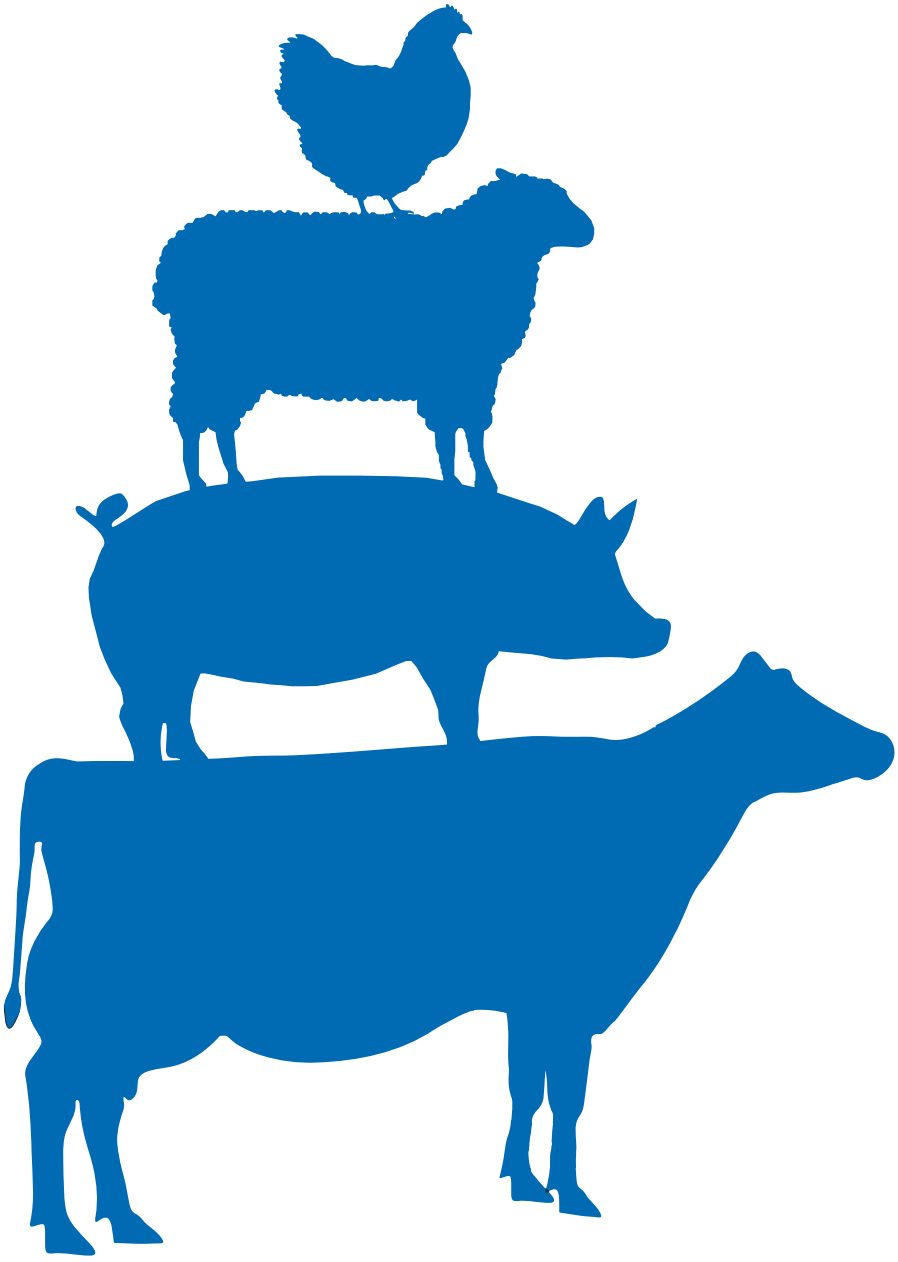
CHS MIRACLE OF BIRTH CENTER

Corner of Judson and Clough Street



2024 EDITION

CHS MIRACLE OF BIRTH CENTER

The CHS Miracle of Birth Center is an exhibit that brings together the veterinary and livestock farming communities. These efforts are organized and executed by the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association and supported by youth leaders of the Minnesota FFA Organization and the University of Minnesota Veterinary Education Program. This collaboration provides a public exhibit that offers an educational experience for visitors of the Minnesota State Fair.

OBJECTIVES

1. Provide ambassadors representing farmers, veterinarians and supporting agriculturalists for the Minnesota agricultural community.

2. Share the exciting experience of birth on farms, which farmers and veterinarians experience every day, with the public.

3. Provide insight and perspective of the work of farmers to provide the world with an ample supply of safe, wholesome food.

4. Provide visual examples of proper animal handling procedures, provide a safe environment for livestock, and share information on animal care used daily by farmers and ranchers.

5. Work together to keep animals clean, comfortable, and healthy.

6. Provide information on modern production practices used on farms, with the help of veterinarians to improve the care of livestock and provide safe, healthy and nutritious food.

7. Enhance relationships between staff and volunteers and their impact on fair visitors' experience.

8. Visitors will be able to experience the joys and challenges of raising livestock and have an opportunity to connect and have personal dialogue with farmers and agriculturalists as representatives of the models presented as modern agriculture.

9. Provide connecting opportunities during the exhibit with live commentary related to animal birth, farm care and production practices daily during the fair.

KEY MESSAGES

Miracle of Birth
Today, you are witnessing the miracle of birth, which happens every day on American farms. A farmer's priority is the care and well-being of their animals and the environment. This dedication lays the foundation for farmers and veterinarians to work as a team to give the best care for their livestock and provide a safe food supply.

- Healthy animals start with proper nutrition, living conditions, and veterinary care.
- Preventative health care provided by veterinarians is important to caring for farm animals.
- Veterinarians help oversee animal health through regular checkups, as well as emergency care.
- Farmers take great personal pride in providing nutritious, wholesome foods.

FFA has made a positive difference in my life by:
FFA has developed my potential to be a leader by:
FFA has helped me grow personally by:
FFA has helped me prepare for the future by:

**FFA makes a positive difference in students' lives by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.
To accomplish its mission, FFA:

- Develops competent and assertive agricultural leadership.
- Increases awareness of agriculture's global and technological importance and contribution to our well-being.
- Strengthens the confidence of agriculture students in themselves and their work.
- Promotes the intelligent choice and establishment of an agricultural career.
- Encourages achievement in supervised agricultural experience programs.
- Encourages wise management of community economic, environmental, and human resources.
- Develops interpersonal skills in teamwork, communications, human relations, and social interaction.
- Builds character and promotes citizenship, volunteerism, and patriotism.
- Promotes cooperation and cooperative attitudes among all people.
- Promotes healthy lifestyles.
- Encourages excellence in scholarship.

2024 H5N1 Key Message

- As the agricultural community continues to learn about the impact of H5N1 on lactating dairy cows, exposure must be limited for everyone. Dairy farmers are focused on keeping their livestock healthy, which means keeping them on the farm to limit disease transfer. Pasteurized dairy products are safe and healthy, as always.

KEY MESSAGES

Miracle of Birth
Today, we are witnessing the miracle of birth, a process that is part of nature's plan. A farmer's first priority is the care and well-being of their animals. This dedication lays the foundation for farmers' and veterinarians' lifelong work on farms that is so vital to feeding the world and supporting our local communities.

Farmers
Farmers touch the lives of Americans each and every day with the food and fiber they produce. They work hard every day to care for their animals; to provide wholesome, nutritious, high-quality food; and to take good care of the environment. They are productive members of their communities. They love the work they do.

Animal Care
Farmers recognize and take seriously their responsibility to care for their herds and flocks. Healthy animals start with proper nutrition, proper living conditions and good veterinary care.

Veterinary Care
Preventative health care provided by veterinarians is important to the care of farm animals. Veterinarians help oversee animal health through regular checkups, as well as emergency care. Veterinarians and farmers work as a team to give the best care possible to animals.

Calves (messaging regarding the barrier/not touching young calves)
As caregivers for livestock, our priority is animal health. Calves have not developed their immune systems and because this takes time, we want to limit the germs that humans may introduce them to. Calves may carry bacteria that could make people sick, too. It is best that visitors limit contact to be sure both the calves and our visitors aren't transferring germs back and forth. We are focused on the health of our animals and our visitors.

Food Safety
Farmers, along with those who manufacture and distribute food, place the highest priority on producing the most wholesome and high-quality food in the world. Farmers take great personal pride in providing all of us with good, wholesome foods.

Environment
Farmers are the original recyclers: growing crops, feeding the grain to animals and using the nutrients in animal manure as fertilizer to decrease reliance on petroleum-based fertilizers. Additionally, protecting the air we breathe, the water we consume and the land we love are important values of the people involved in the entire food system.

Community and Economic Impact
Farmers take pride in being good citizens in their communities. Farm families participate in service clubs, church groups and school boards—because, like their neighbors, they want to preserve their surroundings for future generations. In Minnesota, animal agriculture contributes to the state's economic growth and generates value-added economic activity.

INDUSTRY KEY MESSAGES

General Dairy Message—Minnesota dairy farms feed communities like yours because they belong to communities like yours. Over 96% of dairy farms are family-owned, providing locally sourced, sustainable nutrition through innovation in sustainability, technology, and animal care.

H5N1 Talking Points - The dairy industry remains vigilant in monitoring animal health and implementing biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, including H5N1. Dairy farmers are committed to ensuring the health and well-being of their dairy animals. Pasteurized milk and other dairy products are safe to consume. As the USDA, FDA and CDC note, there continues to be no concern about the safety of the commercial milk supply because of both the pasteurization process and that milk from sick cows is being diverted or destroyed. Minnesota requires all lactating cows to have a negative H5N1 test result and Certificate of Veterinary Inspection to attend the State Fair or any exhibition in Minnesota.

Why aren't you calving at the CHS Miracle of Birth Center this year?
Out of an abundance of caution and because pregnant cows are not able to be tested for the H5N1 virus until they give birth and produce milk, no live dairy calf births will take place at this year's CHS Miracle of Birth Center. Once the cow gives birth she will begin lactating, she is then subject to the testing requirement, and since she is on-site, we would not be able to follow the timeframe outlined by the Board of Animal Health. Our priority is to keep our livestock and fair visitors healthy and safe.
Check back next year for our calving exhibit.

Other than no live cattle births, are there any other changes in the CHS Miracle of Birth Center?
Visitors should continue to expect an educational experience about the vital role that animal agriculture and veterinary medicine play in the state of Minnesota. The birthing center will continue to offer opportunities for visitors to see the "miracle of birth" for sheep, pigs and poultry and may even be able to see video of a calf birth from previous years. There will be different breeds of dairy calves as well as a non-lactating cow. There will also be some beef cows and calves. All of which will provide an extended learning experience.

Beef - Minnesota is home to nearly 18,000 beef farmers and ranchers. These cattlemen and women are committed to animal welfare and safety to provide the highest-quality beef possible, and the BQA (Beef Quality Assurance) program helps to ensure cattle are raised humanely under optimum conditions. Beef is a healthy, protein-packed option with 10 essential vitamins and minerals including ZIP: Zinc, Iron, & Protein!

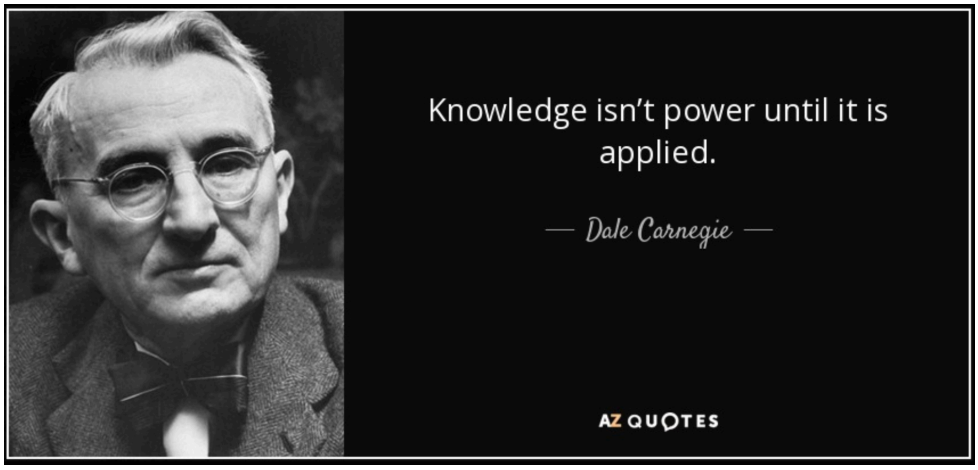
Hogs - Sows (mom pigs) have an average of 12-16 piglets per litter. Pigs are fully grown to 280 pounds by 6 months of age - they are efficient, only needing 2.5 pounds of feed to gain 1 pound of weight. They eat a diet of corn, soybeans, vitamins and minerals to keep them growing and healthy. Minnesota is the second largest pig-producing state (after Iowa). Minnesota is home to more than 3,000 family pig farms.

Minnesota's Turkey Industry - Leading Producer: Minnesota is the top turkey-producing state in the U.S., raising about 45 million turkeys annually on over 600 farms. Most turkey farms in Minnesota are family-owned, passed down through generations, demonstrating a strong tradition of commitment and expertise in turkey farming. Turkey is a healthy protein option, being low in fat and high in essential nutrients like protein and vitamins, making it a great addition to any diet.

HUMAN RELATION PRINCIPLES FOR SUCCESS

Based on teachings of Dale Carnegie

- Don't criticize, condemn, or complain.
- Give honest, sincere appreciation.
- Arouse in the other person an eager want (figure out what they want and show them how to get it).
- Become genuinely interested in other people.
- SMILE.
- A person's name is the sweetest and most important sound to that person.
- Be a good listener and encourage others to talk about themselves.
- Talk in terms of the other person's interests.
- Make the other person feel important and do it sincerely.
- The only way to get the best of an argument is to avoid it.
- If you are wrong, admit it quickly and emphatically.
- Get the other person saying, "YES, YES" immediately.
- Try honestly to see things from the other person's point of view.



How can we use these principles to connect with vistors?

Don't criticize, condemn, or complain.

Give honest, sincere appreciation.

Arouse in the other person an eager want (figure out what they want and show them how to get it).

Become genuinely interested in other people.

SMILE.

A person's name is the sweetest and most important sound to that person.

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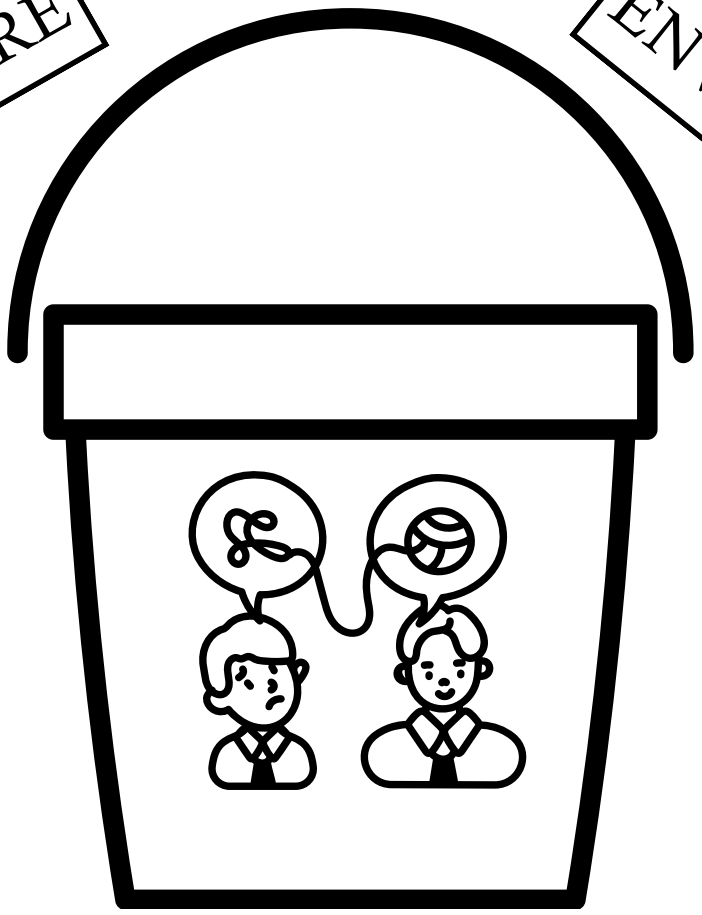
FOOD

VALUES

PEOPLE

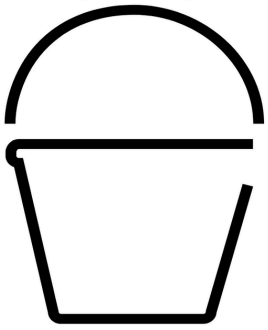
ANIMAL CARE

ENVIRONMENT



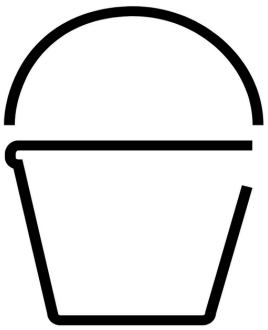
AgVocacy in Action

Misperception



Value

Practice



Connection Opportunity: "Just like you I also value _____, that's why...

AgVocacy in Action

Understanding begins with productive conversations

INTRODUCE

#1

Introduce yourself and ask the name of the other person.

Be positive in your body language and tone of voice

NOTES:

LISTEN

#2

Ask the person questions to learn more about what they know about their concern.

Don't listen to respond, but to understand

NOTES:

CONNECT

#3

Find common ground. What connection do you share related to the topic of the concern?

experiences, feelings, values, concerns

NOTES:

SHARE

#4

Share what you know. Provide specific details of the practices surround that topic.

Focus on the WHY.

NOTES:

BE A BRIDGE BUILDER

Bridging can be used for common questions AND tough questions at CHS Miracle of Birth Center.
Bridging Statements for tough conversations

1. "I think it would be more accurate (or correct) to say..."
2. "Let me emphasize again..."
3. "And that reminds me..."
4. "Before we leave this subject, I need to add..."
5. "Like you, I agree that _____ (insert value) is important, that's why on farms we_____- (insert practice with simple explanation)."

Bridging a common question:

"What is the calves (or any other specie) name?"

This is a question you can get often. When asked this question we will provide a name as that is **fun and adds personalization** to CHS Miracle of Birth Center. We want to consider a bridging statement to provide some information about **farm practices and husbandry** with the fairgoer.

"This calves name is Fred. On cattle farms we typically don't name livestock. Cattle are commonly given ear tags commonly on Minnesota farms and these numbers allow us to keep track of individual health and breeding records on each head of cattle."

"Is this a boy or a girl?

"This is a male pig. We use names for animals on farm depending on their gender. In pigs we call males Boars or Barrows and females Gilts or Sows, depending on their age and if they are a breeding or market animal.

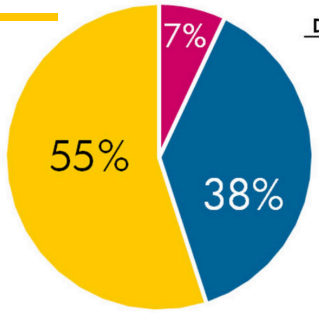
All questions are valid and important. Remember, many visitors have never been around farm animals and may not know much about the topic, just like each of us that haven't been exposed to something may also ask questions.

COMMUNICATING WITH OTHERS

FIRST, DO A SELF-CHECK.

Am I …

- Visibly closed off or open and receptive?
- Waiting to talk or really listening?
- Reacting or responding?
- Thinking "Me vs. You" or "Me and You"?
  - Or "Us vs. Them" or "Us and Them"?



Dr. Albert Mehrabian's 7-38-55% Rule

Elements of Personal Communication

- 7% spoken words
- 38% voice, tone
- 55% body language

What do I do if...

I say something wrong.

- *Excuse me, I said that wrong.*
- *That is not what I meant to say. Let me try that again.*
- *That didn't come out right, let me clarify.*

I don't know the answer.

- *I don't know, but I do know that...*
- *I am not the best person to ask, I can get you in contact with...*
- *We don't know the results yet OR I wish I could, but...*

I get mad and react poorly.

FIRST...Breath, pause, & check body language

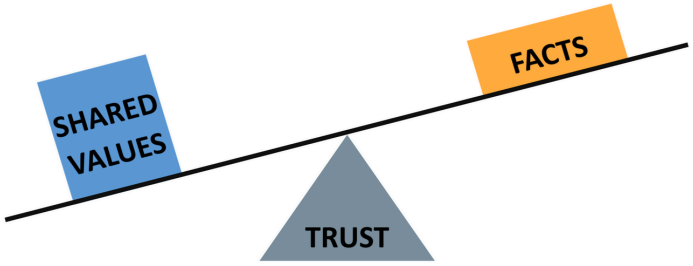
- *Explain that you are very passionate about this subject and explain your emotion.*
- *Calmy continue.*

I can't find common ground.

- *Agree to disagree*
- *Tell the person you appreciate the opportunity to talk about this concern.*
- *Walk away from the conversation politely.*

LET'S TALK AG...THE BEST WAY!

What Drives Consumer Trust?



Shared values are 3-5x more important to building trust than sharing facts or demonstrating technical skills/expertise

Trust research was published in the December 2009 *Journal of Rural Sociology*
Sapp/Look East

WINNING WORDS

Today, we are witnessing the miracle of birth...

Farmers' first priority is the care and well-being of their animals.

The birth process of an exciting part of nature.

Farmers...

These newborn animals are built to thrive.

Family Farm...

Healthy animals start with proper nutrition, healthy living conditions and good veterinary care.

Preventative health care provided by veterinarians...

FARMERS RECOGNIZE AND TAKE SERIOUSLY THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO...

Wholesome, safe, and high-quality food...

Farmers are the original recyclers...

Farmers take pride...

THAT'S A COMMON MISPERCEPTION...

That's not my area of expertise, but what I can tell you is ...

On the farm where I live...

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION TO ASK YOUR MOM...

No, let me explain ...

No, that's not true...

The most important point to remember is ...

LET'S TALK AG...THE BEST WAY!

WORDS to USE and LOSE

USE IT

Farmer

Farm

Farm Families

Farm Team

Farm Community

United States Department of Agriculture

Environmental Protection Agency

Creates Rural Jobs

Sustainability

Calves

Strong, Healthy (referring to livestock)

Proper Disease Names (H1N1, BSE, etc.)

Animal Care/Wellbeing

Safe, Content

Excellent Nutrition

Sick Animal

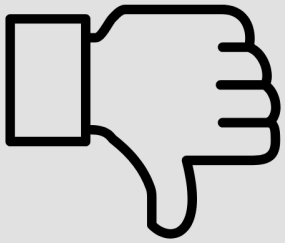
Veterinarian

Manure/Poop

Natural Occurring Hormone

Share your story

I can't answer that question, but what I can tell you is...



LOSE IT

Producer

Operation, Business

USDA

EPA

Economic Impact/Benefits

Efficiency/Efficient

Baby Calves

Cute, Cuddly, Adorable

Mad Cow Disease, Bird Flu, Swine Flu

Happy (insert livestock species)

Balanced Rations

Down Animal

Vet

Animal Waste

BST, rBST

Educate

No Comment

"You eat so you should know"

WHAT IF THINGS GO WRONG?

IF CONVERSATIONS BECOME CONFRONTATIONAL/AGGRESSIVE:

Find a manager!

- Volunteers (Veterinarians, Veterinarian Students, & FFA Members) are **not** expected to engage in conversations with visitors that become confrontational. It is appropriate not to agree, but neither volunteers nor visitors should create conversations that become aggressive.
  - Do not agree with the visitor if you do not concur; however, discuss their concerns.
    - "I hear your concerns. Let's talk about what I know."
  - Listen to visitors and their concerns and find a shared value, if possible.
  - Give examples and analogies to their questions if appropriate, and you feel comfortable doing so.
- If the techniques listed above do not calm a concerned visitor, calmly tell them that you want to make sure that their concerns are heard and documented and that you will find a manager that they can visit with more to gather the details of their concern. Bring the visitor near the office entrance and find a manager. Please don't leave the visitor on their own if possible and ask another volunteer to help you if needed.
- Activists may be on the fairgrounds and may enter the CHS Miracle of Birth Center. If you are aware of an activist in the building please follow the same advice above. Assure them that their concerns are important and that you would like the visitor to share them with the management.
- CHS Miracle of Birth Center managers are employed by the fair and have training to engage in these conversations, as well as how to report concerns to state fair personnel.
- These types of situations are uncommon, however you shouldn't take on these conversations on your own.

No one cares how much you know
until they know how much you care.

FREQUENTLY ASKED Q & A

What time is the next birth?	You can't time a miracle so check back throughout the day on our animals. Just like farmers we monitor all our expectant mothers here at the CHS Miracle of Birth Center 24/7 throughout the fair.
Do the animals go home when they are done here?	Most of the animals go back to the farm they came here from, however, some animals go to a different farm because they can't return to their orignial farm due to biosecurity and health of the animals on the farm. Sometimes animals can bring diseases with them. Veterinarians and farmers work together to be ensure animal health is a priority.
Is it a boy or a girl? How do you know?	This (specie of animal) is a boy (or girl). We know because they have boy parts or girl parts and characteristics for their gender. If you are comfortable with using proper terminology you can also say". Male animals have a penis and female animals have a vulva.
How big is the animal and how big will it get?	All species of livestock have different sizes and shapes. Farmers have worked diligently to use genetics to improve livestocks use of resources to get to market weight if the animal will be used for meat. Some livestock are utilized for breeding purposes, but either way their feed rations are balanced by a livestock nutritionist to assure proper growth and health. 99% of non-edible parts are turned into everyday products including soap, tires, antifreeze, gelatin and clothing.
What breed is that animal and how do you know?	This (specie of animal) is (name of breed). There are various breeds on farms and they have different characteristics related to market or breeding quailities. Farmers choose which breeds work best for their farm and for the product they are marketing. Breeds can also be chosen based on the farmers management skills and financial status.
Is it hard for the animals to be here?	Farmers and Veterinarians work together to be unsure livestock are comfortable on farms and have done the same here at the CHS Miracle of Birth Center. Livestock are raised outdoors, indoors, or even a combination of both depending on the species and farm. There isn't only one way to raise livestock correctly and respectfully. We focus on the same level of animal care here at MOBC.
Where does all the manure go?	The manure is all collected here at MOBC and put into a bunk that is picked up daily and used as fertilizer on both organic and conventional farms. Farmers follow application recommendations set by the University of Minnesota to properly provide nutrients at the right levels to care for our environment.
Why are the pigs in stalls?	Individual stalls are important tools for keeping sows safe from harm and properly fed when they are most at risk. Sows can easily lie down in them and move forward, back, and side to side and these stalls provide the most sanitary environment for farrowing (giving birth) with unlimited resources to water and feed for the sow. Farmers and veterinarians use science based information to make decisions for their housing, nutrition, and protocols related to animal care and safety.
Why is the calf (dairy) separated from its mother?	Dairy farmers have used genetics to improve milk production and structure of their livestock. Mothering ability is a genetic trait that hasn't been focused on so dairy cows do not have strong mothering ability and lose interest in their calves leading to issues with care. Farmers can best care for the calves by providing them with colostrum (cow's first milk) to build their immune system, a clean environment and medical care. Farmers take animal care seriously and are focused on the best for their animals.

FREQUENTLY ASKED Q & A

Why is the beef calf with its mother and the dairy isn't?	(see above). In comparision to dairy, beef farmers and ranchers depend on their cows to stay with the calves to raise them long term. They choose genetics for mothering ability for their herd so the females are genetically prepared to provide care through adequate milk production and protection from predators since they are often on pasture. Genetics plays a large role in the mothering ability of livestock. Farmers take seriously the responsibility to provide the best care possibily for both beef and dairy calves.
Why are they bottle feeding the calf (dairy)?	Calves will primarily drink milk after birth and will soon have access to free-choice feed and water, as well, as they grow and thrive. Farmers buy milk replacer specialy formulated for calves and feed bottles multiple times a day to ensure proper nutrition. Nutrition is important for calves to grow and be healthy.
Why is the calf pulled out with chains?	When cows have trouble calving farmers or veterinarians take action to help by using techniques that safely help with the birthing process. The OB chain is utilized for aiding in the delivery of a calf when assistance is required during birth.
Why do some animals have ear tags or notches?	Caring for animals individually and keeping accurate records for livestock is essential for their health and nutrition. Ear tags are commonly used on farms to give an animal an identification number that can be used in our records for each individual animal. Ear tags are not effective for hogs, so often they have small notches put into their ears at birth that provide a number sequence for each individual pig. Identification is typically done at birth.
Why are some chickens in cages and some in an open space?	There are various methods of housing livestock on farms. Some examples here at CHS Miracle of Birth Center include conventional cage systems, enriched colony caged, and cage free systems. These systems are developed with science based information and offer different products to market for consumer preference. No method is better than another and farmers using these methods are focused on animal care and environmental stewardship. (refer to display information in the chicken area as well)

Livestock Providers

Sows:
Fiedler Finishing LLC
Villard MN

Sheep:
Robyn & Peter Beck, Princeton, MN
&
Dr. Chris Nord, Milaca, MN

Beef Cow-Calf Pair (Hereford):
Maddi Beisel, Randolph FFA

Beef Cow-Calf Pair (Simmental):
Paul Krueger, Hastings, MN

Holstein Cow & Calves:
Haubenschild Farm, Princeton, MN

Jersey Calf
Brickton Genetics LLC, Princeton, MN

Hens:
Donated by local Minnesota Farms

Typical Daily Schedule:

Sometime between 6-6:30 am: Pickup & Arrive at CHS MOBC
6:30-9 am: Morning Chores ((Feeding, Cleaning, Milking, Etc.)
8:30-9:30 am: 1st Half of Group at Breakfast/Break (Remaining Group on Exhibit Duties)
9:00am: CHS MOBC Opens
9:30-10:30 am: 2nd Half of Group at Breakfast/Break (Remaining Group on Exhibit Duties)
9:00 am-2:00 pm: CHS MOBC Exhibit Duties (Interaction with Fair Guests, Holding Animals, Animal Care, Media Appearances, Etc.)
11:30-12:30: 1st Half of Group at Lunch/Break (Remaining Group on Exhibit Duties)
1:00-2:00 pm: 2nd Half of Group at Lunch/Break (Remaining Group on Exhibit Duties)
2:00 pm: Mid-Day Animal Clean, Feed, & Check
4:00 pm: Manager Transition/Afternoon Meeting & Check-In
4:30-6:00 pm: 1st Half of Group at Dinner/Break (Remaining Group on Exhibit Duties)
4:30-7:30 pm: CHS MOBC Exhibit Duties
6:15-7:45 pm: 2nd Half of Group at Dinner/Break (Remaining Group on Exhibit Duties)
7:30 pm: Beginning Evening Chores (Feeding, Cleaning, Milking, Etc.)
8:45 pm: Beginning Closing Procedures
9:00 pm: CHS MOBC Closes
9:00-9:30 pm: Remaining Evening Chores
9:30 pm: Return to Housing/Dorms

What to bring:
Closed-toed work shoes (may want two pair)
Long pants/jeans to be worn during CHS MOBC hours (Note: These jeans should be free of holes, stains, etc. Label all clothes as they'll be mixed in laundry)
Non-Barn shoes
Work clothes/t-shirts (Label all clothes as they'll be mixed in the laundry.)
Towel
Toiletries
Sleeping Bag/Bedding
Extra spending money per your needs.

What we provide:
Two FFA Volunteer T-shirts are to be worn while the CHS MOBC is open.
Water Bottle
Washer & Dryer for Laundry
MN State Fair Gate Tickets (if needed) for shift drop-off and pick-up (1 ticket for FFA Volunteer and one ticket for Driver)
Meal Tickets and/or food we provide for breakfast, lunch and dinner
Evening Snacks
Housing at Beta of Clovia, LDPhi, or FarmHouse

Other notes:
Hats are not allowed to be worn during CHS MOBC open hours.
Cell phones are not to be used when on exhibit or interacting with fair guests.
Onsite parking is not available for volunteers. FFA Volunteers who drive will have to park their vehicles off-site and will not have access to their vehicles during their shift. It is preferred that FFA members get a ride to and from the fair at the beginning/conclusion of their shift.

Meals @ the State Fair

Official MN State Fair App

Be in the know when you're on the go! Download the NEW Official MN State Fair App, available in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. Add it to your smartphone to plan your visit from the palm of your hand. Check out the latest information on the 2024 Official New Foods, Food Finder, Shopping Finder, Daily Schedules, Grandstand lineup, hours, transportation information and MORE!

DETAILS

Our BRAND NEW Official MN State Fair App offers interactive finders and searchable daily schedules. Create a list of "Favorites" to review later! Our integrated Food Finder and Shopping Finder are searchable by vendor names, menu items and map area. Once you've made your way onto the fairgrounds, you'll be able to find fair favorites closest to you in real time!

Housing Information

Females: Clovia and LDPhi Sorority on St. Paul Campus
Males: Farmhouse Fraternity on St. Paul Campus.

All houses will have chaperones to check you in when you arrive each night. You are not allowed to leave the house until the MOBC Staff arrives to pick you up the following morning.

When you arrive in the evening, all houses will have food or snacks for you. You are not allowed to leave to get food.

Beds, couches, or air mattresses will be available, but all bedding must be brought in.

Daily Chore List

DAIRY/BEEF COWS AND CALF PENS

- Daily Morning:
  - Secure barrier gates for cleaning safety.
  - Lock all stalled cows in head gates prior to cleaning.
  - Deep clean cow and calf pens to the floor and replace with new shavings and straw.
  - Ensure waterers are not overflowing but running and clean.
  - Ensure feeders are clean.
  - Clean and scrub all gates daily.
  - Clean manure spots off animals.
  - Sanitize milking and calf feeding equipment after morning milking.
  - Sweep the area around the pens.
  - Spray all gates/pens with disinfectant.
  - Help in other areas if your area is completed
- Daily Evening:
  - Secure barrier gates for cleaning safety.
  - Ensure waterers are not overflowing but running and clean.
  - Ensure feeders are clean.
  - Clean and scrub all gates daily.
  - Deep clean cow and calf pens to the floor and replace with new shavings and straw.
  - Sanitize milking and calf feeding equipment after evening milking.
  - Help in other areas if your area is completed
- As Needed Throughout the Day:
  - Manure spot cleaning.
  - Assist with calving when asked.
  - Help with answering questions, safety cleanup after calving, and bottling colostrum.
  - Volunteers to observe and communicate with fairgoers.
- General Precautions:
  - Volunteers stationed near calves to ensure fairgoers do not touch or handle them.

SWINE FARROWING AND GESTATION STALLS

- Daily Morning:
  - Clean and scrub out collection containers and replace with Nolvasan and water.
  - Deep clean stalls and brush fecal matter from mesh flooring.
  - Monitor feed intake.
  - Spot clean sow as needed.
  - Clean floor heating pads.
  - Clean and scrub floor areas under and around the stall area.
  - Spray sanitizer and wipe the exterior and plexiglass of the stall.
  - Advance/relocate stalls for the farrowing display.
  - Hose down floors around pigs.
  - Spray all gates/pens with disinfectant.
  - Help in other areas if your area is completed

- Daily Evening:
  - Refer to morning cleaning tasks.
  - Advance/relocate stalls for the next fair day for birthing.
  - Help in other areas if your area is completed
- As Needed Throughout the Day:
  - Manure spot cleaning.
  - Assist farrowing staff for guidance and cleanup.
  - Ensure waterers are working and not leaking.
  - Monitor drippers and heat lamps.
  - Monitor and clean floor heating pads.
- General Precautions:
  - Volunteers ensure fairgoers do not touch or handle piglets.
  - Specific litters are chosen daily for handling by staff.

SHEEP AND GOATS DISPLAYS

- Daily Morning:
  - Deep clean pens, replace with shavings and straw.
  - Clean and scrub all gates.
  - Clean, scrub, and hose down floor areas.
  - Advance/relocate ewes for lambing.
  - Spray all gates/pens with disinfectant.
  - Help in other areas if your area is completed
- Daily Evening:
  - Clean pens and replace them with shavings and straw.
  - Clean and scrub all gates.
  - Advance/relocate stalls for lambing display.
  - Help in other areas if your area is completed
- As Needed Throughout the Day:
  - Manure spot cleaning.
  - Ensure hay and clean water are available.
  - Assist lambing staff with guidance and cleanup.
- General Precautions:
  - Volunteers ensure fairgoers only touch specific lambs.

LAYING HENS DISPLAY

- Daily Morning:
  - Empty the manure slide-out rack and add new shavings.
  - Sweep and pick up debris around the display.
  - Sweep and hose down floors, walls, and fences.
  - Clean out the feed trough as needed.
  - Spray all gates/pens with disinfectant.
  - Help in other areas if your area is completed
- Daily Evening:
  - Sweep and pick up debris around the display.
  - Clean out the feed trough as needed.
  - Eggs are only picked up by MVMA staff.
  - Help in other areas if your area is completed.

- As Needed Throughout the Day:
  - Inspect and clean as needed.
  - Ensure waterers are running but not leaking.
- General Precautions:
  - Volunteers inform fairgoers not to pick up eggs or poke at the birds.

INCUBATION ROOM AREA

- Daily Morning:
  - Check temperature and humidity.
  - Add water to humidity bowls as needeVacuum and wash displayed incubators.
  - Work with staff to move eggs from the enclosed incubator to the display incubator.
  - Wipe glass surfaces.
  - Spray and hose down the entire room.
  - Spray all gates/pens with disinfectant.
  - Help in other areas if your area is completed
- Daily Evening:
  - Sweep and pick up debris around the display.
  - Check temperature and humidity.
  - Add water to humidity bowls as needed
  - Help in other areas if your area is completed
- As Needed Throughout the Day:
  - Check temperature and humidity.
  - Add water to humidity bowls as needed
  - Inspect and clean as needed.
  - Wipe glass surfaces.
  - Hatched chicks that are completely dried can be moved to the small animal's area
- General Precautions:
  - Volunteers inform fairgoers not to pick up eggs or newly hatched chicks.

SMALL ANIMALS (RABBITS/DUCKS/CHICKS/TURKEYS)

- Daily Morning:
  - Empty water containers, clean and refill.
  - Remove grass and replace as needed.
  - Spray fencing and floor, then hose down the display.
  - Spray all gates/pens with disinfectant.
  - Help in other areas if your area is completed
- Daily Evening:
  - Empty water containers, clean and refill.
  - Cover duck water swimming ponds at night.
  - Help in other areas if your area is completed
- As Needed Throughout the Day:
  - Assigned staff inspect and clean as needed.
- General Precautions:
  - Volunteers inform fairgoers not to pick up newly hatched chicks, poke at turkeys, or handle ducklings.
  - Only volunteers handle rabbits for petting.

HAND WASHING AND SANITIZATION

Staying healthy when the farm comes to you!

Even healthy, well cared for animals can carry germs that can make people sick

If the farm's coming to you, follow these simple tips to stay healthy. Children under 5 years of age do not have fully formed immune systems and therefore should not have direct contact with higher risk animals such as calves, goats, chicks, ducklings, reptiles, or amphibians.

Keep food and drinks away from visiting animals

This includes water bottles, sippy cups, and pacifiers. You don't want to get germs on them.

Don't touch your mouth

That's how germs get in your body and make you sick.

Wash your hands

Wash hands with soap and water after visiting the animals and before eating. Don't rely on hand sanitizer. It doesn't work against all germs.

Wear the right gear

Wear closed-toe shoes and clothes you can get dirty. When you get home remove your shoes. Change your clothes and wash them.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
www.health.state.mn.us

UMASH Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center

HAND WASHING AND SANITIZATION

Breed Info:

Jersey Dairy Cattle

It is typically light brown in color, though this can range from being almost grey to dull black, which is known as Mulberry. They can also have white patches, which may cover much of the animal. A true Jersey will however always have a black nose bordered by an almost white muzzle. The Jersey is relatively small in size - about 850 to 950 pounds in weight and have a fine but strong frame.

- Jerseys produces a pound of milk components at a lower cost compared to the other major breeds.
- She has little or no calving problems, greater fertility, a shorter calving interval, and earlier maturity.
- Jerseys stay in the herd longer than any other dairy breed.
- Jersey milk has the highest yield and greater efficiency when processed into cheese.
- Jerseys perform well under a wide range of systems and are well-known for their high feed conversion efficiency.
- Jersey milk is, in many ways, unique. As a product it contains:- 18% more protein, 20% more calcium, 25% more butterfat than "average" milk.
- Jerseys are well-known to be less susceptible to lameness because of their black hoof color, which makes their hooves very hard. Because Jerseys are a lighter breed, this may also give them fewer problems with lameness.
- Good Temperament is important in a dairy cow. Jerseys are thought to have one of the best temperaments among dairy breeds, although a lot of this depends on the handling the animals receive.

Holstein Dairy Cattle

Holsteins are most quickly recognized by their distinctive color markings and outstanding milk production. Holsteins are large cattle with color patterns of black and white or red and white.
A healthy Holstein calf weighs 90 pounds or more at birth. A mature Holstein cow weighs about 1500 pounds and stands 58 inches tall at the shoulder.

Holstein heifers can be bred at 15 months of age when they weigh about 800 pounds. It is desirable to have Holstein females calve for the first time between 24 and 27 months of age. Holstein's gestation is approximately nine months. While some cows may live considerably longer, the average productive life of a Holstein is six years.

- The average production for all Holsteins enrolled in official U.S. production-testing programs in 1987 was 17,408 pounds of milk, 632 pounds of butterfat, and 550 pounds of protein per year.
- Holsteins are more than just a dairy breed. They contribute to the meat supply worldwide, have a high growth percentage in the fattening sector, and produce meat with fine fibre. In industries aimed exclusively at milk production, they are cross-bred with beef breeds for better-quality veal.

Hereford Beef Cattle

Hereford is a popular breed of beef cattle, is the product of generations of breeding work on the part of landed proprietors and tenant farmers in the county of Herefordshire (now in Hereford and Worcester county), England. Herefordshire was noted for its luxuriant grasses, and in that district, for many generations, the Hereford was bred for beef and draft purposes. The characteristic color, red with a white face and white markings, has been fixed for only a comparatively short time. When the first herdbook was published in 1846, the editor grouped the breed into four classes: mottle-faced, light gray, dark gray, and red with white faces. Twenty-five years later, all but the last had practically disappeared. The outstanding characteristics of the breed are uniformity of color, early maturity, and the ability to thrive under adverse conditions.

Simmental Beef Cattle

The breed, which is today called Simmental Fleckvieh, has its origin in Simmen Valley Switzerland
In the last decade of the last century and the first decades of this century, the breed was used for milk, beef, and draught purposes in Europe and for extensive beef production in Namibia and South Africa.

Simmental cattle have proved very successful in crossbreeding with beef breeds to improve growth and milk performance. Simmentals are of special significance when used for crossbreeding with different breeds best adapted to extreme environmental conditions, such as Zebu and Brahman. The excellent suitability for extensive ranch and suckler herds has further enhanced the spread of the breed. Good mothering ability and excellent temperament are important characteristics of the breed.

Functional traits

Simmental cattle are healthy and hardy and show excellent adaptability to different geographical and climatic conditions. Easy calving, regular fertility, and long productive life are the basis for efficient production, besides the high-performance potential for milk and beef.

Finnsheep

Size

- Mature ewes in average condition will weigh 130 to 180 pounds.
- Mature rams, in average condition, will weigh 170 to 240 pounds.

Wool

Most Finn sheep in the USA are white, but they are increasingly available in a variety of colors and patterns. Finn wool has an unmistakably soft handle and luster. Fleeces average 4-6 lbs with a 3-6” staple and a micron count of 24 to 31 (50’s spinning count).

Meat

Finnsheep produces a lean, succulent carcass with a delicate flavor. Due to the breed’s year-round lambing ability, Finns can produce lamb for many seasonal and holiday markets.

Multiple Lambs

Renowned as a prolific breeder producing multiple births, the Finnsheep regularly has triplets and quadruplets. Our history records show several litters of octuplets and septuplets. It is not uncommon for ewe lambs twelve months of age to have twins and triplets. Finnsheep are excellent mothers, with plentiful milk for the large litters.

Early Reproductive Development

Unlike many other breeds, the Finnsheep matures very early. Rams mature at four to eight months and ewes are bred to lamb by 12 months of age.

Adaptability

The Finnsheep breed, as a whole, has a friendly disposition. They tend to have greater tolerance to heat and cold than most domestic breeds. They exhibit greater foraging ability, enjoying leaves and brush as much as cultivated pasture.

INDUSTRY INSIDER

Misconception: GMOs aren't safe and they're only tested by the companies making them.

You may have heard the rumors that GMOs cause cancer, autism, allergies, gluten intolerance, or other illnesses and conditions in humans and animals. This is simply not true. GMOs are the most regulated and tested product in agricultural history. Additionally, many independent scientists and organizations around the world – such as the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, World Health Organization, American Medical Association and the American Association for Advancement of Science – have looked at thousands of scientific studies and concluded that GM food crops do not pose more risks to people, animals or the environment than any other foods.

Before they reach the market, crops from GM seeds are studied extensively to make sure they are safe for people, animals and the environment. GMOs take years, and millions of dollars, to come to market.

Misconception: There is animal DNA in GMOs.

Once upon a time there was an experimental tomato that contained a gene from the winter flounder to increase the tomato's resistance to frost, but that tomato was never commercialized. While that tomato did not survive, its legend continues to live on in online search engines. While there are many fake images online featuring fishy tomatoes, there are, in fact, no GMO tomatoes commercially available today. Further, there are no commercial GM crops on the market today that are genetically modified to contain "animal genes".

It's important to note that an estimated 60 percent of the genes in plants have very similar copies in animals. While DNA isn't specifically pulled from a fish and combined with a plant, DNA from any source is made up of the same four basic nucleotide building blocks: adenine (A), cytosine (C), thymine (T), and guanine (G). DNA that comes from a plant or a microbe has the same four nucleotides as the DNA in animals.

Misconception: **Genetically modified crops cause farmers to overuse pesticides and herbicides.**

Two relevant GMOs dominate the market. The first enables crops to express a protein from the bacterium Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt), which is toxic to certain insects. It's also the active ingredient in pesticides used by organic farmers. Bt crops have dramatically reduced reliance on chemical insecticides in some regions, says Bruce Tabashnik, a University of Arizona entomologist.

The second allows crops to tolerate the herbicide glyphosate so that farmers can spray entire fields and kill only weeds. Glyphosate is among the mildest herbicides available, with a toxicity 25 times less than caffeine. Its use has decreased reliance on more toxic alternatives.

INDUSTRY INSIDER

Biosecurity

- Protecting flocks from disease is a top priority.
- All flocks in Minnesota are regularly tested for a number of avian diseases, and farmers follow strict biosecurity measures.
- What is "biosecurity?"
  - Biosecurity describes the procedures and practices followed to contain or prevent the spread of germs and viruses in a poultry flock and includes:
    - Limiting all but necessary visitors to the farm
    - Wearing protective clothing (such as coveralls, disposable gloves and shoe covers) when inside a barn
    - Cleaning and disinfecting vehicles and equipment before moving them on or off the property
  - A farmer's goal is to keep what's outside the barn out and what's inside the barn in.

Research

- Minnesota farmers are working with avian health experts and government agencies to study the avian influenza virus to better understand how it's spread.
- We're utilizing epidemiology, developing best practices for biosecurity, coordinating research and conducting tests of waterfowl to help us better prepare for - and ideally prevent - future waves of avian influenza.
- Combating avian influenza is truly a team effort!
  - University of Minnesota
  - Minnesota Board of Animal Health
  - Minnesota Department of Agriculture
  - U.S. Department of Agriculture
  - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
  - Minnesota Department of Health

INDUSTRY INSIDER

Turkeys

Turkeys also have names for specific types. An adult male turkey is called a tom or a gobbler. A young turkey of either sex is a poult.

All modern turkeys practice artificial insemination. Artificial insemination allows selective breeding of the sexes so breeders can raise fewer males and achieve higher rates of hatchability.

Once the turkey breeder female reaches 28 weeks of age they will start laying. It takes a female between 24 and 32 hours to produce a fertile egg. The eggs are automatically collected daily, transported to the hatchery, and stored at 55-65° F and 70% humidity until they are set in the incubator. The eggs are held here for about three to 10 days prior to being placed in an incubator.

Most integrated companies own their own hatchery to produce the poults. Incubators will hold thousands of eggs in a very controlled environment. They are then transferred into hatching baskets, and on the 28th day the poults hatch.

After hatching, poults they are removed from the hatchers and processed before being taken to a grow-out farm. Processing of turkeys include sexing (separating the males and females so the company can raise the two sexes separately), beak and toe trimming and vaccination.

Once the poults arrive at the integrated company's breeder grow-out farm, the birds are raised to 28 weeks of age under environmentally controlled conditions. Controlling the length of daylight is extremely important. During the 28 weeks of grow-out, hens will grow to 24-30 lbs and eat about 102 pounds of feed. Males will grow to 50-70 pounds and eat over 200 pounds of feed. Once they reach 28 weeks of age, parent breeding stock are transported to the breeder farm.

At the grow-out farm, poults are then placed in a floor rearing houses where they are raised under environmentally controlled conditions. Ventilation of the turkey house is critical for controlling temperature and humidity in the grow-out house. Birds are grown to different sizes depending on the market that they are meant to fill. On average, a hen turkey will consume around 35 pounds of feed (current cost of about $5.69 or $.33/pound of gain) and reach 14-20 pounds (live weight) in 12-14 weeks. Toms will consume about 90 pounds of feed (current cost of about $14.65 or $.38/pound of gain) and reach 35-42 pounds in 16-19 weeks.

INDUSTRY INSIDER

Turkeys

Once the birds reach the desired weight a company catching crew will catch and load the birds onto trucks for transportation to the processing plant. The catching crew takes a great deal of care in handling the birds to prevent bruises or injury.
Harvesting
At the processing plant turkeys are humanely slaughtered as quickly as possible. Once they are slaughtered, the feathers, offal, head, legs, and other items are removed leaving a whole dressed carcass ready for sale or to send onto further processing. The cost of processing turkey is about $.19 per pound. The wholesale price for a whole turkey carcass is about $.65 per pound.

https://extension.psu.edu/modern-turkey-industry

INDUSTRY INSIDER

Ducks

A drake is a mature male duck. A duckling is a young duck of either sex.

Ducklings hatching in an incubator. Once you have fertilized eggs, the next step is to hatch them. You can either use a broody duck to set a nest and hatch your eggs or you can use an incubator and hatch them yourself.

Either way, it takes 28 days of you or a duck tending and turning those eggs to hatch most duck breeds. Incubating duck eggs is more challenging than chicken eggs. However, with the right equipment and an understanding of humidity and the development cycle of the embryo, you can get good results.

Commercial duck production is carried out in extensive, semi-extensive and intensive systems. Extensive systems are frequent in Asia, while in Europe the intensive system predominates.

Ducks are generally rustic animals which have a lower incidence of disease than other domestic birds. They can easily adapt to simple, low-investment facilities, and can show satisfactory performance under these conditions.

The reception of the animals is a critical point in the production cycle. Comfort conditions must be ensured so that ducklings can start eating and drinking as soon as possible, to ensure a good weight at one week of life and reduce neonatal mortality.
Proper cleaning of the drinking systems, feeders and flooring is essential in this species, since a poor state of the facilities can offer the ideal conditions for the growth of pathogens.

The length of the cycle on commercial duck production depends on the breed, market, final product required, and production system used. Ducks are able to adjust feed intake based on the energy concentration of the formulation and they have better compensatory growth than other birds. Therefore, in formulations with a medium or low energy can be used in part of the cycle without excessively affecting conversion rates and performance.

https://www.veterinariadigital.com/en/articulos/management-in-commercial-duck-production/

INDUSTRY INSIDER

Rabbits

The primary use of rabbits in the United States is meat production, but other uses also exist. For instance, rabbits can be used for wool (fur), for their skins, as pets, and as laboratory animals.

With more than 200,000 meat rabbit producers, the United States consumes more than 8 million pounds of rabbit meat per year. Meat rabbits are raised as fryers or roasters. A fryer is a domestic rabbit, usually 12 weeks old, whose carcass weighs more than 1 1/2 pounds but no more than 4 pounds. A roaster is a rabbit that is heavier than a fryer or cull animal from the breeding herd.

Rabbit meat is a white meat that is high in nutrition and protein but low in fat, calories, and cholesterol. Like all other meats, rabbit must be inspected for proper sanitation and food safety.

To be successful in raising rabbits for meat, one must assess the amount of feed required for the animals to reach premium harvest weight. Rabbit production operations can range from small ones that market just a few rabbit carcasses a year to large ones that market thousands of carcasses a year. Most commercial operations sell fryers and roasters to processors. The processors then harvest the rabbits and market their skins and meat. Some producers harvest and market the rabbits they grow, but they must follow the same strict sanitation and harvesting regulations as large processors. Rabbits are also used to produce wool.

Angora rabbits are used because their wool grows between 2 and 3 inches long and can be harvested at a rate of 1 inch per month. On average, Angora rabbits shear 14 to 15 ounces of fleece per year. The use of Angora wool production from rabbits is about 20 million pounds annually. To raise Angora rabbits successfully, one must keep the rabbits' environment clean and harvest the wool often. Because the price for rabbit wool is low, raising animals for both wool and meat is a good idea. The wool is marketed for use in making clothing. Rabbits are also used for their skins. The pelts are usually marketed by the pound and bought by raw-fur buyers. A pelt is an animal's skin that still has the hair attached. Skins must meet specific requirements and therefore should not be cut or mutilated by overstretching or drying.

Rabbit producers primarily raise white breeds of rabbits because colored pelts are not worth as much as pure white pelts. The pelts are used in a variety of products, including ballet shoes, glue, gloves, toys, and even felt. Rabbits play an integral role in research, particularly in medical advancements. More than 600,000 rabbits are used each year for this purpose. Another way the rabbits are used is as pets or as 4-H and FFA projects. This use is generally classified as small. Rabbits can be raised outside or inside the house. Marketing for rabbits raised for pets is usually done locally.

http://agriculturewithmrsskien.weebly.com/uploads/2/1/3/2/21329554/rabbit_production_and_marketing.pdf

INDUSTRY INSIDER

Cattle

Female cattle are called heifers. After they have given birth, they are called cows. Male cattle are either bulls or steers. Bull calves that are mature and capable of producing offspring are called bulls. Steers are male cattle that have been neutered, therefore unable to reproduce.

The offspring of a bull and a cow is called a calf. **The length of pregnancy, or gestation, for a cow is about 283 days, approximately 9 months.** When a cow gives birth, it is called calving. Cows usually give birth to just one calf at a time, but twins are not uncommon. A calf weighs 80 to 100 pounds when it is born, depending on the breed.

In the last few weeks to days prior to birth, the calf rotates within the cow's uterus, and ends up facing the back end of the cow, with forelegs tucked under the chin, and the back of the calf upwards so that it is resting with abdomen and feet on the floor of the uterus.

In the day before birth, the cow will normally experience a drop in body temperature of about 1° C. Her appetite will generally drop off as well. The cow will find a quiet corner and pace and paw; appearing restless. She may kick at her belly, or turn around to stare at it and get up and lie down. A cow may arch her back and raise her tail prior to the birth. At this point, the calf is moving into the birth canal and birth membranes may be seen.

A few hours before the actual birth, there may be passage of some watery fluid as the water bag (amniotic sac) bursts. This is the time when the uterus begins full-strength contractions, and the calf passes out through the canal. The cow may rest for short periods in between pushes. When the calf arrives, the cow will normally turn and lick her offspring and this helps to stimulate the calf to breathe well, to rise and to nurse.

After the calf is born, the afterbirth or placenta is expelled. This usually happens within a few hours of birth.

Intake of the first milk (colostrum) is essential for the welfare of the calf. A typical calf needs to nurse about a gallon of this special milk which is rich in energy and provides antibodies from the mother that help protect the offspring from infections. This usually takes place within the first 12 hours.

It is important to prevent chilling in the newborn calf. A farmer will often towel dry the calf, and in a cold environment, a heat lamp may be provided. The farmer will also make sure that the membranes are passed and the navel is dipped in germicide.

INDUSTRY INSIDER

Pigs

Female pigs are called gilts. After gilt has given birth, she is called a sow

Male pigs are either boars or barrows. Boars are male pigs that are capable of producing offspring. Barrows are male pigs that have been neutered and are not capable of reproducing.

The length of pregnancy, or gestation, for a sow is 114 days (3 months, 3 weeks, 3 days). The offspring of a boar and a sow is a piglet or pig. When a sow gives birth, it is called farrowing. A sow gives birth to a group of 10-12 piglets at a time, called a litter. A pig weighs about 3 pounds when it is born.

When a pig is about 6 months old and at market weight (around 270 -290 pounds), it is called a hog.

Sows can readily deliver piglets that are presented both backwards and forwards in the birth canal unlike other farm species such as sheep, cattle and horses. Piglets in the forward position also usually have their forelegs tucked under their belly.

As birth approaches, hormonal changes trigger the milk glands to swell and to begin milk formation. In the day prior to the birth the sow will experience a temperature elevation of approximately 1° C. In other farm species, the temperature drops during this time instead.

In the time just prior to birth, the sow's appetite will likely drop off, and she will often appear to be very restless.

The amniotic sac will rupture as it is pressed into the birth canal, sometimes resulting in a small amount of fluid being passed. Farmers refer to this as the water breaking.

During birth, one piglet is passed at a time. Once this begins, piglets usually arrive quickly, with an average of 5-10 minutes elapsing between deliveries. After the piglets are born, the afterbirth, or placenta, is passed.

Normally, farmers will have prepared for the birth process and will observe the farrowing closely. They will have placed a warming lamp off to the side, and often will towel dry the piglets to help prevent chilling. They will make sure all of the placental membranes are passed, and closely watch piglets to confirm that they take their first milk (colostrum). The colostrum contains essential energy and protection against disease and must be taken in within the first day of life.

INDUSTRY INSIDER

Sheep

Female sheep are called ewes, and referred to as ewe lambs until they reach 1 year of age. (not all producers breed ewe lambs the first year. Some may not lamb until 2 years of age - they are not ewe lambs after 1 year regardless of when they lamb)
Male sheep capable of producing offspring are called rams. Male sheep that have been neutered and are unable to reproduce are called wethers.

The length of a ewe's pregnancy, or gestation, averages 148 days. The offspring of a ram and a ewe is a lamb. When a ewe gives birth, it is called lambing. A ewe often gives birth to twin lambs, sometimes even triplets, quadruplets, or singles. A lamb weighs about 8-15 pounds when it is born.

During the last month of pregnancy, the ewe's belly will grow and her udder will begin to produce colostrum, the first milk. A few days before she goes into labor, there will be relaxation of the muscles in the hip area.

At the start of labor, the ewe is not as social and becomes restless. She will move away from the main part of the flock and will spend extra time getting up and laying down. As the onset of labor gets closer, a ewe may start to dig a nest in the bedding.

As the labor progresses, the ewe will, from time to time, stand up and lay down. She may also turn circles while bleating. The first sign that the lamb is coming is the appearance of the amniotic fluid, or water bag. Once the water bag breaks, the lamb is usually born within 30 minutes.

The front feet of the lamb will usually come first in the birthing. The lamb's head lays above and between the front legs coming out next. Most of the time a thin membrane will still cover the lamb, and breaks open as the lamb is born.
Once the lamb is born, a farmer will check to make sure that it is breathing. The farmer may wipe the head and nose off well to make it easier for the lamb to breath. In cold weather, a farmer may also dry off the lamb's ears and tail. Most newly born lambs will soon be trying to stand up.

INDUSTRY INSIDER

Goats

Female goats are called does (like deer), and referred to as does or doelings until they reach 1 year of age. Goats are commonly 1.5-2 years old at first kidding (term for Parturition, giving birth)

Male goats are either bucks or wethers. Those that are mature and capable of producing offspring are called bucks. Male goats that have been castrated and are unable to reproduce are called wethers.

The length of a doe's pregnancy, or gestation, last an average of 150 days. The offspring of a buck and a doe is a kid. When a doe gives birth, it is called kidding. A doe often gives birth to twin kids, sometimes even triplets, quadruplets, and singles. A kid weighs about 6-10 pounds when it is born.

During the last month of pregnancy, the doe's belly will grow and her udder will begin to produce colostrum, the first milk. A few days before she goes into labor, there will be relaxation of the muscles in the hip area and in the tail head.

At the start of labor, the doe becomes unsocial and restless. She will move away from the main part of the herd and will spend extra time getting up and laying down. As the onset of labor gets closer, a doe may start to dig a nest in the bedding.

As the labor progresses, the doe will, from time to time, stand up and lay down. She may also turn circles while softly maaing. The first sign that the kid is coming is the appearance of the amniotic fluid, or water bag. Once the water bag breaks, the kid is usually born within 30 minutes.

The front feet of the kid will come first in the birthing. The kid's head lays above and between the front legs coming out next. Most of the time a thin membrane will still cover the kid, and breaks open as the kid is born.

Once the kid is born, a farmer will check to make sure that it is breathing. The farmer may wipe the head and nose off well to make it easier for the kid to breath. Most newly born kids will soon be trying to stand up.

INDUSTRY INSIDER

Horses

A young female horse is called a filly. After females have given birth, they are called mares.

Young male horses are called colts. Males that are mature and capable of producing offspring are called stallions. Male horses that have been neutered and are unable to reproduce are called geldings.

The length of a mare's pregnancy, or gestation, last an average of 340 days. The offspring of a stallion and a mare is a foal. A weanling is a horse 6 to 12 months old; a yearling is 1 to 2 years old. When a mare gives birth, it is called foaling. A mare usually gives birth to just one foal. A foal weighs about 80 pounds when it is born.

Two to four weeks prior to foaling, the muscles around the mare's tail head become soft and relaxed and her udder begins to fill with milk. The mare may show signs of uneasiness during the last two weeks of pregnancy. She may also rub her tail or hindquarters on fences or barn walls.

During the first stage of labor, the muscles of the pelvic area relax, allowing the bones to spread so the foal can be positioned toward the birth canal. Movement is often noticeable as the foal turns into position. The abdominal wall above the flank and behind the ribs becomes concave, or sinks inward, and the tail head becomes more prominent. A mare's contractions may cause nervousness, erratic eating, sweating, pacing, tail switching and frequent urination.

A mare has very powerful uterine contractions, and when the unborn foal is positioned in the birth canal properly, delivery can occur in a relatively short period of time, 10 to 15 minutes. Birth usually occurs shortly after the outer water bag ruptures.

Presentation of the foal's front feet occurs first, soles down, relatively close together, one slightly more advanced than the other. The nose of the foal is usually tucked between the extended forelegs near the knees.

Most mares position themselves on their sides, with their legs fully extended during the delivery of the foal; however, some insist on standing.

The mare will usually rest after the passage of the foal's shoulders and again after the passage of the hips. As the foal emerges, the inner fluid sac usually breaks. During this time, the mare will clean her offspring by licking it. The foal should be trying to stand within a few minutes of delivery. The foal will drink the first milk (colostrum) to help combat disease and to aid in eliminating fecal material that has built up in the intestinal tract.

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Chickens

Chicks hatch from eggs. It takes about three weeks for them to develop and come out of their eggshells. Every chick is born with a small tooth in its beak that helps it peck its way out of the shell. The average incubation time for a chick is 21 days.
A male chicken is called a cock or an old rooster. A female chicken under 20 weeks old is called a pullet; one over 20 weeks is called a hen.

Egg Production Housing Options

“The Hen House” Message to share: Eggs are an affordable & nutritious protein. Become an informed consumer when choosing your eggs.

Free-Range

Food Safety

- Less likely to use an automated nesting system
- May lay eggs on ground
- Increased likelihood of contact with manure
- Egg collection can be labor intensive

Bird Behavior/Social Interaction

- Larger groups of hens Increase fighting because a stable “pecking order” isn’t established

Health

- Hens are exposed to predators, inclement weather, parasites and diseases from other animals
- Increased injury, cannibalism and death loss
- Death loss can be higher than either cage or cage-free production

Production

- Production is limited because of stressors hens are exposed to
- Hens may hide their eggs, making egg collection difficult
- Provides access to the outdoors (most hens tend to stay indoors to lay their eggs, near food, water and away from predators).

Benefits to Consumers

- Free-range egg production costs more, and those costs are passed onto consumers.
- More feed required
- Additional space and land required
- Results in higher egg prices for consumers
- Free-range eggs are not allowed in the WIC subsidized food program for women, infants, and children

Farm Worker Safety

- Egg collection is more labor intensive
- Increase exposure to manure and other contaminants

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Cage-Free

Food Safety

- Hens lay eggs in a nesting system – more potential for eggs to come in contact with manure
- Increases need for greater sanitation
- Depending on the farm, these systems may or may not have an automated egg collection system
- Bird Behavior/Social Interaction
- Increases fighting because a stable “pecking order” isn’t established

Health

- Hens are protected from predators, inclement weather, and diseases from other animals
- Greater incidence of broken bones and other injuries
- Increased cannibalism and death loss

Production

- Provides more space per hen
- Hens are able to roam the entire barn
- Allows hens to dust-bathe
- Permits hens to choose a nesting site
- May result in fewer eggs laid because of additional stress on hens living in a larger group setting

Benefits for Consumers

- Cage-free egg production costs 2-3 times more than caged egg production
- More feed required
- Additional space and land required
- Results in higher egg prices for consumers
- Cage-free eggs are not allowed in the WIC subsidized food program for women, infants, and children

Farm Worker Safety

- Depending on the farm, egg collection may be more labor intensive
- More potential for increased exposure to manure
- Caged Housing

INDUSTRY INSIDER

Caged Housing

Food Safety

- Once an egg is laid, it rolls to a belt which moves it to be washed
- Most eggs are never touched by human hands
- Eggs are never in contact with manure
- Less handling=safer food

Bird Behavior/Social Interaction

- Hens naturally prefer to “flock” in a small group, establishing a stable pecking order
- Limits stress and aggression

Health

- Hens are protected from predators, inclement weather and diseases from other animals
- Limits cannibalism
- Death loss is very low

Production:

- Climate-controlled barn 24/7
- Constant access to fresh food and water
- Comfortable, cleaner and less stressed hens are healthier

Benefits to Consumers

- Most affordable eggs to the consumer
- Caged eggs are allowed in the WIC subsidized food program for women, infants, and children

Farm Worker Safety

- Manure is continuously removed by a revolving belt, limiting odor exposure to hens and farm workers
- Less labor intensive - no hand-picking of eggs

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Myth: Brown colored eggs are better and more nutritious than white colored eggs.
Fact: The essential nutrients in all eggs, regardless of color, are the same.

Bonus Fact: The color of a hen's earlobe determines the color of the egg! Hens with brownish-red earlobes lay brown eggs & hens with white earlobes lay white eggs.

Myth: Eggs from hens raised outside are better for you.
Fact: Regardless of how hens are housed, the nutrient quality of all eggs is the same.

Myth: Poultry are pumped full of hormones and steroids.
Fact: There are no added hormones or steroids given to poultry – it is illegal!

Myth: Eggs are high in cholesterol.
Fact: Recent studies show a grade "A" egg is 14% lower in cholesterol than previously recorded and can be enjoyed daily as part of a well-balanced meal plan.

Turkeys
A newborn turkey is called a poult. A male turkey is called a tom and a female is called a hen. The average incubation time for a turkey is 28 days.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

Food Safety
- Turkey, chicken and eggs are safe to eat.
- Any poultry testing positive for avian influenza are prohibited by law from entering the food chain.
- Minnesota's turkey farmers have been monitoring their flocks for avian influenza for 40 years.

Public Health
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), avian influenza is not a public health risk.
- No human infections with the avian influenza viruses found in the U.S. have been reported.

Economic Impact
- The economic toll of avian flu on Minnesota's poultry industry has climbed to nearly $650 million.
  - This includes $171.7 million of lost wages, salaries, and benefits.
- Minnesota farmers have lost more than 9 million turkeys and egg-laying chickens to avian influenza since March 2015.