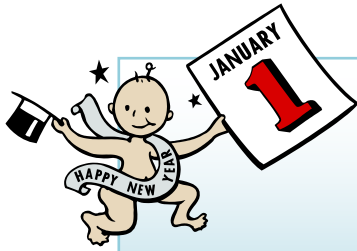


TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION



La Salle Co.
4-H

January 2013 Newsletter

CLUB MEETINGS

COTULLA 4-H

Date: Jan 14, 2013

Time: 7pm

Location: Fair Assn. Meeting
Room

ENCINAL 4-H

Date: Jan 9, 2013

Time: 7pm

Location: Encinal Veterans Park

Archery Project:

When: January 20, 2013

Time: 3pm

Location: Fair grounds

**Volunteer Leaders of
LaSalle Co.**

When: January 29, 2013

Time: 7pm

County Council

When: January 29, 2013

Time: 6pm

**Attention County Council
and Volunteer Leaders:**

All meetings will be on the
LAST TUESDAY of these
following months:

August, October,

November, January,

February and April.

4H Adult Volunteers

The LaSalle County Extension Office will be hosting the District 12 Volunteer Leader Training and District Council Meeting on January 12, 2013. Please call our office as soon as possible to let us know if you are going to be able to attend or for any questions or concerns.

Horse Judging Practices:

- Tuesday, January 15, 2013
- Tuesday, January 22, 2013
(may not have, but will contact via e-mail if cancelled)
- Tuesday, January 29, 2013



*REMINDER

It is MANDATORY that ALL enrollment is entered in 4-H CONNECT. Please remember to SAVE your PASSWORD.

<http://texas.4honline.com>



Upcoming Prospect Shows

January 3-4, 2013 - Region 1
TCCA-HEIFER-STEER
SandHills Stock Show & Rodeo
Ector Co. Coliseum, Odessa
Contact: SandHills Stock Show,
218 W
46th, Odessa, TX 79764; 432-
366-3951

January 4, 2013 - Region None

**TJLA LIVESTOCK JUDGING
Bexar Junior Livestock Judging
San Antonio**

Contact: Lorie Kempen,
7914 Knowlton Rd., San Antonio,
TX
78263; 210-279-7735

**January 5, 2013
4th Annual El Cielo 4-H Prospect
Show**

Lamb and Goat Show
Vidaurri Memorial Arena
Wilson Road HWY 59
(Before LIFE downs)
Laredo, Texas 78043

**January 5, 2013- Region 5
TCLA-TCMGA-LAMB-GOAT
Chupacabra Classic A & B
Friar Ag Center, Cuero**

Contact: Mike Wuensche, 80
Cody Dr.
Victoria, TX 77904; 361-550-
1151

**January 5, 2013- Region 5
TCCA-HEIFER
Chisholm Trail Beef Challenge
A, B, C, & D**

**Caldwell Co. Fairgrounds,
Lockhart**
Contact: Roger Smith, 475
Catfish Ln.,
Lockhart, TX 78644; 512-422-
8933

**January 5, 2013- Region 4
TCCA-HEIFER
New Year Kickoff A, B, C, & D
Madison Co. Fairgrounds,
Madisonville**

Contact: Bob Choiniere, 727 Pee
Dee Ln,
Madisonville, TX 77864; 903-
388-1223

**4-H Cash Blowout Jackpot
Swine, Goats, Lambs, Heifers
and Steers**

January 5, 2013
Rusk County Youth Expo Center
3303 FM 13 W.
Henderson, TX

**5th Annual Falcon Lake Classic
4-H & FFA Prospect Show
Hog, Heifer, Steer, Lamb and
Goat**

January 5-6, 2013
Oswaldo & Juanita Ramirez
Exhibit Hall
23rd & Glenn St.
Zapata, TX

**January 12, 2013- Region 4
TCCA-HEIFER
Winter Scholarship Bonanza
A, B, C, & D**

**Madison Co. Fairgrounds,
Madisonville**
Contact: Bob Choiniere, 727 Pee
Dee Ln,
Madisonville, TX 77864; 903-
388-1223

**January 12-13, 2013 - Region 4
TCCA-HEIFER-STEER
Last Chance A, B, C, & D
Walker Co. Fairgrounds,
Huntsville**

Contact: Glenna Goodrum,
110 Southwood Forest,
Huntsville, TX 77340; 936-577-
0331,
Nita Syphrett, 903-322-5036

**Bad Breed 4-H Indoor Prospect
Show**

Lambs and Goats (non-
sanctioned show)
January 12, 2013
Life Fairgrounds Indoor Pavilion
Laredo, TX

**January 19-20, 2013- Region 5
TCCA-HEIFER-STEER
Lone Star Classic
A, B, C, & D
JB Wells Park, Gonzales**

Contact: Daniel Boatright, P.O.
Box 84,
Leesville, TX 78122; 830-203-
0627

Henderson Lions Club

Joe B. Craig

Memorial Jackpot Show

**Swine, Goats, Lambs, Steers and
Heifers**

January 19, 2013

Rusk County Youth Expo Center
3303 FM 13 W.
Henderson, TX

**January 18- February 9, 2013 -
Region 2**

TCCA-TCLA-TCPA-

TCMGAHEIFER-

STEER-LAMB-PIG-GOAT

**Fort Worth Livestock Show &
Rodeo**

**Will Rogers Memorial Center,
Fort Worth**

Contact: Local CES or AST

Card of Thanks

Thank You to Miss Raney Hanks, the 2012 La Salle County Fair Queen, for teaching Cotulla club members about the County Fair and the Queen Contest, as well as for organizing the Christmas toy drive.

Many thanks to Mrs. Marlene Maldonado and all the parents for donating time and supplies to make the December meeting a special one!

Thank you to all of the adult leaders and volunteers who helped to validate goats and pigs for the upcoming LaSalle Co. Jr. Livestock Show.

4H & FFA Booster Club sets Attendance Policy!

The LaSalle Co. 4H and FFA Booster Club, (Which runs the Livestock Show) has instituted a rule that states:

To be eligible to show at the LaSalle Co. Livestock Show, all 4H and FFA members must attend at least 50% of their respective chapter or club meetings. This rule will go into effect THIS YEAR. If you miss a 4H meeting and would like to have a “make up”, you can attend a LaSalle County Council meeting.



Chicken Orders!!!

If you ordered chickens you can pick them up on Wednesday, January 23, 2013 at 6:30 pm. As for location, we will let everybody know via e-mail.

NOTICE:

All exhibitors who entered Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo please call our office as soon as possible, passes are in.

From LaSalle County
Extension Office

*May the first morning of the New Year
shine, we wish you the love of friends
and family in abundance, may the sun
of the New Year shine with blessings on
you and your family, Happy New Year
2013.*

*From LaSalle County Extension Agent, Larry
Perez and Secretary, Carla Ríos!
707 Buckley
Cotulla, TX 78014
(830) 879-4389*

How to Produce Broilers and Roasters for Show



Fred D. Thornberry
Professor and Extension Poultry Specialist
The Texas A&M University System

A Successful Exhibitor Must

1. OBSERVE ALL SHOW RULES AND REGULATIONS governing the purchasing and showing of broilers and roasters. Many shows now allow the exhibition of both pullets and cockerals.
2. Purchase Pullorum-Typhoid clean meat strain chicks.
3. Use top-quality feeds.
4. Follow recommended management practices during the entire brooding and growing period.
5. Keep careful records of all expenses and receipts.
6. Cull birds closely and select the show entry properly.

Broiler projects are popular with 4-H and FFA members and are an integral part of most youth livestock shows. Roaster projects (broilers 10 to 14 weeks of age) are also popular. Both projects are especially suitable for youngsters with limited space. Most shows limit the number of chicks ordered to 25 or 50 per exhibitor.

When planning to start a project, contact the county Extension office, a 4-H leader or an agricultural science instructor. Birds not shown can be slaughtered for home use or sold locally to special markets.

Housing

Expensive housing and equipment are not necessary. However, a clean, dry structure that can be well ventilated, a brooder or heat lamps to warm the chicks, and feeding and watering equipment are needed. Provide at least 2 square feet of floor space per broil-

er. Openings on three sides of the building provide plenty of fresh air for the birds. Plastic sheeting can be used to close sides during brooding and in cold weather. Make certain the concrete or dirt floor is at least 6 inches above ground level to prevent flooding. The roof overhang should be sufficient to effectively protect against blowing rain.

Preparation and Brooding

Clean and disinfect the poultry house, feeders and waterers at least two weeks before the chicks arrive. Wash the house down with soap and water. Then spray a commercial disinfectant labeled for use in poultry houses.

Be prepared for the chicks 2 days in advance. Put at least 4 inches of litter on the floor of the cleaned, disinfected house. Wood shavings, cane fiber, coarse



A typical building used for growing broilers or roasters for a youth project.



Stir the litter daily to prevent packing. Damp or caked litter will cause health problems and affect bird performance.

dry sawdust, peanut hulls or rice hulls make good litter. Hay makes very poor litter. Keep all sticks, boards and sharp objects away from the broiler house.

Construct a cardboard brooder guard (brooder circle) to keep chicks near heat, water and feed. The brooder guard should be 14 to 18 inches high and must be a minimum of 5 feet in diameter for 50 chicks. When chicks are 7 days old, remove the guard and allow them full freedom of the pen.

Electric heat lamps (infrared bulbs) are good heat sources for brooding chicks. Two 125-watt bulbs per 50 chicks are recommended. Make certain lamps are secured so they cannot fall to the litter and create a fire hazard. The lamps should hang so that the bottoms are 18 to 24 inches from the litter. Lamps can be raised or lowered depending on temperature conditions. Place waterers a good distance from the lamps to prevent splashing water from cracking the hot bulbs.

If a gas or an electric hover-type brooder is used, it should operate at a temperature of approximately 92 degrees to 95 degrees F. Gradually reduce the temperature 5 degrees each week until the birds are 3 to 4 weeks old or until the house temperature reaches 70 degrees F.

When chicks are comfortable, they will bed down in a semicircle around the perimeter of the heat zone. If cold, chicks will crowd near the heat source. If too warm, they will move to the outer limits of the brooder guard.

Chilling can stunt chicks. In cold weather the heat source should be turned on 48 hours before chicks arrive to adequately heat the litter.

Rearing

After birds reach 4 weeks of age, the ideal temperature range is 60 to 75 degrees F.

When winter temperatures permit, the house should be partially opened to improve airflow and remove moisture. Supplemental heat may be needed when the outside temperature is low.

In hot weather, fans or evaporative coolers are used to cool birds more than 4 weeks old.

Lighting

Provide all-night light for broilers and roasters. Twenty-four-hour lighting (natural and artificial) improves feathering and increases weight, especially during the summer months. Hang a 40-watt bulb at least 6 feet above birds after removing heat lamps.

Feeding

Optimum performance is dependent on proper nutrition. The feed dealer should be informed of the type of feed required at least 2 weeks before chicks arrive so that fresh feed can be ordered. It is absolutely essential that birds receive a high-quality poultry



Water, feed and a heat source are all essential in getting chicks off to a good start.

feed containing at least 20 percent protein. Lower protein feeds will not do the job. Some exhibitors start chicks on a high-protein (26 to 30 percent) turkey or game bird starter to stimulate additional growth. Feed the higher protein feed for 2 weeks. Switch to a broiler feed for the remaining feeding period.

Small amounts of broiler feed lightly moistened with cooking oil and fed several times during the day will stimulate older birds to eat more and increase growth. This supplemental feeding practice can be particularly helpful in hot weather with birds more than 4 weeks of age. Caution: Do not put out more moistened feed than the birds can eat in 10 to 15 minutes. Do not moisten the feed until feeding time. Be certain all birds can eat at the same time.

An adequate level of vitamins in the diet is required to prevent leg weakness. Adequate vitamin intake can be ensured and leg problems minimized by adding water soluble poultry vitamins to drinking water at the manufacturer's recommended level for the first 7 days. Do not add vitamins past this period. Continued high levels can create health problems.

All birds should be able to eat at once. One pie or cookie pan for feed and one chick waterer per 25 chicks are needed the first 7 days. For the first 4 weeks, one tube-type feeder per 25 birds is required. After 4 weeks, one tube-type feeder is needed for every 15 birds. Clean, fresh water must be available at all times. One 2-gallon waterer per 50 chicks is required for the first 4 weeks. One 2-gallon waterer per pen is required after birds are culled at the end of the fourth week. Waterers should be rinsed daily and scrubbed twice weekly.

Feed must be kept before birds at all times if maximum growth is to be attained. Tube feeders are recommended because they hold an ample supply of feed, can be adjusted easily as birds grow and are less likely to cause bruises than horizontal trough feeders. Feeders and waterers should be kept adjusted so that the trough portion is level with the back height of the birds.

Broilers and roasters respond to attention. Walk among birds and stir feed three to five times per day. This will provide exercise and increase feed consumption and growth.

Feather Picking and Cannibalism

Snub the top beaks of birds if feather picking or cannibalism starts. Trim one-third of the upper beak with an electric beak snubber. Vicks® salve or an anti-peck compound applied to the bloody pecked



Handle birds carefully. Keep feeders and waterers level with the back height of the birds.

spots will usually stop cannibalism if snubbing is not feasible.

Bird Health

Keep all other poultry away from broilers and roasters. Medication should not be given unless birds are sick or stressed.

Chicks purchased from late August to early November should be vaccinated for fowl pox by 14 days of age.

Parasites are seldom a problem where birds are properly managed and sanitary conditions maintained.

Culling

Birds should be rigidly culled to optimize performance. Small, sick, stunted or deformed birds should be removed when detected. Reduce flock size at 4 weeks of age by removing the smaller and poorer fleshed birds. Keep two or three birds for each one to be shown. Fleashing, uniformity and finish will be improved by the increase in floor and feeder space and the reduction in social pressure. Trim nails to help prevent carcass damage. Leg band the birds kept for easy identification when selecting the show pen.

Selecting the Exhibition Entry

At show time examine birds carefully for physical defects that would cause them to be sifted. These include:

- Cuts and tears
- Broken and disjunct bones
- Skin or flesh bruises anywhere other than on the wing tip

- Breast blisters
- Insect bites
- External parasites (lice, mites or fleas)
- Extremely dirty birds

The following factors must be carefully considered when selecting the show entry.

A. **Conformation** (describes the skeletal system or shape of the bird)

Length. The breastbone should be long, straight, free from defects such as dents or knobs and carry well forward and back between the legs. The breastbone should be parallel to the backbone.

Width. The back should be long and wide with a broad spring of ribs.

Depth. The body should be full and deep. Body depth must be consistent with breast width. Length, width and depth should be well balanced.

B. **Fleshing** (the amount and distribution of muscle or flesh on the bird)

The breast, thighs and drumsticks carry the bulk of the meat and should be examined closely.

The breast meat is the most valued part of a bird and should be given maximum consideration. The breast muscle should be wide throughout the

length of the keel bone. The muscle should carry well up to the crest of the bone. A dimpled breast is desirable.

The thighs and drumsticks should be heavily muscled.

C. **Uniformity**

Each broiler should be as near a carbon copy of its pen mates as possible in size, shape, fleshing and finish. If one bird has a defect, it will affect the rating of the entire pen.

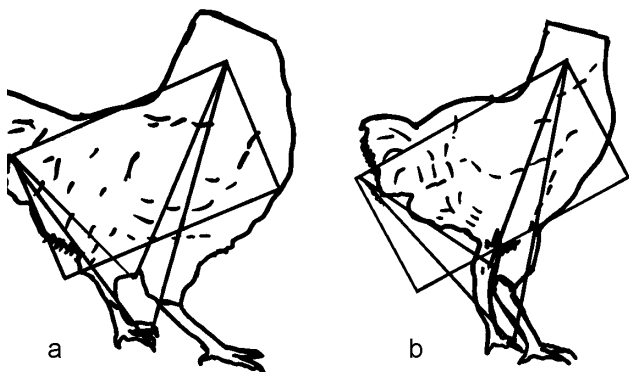
Uniformity is not a factor with roaster entries unless pens of two or three birds are shown.

D. **Finish** (amount of fat in and immediately under the skin)

Finish is usually adequate on well-fleshed birds. Without an adequate finish, a well-fleshed broiler will lose a great deal of eye appeal. The fat deposition between feather tracts on the side of the breast is the best indication of finish. Do not confuse finish and pigmentation (skin color).

E. **Skin Pigmentation**

Skin pigmentation results from the deposition of yellow or yellow-orange pigments in the outer skin layer. It is not an indication of finish. Only minor emphasis should be placed on pigmentation.



A bird of normal development (a) has a more rectangular shape than a bird of low vitality. A bird whose body is more triangular (b) is less desirable.

Handling and Transportation

Record leg bands of birds selected for show. Put selected birds back in the pen with the remaining birds until you transport them to the show.

Properly reared birds usually are reasonably clean. Washing is not recommended.

Large cardboard boxes are ideal carriers. Never place more than four broilers or two roasters in a box when transporting them to a show. Do not crowd. Put 4 inches of litter in the container so breasts will not bruise or become reddened. Be certain to cut adequate air holes in the sides. Avoid bruising birds while putting them in or taking them out of the container. Above all, do not drop the container.

Important: Check birds carefully for bruises one final time before presenting them to the sifter.

Precautions

1. Feed quality feed.
2. Cull closely and provide adequate floor and feeder space.
3. Maintain a comfortable temperature range.
4. Never allow birds to be without feed and water.
5. Do not exceed vitamin recommendations.
6. Keep litter in good condition.
7. Provide supplemental feed in the correct manner.
8. Obtain prompt assistance if health problems occur.
9. Ventilate properly.
10. Review this publication weekly and closely follow suggestions.

Family Safety

Public health agency investigations have implicated improper handling of poultry with occasional outbreaks of disease in humans. Protect your family from bird-transmitted diseases by following these guidelines:

1. Do not bring live poultry of any age into the home.
2. Always wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after contact with poultry.
3. Do not allow toddlers to handle poultry.
4. Avoid contact with poultry feces.
5. Wash your hands, counter tops and utensils with hot, soapy water after handling raw poultry. (You may also wish to obtain Extension publication L-5088, "Enjoy Poultry Meat Safely," from the county Extension office. It is also available on the Web at <http://tcebookstore.org>)



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

AgriLifeExtension.tamu.edu

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