

Market Turkey

4-H Project Newsletter

This newsletter will be updated in December of each year, if necessary, based on changes made to the project at the 4-H Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting in November.

Welcome to the 4-H Market Turkey Project! This newsletter will give you an overview of the Market Turkey Project, answer some of your questions concerning expectations of the project, and provide you with project ideas and some resources. Project newsletters are an excellent reference to keep on hand to refer to throughout the year. Enjoy your year in the Market Turkey project and when working on your project, remember to "Learn to do by Doing." If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Agriculture Leadership Coordinator (ALC).

The Market Turkey Project was developed to educate the 4-H member about raising, fitting, showing and the sale of their animal, and to promote 4-H through a 4-H Turkey Sale at the 4-H NS Provincial Show.

The Market Turkey Project is where you, the member, present a high quality finished product for sale. It is your responsibility to search for buyers, to promote your product and to explain to potential buyers why it would be beneficial to purchase your animal! Do not limit your search to local grocers or abattoirs, but approach local businesses and individuals, as well. The major difference in sale price from one animal to another is the promotion and personal contact that the 4-H member did prior to the sale. 4-H members who put forth the effort often reap the benefits of dollars in the end!

At a later date, you will be provided with an invitation flyer to give to prospective buyers to encourage them to attend. If you need additional flyers or if you decide NOT to take your turkey to the 4-H NS Provincial Show, please contact the 4-H Nova Scotia office at 902-843-3980 or email: carolyn@4hnovascotia.ca

WHO CAN REGISTER?

Any member who has successfully completed two years or more in the Poultry Project may register in the Market Turkey Project.

Members in the Market Turkey Project must also complete the 4-H Poultry Project for the current 4-H year to compete at the 4-H NS Provincial Show. Also, members must show their own registered 4-H animals at Achievement Day to qualify for county exhibitions and 4-H NS Provincial Show in the current 4-H year.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Members need to register in the Market Turkey Project with their club and complete the attached application and send it to 4-H Nova Scotia by March 1 of the current year to the address as noted on the application form. Remember, the 4-H Nova Scotia Market Committee is very strict on this deadline and it is your responsibility to follow up to make sure your application has been received by the deadline.

ACHIEVEMENT DAY REQUIREMENTS

The project work requirement for the Market Turkey Project is a showmanship class. The Market Turkey Project is a separate project from the Poultry Project. 4-H members must show their own market turkey at Achievement Day to complete the project. You then have the option of going on to the 4-H Nova Scotia Show 'N' Sale, if your animal is of show and sale quality (and you have filled all the requirements for project completion). Please remember that market animals may not be used in regular showmanship classes.

CONFORMATION

Although conformation is not an Achievement Day requirement, Market Steer / Lamb / Turkey / Goat classes at the 4-H NS Provincial Show will be judged on conformation.

SPECIFIC MARKET TURKEY RULES

- Member must complete two years in the Poultry Project to be eligible to apply for the project.
- Members must be currently enrolled in the Poultry Project.
- Members must secure their own turkey but there are no restrictions on the breed of birds used.
- Turkeys must weigh between 20-35 lbs. at the time of the sale. Turkeys not falling in this weight range may be selected at the discretion of the committee.
- All turkeys in this competition will be hens.
- There will be 12 turkeys selected for the sale at the 4-H NS Provincial Show.

Turkeys will be judged on meat, uniformity and preparation. Market Turkey members are responsible for referring to their market information letter regarding times they need to be available to exhibit their turkey as well as for the weigh in. Only bring one hen turkey to be judged at the 4-H NS Provincial Show. Members who are selected as the top entrants for the auction as determined by the committee must show their own birds during conformation and the auction. Turkeys will be auctioned on Saturday at the 4-H NS Provincial Show. It is up to the 4-H member to solicit buyers for their market animals.

Please note that the National Farm Animal Code of Practice should be followed when housing animals for 4-H events.

These standards can be found at: <http://www.nfacc.ca/>

MANAGEMENT NOTE

Be sure that your turkeys have clean, dry bedding at all times. Clean, dry bedding helps to ensure a healthier bird that is in better market condition. It will also make it easier to get the turkey as clean and white as possible when you prepare it for show. It is to your advantage to have the turkey in its best possible health, condition, and cleanliness when exhibiting.

4-H NOVA SCOTIA MARKET COMMITTEE

This Committee will be named by 4-H Nova Scotia. The members of the Committee are responsible for the Market Steer, Lamb, Turkey and Goat Show 'N' Sale at the 4-H NS Provincial Show. They will deal with obtaining judges, auctioneers, publicity, ribbons, buyers and enforcing the regulations. The Committee will also determine the number of animals participating at the 4-H NS Provincial Show each year.

Updated guidelines may be issued by the 4-H Nova Scotia Market Committee, as approved by 4-H Nova Scotia. These guidelines will be mailed directly to the registered Market Steer, Lamb, Turkey and Goat members.

4-H NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL SHOW

- Members are responsible for arranging delivery of the turkey from the sale to the designated packing plant or to the location as requested by the buyer. Expenses, such as trucking, could result; however, this should only be in extreme cases.
- Members are responsible for the care of their turkey until 12:00 noon Sunday, of the 4-H NS Provincial Show (this means feeding and cleaning the animal) unless the animals are removed following the sale. Buyers may remove the animal earlier than 12:00 noon on Sunday.
- In market projects, members must show their own animal in the conformation class and in the auction at 4-H NS Provincial Show.
- Keep in mind that you must ensure the turkeys have an adequate cage for showing at Achievement Day and at the 4-H NS Provincial Show. The minimum cage size for a Market Turkey is 4 ft. long x 2.5 ft. wide x 3 ft. high. This allows for freedom of movement and to protect the feathers. The top, bottom, and front should be wire. Be sure your birds are clean for show and have clean, dry food and clean water at all times.
- Following the Show and Sale, a photographer will be on hand to photograph members with the animal and the buyer. You and your buyer will receive a copy of the photo at a later date.

MARKET LIVESTOCK PROJECT MEETING IDEAS

Your project meetings may be included in the regular livestock project meetings. Several of these ideas may add some variety to your meetings, especially if many project members are experienced.

- Judge a class of carcass or meat cuts. An excellent resource is your local abattoir owner, grader and grocery meat manager.
- Tour a local abattoir, grocery meat department or rendering plant.
- Listen to a presentation from a local representative of the Nova Scotia Beef Producers, Sheep Producer, Goat Producer or Poultry Producer about their marketing of product, problems and concerns.

CONTAGIOUS/INFECTIOUS DISEASE & QUARANTINE

4-H members, leaders, parents and livestock owners are reminded that 4-H achievement days and shows are showcases for the 4-H program, and the agricultural industry in this province. They are reminded that infectious diseases can be transmitted during transport, as well as at the show. As such, it is strongly recommended for the protection of the public, participants, and the animals at the show, that animals having or showing signs of infectious diseases not be brought to shows. As well, livestock exhibitors and owners must understand that in attending 4-H Shows, there is a risk of their animal contracting disease regardless of the best efforts of all involved.

If you suspect that your animal has a contagious/infectious disease, please contact your local vet immediately and learn more about the consequences, treatment, and transmission of the disease.

A brochure providing additional information on "Infectious and Contagious Diseases Affecting 4-H Livestock" is available. If you wish to receive a copy by mail or email, please contact your ALC for this information. It contains important information for all livestock members on this topic and will be critical to review with 4-H Clubs, livestock owners, and your local veterinarian when making decisions about attending 4-H achievement days and shows.