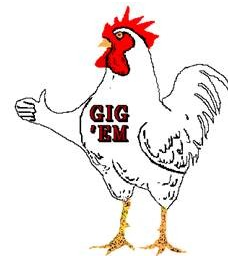




Youth Poultry Newsletter



Department of Poultry Science

Texas A&M University

Spring 2011

Upcoming Poultry Events

March

- 11 Star of Texas Fair and Rodeo
- 18 - 19 Houston Livestock Show
- 26 W.F. Krueger Memorial Poultry Judging Contest

June

- 4 Market Poultry Workshop
- 7 - 8 Ag Teacher/CEA Workshop
- 12 - 15 Poultry Institute for Youth
- 16 4-H Roundup Poultry Judging Contest

2011 HLSR Poultry Show to be a One Day Show

By Dale Hyatt
HLSR Poultry Show Superintendent

This year's HLSR Poultry Show is scheduled to be completed in one day. The show will take place on Friday, March 18 with the poultry auction to follow the next day, Saturday, March 19.

This change is designed to make the Poultry Show more convenient and user-friendly for exhibitors and their families. The staging areas will open at 4 a.m. and the poultry sift will take place from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. It is imperative that all exhibitors pro-

ceed to the sift line early in order to complete the poultry sift on time. We will utilize two separate show rings, one for market broilers and one for market turkeys. In the event that an exhibitor has a broiler pen and a turkey showing at the same time, the superintendent will assign an intern or qualified volunteer to present entries to the judge. This will not penalize the pen or effect placing by the judge in any way.

We all look forward to a fantastic Poultry Show this year and we are always open to suggestions to make it a more positive experience for all involved.

Introducing the W. F. Krueger Memorial Poultry Judging Contest

The Poultry Science Department at Texas A&M University is pleased to announce the formation of the W.F. Krueger Memorial Judging Contest, formally the Texas A&M Judging Clinic. Dr. Krueger was a major supporter of youth programs in the state of Texas and positively influenced the lives of thousands of young adults. The contest will now be scored and awards will be given to the top 3 teams and 10 individuals. The top team will take home a traveling trophy and contestants names will be engraved on a plaque that will stay in the Poultry Science Department Operations and Student Advising Office. Other prizes include belt buckles, watches, jackets, and garment bags. If anyone has any questions, please contact Dr. Jason Lee at (979) 845-1931 or jlee@poultry.tamu.edu.

Livestock Show Contact Information

Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo

Phone: (832) 667-1000
<http://www.hlsr.com>

San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo

Phone: (210) 225-0575
<http://www.sarodeo.com>

Star of Texas Fair & Rodeo

Phone: (512) 919-3006
<http://www.rodeoaustin.com>

Tips for raising show market poultry

By Jason Lee
Assistant Professor

Major show market poultry competitions, whether it be broilers or turkeys, are extremely competitive. The differences between turkeys or pens of broilers that place in the top 10 and those birds that do not make the sale are usually quite small. Exhibitors, parents, and youth leaders need to focus on all aspects of their

rearing program to improve their position at the show including nutrition program, ventilation, temperature, and litter management. There is no substitute for hard work. You do not have to have the most expensive rearing facility to win.

Below are some things to keep in mind that will improve your placing at the show.

Nutrition Program

You need to feed the bird the correct diet for the age of the bird.

Feeding a starter diet throughout the grow out period is not advised as the energy requirement increases as the age of the bird increases. Starter diets have the lowest energy level, and feeding them throughout grow out will result in not meeting the bird's energy requirement and leading to less finished birds. Exhibitors should adjust their feeding program appropriately to meet all nutritional needs of poultry and not just focus on protein level of the feed. Adding a large amount of an ingredient to your feed, such as mixing 25% chopped corn to the diet, will unbalance the ration leading to less developed birds.

Ventilation and Temperature

Ventilation and temperature control are extremely important to manage proper litter conditions and allow for optimum growth performance. Exhibitors need to provide some ventilation even in cold conditions to remove moisture from the litter while still maintaining proper temperature. Lack of ventilation will increase litter moisture, resulting in ammonia production which reduces

bird performance. Each exhibitor will have a different ventilation program, and stocking density will dedicate how much ventilation is required to maintain low litter moisture. You should not be able to smell ammonia at any time during the production cycle to maximize performance. Stir litter frequently and remove any caked litter that may be present in your pen. Complete shaving removal during grow out is not required if litter is properly managed.



Wet Feeding

Wet feeding is not required for broilers in order to do well at the show, however, it may be a method to increase feed consumption. Be careful not to make your wet feeding program too complicated with a large number of ingredients as this is not necessary. The correct ratio of feed and a fat source is all that is needed for a good wet feeding program. Some additional ingredients are alright to include if you have had success with them in the past. Milk substitutes are not recommended as these are not readily digestible for poultry. I do not recommend wet feeding turkeys, as they will stop consuming dry feed. If you want to wet feed turkeys, be prepared to wet feed them up to ten times a day in order to maintain the correct consumption level.

Topmax® (Elanco) is now approved for use in turkeys but not in chickens. Please see manufacturer's dose recommendations for correct application.

Hopefully these tips will assist you in your poultry project. Good luck, and see you at the show!

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