there will be broiler wake up times.
 - Bedding-for the first week birds should be in an enclosed 6-8ft circular area
 - Please follow the feeding Instructions schedule for duration of project

- **Feeding Instructions:**
 - Purchase feed within a week of birds arriving
 - 1st feeding option
 - Showmaster Feeds:
 - The first bag you feed should be turkey/ broiler starter.
 - Feed this for 3 weeks, at the beginning of the 3rd week, begin switching to the turkey/ broiler finisher. This should be done ¼ of the amount of feed a day.
 - Day 1 of switch will be ¾ old feed, ¼ new feed
 - Day 3 of switch will be ½ old, ½ new
 - Day 5 will be ¼ old and ¾ new
 - Day 7 will be all new feed
 - 2nd feeding option
 - Producers Cooperative Association
 - The feed you should buy is Turkey Starter Crumbles/Turkey Starter Pellets/Broiler Finisher Pellets
 - Day 1 to Day 11 Feed Cooperative Turkey Crumbles
 - Day 12 – Introduce pelletized feed
 - Day 16 – Start changing feed over to Turkey Starter/Broiler Finisher pellets combo
 - Day 22 – Feed should be changed over to full Broiler Finisher
 - Day 23 to End of Project – Feed Broiler Finisher
 - Day 24 – May introduce grease at this time
 - Also, buy grit (this helps the birds gizzard grind their feed)
 - You will need B12 to put into a spray bottle and spray over feed each feeding, it increases appetite.
 - Purchase oyster shells, grind them up to extremely small pieces. Use a spice container to shake them onto the feed each feeding. This adds calcium to the feed which will result in better bone growth. If these are not ground into a near dust consistency, they will choke on it and die, or lacerate their esophagus and die!

- **Daily Maintenance:**

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- These are the most important aspects of raising birds!
- Make sure that your birds have clean, FRESH water morning and night.
- Keep your feeders around ½ full unless they are completely finishing the feed. If this happens fill it 2/3 of the way full. We do not want the birds to EVER run out of feed or water. Make sure to clean any shavings out of the lip of the feeders.
- All feeders and waterers should be kept at the back height of the bird. Therefore, they need to be raised up periodically. This can be accomplished by hanging them or by using stepping stones to raise them up. Stepping stones MUST be LEVEL or the water will run out and your shavings will get wet.
- You MUST change your shavings as soon as they become dirty. Your birds will not be successful if their pen is dirty, I can guarantee this.
- I highly suggest you turn your shavings daily, this will extend their life.

Livestock Shows

- Stock show sign up night, also known as “Entry Night” is held during the month of November. You must attend with a parent/guardian to fill out the entry forms and pay for all entries at that time. The ASTs will be available to assist you with your entries. You will need your Social Security Number and Quality Counts number on hand for your entries.

Guadalupe County Show (3rd week of January)

- The county show sale is a premium sale; meaning the animals which make the sale are not physically sold the exhibitor is essentially selling their ribbon. There is no guarantee on the amount your animal will bring at the county sale. Upon conclusion of the sale you may sell your steer for market price, have it processed, or take it on to a major show.

Major Shows (San Antonio, Houston, Rodeo Austin Livestock Shows)

- The major livestock shows of Texas are held primarily during the spring show season. These shows are held in conjunction with the larger fairs throughout the state. Major livestock shows are considered terminal shows and making the sale at one of the majors is considered to be a great accomplishment.
- All students who show in a major show are required to have taken the Quality Counts course and have passed the test to receive their certification number. This certification number MUST be written on all major show entries. The Quality Counts course and test can be found at <https://agrilife.org/qualitycounts/>.
- You are welcome to attend any of these major shows, however, for students raising projects at the Toby Connor Complex you will only be able to participate in the Houston and Rodeo Austin Livestock Shows. This is due to overlapping of Guadalupe County and San Antonio Livestock Shows. In Addition due to budget restrictions/district policy, SCUC ISD Ag teachers will not be able to attend unless there are FIVE or more students exhibiting poultry projects at any major show.

Broiler Show Selection

- Depending on space we will cull broilers for the first time after about 4 weeks. This will be during the first or second week of January. Depending on when the broilers arrive.
- We will select the 2 pens of broilers for show (set of 3 cockerels and set of 3 pullets) the weekend before the livestock show starts

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Broiler Room Keys

- Each student will be assigned a key to the Broiler Room.
- The Broiler Room is to remain locked at all times. This will help prevent cross contamination between species. Feces from other species can be fatal to poultry projects.
- The key will be assigned to you and must be returned to the Agriculture Teacher in charge of broilers. If you do not return an assigned key a \$50.00 charge will be assessed to you. The broiler room door keys will be given and assigned at a later date.

Notification and News

- All notifications and news will be sent out using Parent Square

Equipment Needed

<u>Daily Supplies</u>			
<u>Item Description</u>		<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Store</u>
1 gallon waterer for every 10 birds		5	St. Hedwig Feed & Supply
1 pie pan for every 10 birds. Will be used at the start of the show season		5	Walmart

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5 gallon waterer for every 15 birds		4	St. Hedwig Feed & Supply
1 – Vinyl gutter with left and right end caps. 1 for each side of the pen		3-4	Home Depot/Lowes
Shavings(the large flakes don't seem to work as well when they are young)		6	St. Hedwig Feed & Supply
Oyster shell crushed finely (use a seasoning shaker to top feed)		1	Tractor Supply
Rooster Booster B-12 spray – 32oz		1	St. Hedwig Feed & Supply

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Rooster Booster – Pick no more		1	St. Hedwig Feed & Supply
Sugar (enough for 1 cup per waterer the first day only)		1 cup	-
Hanging Thermometer		1	Varies
Rubber Boots 1 pair used for duration of show season		1	Varies
<u>Stockshow Supplies</u>			
Coffee Cans Empty Cans		2	Varies
Bag of Shavings		1	St. Hedwig Feed & Supply

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Spray Bottle		1	Varies
Battery Operated Fan – 10”		2	Varies
Transportation Boxes 16 in. L x 12 in. W x 12 in. D Small Moving Box		2	Home Depot

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