

A partnership between Cornell University and the CCE Associations in these five counties:  
Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, and Steuben Counties.

## Tracking Broiler Flock Performance

Following the productivity of the life of a flock can help you make management decisions including: What breed is most efficient? When should I process my birds? What time of year should I raise broilers?

**Mark down the following information about your flock:**

Date of Arrival: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Processing: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of chicks ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

Hatchery: \_\_\_\_\_

Breed: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex (Male, Female, or Straight Run): \_\_\_\_\_

During the life of the flock, you will keep track of the following 3 boxes of data:

**Feed Consumed:**

Each time you open a bag of feed dedicated to your broiler flock, make note of it here. At the end of the flock's life, mark down the feed that is left in the feeder and in the last bag of feed you've opened. Sum your feed additions and subtract the remaining feed from it. This will give you the total amount of feed consumed by the flock.

Date Added	Amount Added	Date Added	Amount Added	Date Added	Amount Added	Date Added	Amount Added

Sum of feed added (pounds): \_\_\_\_\_

Feed remaining in bag and feeder (pounds): \_\_\_\_\_

Total feed consumed (pounds) = Sum of feed added - feed remaining in bag and feeder: \_\_\_\_\_

Feed consumed per bird (pounds) = Total feed consumed / Number of birds remaining in flock at slaughter: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mortalities (birds that have died)**

Broilers die for many reasons, but less than 10% of the flock is what you want to target. Each time a broiler dies, mark it down with the date. The later in grow-out they die, the larger your loss is in terms of profitability because you have more feed and labor into them. If you know why birds died, mark the reason in the notes section. Repeat causes of mortalities over multiple flocks or losses greater than 5% in one day indicate an opportunity to improve management practices to allow more birds to make it through their full grow-out.

Date	How Many Broilers Died	Date	How Many Broilers Died	Date	How Many Broilers Died	Date	How Many Broilers Died

Notes:

Total number of mortalities: \_\_\_\_\_

% Mortalities =  $1 - (\text{total number of mortalities} / \text{number of chicks ordered}) * 100$ : \_\_\_\_\_

Primary cause of death: \_\_\_\_\_

Ideas to reduce the primary cause of death:

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## Bird Weights

There are two ways to calculate how efficiently your chickens grow. The first way is to compare how much feed is consumed per pound of live gain. The second is to calculate how much feed it takes per pound of whole processed chicken. Processed chickens without the neck and giblets weigh 70% - 75% of the live weight. So, we can calculate efficiency either way. Generally, Cornish Cross type broilers will gain weight at a rate of 2 - 2.5 pounds of feed per pound of live gain, or 2.85 - 3.3 pounds of feed per pound of whole processed chicken. Slow growth broilers will gain rate of 2.5 pounds of feed per pound of live gain, or 3.3 - 3.6 pounds of feed per pound of whole processed chicken. To find these numbers, you can either weigh the whole flock (live or processed) or a subset of 10 average looking chickens. If measuring a straight run flock (mix of males and females), select 5 males and 5 females for your measurements.

Total number of chickens weighed (live or processed): \_\_\_\_\_

Combined weight (live or processed): \_\_\_\_\_

Average weight per bird (live or processed) = combined weight / total number of chickens weighed: \_\_\_\_\_

Efficiency (lbs of feed per lb of gain) = feed consumed per bird / average weight per bird: \_\_\_\_\_

### Making Comparisons

Once all of the data is collected, you can start to make comparisons from one flock to the next. Some questions to ask yourself include:

- Did I enjoy raising the strain of broilers I selected?
- Did the flock gain weight uniformly or were their runty birds? Why may that be?
- Am I happy with the finished weights or should I raise them for a longer/shorter period next time?
- Is my feed conversion close to the standard for my breed? If not, why?
- Do early spring-raised chickens perform as well as summer or fall-raised chickens?
- What is my largest cause for early deaths in my flock and how can they be prevented?

### Notes from this flock and ideas for next flock: