

May 16, 2016

To: Agricultural Science Teachers, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension County Agents, market poultry exhibitors and parents

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Subject: Turkey and broiler orders for Houston, San Antonio and Rodeo Austin poultry shows and broiler orders for the State Fair of Texas.

We are instituting a small rule change this year regarding broiler orders for the major livestock shows. **Families with multiple exhibitors in the same household will now be allowed to share an order of broilers when selecting birds to bring to the show.** This is a rule change for broilers only. This has always been the rule for turkeys; however, due to the wording of the rules, some people may not have been aware of this. At this time, we want to make everyone aware of this rule change for broilers, as well as clarify the rule for family orders for turkeys. By making this change, the rules for ordering and validation of broilers and turkeys will be the same.

It is important to note that one difference between broilers and turkeys does still exist with regard to order numbers. The minimum number of turkeys a single exhibitor or family can order is 5 birds. Within a FFA chapter or 4-H county order, turkey poultts may be divided among exhibitors or families in any manner such that the total number of birds per exhibitor or family does not exceed 75 and the total number of birds for the entire chapter or county order is a multiple of 25. However, for broilers, each exhibitor or family must order in multiples of 25. This is the same as previous years. Mention of this fact here is for clarification purposes only.

Here is an example: A family has 3 exhibitors. For turkeys and broilers, the family can order 75 birds and all 3 exhibitors can pick birds from that single set to bring to the show. All wing band numbers in the set of 75 birds will be eligible for any of those 3 exhibitors. But if the family desires to start with more than 75 birds, then the family must designate how to divide the additional birds such that **no exhibitor can choose from a set of birds greater than 75 when selecting birds to bring to the show.** They can place 3 individual orders for each exhibitor (up to a maximum of 75 birds each), or they could also choose to do a shared order for some but not all of the exhibitors. In the example family with 3 exhibitors, Exhibitor 1 could submit an individual order for 75 birds, and Exhibitor 2 and 3 could submit a shared order of 75 birds. Exhibitor 1 could only enter birds from his or her individual set of 75 birds, and Exhibitor 2 and 3 could only enter birds from their shared set of 75 birds. For turkeys, the number of birds per

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individual or shared order can be between 5 and 75. For broilers, the number of birds per exhibitor or shared order must be 25, 50 or 75 (multiple of 25).

The avian influenza outbreak in the spring of 2015 resulted in a shortage of turkey poults in the commercial turkey industry. As a result, we were unable to obtain turkey toms for the shows in 2016. At this time, it is our hope to be able to supply exhibitors with turkey toms and hens for the 2017 shows, but we do not have the ability to make any guarantees. We will do our best to work with the turkey industry to acquire both toms and hens for the 2017 shows. Also, at this time, we do not have the ability to order turkeys for pick-up at any time other than the order for the major shows. So if your local or county show is in the spring such that birds picked up at the same time as the major show turkeys, you are welcome to order extra turkeys at the same. Turkeys designated for local and county shows are not eligible for entry into the major shows. The deadline for **turkey orders** this year has been extended to **September 2, 2016**.

We hope the broiler rule change and other rule clarifications allow all exhibitors to have the best experience possible with their poultry projects. Please contact us if you have any questions.