

Should I take TURKEYS as a 4-H project?

Choosing to take a livestock project in 4-H should involve sound decision-making. This fact sheet provides basic information to help you make a good decision.

SPACE NEEDED

- 5 - 10 square feet per finished turkey in confinement

COMFORT ZONE

- 100° F the first week; lower 5 ° each week to 70 ° for optimal performance

WATER REQUIREMENTS

- Access to clean, fresh, cool water is critical
- 1 pint - 2 gallons/day (increases as birds grow)

FEED CONSIDERATIONS

- Will eat approximately .34 - 11 pounds of feed per week
- Will gain approximately .1 - .3 pounds per day (Average Daily Gain or ADG)
- Needs approximately 2 – 2.5 pounds of feed per pound of gain (Feed Efficiency)

MARKET CONSIDERATIONS

- Hens should weigh 25 – 27 pounds when finished
- Toms should weigh 42 – 47 pounds when finished
- Should be finished at 21 - 22 weeks of age

BUDGETING

- Approximate purchase cost is \$6.00 each at hatching
- Projected market price is \$1.00 per pound
- Projected feed cost is around \$30.00 and includes:
 - Turkey Starter (complete feed)
 - Turkey Grower (complete feed)

Prepared by Bonnie Malone, Extension Educator 4-H, Huron County, Ohio and Vicki Schwartz, Associate State Leader, Ohio 4-H.

