

TURKEY FACTS

- Turkeys are raised in scientifically designed, environmentally controlled barns that provide maximum protection from predators, disease, and bad weather.
- Turkey companies are vertically integrated, meaning they control or contract for all phases of production and processing - from breeding through delivery to retail. By maintaining control over research, hatching, growing, feeding, processing, packaging, transportation, and marketing, the industry is able to produce wholesome, safe, high-quality products at the lowest possible cost to the consumer.
- Brooder Houses house poults for 6 to 8 weeks, where they have feed and water at all times.
- Grower Houses are where toms and hens are fed until they go to market.
- Toms are ready for market at 18 to 22 weeks of age and weigh 30-38 pounds.
- Hens are ready for market at 13 to 14 weeks of age and weigh 13-14 pounds.
- Both are fed grains such as corn and soybeans. On average, it takes 75 to 80 pounds of feed to raise a 30-pound tom turkey.
- Hens are processed and usually sold as whole birds, drumsticks, and turkey breasts, while toms are further processed into products such as cutlets, tenderloins, turkey sausage, bacon, franks, and deli meats.

