



4-H MARKET BROILER PROJECT

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Official Record Book

Name of Club Member _____

Mailing Address _____

E-Mail Address _____

Birthday (mo/day/yr) _____

Name of Club _____

Date Project Started _____

Date Project Finished _____



Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914,
in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Elbert C. Dickey, Dean and
Director of Cooperative Extension, University of Nebraska,
Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

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PLANNING GUIDE

Before you start your broiler project you should do some pre-project planning. This planning will help you identify the possible costs of the equipment needed to complete the project. Talk with your parents and 4-H leader about the following areas:

Housing

Where will the birds be raised?

How large is the building (square feet)?

What kind of floor is in the building?

What kind of litter will be used?

How much feeding and watering equipment will be needed?

Are there problems with temperature, drafts or ventilation?

Birds

How many birds will be raised?

Where will the birds be purchased?

When to start and end the project?

Cost

Enter the estimated cost in the record book.

What kind of feed will be used?

How much will the chicks cost?

How much will the feed cost?

What is the cost of building and equipment?

How much will the building and equipment cost?

Marketing

Where will the birds be sold?

How many birds will be held for home use?

How will a price for the birds be established?

WEEKLY RECORD

Wk	No. Birds	Avg. Wt. Per Bird	Total Flock Wt.	Gain Per Week	Lbs. Feed Consumed	Feed Type	Feed Cost	Problems or Conditions Affecting the Gain
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								

Total Lbs. Consumed = _____ Total Feed Cost = _____

To figure the average weight per bird, weigh three or more average-size birds (not the biggest or the smallest). Add the individual weights together and divide the answer by the number of birds weighed, or weigh a group of birds together and divide the total weight by the number of birds weighed. It is important that you keep track of the weights of your birds to see if they are growing at an acceptable rate, or if they are sick or doing poorly. You need to know what your birds weigh when you take them to the fair.

DEPLETION RECORD

Record the number of all chicks, and birds that died or were culled, sold, or eaten at home. For dead chicks or birds, mark (D); for culls not marketable, mark (C); and for birds sold or eaten, mark (M). Example: 3 chicks died January 5, mark 3 D on that date; 2 chicks were culled January 16, mark 2 C on that date.



Number of birds at start of record _____ Dates birds were received _____

Date	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1												
2												
3												
4												
5												
6												
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28												
29												
30												
31												

Livability = $\frac{\text{Number of broilers sold}}{\text{Number of broilers started}}$ = _____ % Livability at end of project



Total weight (lb.) _____ X _____ (\$/lb.) = _____

Total Income \$ _____

minus (-) Total Production Costs \$ _____

equals (=) Total Profit \$ _____

(If your total profit is a negative number, you will lose money on your market broiler project if you sell your birds for the current market price.)

Did you make a profit on your birds at this price?

Calculate profit per live bird by dividing the total profit by the number of birds sold. This amount is how much money you made on each bird you raised, to market weight. This number also gives you an idea of how much money you could make (or lose) if you raised say, 10,000 broilers.

$$\frac{\text{Total Profit ()}}{\text{Number of Birds ()}} = \text{Profit per Bird ()}$$

The Finished Product

When broilers are slaughtered, about 1/4 of the weight of the bird is thrown away as waste (feathers, intestines, feet, etc.). To figure out how much finished product you could get from your market broilers, multiply the total weight of the remaining live birds times 3/4 (.75).

Total weight () X 3/4 = _____ Pounds of Finished Product

What is the price per pound for broilers at local stores in your area or a price you know you can receive for a dressed bird? \$ _____

If you slaughtered your own birds, you could expect to receive the same price for your finished product as the store. To figure your income from the finished product, multiply the pounds of finished product that you figured above times the price per pound at the store.

_____	lb.	X	_____	\$	=	\$	_____
Finished Product			Store Price				Finished Product Income

PRODUCTION COSTS

Pounds of Feed Per Pound of Gain and Feed Cost

The pounds of feed needed for the bird to gain one pound of body weight is important. It tells you how efficiently your birds gained weight. Birds that require less feed to put on a pound of gain will make larger profit for the producer because less money is spent on feed.

To figure the pounds of feed per pound of gain, total the pounds of feed you fed your broilers. Divide this number by the total weight of the remaining live birds.

If you are unable to weigh all of your birds, you can use an estimate of the total weight. Multiply the average weight of five market broilers times the number of live birds remaining.

FEED CONVERSION FORMULA

$$\frac{\text{Pounds of Feed}}{\text{Pounds of Gain}} = \frac{\text{Total Pounds Fed to Birds ()}}{\text{Total Weight of Birds ()}} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

The average pounds of feed per pound of gain for the market broiler industry is about 1.85 for birds that are six weeks old. Your birds will be about six weeks old when entered at the fair. Did you do better or worse than the industry average? A number smaller than 1.85 would mean that you did better than average. A number larger than 1.85 would mean that you were below average.

I did better / worse (circle one) than the industry average with my market broilers. Why?

Find the feed cost per pound of broilers produced by multiplying the feed conversion times the cost per pound of feed.

Example:	X	2.13	conversion
		.10	cents/lb
		0.213	feed cost/lbs of live weight

Supplies and Equipment	Actual Cost	Pre-planning Cost Estimate
Broiler chicks		
Feed		
Medication		
Bedding		
Brooder & equipment		
Building & utilities		
Total other costs		
Total Production Costs		

Total all of the costs involved in producing the broilers listed. This sum will be called the “Total Production Costs.”

PROFIT OR LOSS

To figure your profit from selling a finished product, subtract the Total Production Costs from the Finished Product Income.



$$\frac{\$ \text{ Finished Product Income}}{\text{Total Production Costs}} = \$ \text{ Finished Product Profit}$$

To finish the "Profit per Finished Bird," divide the "Finished Product Profit" by the number of birds available for processing.

$$\frac{\text{Finished Product Profit}}{\text{Number of Birds}} = \text{Profit per Finished Bird ()}$$

Remember that you would have to slaughter and market your birds to get this amount of profit per bird. Would you want to raise and slaughter a large number of birds for this amount of profit per bird? _____

Are there any costs that you did not include in your profit calculations? (list them)

Why is it cheaper for very large producers to produce market broilers? Can you think of any costs that would be reduced on a per bird basis as the size of the broiler operation increased?

SHOW RESULTS

Show Location: _____

Show Date: _____

Number of Birds	Placing	Premium	Expenses of Show	Amount Received at Auction	Value of Birds

Comments about the show.

SUMMARY OF THE MARKET BROILER PROJECT

Describe your experience with the broiler project this year. Write the summary in paragraph form. In your summary include the following information.

1. Describe your successes and failures during the project.
2. What things would you do differently next time?
3. What parts of the project did you need help with (from parents, leaders, friends)?
4. At what stage in the project was good management most critical?
5. Did weather play a part in any problems you may have had?
6. What type house did you brood in?
7. What type of brooder (heat source) did you use?
8. What type of bedding did you use?
9. How long did you brood the chicks?
10. What type of facility did you grow and finish your birds in (confinement, range, small shed and pen, etc.)?
11. Did you have any problems with rodents or predators?
12. Is there anything else you feel is important?

