

# THE FEATHER REPORT

The Feather Report • Cooperative Extension Services • Kansas State University

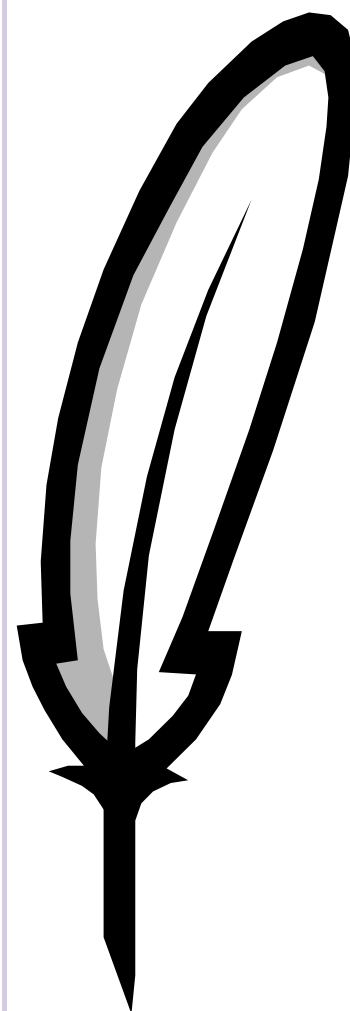
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## Information about Testing Poultry for a County Fair

To assist our busy county agents and poultry leaders, here's a brief outline about how to get the birds tested for a county show:

1. Several weeks in advance, determine who will conduct the testing for you. Veterinarians may test, as well as the persons on the certified tester's list from the Kansas Animal Health Department. A copy of this list is located on my web page at [http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/poultry/NPIP/poultry\\_testers2004.pdf](http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/poultry/NPIP/poultry_testers2004.pdf). A lot of poultry judges are certified so you may be able to ask them to help.
2. If there is no one close to you, then someone in the group may get certified by mail or at a tester school (arranged for large groups of 10 or more -contact Dr. Scott Beyer for more information). By mail, the tester will watch a short video, read some material, and take an open book exam. If they pass, their name is then submitted to the KAHD for certification. Please remember, the only part of this program handled by KSU is the certification process. Certification by mail will cost \$10 to offset the price of postage, etc.
3. Upon successfully passing the exam, the name of the tester is submitted to the KAHD. They will contact this person and send them an invoice for \$20. It will cost \$20 per year to maintain a license. Some testers are paid for by the counties, others charge a small fee for each bird to offset the cost of their license and testing supplies. Testing supplies can be obtained through any supply house, a list of the local suppliers is printed elsewhere in this newsletter.
4. Within 90 days of the show, the birds that will be exhibited should be tested at a regular 4H meeting or other event. You can also check them at the day of the show, however, I find it often very hectic to conduct testing at check in.
5. The testing results, and bird information is recorded on a special form for the county. I have included copies of these forms in this publication. You can record all birds entered on this single sheet to cut down on paperwork. That sheet then gets submitted to this office or to the KAHD and this will suffice for proof of testing at the Kansas State Fair. However, if the exhibitor wants to show the bird at other fairs, or bring it across the state line, they will need a VS 9-2 form, which you can free from the KAHD or from Dr. Beyer. Any bird coming to the Kansas State Fair or going elsewhere will need to have a permanent leg band attached and the number recorded on the county testing form or the VS 9-2 form.
6. Remember that no waterfowl or pigeons need to be tested. Market broilers less than 90 days old do not require testing, including those entered in the KSF Market Broiler Competition.
7. Once the sheet is completed, submit a copy to Scott Beyer at 130 Call Hall, Dept of ASI, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66502. Then, when the bird shows up with the proper band at the State Fair, it will be ready to go and it will not need to be re-tested. Please note that the KAHD does not accept temporary bands.
8. And that's it! The best thing to do is to be sure you arrange a certified poultry tester to help out, or get a poultry leader to get certified.



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## Where to Obtain Testing Agent for the Pullorum Testing Program

For many years, the Kansas Poultry Association purchased large lots of Pullorum testing agent, broke it into smaller lots, and then sold it at cost to testing agents who wished to test small numbers of birds. The intent was to reduce the cost of the testing so smaller groups could test their birds.

The entire US supply of the testing agent is manufactured by only one lab, Vineland Laboratories of Vineland, NJ. The agent is then distributed to other suppliers like Fort Dodge, and numerous other drug supply companies, who all may set their own price. Many hatchery supply & chick catalogs also carry the same Pullorum Testing Agent. Some people say that this is a monopoly, and with such cases, two things often happen: 1) the price goes up and 2) the supply goes down. I have also noticed that the expiration date has decreased dramatically on the new batches. In years past, you could usually go two show seasons before the antigen expired, but now it expires in about 4 months.

Because there is only one supplier, when they have production problems, there is no alternative source to obtain a supply of the antigen. In the summer of 2004, we faced a crisis in Kansas because the supply ran out almost near the peak of the show season. Many people were frustrated with the Kansas Poultry Association and Kansas Poultry Extension when there was no possible way to obtain the antigen from other suppliers.

For these reasons, beginning in 2005, the KPA no longer could accept the responsibility for this service. The reasons for this change are many:

- 1) Only about 60% of the invoices were ever paid by those who purchased the antigen, making it a subsidized program for the KPA. Because no funds are transferred to run this program from either the state of Kansas, nor the Federal agencies in charge of it, this was a substantial loss to the KPA.
- 2) There have been questions of legality concerned with breaking lot numbers and expiration dates down to smaller aliquots
- 3) There have been concerns with a tax exempt organization competing with local private enterprise.
- 4) The KPA (and Kansas State University) was often blamed for the lack of supply when the production company had problems, thus causing disappointment with entities who could not themselves improve the service.
- 5) The shorter expiration dates meant that more of the antigen was wasted, thus driving up the costs and the loss for the KPA.

Testing Agent for the Pullorum Testing Program may be obtained from the following suppliers:

Smith Poultry & Game Bird Supply  
14000 West 215th Street  
Bucyrus, KS 66013-9519  
913-879-2587  
www.poulttrysupplies.com

Slippery Rock Hatchery  
3587 Cloud Road  
Richmond, KS 66080  
785-835-6521  
www.slipperyrockhatchery.com

If you would like to order small but more expensive batches of antigen, send an email to [testing\\_agent@hotmail.com](mailto:testing_agent@hotmail.com). This is an internet based company that will send further information about the testing agent via email. They sell the small kit for \$15.00 plus \$4.00 postage and handling. The kit will test 50 birds.

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### Broiler Competition at the Kansas State Fair

This is a reminder that chick orders for the Market Broiler Competition for the 2005 Kansas State Fair are due no later than July 11, 2005. A copy of the rules of the contest and an order form are attached.

### New Poultry Publications

Two new poultry publications are available from KSU Extension Animal Science. One is called Factors Affecting Egg Quality (EP 127). This publication includes a table of egg defects and what may cause them. The Resource Guide for Owners of Small Poultry Flocks (MF 2310) has been updated for 2005. This guide has listings for local and national hatcheries, equipment, egg cartons, magazines and just about anything related to poultry. Contact your local extension office for copies of these publications.



## The Five Biggest Mistakes Made By Small Egg Farms

### Part 2: Diluting Feeds

As a nutritionist myself, people often find it odd that one of the last problems I suspect when a home flock is not laying is a nutrition-related illness. That's because most complete feeds available in retail stores or farm coops meet or exceed the normal requirements of the hens.

Since feed will be the costliest part of maintaining a small flock, it's tempting to try to find ways to cut feed costs. I have found that many growers try to dilute their complete feed with a less expensive source of grain. They may mix the complete feed with whole or cracked corn or they may provide two feeders, one with the corn and the other with the complete feed. Although whole grain costs less and this might seem like a good plan, the intake of some nutrients is actually reduced. The complete feed was formulated to meet the energy, protein, vitamin, and mineral requirements of the birds without over or underfeeding. A layer ration usually contains about 16% protein, while most cereal grains like corn, sorghum, wheat and barley contain only 7-10% protein. Because corn is much lower in protein, when more corn is added it reduces the protein provided by the complete feed. Providing whole grain in a separate feeder can be worse if the bird chooses to eat just the whole grain and not the manufactured feed. Spreading a little scratch grain for an occasional treat is not a problem as long as it doesn't inhibit intake of the complete feed.

Protein is not the only nutrient that gets diluted when you add whole grain. Vitamins and minerals may be reduced as well. This is because manufactured feeds add a special package containing all the minor, but very important, vitamins and minerals. Whole grains contain some of these nutrients, but some are not in sufficient levels to maintain egg production. For example, adding a lot of cracked grain to a ration will reduce the amount of calcium intake, causing thin egg shells.

Remember that if you dilute the feed and manage to save 50% of the normal feed cost, but the hens lay half as many eggs, you've accomplished nothing. The best strategy is to select a complete feed and reduce costs by reducing feed waste around feeders and culling hens that are eating but not laying.

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### Questions for the Editor

#### Is it okay to sell eggs from my small farm flock?

You can always sell eggs from your farm. However, the question should be "What regulations must I meet in order to sell eggs from my farm?" If you are selling eggs directly from your farm to the consumer, then you face no regulations or fees. Direct to consumer means that the purchaser will utilize the eggs for their own personal consumption. However, if the consumer buys your eggs then uses them to make food which is then sold to another customer, then you are subject to egg grading and purchasing an egg stamp. Your eggs must be sized, graded, and packed into a completely labeled carton with a Kansas egg stamp attached. You would need to do this for example, if you plan to sell eggs at a Farmer's Market or a grocery store. If you only plan to sell a few dozen eggs a week, the best option may be to find some local buyers and sell direct so that you are not required to purchase new cartons or grade eggs. For more information about selling eggs from your farm, ask for a copy of Producing Eggs on the Farm for Direct Sales (MF 2307). You may also contact the Kansas Division of Inspection at 785-296-3511 for more information about obtaining an egg stamp. which is available from your local KSU Extension Office.

#### Must the competitors in the Market Broiler Competition at the State Fair be qualified by entering their birds in their county competitions?

No. The State Fair event is separate from the county shows. This is because the broiler project only lasts for 6 weeks and there is no possible way all the birds can carry over to the state fair. There is also no way we can provide broiler chicks for each of the counties since they occur over several weeks in the summer. If there is a requirement by an individual county, this must be discussed with them to be sure that they will permit then to enter. As far as I know, for the past 3 years, everyone has been allowed to enter. There have been a few counties that have had their own Market Broiler Competition at the county show, just for fun. If you need further information about how to do it and where to get the chicks, please contact the Extension Poultry Specialist.



## 4-H & FFA MARKET BROILER SHOW ORDER FORM

Number of chicks \_\_\_\_\_ @ 90¢ each for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(order of minimum 25/maximum 50 chicks), this price includes postage.

Please make check payable to: **Kansas 4-H Foundation**

All chicks must be pre-paid and payment sent with order. Your chicks will be delivered by the US Postal Service who will call you to let you know when they must be picked up at the Post Office. Expected arrival date: August 3-4, 2005. Each chick will have a permanent wing band and will be vaccinated for Marek's disease. **DO NOT** remove wing band. **Birds without these bands will not be permitted in exhibit.**

Order and payment deadline: MONDAY, JULY 11, 2005.

Owner/Exhibitor \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Phone \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

These broiler chicks are for exhibition at the Kansas State Fair 4-H & FFA Market Broiler Show. Please sign below your intent to exhibit and to abide by all the rules and regulations as outlined in the 2005 KSF Handbook.

Exhibitor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Agents Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail form and pre-paid payment to address below



SCOTT BEYER  
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCES & INDUSTRY  
139 CALL HALL  
MANHATTAN, KS 66506-1600

R. Scott Beyer, Ph.D.  
Extension Poultry Specialist  
Animal Science and Industry  
Kansas State University

## SECTION V – OTHER ANIMALS

### Kansas State Fair 4-H & FFA Market Broiler Show

Saturday, September 11

Poultry Building

Chair: Dr Scott Beyer, Extension Specialist, Poultry Science, KSU

1. Class 3214 will be a class for exhibiting meat-type chickens for the Market Broiler contest. A contestant may enter one pen of three birds in the class. **Pre-entry must be made on the KSFAIR web site no later than August 15 or within 5 working days of the completion of the county fair for those counties having fairs after August 10. All pre-entries must be processed through the Extension Office. It is the responsibility of the individual contestant to pre-enter exhibits with the Extension Office by the local deadline.** Ordering chicks does not constitute an entry in this contest at the Kansas State Fair.
2. All chicks will be ordered through Kansas State University. Contestants must pre-register using the official order form and mail it to: Scott Beyer, 130 Call Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506-1600. Orders and payment are due July 11, 2005.
3. All chicks will be hatched on the same day and will be delivered direct from the hatchery by US Postal Service. Exhibitors must make arrangements to pick them up at their local post office. All birds will be from the same genetic source. Thus, the competition will be based solely upon the contestants management and poultry husbandry skills.
4. The broiler-chicks will cost \$0.90 each with a minimum order of 25 and a maximum of 50 chicks. The cost includes wing banding, vaccination and postage. Leg bands will not be required, however, **only birds that have the original wing bands attached may be entered.**
5. The owner/exhibitor is the person who ordered the birds **and must be a bonafide Kansas 4-H member or FFA member.** The broilers must have been fed and cared for daily by the exhibitor.
6. If adequate exhibitor space is not available, coops of broilers may be sifted.
7. Check-in time for the Market Broilers will be Friday, September 9, 2005 from 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm or Saturday, September 10, 2005 from 8:00 am to 11:00 am.
8. At check-in, contestants may sign a release form indicating if they wish to donate their pen of broilers to the Kansas State University Poultry Judging Team. Contestants donating birds will not be required to return for check-out.
9. Sick or diseased birds will not be accepted and will be removed from competition. Any bird with reduced comb growth or other secondary sex characteristics, which indicate the presence of a hormone, will be sifted. The exhibitor must remove sifted birds from the poultry barn immediately.
10. **All poultry are entered at the sole risk of the exhibitor.** Fair management will not be responsible for the loss or damage caused by fire, theft, accident, acts of nature, etc. However, reasonable vigilance in the care and protection of specimens will be taken by poultry personnel in attendance day and night. No persons will be allowed in show room from 9:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. except special caretakers.
11. Judging will be according to the US Standards for live chickens. Placing will be made on the basis of market quality and uniformity of the three birds in the pen. The exhibits will be judged on Saturday, September 10, 2005 starting at approximately 1:00 p.m. **Exhibitors must be present during the judging process.** Exhibitors are encouraged to ask the judge questions.
12. The use of any chemical and/or compound that is not approved by the Food and Drug Administration for use in meat producing animals and the illegal use of approved chemicals and/or compounds is prohibited. All animals shall be subject to tests for foreign substances that exceed the acceptable levels established by the US Department of Agriculture. A positive test will result in disqualification.
13. Because the chicks will be obtained from an NPIP approved hatchery, Pullorum testing will **NOT** be required.
14. For additional information, consult *Growing Broilers for the State Fair* by R. Scott Beyer, available from your local extension office.

**Class 3214** Meat-type Chickens; Pen of 3

**Class 3215** Reserve Champion Meat-Type Chickens

**Class 3216** Grand Champion Meat-Type Chickens

### **SPECIAL AWARDS**

Special awards will be given to the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion winners in this class.







## INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT EXHIBITOR'S ENTRY LIST

Show name and address for owner of entries. Provide the necessary information under the method by which the entries are being certified as U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid Clean. Requirements for each method of certification:

- Test Prior to Show - Owner must present an official VS Form 9-2 (Flock Selection and Testing Report) signed by an official blood testing agent showing that the entries have had a negative test from an official pullorum-typhoid test conducted within 90 days prior to the show. Sealed legband numbers of the entries must be shown on the form and agree with the numbers on the entries. Show VS Form 9-2 numbers(s) under column (1).
- From Clean Source - Owner must present evidence, such as a sales slip or name of hatchery (this must be an original form from the hatchery), that the entries were purchased from a pullorum-typhoid clean source with a valid NPIP number. This is method can only be used WITHIN 90 DAYS OF HATCH. This means that the only birds that will qualify under this method will be Cornish-Rock cross meat birds. Market Broilers shown at the Kansas State Fair qualify under this method. Because almost all exhibition birds shown in a poultry show will be over 90 days of age, they will need to show proof of testing. Indicate name of source under column (2) of the testing form.
- Entries must show a negative test for pullorum-typhoid disease at time of entry for the show. Shows may test upon entry of poultry at the show, but it may be easier to test on a date in advance of the show. Indicate sealed legband numbers in column (3) if the owner plans to enter birds in another show such as the Kansas State Fair. If any reactors are found, write the number of reactors behind the name of the exhibitor who had the reactor birds in column (4). THE KANSAS POULTRY DISEASE ACT REQUIRES THAT ALL REACTORS TO PULLORUM-TYPHOID DISEASES MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY, KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY, FOR AUTOPSY AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION. If a reactor is found, retain possession of and permanently identify the bird and contact: Small Animal Desk Information at KSU Vet Labs, (785) 593-5441 for instructions for submission of bird to the Diagnostic Laboratory.
- The official bloodtesting agent and the show superintendent should sign the form and return to the Kansas Poultry Association, 130 Call Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506-1600 at the conclusion of the show.

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### The Poultry Research Farm Needs Your Help

The KSU Tom Avery Poultry Research Farm was built in 1966 after a tornado destroyed the old facilities. Since that time, there have been no substantial investments for upkeep and remodeling. The farm needs your help. A pressing need this summer is a lawnmower. The farm needs a working, safe riding mower. We have several acres of grass around our buildings and lawnmowers don't last long. If you have one to donate, let us know. This may seem odd, but we are seeking a golf cart also. An electric cart is easy to maintain and can be used in the place of a truck to save gas when going between buildings. It's also smaller and faster. The Farm is also in need of 6' chain link fencing for several free range experiments with heritage breed poultry. Perhaps you have some unused line posts or wire left over from a project. We'll also take used material as long as it is in new condition. We'll save all the donated material until we have enough to complete our project. A larger need is a tractor. We have an old Ford built in the 1950's and it is in bad shape. If you have a small tractor, maybe we can trade you our antique! It can be a small home tractor but it must have a front end loader so we can move manure. If you have any of these items, call me at 785-532-1201. Remember that these donations often qualify for tax deductions. We'll also take cash donations.

## Chickens in China

I recently visited China and observed their grain processing and poultry industries. The purpose of the trip was to help promote the sale of US grown corn and soybeans to Chinese poultry growers. Both China and the US grow about 8 billion chickens a year each, however, the US has only 300 million people compared to China's 1.4 billion people. Almost all of the US grown birds are commercial type Cornish cross birds, while in China about 1/2 the birds are what they refer to as "yellow birds." A yellow bird looks something like a Barred Rock crossed with a Mediterranean breed. These birds are prized by home cooks and chefs for their great flavor. They are less feed efficient and grow slower compared to the Cornish cross birds. It's probably more of a tradition than anything since much of the poultry in China is sold live in the marketplace.

Everything in China is booming. Growth is occurring all across the country and China will soon be a large force in the world economy. With 1.4 billion people, wages at \$0.25 per hour, and have less health care costs, China will be competitive on the world market. Everywhere I went, I saw KFC's opening retail outlets. Younger Chinese have more money and are purchasing fast food, and eating a lot more chicken.

I had the opportunity to eat a piece of chicken that I'd never eaten before called chicken paws. Paws are the part of the foot below the hock. They are a major export product from the US to Asia. As you might guess, they tasted a lot different than chicken breasts meat!

## New Changes for the Poultry Testing Program to be Implemented Starting July 1, 2005

There are important new changes that will be implemented by the Kansas Animal Health Department beginning July 1, 2005 that may affect county fairs, poultry auctions and other related enterprises.

First, all poultry sold at auctions and swap meets MUST show proof of testing. Previously, sellers in Kansas were not required to test their birds for Kansas sales. This is not a real change in the program, Kansas only started enforcing what has been required all along by the Federal program.

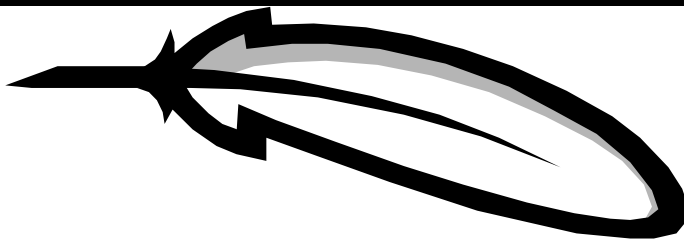
Next, ALL counties must test county fair birds EACH year. In years past, we were allowed to test the birds every other year, depending upon which side of the state you were located. In 2003, this was unofficially changed, and on July 1, all counties must show proof of testing each year.

## Pullets for Sale

The Tom Avery Poultry Farm at KSU is having a special fund raising pullet sale. The pullets will be ready-to-lay and should be available beginning about July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005. They are White Leghorns hens that have been fully vaccinated and beak trimmed. They would do great in a farm flock, and will lay more eggs than you can probably eat! Price depends on how many you buy and they must be picked up at the KSU farm. For more information, contact Bob at 785-539-5041.



If you would like to receive an electronic copy of the Feather Report, please send your email address to [poultry@ksu.edu](mailto:poultry@ksu.edu)



The Feather Report is published for the purpose of communicating with people in the poultry industry, gamebird industry, small flock owners, ratite producers, & anyone with an interest in feathered creatures. It is distributed at no charge and Kansas citizens can be placed on the mailing list by contacting

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*The Feather Report* □

*R. Scott Beyer*



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