



MICHIGAN FFA

Contest Dates

See Association Calendar for Key Contest Dates:

- Order deadline
- Start date
- Registration deadline
- Weigh date
- Contest dates

BROILER PROJECT PROGRAM

Contest Rules

OBJECTIVES

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, food, and natural resources education programs throughout Michigan have found that this innovative and creative educational thrust adds enormous value to FFA chapter programs 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.

ENTRIES

There is a **limitation of 10 entries per school**. The overall contest will be capped at four reasonable days determined by the processor and state staff.

KEY PROJECT ELEMENTS

1. Project will be four or five weeks in duration ([as listed on the association calendar](#)).
2. Features a final conclusion that incorporates management skills, mathematics, and English.
3. A minimum of 25 birds (straight run) are needed for each broiler project (flock).
4. Birds that are found dead will need to be weighed to calculate adjusted feed efficiency.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. A report will be prepared for each entry.

TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES

Each teacher of a participating school will be responsible for:

1. Accuracy of records and entries from their school
2. Supervising program and selection of birds to bring to evaluation day
3. Setting up any supplementary studies to augment teaching during the growing period

CONTEST RULES

The program regulations require that these rules be followed:

1. Broiler chicks must be received no earlier than the starting date on the [official association calendar](#).
2. All birds/flock will be sourced from hatcheries approved by Michigan FFA and the MSU poultry staff listed on the contest order form.
3. Each flock shall consist of a minimum of 25 birds (straight run).
4. Birds must be weighed weekly. To obtain the starting weight, weighing during week one should be done the day the birds arrive. The day of week that birds are weighed in the following weeks is flexible and can be determined by the teacher. The only specified weigh date is the one listed on the association calendar.
5. 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>).

Records and Reports

1. 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).
2. Weigh any birds that are found dead so you can calculate the adjusted feed efficiency on the broiler project report sheet.
3. The total live weight of all birds shall be taken on the weigh date listed on the association calendar.
4. When figuring the records, compute the cost per pound of live bird based on that flock's total cost of production.
5. Each entry will prepare a report on the provided report form
6. Handwritten reports or reports found to be plagiarized from other reports will receive a 50% deduction on the entire report.
7. Each entry will be required to prepare two (2) different graphs:
 1. A line graph consisting of two lines: 1) showing average weight per week compared to 2) broiler performance guidelines
 2. A bar graph showing average feed conversion per week
8. 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.
9. Must show all work for full credit on all problems.
10. Two diagrams must be provided of the coop area. One from the beginning and one from the end of the contest.
11. All entries must provide a copy of the ingredient tag for all feeds.
12. See Broiler Contest Report Form for additional details and report expectations.
13. See Broiler Contest Report Rubrics for guidance on scoring reports.

Contest Day

1. No more than one (1) entry from each flock will be selected and brought to contest for evaluation. 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.
2. Three to five (3-5) birds per entry will be brought for judging on evaluation day.
3. 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.

4. Judges will confer before evaluation begins to unify scoring and defects.
5. Carcasses will be evaluated for defects including bruises, broken bones, blisters, dented or crooked keel bone, carcass cleanliness, etc. No deductions will be made for defects caused during processing.
6. After processing, members and teams will select three (3) birds to be evaluated.
7. Contestants will have no more than 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.
8. 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.
9. All of the birds, three to five (3-5), will be weighed after processing; their weight averaged and assigned points for average weight.

Transporting Poultry Home

Advisors: Is it important to bring coolers with extra ice for transporting poultry home. This is a good food safety practice.

ZINDEL AWARD

Traditionally, 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. If subsequent ties should occur, the tie breakers listed in the scoring section will be followed.

BROILER CONTEST SCORING

BIRDS WILL BE DRESSED & SCORED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA	POINT POSSIBLE
Breast (50 points per bird)	150
Legs (25 points per bird)	75
Thighs (25 points per bird)	75
Confirmation and Finishing	100
Pen Uniformity	125
Oral Questions	10
Defects (lose points based on defects)	
Average Weight of Pen (see chart)	225
BIRD TOTAL	760

REPORTS WILL BE SCORED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA	POINT POSSIBLE
Calculations Scoring	45
Adj. Feed Conversion Ratio (Calculation #4) (see chart)	20
Feed Program	20
Ventilation, Temperature, and Litter Conditions	15
Health Information	10
Housing and Equipment	20
General Management	30
Marketing Plan	20
Subtotal	180
Feed Tag(s)	5
Two Coop Diagrams	10
Three Photographs and Questions	15
Two Graphs	30
Subtotal	60
REPORT TOTAL	240

Tie Breakers

1. Total Report Score
2. Total Bird Score
3. Uniformity Score