



# 4-H Market Broiler Project

## THE BASICS

### PROJECT LENGTH

6 weeks

The market broiler project is approximately 6 weeks long per show. Birds are ordered per show, therefore, the length of the project depends on the shows attending.

### COST

\$800.00

The average total cost of the market broiler project is \$800 per batch ordered. This includes purchase price, feed costs, supplies, veterinary care, show entries, etc. First time members should also consider costs of facilities and other one-time purchases.

### TIME COMMITMENT

3-4 hrs/day

The market broiler project is a very time intensive project; expect to spend 3-4 hours in the barn everyday. Animals need to be fed, have waters checked, and should be "stirred" or moved several times throughout the day and night.

### FACILITIES

Broilers are very sensitive to temperature. They should be housed in a fully enclosed area to protect them from dramatic temperature changes, however, it should be very well ventilated. Two square feet per bird should be provided. Additionally, considerations for bedding, temperature control, and lighting should be made.

### PURCHASING ANIMALS.... WHEN

Broilers MUST be purchased through the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office or and Ag Science Teacher. Home raised birds are not allowed.

#### Show

#### Order Dates\*

WCJLS, LVJLS, Spring Major Shows.....	August/September
Fall Major Shows.....	April/ May

(\*Contact your County Extension Office or Ag Science Teacher for exact order deadlines.)



### BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE

While this is a shorter project, it is very time intensive. This is recommended for those with previous animal project experience.



# EXPERT TIPS

## **PURCHASING ANIMALS... AMOUNT**

Broilers are purchased in increments of 25, thus you may order 25, 50, or 75 chicks at a time. Birds may be purchased as a family or per individual exhibitor.

## **FEEDING**

Birds should have free access to feed and water at all times. Having several feeders and waters throughout the house is highly recommended. Birds will begin on a high protein "starter" feed and gradually move to a slightly lower protein "finisher" feed.

## **TEMPERATURE**

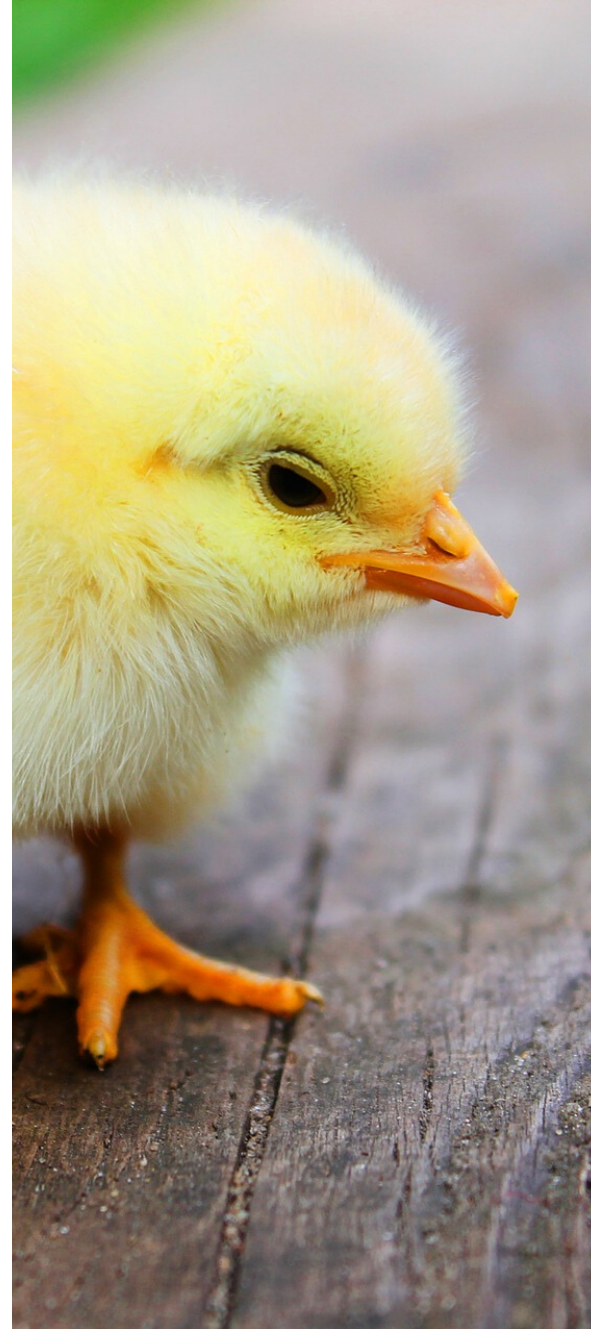
Broilers are highly sensitive to temperature. As chicks, temperatures will be high, however, as birds get older the temperatures will need to lower. As noted under facilities, special consideration for temperature control will be *critical* to the success of this project.

## **CULLING**

Removing birds that are falling behind or have decreased growth performance will be an important aspect of the project throughout the 6 weeks. By culling birds, flock size will decrease and floor space and feeder space will increase for the remaining birds.

## **HEALTH CARE**

The best veterinary care is preventative care. Start by building a working relationship with your local veterinarian. Work with them to determine proper vaccinations and de-worming protocols.



For more information about the Texas 4-H Sheep project, visit:

<https://texasyouthlivestock.com/sheep/>