Market Turkey Project

Name: ____________________________

Club: ____________________________
This project book is the joint effort of the Prince Edward Island 4-H Council and the Prince Edward Island Department of Agriculture.

2005 (reprinted)

Materials used in developing this Market Turkey Project were provided from:

- Nova Scotia 4-H Market Turkey Project produced by the 4-H and Rural Organizations, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Truro, Nova Scotia.

- Talking Turkey produced by Ontario Turkey Producers’ Marketing Board and Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc., Ontario.

- Ontario Turkey from Farm to Table produced by Ontario Turkey Producers’ Marketing Board and Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc., Ontario.
# Table of Contents

Application for Pullorum-Typhoid Testing - I.L.T. Vaccination  Page 1
Prevention Program for Poultry Shows and Exhibitions  Page 2
Member’s Project Requirements  Page 3
Exhibition Requirements  Page 4
Sportsmanship & Fair Play  Page 4
Leader’s Project Requirements  Page 4
Project Members’ Directory  Page 5
Turkey Facts  Page 6
Poster  Page 7
Research Paper  Page 7
4-H Market Turkey Inspection Sheet  Page 8
Record Book  Page 9-11
Do I Save Money By Raising Turkeys  Page 12
Steps to Washing Your Turkey  Page 13
Community Project  Page 14
Agriculture Awareness Project  Page 15
APPLICATION FOR PULLORUM-TYPHOID TESTING - I.L.T. VACCINATION

Name: _____________________________________________________________

4-H Club: _________________________________________________________

Address & Civic #: _________________________________________________

Mailing Address: ___________________________________________________

Postal Code: ____________ Telephone Number: _________________________

Number of turkeys to be vaccinated _____________________

I, the undersigned, understand that following the I.L.T. Vaccination, I am to observe a 30 day quarantine period in which I will not visit any other poultry farm or will not allow any visitors from non-vaccinated poultry farms to come in contact with my vaccinated birds. I will also not trade birds between farms during the quarantine period.

________________________________________
Signature of 4-H Member

________________________________________
Signature of Parent

Please return to: Trevor MacDonald
P.E.I. Poultry Technician
P.O.Box 31
Murray River, PE C0A 1W0

Deadline: June 15

Note: Members will be contacted several days prior to the vaccination by Mr. MacDonald regarding the date and time of his visit.
P.E.I. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR POULTRY SHOWS & EXHIBITIONS

PURPOSE
To prevent the infection and spread of serious diseases among show birds and the spread of these diseases to our Island commercial poultry, egg and meat industries.

The one most serious disease is “Laryngotracheitis” or I.L.T. and the one we are most concerned about.

I.L.T. is an acute, highly contagious respiratory disease of chickens, pheasants and other avian species. Characterized by severe depression, coughing and wheezing.

The following program has been carried out over the past 10 years and has been well received and effective...not one vaccinated show flock has been infected with this disease since the program started.

On P.E.I., in order for poultry breeders and fanciers to participate in any poultry exhibition, they first must do the following:

1. Flock inspection will generally take place in late June or at the convenience of the majority of flock owners - the birds should be at least two weeks old or older, at that time the flock will be checked for their general health and condition, each bird will be blood tested for pullorumtyphoid disease. Also at this time, each bird will be vaccinated for I.L.T. This complete procedure will take only a few minutes with no discomfort for the birds. Each vaccinated bird will be identified by a P.E.I. red wing tag with an identifying bird number. All birds on the farm are required to be vaccinated - excluding waterfowl - even though only a part of the flock may be exhibited.

2. Following inspection and vaccination, the owner is asked to observe a 30 day quarantine period in which time he or she will refrain from visiting other poultry farms or allowing visitors from other non-vaccinated poultry farms to come in contact with the vaccinated birds. Also at this time, birds should not be traded between farms or entered in any shows or competitions. This period is to prevent infection of other non-vaccinated birds while the vaccinated flock develops its own immunity.

3. There is no charge for this inspection or vaccination service and the procedure is simple and quickly done. Assistance on management, feeding and housing will also be given if requested at the flock inspection visit or at any time a serious problem may develop.
MEMBER’S PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

I. Raise 2 - 5 turkey poults to market size.

This project differs from other projects in that it is not complete at your Achievement Day because your market turkey will not be ready until September. Your 4-H certificate and ribbons will be mailed to you after Rural Youth Fair.

II. At your club Achievement Day . . .
1. Display a turkey poster (page 5)

III. At Rural Youth Fair . . .
1. Complete and display in a scrapbook or duo-tang
   A) Home Inspection (page 6) 15 marks
   B) Research Report (page 5) 20 marks
   C) Record Book (page 7-9) 20 marks
2. Turkey Poster (page 5) 20 marks
3. Turkey Conformation 25 marks
   100 marks
4. The top five turkeys will be auctioned at Rural Youth Fair. Members must show their own turkeys or leave them in the cages for the auction.
5. It is up to the members to solicit buyers to bid on their turkey at Rural Youth Fair Auction. If you are younger members maybe parents/guardians or leaders will help you solicit buyers. The Market Turkey Project is where members present a high quality finished product for sale. Members promote their product and explain to potential buyers why it would be beneficial to purchase their turkey. Members should not limit their search to local grocers or abattoirs, but approach local business and individuals, as well. The major difference in sale price from one turkey to another is the promotion and personal contact you made prior to the sale.
6. Following the Show and Sale members with the auctioned turkeys and the successful buyers will be photographed.
7. Members are responsible for arranging delivery of the turkeys from the sale to the designated packing plant or to the location as requested by the buyers.
8. Market Turkey Members are responsible for the slaughtering and delivering of the turkeys to the buyers.
EXHIBITION REQUIREMENTS

1. You may display your turkey poster at Exhibitions.

2. Market turkeys are not be used in regular poultry conformation classes at exhibitions.

3. The only exhibitions where you will be allowed to show your Market Turkey is at the Prince County Exhibition in Alberton and Rural Youth Fair. If you show your turkey at the Prince County Exhibition, you are not entitled to display your turkey poster.

4. All turkeys are required to be vaccinated for Infectious Laryngotracheitis (I.L.T.). Please fill out the Application Form for Pullorum-Typhoid Testing - I.L.T. Vaccination on page 1 and mail it to Trevor MacDonald, P.E.I. Poultry Technician by June 15.

SPORTSMANSHIP AND FAIR PLAY

All 4-H families are reminded that 4-H is a “Learn to Do by Doing” experience. The hiring of trained professionals to prepare livestock for show is strictly forbidden. However, please feel free to use these people as resource people throughout the year. They have information to offer and you could learn a lot.

LEADER’S PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

We would ask the project leader to mark the following items and submit the score sheet at Rural Youth Fair.

a) Home Inspection 15 marks
b) Research Report (1-5 pages) 20 marks
c) Record Book 20 marks

It will be at the discretion of the project leader as to how these selections are marked; ie. age of member, number of years member has participated in this project, etc.
Project Members’ Directory

Keep a list of members names and phone numbers in your Market Turkey Project Book so you can contact them. Be sure to call and let your leader know if you are unable to attend any project or group activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leaders Names</th>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members Names</th>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Page 5
**TURKEY FACTS**

A **poul**t makes the sound "**peep-peep**"
A **bo**y turkey is a **tom** and he says "**gobble-gobble**"
A **gi**rl turkey is a **hen** and she says "**click-click**"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>•</strong> Turkey feed costs about 35 cents per kilogram.</th>
<th><strong>•</strong> Turkeys will crowd together if they are frightened or cold.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>•</strong> Turkeys are curious birds.</td>
<td><strong>•</strong> Turkeys like to live in flocks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>•</strong> Turkeys grow quickly.</td>
<td><strong>•</strong> Turkeys are a variety of a pheasant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>•</strong> Before modern transportation methods, farmers in the British Isles would put leather shoes on their turkeys and walk them into town.</td>
<td><strong>•</strong> According to the Guinness Book of Records the largest turkey was 39.09 kg (86 lbs).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>•</strong> Turkeys can have heart attacks.</td>
<td><strong>•</strong> It takes 28 days for a turkey to hatch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>•</strong> A baby turkey is called a &quot;<strong>poul</strong>t&quot;.</td>
<td><strong>•</strong> There are 157 bones in a turkey!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>•</strong> The average turkey hen will lay 110 eggs during a 28-30 week production period.</td>
<td><strong>•</strong> Turkeys are &quot;<strong>picky</strong>&quot; eaters; the feed must be very clean. If the feed is not clean, the birds will not eat it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>•</strong> Turkeys originated in Mexico, not Turkey. They first went to Europe with Spanish explorers.</td>
<td><strong>•</strong> The reddish pink flesh-like covering on the throat and neck of a turkey is called the &quot;<strong>wattle</strong>&quot;.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>•</strong> The snood is the band of flesh that hangs from the turkey's beak area. It helps release extra body heat.</td>
<td><strong>•</strong> It is estimated that turkeys have approximately 3,500 feathers at maturity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>•</strong> Domesticated turkeys cannot fly.</td>
<td><strong>•</strong> Wild turkeys can fly for short distances.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>•</strong> A turkey under sixteen weeks of age is called a <em>fryer</em>, while a young roaster is five - seven months old.</td>
<td><strong>•</strong> The average Canadian eats turkey 15.5 times a year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**POSTER**
You must display a poster at Achievement Day and at Rural Youth Fair. See “Member’s Project Requirements”.

Sample topics:
- Life cycle of a turkey
- Breeds of turkeys
- Turkey from farm to table
- Or any turkey topic of your choice

Be sure to:
- Use “4-H Poster Book” as a guide
- Use a whole sheet of bristle board
- Use quality not quantity information
- Use your imagination, drawing or photographs/pictures and creativity

RESEARCH REPORT

Prepare a research report for Rural Youth Fair (1-5 pages, double space, typed or clearly written) on your choice of topic. See “Member’s Project Requirements”.

Sample topics:
- What to feed and when
- Pros and cons of different breeds
- Types of housing
- Difference between wild and domesticated turkeys
- Or any turkey topic of your choice

Find information at a library, Department of Agriculture and Forestry, the Internet, agriculture supply stores – wherever you can.

4-H MARKET TURKEY INSPECTION SHEET
Your Market Turkey Leader is responsible for inspecting your turkeys. Your leader should let you know when the inspection is to occur so that you will be able to demonstrate your turkey handling to your leader.

The inspection quiz should contain approximately 10 questions about the turkeys.

Name of 4-H’er: ___________________________________________________________________

Inspection Date: ___________________________________________________________________

**Member’s Score**

**Verbal Inspection Day Quiz:**
Ask brief questions about previous lessons.  
Example: Care and feeding, etc.

50

**Evidence of Care & Interest:**

A) Handling

15

B) Healthy turkeys

10

C) Adequate housing (shelter and space)

10

D) Adequate feed & water

15

Total

\[ \text{Score} \times 15 = 100 \]

15 marks

Member can make improvements by: __________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

Leader’s Signature: ___________________________  Date: ________________

**MARKET TURKEY PROJECT**
RECORD BOOK

Project Information

Breed of Turkeys:  

Date birds Received:  

GENERAL HEALTH RECORD - (Describe birds development and any health problems.)  

MORTALITY RECORD - (Give date and number of birds lost and reasons if known.)  

WHY I TOOK THIS PROJECT
WHAT I LEARNED


MY COSTS
Include costs of housing your turkeys (especially if you build pens), feed costs, medications, entry fees for exhibitions and any other expenses you had. We’ve entered a sample expense to show you how.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Describe Expense</th>
<th>$ Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>25 Kg starter feed from Tignish Co-op</td>
<td>$ 13.38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Describe Expense</th>
<th>$ Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Expenses
DO I SAVE MONEY BY RAISING TURKEYS?

You save money if your home grown turkey costs less per pound or kilogram than frozen whole turkeys from the grocery store.

Conversion: 1 kilogram = about 2.2 pounds

This sheet is not worth any marks, it is for your own information only.

1. What were your total expenses? $ ________________

2. How many pounds or kilograms of turkey meat did you finish with? Hint: Weigh the turkey after removing head, feet, feathers and inside before cooking. __________ lb / kg

3. Your cost per pound / kilogram:
   Total expenses ÷ # pounds or kilograms (answer #1) (answer #2) $ __________ lb / kg

4. What price per pound or kilogram is frozen whole turkey at your grocery store?

   If your answer to question 3 is lower than to question 4, you saved money by raising your own turkeys. Congratulations!

   When your cost is higher than the store’s, the extra special flavour of your turkey may be worth it.

   $ __________ lb / kg

5. What income (prize money, sales) did you earn from the turkeys?

   Income helps pay some or all of your expenses. If you earned more from your turkeys than they cost to raise, you made a profit. Awesome!

   $ ________________
1. Choose your turkey for show. Start by taking in all parts of the turkey as a whole picture. What you want is a blending of all parts of the turkey viewed as a whole - a quality called symmetry.

2. Now go over your turkey carefully so you don't miss some defect or disqualification that the judge will probably find.

3. Your turkey should be coop trained if it is to show itself to advantage to a judge. Place it in a coop for a week or so before you wash it or show it and teach it to stand quietly and properly to show itself to the best advantage. Handle it daily, moving it gently about the cage. After it has quieted down and doesn't get excited easily, begin to take it out and handle it quietly, smoothing down its feathers and extending the wing.

In taking it out, turn the turkey backwards to you. Grab both legs at once and “trip” the turkey. Once your turkey is tripped up, lift the bird with one hand and reach under the bird with the other arm and rest the bird in the out-stretched arm. Fold the out-stretched arm around the body of the bird to hold it in place.

4. Washing consists of three parts: washing, rinsing and drying. Each is very important to a good finished job. Make sure you have someone help with the washing job.

You will need four fairly large tubs, mild liquid soap, or detergent, and several towels or soft absorbent cloths to wrap the turkey in after the wash.

In the first tub, make lost of suds. The water should be about the temperature of your arm. Keep your turkey upright and push it up and down in the water to get it thoroughly soaked right down to the skin. Wash it carefully, always working your fingers with the feathers, never against, so as to not break any feathers. See that the legs are clean and that there is no dirt under the scales of the leg. Use a toothpick carefully to get the dirt out from under these scales.

After it has been well soaped and washed, it should then go through the rinse process in the next two tubs. Be sure to get all the soap out of the feathers. If you don’t, (1) the bird will be sticky and look worse than before washing, and (2) the feathers just won’t work.

The last tub should be cooler but not cold. It helps to put ½ cup of lemon juice in this water as it will help to cut any soap left. After rinsing, wrap the bird loosely in a towel to soak up as much wetness as possible before placing it in a clean coop to dry. Have the temperature warm enough so that the turkey will not shiver but so that the feathers will not dry too fast. The washing should be done in the morning so that the bird will not sleep on its damp feathers.

Turkeys should be watched as they dry to make sure that the feathers smooth out and do not curl. Dusting the bird with cornstarch when they are nearly dry will tend to
whiten as well as help the drying process.

Each year 4-H members are encouraged to provide a service to their community. This proves to be a challenging activity to 4-H'ers, and introduces members to the responsibilities of citizenship. As in the Agriculture Awareness Project, each 4-H member should be an active participant.

4-H project members should join into the club plans for the community project. The ideas are endless. Each person should have some role to play in this project. Tell about your involvement with your club's Community Project.

Our “Community Project” was

I helped by

I felt it was beneficial because

Other comments:
AGRICULTURE AWARENESS
PROJECT

Agriculture is one of the main industries in Prince Edward Island. 4-H member are expected to help their club complete a project (or provide a service) which would help others become aware of the importance of agriculture in our lives. As in the Community Project, each 4-H member should be an active participant.

For our “Agriculture Awareness Project” we ____________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________

I learned by ____________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________

I feel it was beneficial because ____________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________

Other comments: ____________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________