



# Market Turkey

## 4-H Project Newsletter

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 Program Coordinator (RPC).

The Market Turkey Project was developed to educate the 4-H member about raising, fitting, showing and the sale of their animal.

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!

### **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. Also, members must show their own registered 4-H animals at Achievement Day.

### **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 May 31<sup>st</sup> 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 and project record sheet. 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. animals may not be used in regular showmanship classes.

### **CONFORMATION**

Conformation is not an Achievement Day requirement.

## **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.
- All turkeys in this competition will be hens.

**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.

## **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 RPC 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.