**Show Chicken Guide**

Please email me with any questions at shelby.stephens@austinisd.org

**Pick up time for the chicks is still TBD, but will likely be the first week of December. When you get them, you will need to bring them to the school so that I can validate the band numbers. THIS IS MANDATORY. I highly recommend that for the first two weeks you keep the chicks at home, in a climate controlled area. Chickens need to be kept at 72 degrees. After you can bring them to the school and put them in the pens. This is not required but highly recommended.**

**You will need to bring your own box to pick up the chickens**

**\*\*\*PENS MUST BE CLEANED DAILY**

**To ready the pens for the chicks, put tarps over the wire walls of the pen. (if you are confused on this look at the turkey pens, your tarps must be done up in the same way). Put new sand in the pen, and bleach the pen down. Use a bleach and water mix 1:1 in a sprayer like the one pictured below. Next put a thick layer of shavings down (the type to use found further down in the guide). And get 1-2 heat lamps going in the pen so it is warm when you bring the chicks to the pen.**

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Be prepared to cull out birds as they grow. Please keep culled birds away from show birds if you choose to feed them out. I will set up times I will be available to cull birds with students. Make sure you are taking advantage of these culling times, and do not attempt to cull birds on your own.

**Feeds:**

Turkey Starter 32% Medicated (if you cannot find a 32% starter, get the highest protein starter you can find, from 28-32%)

This is what we will start with, then move on to

Chicken (or Turkey Feed) 28% Medicated OR Chicken (or turkey feed) 26% Medicated

\*\*\*I will advise based on flock growth and # of cull chickens\*\*\*\*

As we get closer to show We will either drop or increase protein based on chicken growth.

Be prepared to also feed your bird:

 Corn Chops (combo of equal parts cracked corn, butter, and WHOLE milk)

Hard Boiled Eggs ( You will need a lot of eggs! Number of eggs based on flock size)

\*\*Please note that the birds may not eat all the extra chops and eggs at first, please keep giving it to them until they learn to eat it!

Citrilyte- J&Bs should be carrying this in the next week or so! This will go in the water- follow instructions on packet

As your flock grows, please know that I will make suggestions for additional supplies as needed

Chicken Supplies

Pine Shavings- (these will be put down as bedding for the chicks as well as when we move the birds into the pens, please do not put them in your pens until you are putting in your chicks!

<http://jnbfeednhayaustin.com/?s=shavings>

Trash Can- metal to keep the feed in

Feed Scoop

Hand Sanitizer

Feed pans-This is what we will use to feed the birds, in addition to the hanging containers as the birds get older.



As they grow you will need to get several empty milk jugs- we will hang them from the ceiling and that is what we will feed the older birds with in addition to the feed pans. (I will show the kids how to get this set up in the pens- I know it sounds odd)!

Chicken Waterers- You will also use feed pans and milk jugs to provide water along with these. Remember chickens need water to grow, you will need SEVERAL of these more so with a larger flock



Students will need clear tarps to put up around the pen so the birds stay nice and warm. Tarps will need to be put up around the entire pen and door, to help keep in heat.

Heat lamps- Heat lamps have a tendency to walk off, please put your name on the ones you buy! Limit yourself to 1-2 lamps per pen, as more than this will blow farm fuses.