



February Turkeys Raised Training Materials

Below you will find links to a video, PowerPoint presentation, survey information sheet, and practice interviews for NASS's February Turkeys Raised survey. The practice interviews can be used to enter data in Blaise or CAPI to get familiar with those data collection instruments.

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Strategic Planning and Business Services Division
Strategic Planning Branch
Workforce Performance and Staff Development Section

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Survey Training Turkeys Raised September and February



**United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service**



Workforce Performance and Staff Development Section



Who Uses This Data

- Provides end of year estimates of turkeys raised, poult placed, pounds of turkey produced, and value of production
- Producers use the information to determine production and marketing strategies and to plan purchases and capital investments.
- Economists and others use the data to monitor the health of the industry and contribution to the agricultural sector.
- Processors, warehouses, storage companies, and the transportation sector rely on the reports to anticipate future volume and ensure an orderly flow of goods and services.

Survey Information

- Project Code: **153 – Turkeys Raised**
- Questionnaires:
 - Mail out around January 20
 - Web reporting option also available
- Release:
 - *Poultry Production and Value*
 - Late April, at 3 pm ET

NASS website: www.nass.usda.gov/



Terms to Know

- Breeder Hens: Produce eggs for hatching
- Toms: Male turkeys
- Poults: Young turkeys
- Poults Placed: Reported by state of destination
- Contractor: Owns the turkeys but does not raise them (may provide feed, medicine, etc.)
- Contractee: Raises the turkeys (for a fee or other financial arrangement)



Screening Questions

- Reference period: Sept. 1 to Aug. 31 of the next year
- Turkeys owned OR on the operation
 - Own turkeys? If so, were any raised by contractees (contractor)
 - Didn't own turkeys? If so, were any turkeys on operation owned by another person or firm (contractee)
 - Did not own or raise turkeys during reference period?
 - Do you plan to raise turkeys in the future?

Poults Placed and Death Loss (September)

- Poults Placed: (Between 9/1/XX and 8/31/XX – next year)
 - Total Placed (owned by operator)
 - Total Placed under production contract
 - Number Placed by location and *Percent* Lost in:
 - Operator's state
 - Other states





Poults Placed (February)

- Total placed (owned by operator)
 - Between September 1 and August 31 of the next year
 - Include owned by operator that were raised by contractees
- How many of those poults placed were under a production contract
- Poults placed by location:
 - For the:
 - Operator's state
 - Other states
 - Number Placed – Number Lost = Number Raised



Turkey Prices & Contract Production

- Average price received per pound of live weight during 20XX (February only)
- Total turkeys placed on operation that were owned by another person or firm during 20XX
 - Answered by contractees only
 - Collect contractor's information
 - Name, address, and phone number



Things to Watch Out For

- Owned and previously raised by contractees
 - BUT not raised by contractees now
- Large change in size of operation (poults placed)
- No poults placed in home state
- Large death loss
 - Outside of 5-20% range
- Total numbers placed must equal total reported



Conclusion

- Notes are your friend
 - When in doubt, comment it out
- Work through some practice interviews
- Contact your supervisor with any Comments, Concerns, Questions you may have



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February Turkeys Raised Extra Information

Overview

Due to years of careful selective breeding, the modern turkey produces more meat per pound of feed and in less time than most other domestic meat producing animals. Turkeys are bred to have more breast meat and meatier thighs.

The turkeys raised survey is looking at young turkeys intended for meat production as well as breeder turkeys reaching maturity. The main points of data that are being looked at are: pounds produced, price per pound and value of production for the major turkey states and for the United States.

Terms and Definitions

Beard – A black lock of hair found on the chest of a male turkey.

Breed Designations – Light breed or fryer-roasted turkeys are generally marketed between 5 and 10 pounds live weight; heavy breed turkeys normally exceed 12 pounds live weight.

Breeder Hen – Mature hens to be used for fertile egg production to supply the hatchery. To maintain production continuity, laying turkey hens are artificially inseminated. The use of light induces them to lay at optimum times. During a 25 week laying cycle a hen normally lays 80-100 eggs. At the end of the cycle, the hen is “spent” and is usually slaughtered.

Brooder – Temperature controlled facilities where brooding stoves, hanging from the ceiling, radiate heat down onto the poults keeping them warm. Feeders and waters are placed close to the heat. At 5-6 weeks of age, the poults are moved to “grow out” facilities.

Caruncle – A red-pink fleshy growth on the head and upper neck of a turkey.

Death Loss – Turkeys that die due to disease, natural causes, or catastrophe before reaching market weights.

Eggs – Turkey eggs are tan with brown speck and are larger than chicken eggs.

Flock – A large group of turkeys.

Hen – Female turkey.

Incubation Period – The period of time required for a turkey egg to hatch is 28 days.

Poult – Baby turkey; normally tan and brown.

Poults Placed – Poults placed on farms in all states for meat production or breeding. Poults exported or die en route to farms are excluded while extras supplied by hatcheries are included.

Snood – A long, red, fleshy growth from the base of the beak that hangs down over the beak.

Started Poult – Some producers prefer to purchase poults at approximately 2 months of age. The intensive care of poults during the brooding period is thus left to specialists.

Tom – A male turkey.

Turkeys Raised – For our purposes, turkeys grown to maturity. A hen usually takes 14-16 weeks to reach a slaughter weight of 15 pounds, and a tom 16-19 weeks to reach market weight of 30-35 pounds. Maturity for breeding purposes is generally considered 5 months of age. Hens are processed and usually sold as whole birds, while toms are further processed into products such as cutlets, tenderloins, turkey sausage, turkey franks, and turkey deli meats.

Wattle – A bright red appendage at the neck.

Things to Watch Out For

- If turkeys were previously owned and raised by contractees, but are not raised by contractees now.
- No poults being placed in their home state.
- Death loss is outside the 5-20% range.
- Poults placed is unequal to total reported.

February Turkeys Raised Practice Interviews

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Practice Interview 1:

Who is responding? **Operator**

Let me verify the name, address, and phone number that I have for this operation. Is this information correct? **Yes**

Did you (or this firm) own turkeys that were raised during September 1, 20XX to August 31, 20XX? **Yes**

Were any of these turkeys you owned raised by contractees during 20XX? **No**

How many total poultz placed in all flocks were owned by you between September 1, 20XX to August 31, 20XX? **8,000**

Of the 8,000 total poultz placed, how many were placed in [Home State]? **7,000**

Of the 7,000 total poultz placed, how many poultz were lost during September 1, 20XX to August 31, 20XX? **560**

So, of the 7,000 total poultz placed in [Home State], there were 6,440 poultz raised. Is that correct? **Yes**

Did you place poultz in another state? **Yes**



Please select the State where you placed poult to be raised. **New Mexico**

How many poult were placed in New Mexico? **1,000**

Of the total poult placed, how many were lost in New Mexico? **50**

So, of the 1,000 total poult placed in New Mexico, there were 950 poult raised. Is that correct? **Yes**

Did you place poult in another state? **No**

What was the average price received per pound for turkeys sold live weight during 20XX? **\$0.79**

How many turkeys were placed on your operation during 20XX that were owned by another person or firm? **0**

Do you make any day-to-day decisions for another farm or ranch? **No**

Would you rather have a brief summary emailed to you at a later date? **No**



Practice Interview 2:

Who is responding? **Operator**

Let me verify the name, address, and phone number that I have for this operation. Is this information correct? **Yes**

Did you (or this firm) own turkeys that were raised during September 1, 20XX to August 31, 20XX? **No**

Were any turkeys placed on your operation owned by another person or firm during September 1, 20XX to August 31, 20XX? **Yes**

How many turkeys were placed on your operation during 20XX that were owned by another person or firm? **5,000**

What is the name, address, and phone number of the owner?

Jimmy Gobbs
567 Tukey Leg Lane
Hillsboro, MI 98765
123-999-5678

Do you make any day-to-day decisions for another farm or ranch? **No**

Would you rather have a brief summary emailed to you at a later date? **No**



Practice Interview 3:

Who is responding? **Son, Marcus Farmer**

Let me verify the name, address, and phone number that I have for this operation. Is this information correct? **Yes**

Did you (or this firm) own turkeys that were raised during September 1, 20XX to August 31, 20XX? **Yes**

Were any of these turkeys you owned raised by contractees during 20XX? **Yes**

How many total poult placed in all flocks were owned by you between September 1, 20XX to August 31, 20XX? **78,000**

Of the total poult placed, how many were placed under a production contract for this operation during September 1, 20XX to August 31, 20XX? **3,800**

Of the 78,000 total poult placed, how many were placed in [Home State]? **62,500**

Of the 62,500 total poult placed, how many poult were lost during September 1, 20XX to August 31, 20XX? **6,875**

So, of the 62,500 total poult placed in [Home State], there were 55,625 poult raised. Is that correct? **Yes**

Did you place poult in another state? **Yes**



Please select the state where you placed poult to be raised. **Louisiana**

How many poult were placed in Louisiana? **15,500**

Of the poult placed, how many were lost in Louisiana? **1,240**

So, of the 15,500 total poult placed in Louisiana, there were 14,296 poult raised. Is that correct? **Yes**

Did you place poult in another state? **No**

What was the average price received per pound for turkeys sold live weight during 20XX? **\$0.68**

How many turkeys were placed on your operation during 20XX that were owned by another person or firm? **12,500**

What is the name, address, and phone number of the turkeys' owner?

Jason Beard

1897 Drumstick Drive

Canyon, TX 12345

987-654-3210

Do you make any day-to-day decisions for another farm or ranch? **No**

Would you rather have a brief summary emailed to you at a later date? **No**

