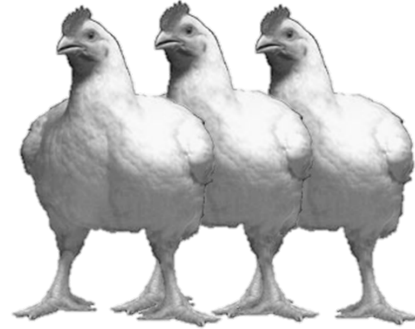


## Selection

- Chickens must be ordered through the Poultry Committee- orders are due the end of June with animal pickup the end of July/ early August.
  - Order at **minimum** 6 chickens per exhibitor
    - Young birds can be hard to keep healthy
- Select 3 chickens for the fair with:
  - Heaviest with most muscle
  - Long keel bone (breast bone)
  - Rectangular breast shape along the entire keel bone
  - “U” shaped uniformity of the breast muscle
- Avoid chickens with crooked legs & broken bones/ wings



## Weight

- Ideal market weight is 6 lbs per bird (pen total around 20)- Delaware County Fair has a lower limit of 14 pounds for the pen of 3 with no upper limit
- A normal rate of gain is about .12 lbs of gain per day- average daily gain=.12 lbs/day (about 1lbs/ week)
- Chickens should weigh about 3 lbs the middle of August and 5 lbs the beginning of September

## Nutrition

- Chickens need to eat a high protein starter feed. This can be fed throughout the entire growth period.
  - A finisher feed can be the diet the last 10-14 days if desired
- Maximum growth comes from birds eating multiple small meals
  - Stirring birds calmly and regularly can stimulate birds to eat more
  - During extreme heat encourage birds to eat in the evening or early morning
- Clean/fresh water access

## Health

- A normal body temperature for chickens is 105°F-107°F
- Common health concerns to look for: heat stress, respiratory issues, and foot or breast blisters
- Check and observe birds during times of the day when temperatures change
- Chickens that do not feel well will huddle together, act listless, vocalize loudly, as well as other symptoms
  - It's very important to observe your animal's normal behavior every day so you can notice abnormal behavior.

## Facilities and Equipment

- Good ventilation
  - Due to a rapid growth rate, birds require high oxygen levels
- Keep pen clean and fresh bedding such as pine shavings
- Space- 2 square feet per animal is recommended
- Chickens need a warm environment  
90°F- 75°F is recommended depending on age
- Birds perform best with lots of light. Be sure to give them at least one hour of darkness
- Brooder/ heat lamp
- Feeder- raise as birds grow
- Waterer- raise as birds grow
- Transportation container- pet crate or large cardboard box

## Dates you need to look for

- Quality Assurance (or test out)-July 1
  - Market animal exhibitors by law must attend
- Order and pick up dates
- Entry deadline is the last Friday in August
- Mandatory project book and interview is the second Saturday in September

## Additional opportunities

- Ohio State Fair- End of July
  - Entries due June 21
  - Must have attended a Quality Assurance by June 1
  - Read their rules at: <https://ohiostatefair.com/livestock/>
- Hartford Independent Fair
  - For eligibility both the following criteria must be met:
    - (1) They are enrolled in a youth organization in the following townships of Delaware Co. (Harlem/Centerburg Village, Trenton, Porter and Berkshire);
    - (2) They attend school in, or have residence within the specified townships
  - Must have attended a Quality Assurance by June 1
  - Read their rules at: <http://hartfordfair.com/premium-book.htm>

### Resource:

- Market Broiler Pens. Albertsen, F.  
[https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4hfiles/agriculture/MarketBroilerCare\\_Management.pdf](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4hfiles/agriculture/MarketBroilerCare_Management.pdf)
- Raising Broilers and Turkeys for Competition. Watkins, S., Jones, F., Clark, F.D., & Wooley, J.  
<https://www.uaex.edu/publications/PDF/FSA-8004.pdf>