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:
  o Turkey Starter (complete feed)
  o Turkey Grower (complete feed)

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