

Meat Pen Information



Meat Pen projects are popular with 4-H and FFA members and are an integral part of many youth livestock shows. This project involves raising chicks from a few days of age to at least 5lbs market weight (usually around 6-8 weeks of age). Meat Pen projects are suitable for youth of all ages, from beginners to those with many years of experience.

Exhibitors interested in participating in this project will need to pay two separate fees, a fair entry fee of \$5.00 and \$18 (total) for the cost of the (6) chicks. The Poultry committee will order the birds and when they arrive the youth that are signed up and have paid will receive a call to be notified that chicks are ready for pick up. Out of this group of chicks, they will choose their best, most uniform three birds that weigh at least 5lbs to enter as a meat pen at the fair.

Meat birds are usually a very fast growing hybrid of a Cornish/White Rock type cross. They are designed to produce meat efficiently with superb conformation for maximum meat yield, rapid growth, and excellent feed conversion. The primary objective of producing broilers is to optimize growth for maximum meat production. The chicks are from the same genetic source and of the same age, differences in the weight and conformation of the show meat poultry are due to the management practices of the competitor. A successful entry requires good management skills such as providing and maintaining the proper environment, feeding high quality feed, and controlling disease. Exhibitors also learn what selection criteria are necessary when choosing their uniform market pen of birds.

During sales at the fair exhibitors of sale animals must be present at the sale and move their own meat pen to Mosaic Arena. Pictures of buyers and sellers will be taken at the auction at time of sale. The exhibitor will present a thank you letter and picture-plaque to their buyer. Exhibitors must ensure meat is delivered to their buyer