

TEAM ACTIVITY 6
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
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INSTRUCTIONS: You may work together as a team to solve the following questions. Be sure to keep your discussion as quiet as possible to prevent other teams from overhearing your answers.

The St. George High School FFA decided to grow turkeys as a fundraiser for their group. They decided to grow the turkeys and process them at a small slaughterhouse located near the school. The turkeys would be ready to sell for Thanksgiving.

The students obtained several hatchery catalogs and decided to grow some toms. They chose a bronze variety. They ordered 200 poults at \$2 each for a grand total of \$400 which included delivery. When the poults arrived, they placed them in the grow out barn that they had constructed prior to their arrival. They decided to brood them in a small house and allow them access to outdoors so that they would be able to sell them as free range turkeys.

Before the birds had arrived the students had prepared all the facilities. They installed a water system with nipple drinkers, a feeder system, a heat source and a place for the birds to roost. They covered the concrete floor with clean pine shavings. The pine shavings were about ½" thick across the floor. They put the heater in one corner of the pen. After they put the poults in the brooding area, they observed that most of the poults appeared healthy and preferred to stand in the other corner opposite of the heater.

The students were feeding the birds a starter feed they had obtained from the local Orsheln's store. This starter had about 12% protein. The cost of the starter feed was about \$.10/lb. They fed the poults this feed for the first four weeks, then switched to a grower ration that cost about \$.05/lb.

The birds grew fairly well and didn't seem to catch any diseases. However, throughout the grow out period they lost about 5% of the turkeys. During the starter period, their records indicated that each of the birds consumed 14 lbs of feed. After they switched to the grower, it was observed they each bird consumed an additional 46 lbs of feed. They grew the birds for a total of 16 weeks prior to processing them. The average dressing percentage for each turkey was near 30%, and each bird weighed approximately 20 pounds in live weight. The processing charge per bird was \$1.00 each.

The students took the processed birds to the smoke house and added spices. They then smoked them overnight in a new Koch meat smoker. The birds came out a dark golden brown. They decided to sell the smoke turkeys for \$30 each. They saved the best one as a gift for their FFA instructor.

Using the information given, answer each of the following questions.

1. How many turkeys were left to process after the expected mortality that occurred?
a. 175 b. 190 c. 160 d. 180
2. With the information given, what was the approximate feed conversion rate?
a. 2.0 b. 2.8 c. 3.0 d. 5.8
3. The yield that the turkeys had was:
a. too low b. too high c. about right d. not enough information given
4. Using pine wood shavings as a source of litter was:
a. the right thing to do b. the wrong thing to do c. shaving type does not matter
d. The shavings were OK, but they should have added some moisture.

5. How much feed in the nearest \$ did it cost to feed each turkey?
a. \$5.50 b. \$4.90 c. \$3.70 d. \$2.30
6. What was the most nearest total cost of acquisition, feed and processing for each turkey?
a. \$8.50 b. \$7.90 c. \$6.70 d. \$5.30
7. The thickness of the litter that they used to brood the poults was:
a. too thick b. too thin c. just right d. litter was not necessary
8. The observation that the poults seemed to stay on the opposite side from the heater meant:
a. that they were too cold b. that they were too hot
c. that the heater was blowing too hard d. that they were scared of the heater
9. What was the total net profit if they sold every one of the turkeys that they smoked?
a. \$4,427 b. \$5,700 c. \$6,550 d. \$6,770
10. The term 'poult' was used throughout the text. Is this the correct term?
a. yes b. no, poult refers to a young laying hen
c. no, poult is a term used for pheasants d. no, poults refer to turkey hens, not toms

Please note: the team activity has only 10 questions.

