

TEXAS 4-H POULTY PROJECT

LET'S GET STARTED!

Turkeys are shown individually and broilers as a pen of three birds. Some broilers are straight-run (sexes not separated), while others separate pullet and cockerel divisions. Turkeys are almost always separate due to size differences.

Fun Fact: With 25 billion chickens in the world, there are more of them than any other bird species.



How Many Bird To Order?

Broilers: 50 Birds

Turkeys: 25 Birds

Poultry projects are typically purchased in groups, not individually.

Project Length

Chicken Project: Approximately six weeks

Turkey Project: Approximately 5 months

Average Cost of Chicken Project

Purchase Price: \$62.50

Feed Cost: \$352.00

Supplies: \$180.87

Vet Cost: \$21.63

Fees: \$73.85

Total Cost:
\$690.85
(per 50 Birds)

Selection and Culling

- Physical Defects (Tears, Cuts, Broken Bones, Bruises)
- Muscling
- Uniformity
- Finish (Amount of fat immediately under the skin)
- Skin Pigmentation

Average Cost of Turkey Project

Purchase Price: \$87.50

Annual Feed Cost: \$1,295.25

Supplies: \$140.94

Vet Cost: \$18.57

Fees: \$78.50

Total Cost:
\$1,620.76
(per 25 Birds)

Facility Preparation



Electricity

Heat Lamps

Ventilation

Bird Pen

Litter/Shavings

Lighting

Drainage

Waste Disposal

Water

Feeders

Protection From Elements
and Predators

Feeding



The feed dealer should be informed of the type of feed required at least 2 weeks before chicks arrive so that fresh feed can be ordered. It is absolutely essential that birds receive a high-quality poultry feed containing at least 20 percent protein. As the birds grow, adjust protein levels in feed.

Important Tip!

Know in advance which shows you plan to attend. Then, order birds based on time frame and size requirements.

Suggestion:

Establish a working relationship with a veterinarian.

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