

FFA BROILER PROJECT (Updated December 2022)

The primary goal of the Michigan FFA Broiler Project Program is to enhance students' knowledge in animal husbandry, science, mathematics, English, and other academic subjects. Moreover, in this academic achievement endeavor, students participate in real world experiences by raising the biggest birds possible in the shortest period of time using safe and ethical industry recommendations. Agriscience and natural resources education programs throughout Michigan have found that this innovative and creative educational thrust adds enormous value to FFA chapter program of activities. The Michigan FFA Broiler Project Program has been a hallmark and signature thrust in Michigan because it has assisted students in developing skill sets in problem-solving, working in teams, managing time, and other personal development areas.

Key elements in the projects are:

- a. Five weeks in duration.
- b. Features a final conclusion that incorporates management skills, mathematics and English.
- c. Two types of graphs will be prepared: bar and line.
- d. A minimum of 25 birds (straight run) is needed for each broiler project (flock).
- e. Three to five (3-5) birds per entry will be brought for judging on evaluation day. After processing, members and teams will select three (3) birds to be evaluated.
- f. Birds that are found dead will need to be weighed to calculate adjusted feed efficiency.
- g. Each entry must have one or two representatives that can answer up to five oral questions posed by a judge after the birds are evaluated.
- h. Three (3) photographs, with a 50-word caption for each are required of the flocks throughout the contest period.

An additional incentive for participating in the activity is the Zindel Memorial Trophy. This traveling trophy is awarded to the chapter with the most gold, silver and state winner awards in the poultry program each year. In the case of a tie, the chapter with the most awards in the senior division would receive the Zindel Award.

Each teacher of a participating school will be responsible for:

- a. Accuracy of records and entries from his/her school
- b. Supervising program and selection of birds to bring to evaluation day
- c. Setting up any supplementary studies to augment teaching during the growing period

The program regulations require that these rules be followed.

- a. Broiler chicks must be received no earlier than the starting date on the official state FFA calendar.
- b. All birds/flock will be sourced from hatcheries approved by Michigan FFA and the MSU poultry staff.
- c. Each flock shall consist of a minimum of 25 birds (straight run).
- d. The actual number of chicks that are alive 24 hours after they are received from the hatchery shall be used in computing records (for example, if you receive 26 chicks your mortality will be based on 26 if none die within the first 24 hours).
- e. After processing, members and teams will select their best three (3) birds to be evaluated.

- f. No more than one (1) entry per flock. Students can raise birds individually, in partnership or as a class but, there will be no more than one entry allowed per person, partnership or class.
- g. The total live weight of all birds shall be taken on Monday, of the finishing week.
- h. When figuring the records, compute the cost per pound of live bird based on that flock's total cost of production.
- i. No more than one entry from each flock will be selected and brought to contest for evaluation.
- j. Three to five (3-5) birds per entry will be brought for judging on evaluation day. After processing, members and teams will select three (3) birds to be evaluated.
- k. At the contest, all of the birds, three to five (3-5), will be weighed after processing; their weight averaged and assigned points for average weight.
- l. Birds are to be ready to cook (fully processed) with the feet remaining on the carcass for judging. Emphasis will be placed on entry uniformity. Uniformity is defined as width and length of breast and extent of muscling. Carcasses will be evaluated for defects including bruises, broken bones, blisters, dented or crooked keel bone, carcass cleanliness, etc.
- m. Each entry will be required to prepare two (2) different graphs: bar and line.
- n. Three (3) photographs are required of the flocks throughout the contest period. When submitting their report contestants are to write a caption for each photograph that will not exceed 50 words.
- o. Contestants will have no more the two (2) minutes to hang and select the three (3) birds for evaluation. At the end of the two (2) minutes the first three (3) birds left to right will be evaluated.
- p. Weigh any birds that are found dead so you can calculate the adjusted feed efficiency on the broiler project report sheet.
- q. Must show all work for full credit on all problems.
- r. Each entry must have one or two representatives that will be asked up to five (5) oral questions posed by a judge after the birds are evaluated for a total of ten (10) points.
- s. Two diagrams must be provided of the coop area. One from the beginning and one from the end of the contest.
- t. All entries must provide a copy of the ingredient tag for all feeds.
- u. If students are engaged with any type of research related to the Broiler Project, it is expected that they will follow the "Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching" (<http://www.fass.org/page.asp?pageID=216>).

ADVISORS: IT IS IMPORTANT TO BRING COOLERS WITH EXTRA ICE FOR TRANSPORTING POULTRY HOME. THIS IS A GOOD FOOD SAFETY PRACTICE.

BROILER CONTEST SCORING

Total Points Possible

Birds will be dressed and scored on the following criteria:

Weight (to be weighed at the contest)	225
Breast	150
Legs	75
Thighs	75
Conformation and Fleshing (Finish)	100
Uniformity	125
Oral Questions	10
Defects (lose points based on defects)	?
CARCASS TOTAL	760

Judging of the birds will account for 75% of the total score.

Records will be scored as follows:

Adjusted Feed Conversion Ratio (question #4)	20
Report Scoring (pages 1 & 2)	45
Feed Program (page 3)	20
Ventilation, Temperature and Litter Condition (page 4)	15
Disease-Mortality Reasons & Vaccination Program (page 5)	10
House and Equipment Description (pages 5 & 6)	20
General Management Description (page 7)	30
Marketing Plan (page 8)	20
SUBTOTAL	180

Beginning and Ending Diagrams of Coop	10
Copy of Feed Tag(s)	5
Photographs	15
Graphs	30
SUBTOTAL	60

RECORDS TOTAL 240

GRAND TOTAL 1000

BROILER SCORE SHEET

Exhibitor's Name _____

FFA Broiler Contest Scorecard	Bird #1	Bird #2	Bird #3	TOTAL
Breast (50 pts per bird, 150 total)				
Legs (25 pts per bird, 75 total)				
Thighs (25 pts per bird, 75 total)				
Defects * (—0)	—	—	—	—
Confirmation and Finishing (100)				
Pen Uniformity (125)				
Pen Weight (225)				
Total Weight _____ / Number of birds _____ =				
Oral Questions (10)				
GRAND TOTAL (760)				

*Defects

Blisters Bruises

Cuts

Sores

Manure burns

Broken bones

Infected follicles

Carcass cleanliness

Scabs

Other areas that lower carcass quality

Written Report Sheet	160	_____
Adjusted Feed Conversion Ratio (Question #4)	20	_____
Beginning and Ending Diagrams of Coop 2 total diagrams which are properly labeled	10	_____
Copy of Feed Tag or Tags	5	_____
Graphs (All graphs must be correctly labeled with appropriate title, units of measurement and legends)	30	_____
1- Prepare a line graph showing average weight per week compared to the broiler performance guidelines. (Two lines)		
2 - Prepare bar graph showing average feed conversion per week.		
Photographs – 3 photographs with captions not exceeding 50 words each	15	_____
GRAND TOTAL	240	_____