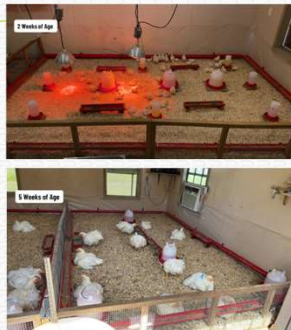


Culling and Selection of Market Poultry

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Culling During Growout

► Eliminate poor quality birds as detected

► Why?

- Reduce competition and improve performance
- Prevent cannibalism
- Reduce disease problems and risk
- Maintain adequate feeder and waterer space

► What?

- Crippled, runty and unthrifty chicks
- Deformed individuals

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Culling and Sifting Defects

- Bruising – especially on the breast and at the wing joints
- Cuts, tears, and skin abnormalities
- Broken or disjointed wing
- Slab-sidedness
- Deformity, including skeletal abnormalities
- Insect bites and external parasites



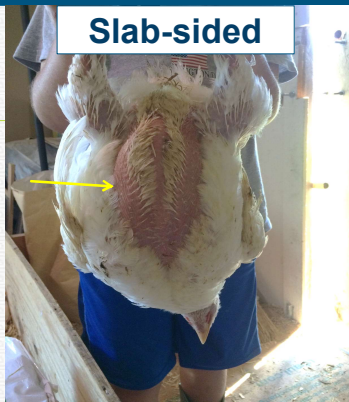
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Crooked Keel Bone



4

Slab-sided



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Selection and Judging

► Broilers (pen of 3 birds)

- Conformation 30%
- Fleshing 45%
- Finish 5%
- Uniformity 20%*



* Not recommended to leave "big bird" at home

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Conformation

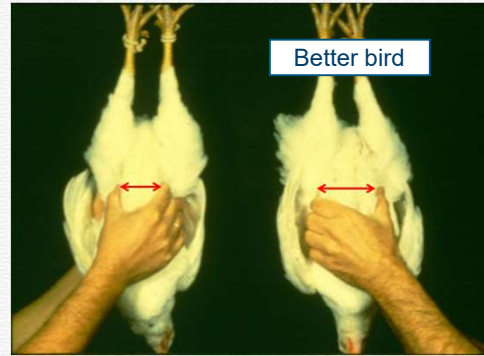
► Refers to body shape and includes:

- Length
- Width
- Depth
- Symmetry



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Better bird



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Fleshing

Amount and distribution of breast muscle

► Legs and wings not evaluated for meat yield at shows

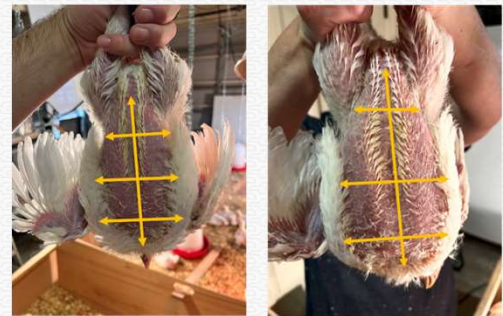
Breast muscle

- The length of the keel bone + overall width
- Breast should resemble a giant "U"
- Maintaining that width all the way from head to the base of the breast meat



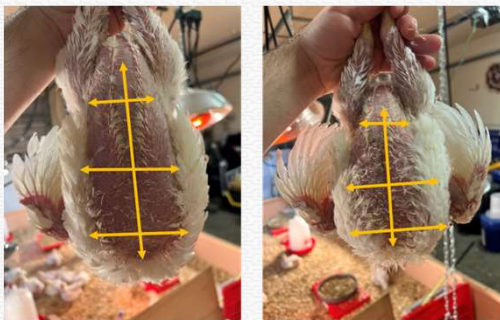
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Day 14



10

Day 14



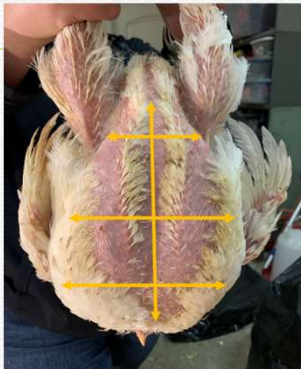
11

Day 14



12

Day 21



13

Finish and Pigmentation

- ▶ Finish is the amount of fat deposited under the skin
 - Most well-fleshed birds carry more than an adequate amount of fat
- ▶ Pigmentation is the color of the skin
 - Pigmentation should receive little or no emphasis by the judge

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Uniformity

- ▶ Three birds should be similar in
 - Conformation
 - Fleshing
 - Overall size
- ▶ Do not sacrifice size for uniformity
- ▶ Bird weight is not a criteria and should not be taken into consideration

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An Example Champion Pen



10.00

11.66

11.31

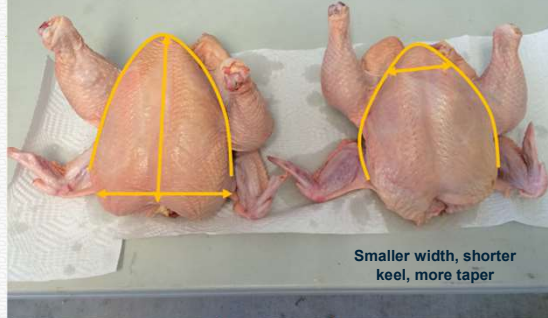
Live bird weight (lbs.)

46 days of age

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Show pen bird

Cull bird



Smaller width, shorter keel, more taper

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Determining Male or Female?



Important when culling for sex-separate shows

- ▶ Cockerel show
- ▶ Pullet show
- **Be careful when culling early on during growout (3-4 weeks)
- ▶ Can't cull only based on weight/size because you'll remove your pullets
- Not a factor in straight-run shows
- ▶ Doesn't matter if males and females are mixed to make a show pen of broilers

Males (secondary sex characteristics)

- ▶ Bigger combs, longer wattles, wider head

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Male or Female?



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Selecting Your Show Pen

- ▶ More people is helpful for holding birds
- ▶ Directly compare birds side by side
- ▶ Faster, less stressful
 - Back on feed/water sooner



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Selection and Judging

- ▶ Roasters and Turkeys
 - (usually a single bird competition)
- Conformation 45%
- Fleshing 45%
- Finish 10%

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Selection and Judging

- ▶ Turkeys (**Individual** Toms and Hens)
 - Conformation 45%
 - Fleshing 45%
 - Finish 10%



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Remember its all about the meat



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Sifting – Examples of Disqualifications

- ▶ Grade A quality
 - Bruises
 - Dislocated bone
 - Broken bone
- ▶ Sick and diseased birds
- ▶ External parasites
- ▶ Reduced comb growth or other secondary sex characteristic which indicates the presence of a hormone
- ▶ Light weight pens

Marked (spray painted) at time of sifting.

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Showmanship

- ▶ Ring presence
 - Knowing where the judge is at
 - Being prepared for when the judge approaches
- ▶ Ring etiquette
- ▶ Knowing your program
- ▶ Knowing your feed labels
- ▶ Knowing judging criteria
- ▶ Knowing about the breed of the bird
- ▶ Knowing general facts about the poultry market



Hold the birds adequate to the judge's chest

25

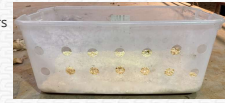
Transportation and What to Pack for the Show

Transport Options/Ideas

- Large plastic totes with holes cut on them
- Large laundry baskets
- Cardboard boxes
- Wagon for hauling them on
- Shavings inside the containers

Show Day Supplies

- Fan
- Extra shavings/bedding
- Spray bottle (water for birds)
- Hand towel (for feces clean-up)
- Water/Feed: depending on check-in time vs. show time
- Containers to put feed and water in at show
 - Cans, plastic storage containers, mini hanging feeder, clip on feeders



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Examples of Show Day Supplies & Prices



50 gallon tote - \$26.00 each



Fan - \$19.00



Ladle \$1.00 - \$3.50 each



200 quart tote - \$49.00 each



Utility carts/wagons \$100 - \$300

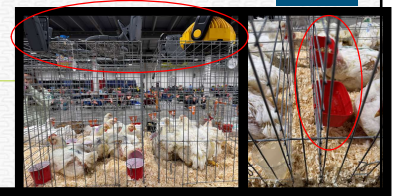


Spray bottle \$2 - \$4 each

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Examples of Broiler Pens at Show

- Feed and water
- Container for feed/water
- Zip-ties to secure containers
- Fan



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Large Feeders/Waterers Take Up PEN SPACE



← Large vs Small



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Examples of Turkey Pens at Show

- Feed and water
- Container for feed/water
- Zip-ties/chain to secure containers
- Fan(s)



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