



**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION**

University of Arkansas System

Chain Bird Selection Workshop

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Introduction

Every year 4-H members are given the opportunity to participate in the poultry chain program. Each member is given a batch of birds, between 15 and 30 baby chicks on the same day that originates from the same source. Extension does do a good job of educating participants on starting and raising the birds. It seems like there's a gap in the education provided by the 4-H program, particularly when it comes to helping participants select the best birds for the fair. This oversight could be addressed by integrating a segment on decision-making into the program's curriculum. By teaching participants about the selection process, including factors such as evaluating the health, size, and appearance of the birds, as well as considering judges' preferences and competition criteria, participants can make more informed choices about which birds to showcase at the fair. This addition to the program would not only enhance participants' understanding of decision-making processes but also improve their chances of success in the competition.

Objective

To increase success of 4-H members participating in the poultry chain programs at the county fair level.

Method

The participants settled in with their lawn chairs under the shade of the trees behind the Extension office, we began with a general overview of the selection criteria, handling qualities, size, conformation, feather quality, and overall health. Once everyone had a good grasp of the basics, we moved on to the practical aspect of the session. Working individually with each family, we demonstrated proper handling techniques, showing them how to gently hold their birds and what specific features to look for in terms of health and condition and handling qualities.

Results

At our county fair, the competition for chain birds is divided into four distinct categories. Hyline Brown Pullets White Leghorn Pullets Broilers Turkeys The Grand Champion winners in the Hyline Brown, White Leghorn, and Turkey categories had previously participated in the selection class

