

SELECTING FINAL BIRDS FOR SHOW-

BROILERS-MARKET TURKEYS

1. Cull flock to the top 50% by the first half of growing cycle
 - a)- four weeks- broilers
 - b)- ten weeks – turkey poults
2. Watch the birds walk daily and put leg bands/numbers on good birds.

...record the leg band number on regular basis of birds that walk wide...

Once you have narrowed down the top several birds (or three times the number you intend to show) start recording bird weights and chart birds growth.

SELECTION PROCESS FOR FINAL PEN-SINGLE TURKEY

1. Measure length of keel from tip of breast-front of breast.
2. Measure width of breast at the widest point.
(keel should be 1 ½ times as long as it is wide)- long keel birds are good birds
3. Look for breasts that are rounded on tip of keel...not pointed.
4. Look over all meat areas to make sure you observe no bruises-blemishes.
5. Examine the drumstick and measure thickness in largest portion of leg.
6. For broilers simply pick up bird with one hand and hold other hand on back to see overall width of breast and firmness of breast.
7. For meat turkeys watch the widest walking bird and measure the width of front of breast and follow hand back to tip of keel looking for a football shape.
8. Once final selection is made handle bird/birds with caution and place in large crate so bird can stand, not bruising the back.
9. DO NOT transport bird in closed trunk- allow plenty of air movement.

EGG PULLETS

Pullets are to be selected for ability to lay eggs thus five areas checked and averaged.

#1- Length of back-

#2- Length of keel

#3- Depth of body

#4- Width of breast over wings and under front of breast

#5- Rear width of birds

- a quick way to measure all five is to simply wrap hands around birds body above wing and gently measure total volume- (good birds have more body capacity)

EGG PRODUCING PAST PRODUCTION HENS

#1 method is to look at pigment loss in legs if yellow shank birds- whiter legs go on top, yellow shanks go on the bottom.

50 eggs laid =bottom feet, eye ring beak, vent , and earlobe bleached

100 eggs laid = front of shanks bleached,150 eggs laid =back of shanks bleached

200 eggs laid =top of toes and hocks bleached (non yellow)

#2 method is to evaluate the handling qualities of the vent-(pubic and keel bones)

Good birds have moist, pink, oval vents with pointed bone tips spread wide apart

Poor birds have round, dry vents with curved inward bones that are close together

