



# Turkey Project

## Notes

### Project Completion

This project differs from other projects in that it is not completed at your Club Achievement Day because your turkeys will not be ready until early September. You will be mailed your 4-H certificate and ribbon in the fall after the Eastern Kings Exhibition.

### Requirements

- \* To raise two - five turkey poults to market size.
- \* To order the turkeys from a supplier. Orders are usually placed in April.
- \* To exhibit one turkey in 4-H classes in at least one exhibition.
- \* To solicit buyers to bid on your turkey at the Turkey Auction (only the top five turkeys will be sold by auction)
- \* To arrange for the delivery of the auctioned turkeys to the designated packing plant and then to the buyer after slaughter.

### Preventing Disease

Many poultry diseases are under control because of vaccinations, medicated feed and better disease prevention. Prevention is the easiest and most economical way to combat disease and parasites.

#### Always follow these guidelines:

1. Select healthy, vigorous, disease free chicks.
2. Keep birds of different ages well isolated from each other.
3. Isolate poultry from other livestock.
4. Provide adequate commercial feed or carefully formulated home mixed feeds along with a continuous supply of clean water.
5. Don't crowd poultry.
6. During brooding, regulate temperature, humidity and ventilation to the comfort of chicks and pouts.
7. Keep unauthorized people out of the poultry house.
8. Incineration is the most satisfactory and economical method of dead bird disposal.
9. Change litter and thoroughly clean and disinfect barn and equipment after each group of birds.
10. In disease outbreaks, promptly obtain a reliable diagnosis. Then use the best treatment for control of that particular disease.
11. **It is highly recommended that all birds shown at exhibitions be vaccinated for Infectious Laryngotracheitis (I.L.T.).** This is a highly contagious respiratory disease for which there is no cure. Flocks found to have this disease must be destroyed.

Poor management is the greatest single cause of losses to poultry. Most diseases caused by nutrient deficiencies should not occur if premixes are added to feed in the proper amounts. Feeding your chicks correctly will create healthier birds that are able to fight off infectious diseases.