



**Poultry
Fact Sheet**

WEEKLY FEED CONSUMPTION OF LIGHT CONSUMER-SIZE TURKEYS RAISED IN UTAH

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As turkeys grow from newly hatched poult to maturity they have changing energy and protein requirements. Diet formulation programs take this into consideration by periodically adjusting energy and protein density of the feed. Commercial meat flocks may be fed five or more diet formulations of varying energy and protein levels by the time they reach market age. Most turkey flocks in Utah are presently being fed on an age basis. In other words, when the flock reaches a certain age it is changed to the next scheduled feed regardless of amount eaten. An alternative way of feeding turkeys is to feed a given amount of each diet until it is consumed, then moving on to the next diet regardless of flock age. Estimating weekly feed consumption in turkey flocks is important so that the diets can be changed at the optimal time for maximum growth. It is also important to know how much feed the turkeys are eating so that the proper amount of each scheduled feed is purchased. It is not advantageous to have one kind of feed still remaining to be eaten when it is time to change to the next stage. Conversely, underestimating consumption and purchasing too small an amount of feed could lead to changing to the next stage diet two or three days sooner than anticipated.

The weekly feed consumption graph and table in this fact sheet were constructed using results obtained at the USU Turkey Research Center in totally confined flocks raised from 1998 to 2000. The data take into account weekly mortality. Reporting feed intake in this manner is useful for calculating actual consumption within a given time period, for example, between six and nine weeks of age. Graphs and tables calculated on the basis of pounds consumed per head processed will tend to skew weekly feed consumption because the corresponding weekly mortality variation will not have been taken into account.

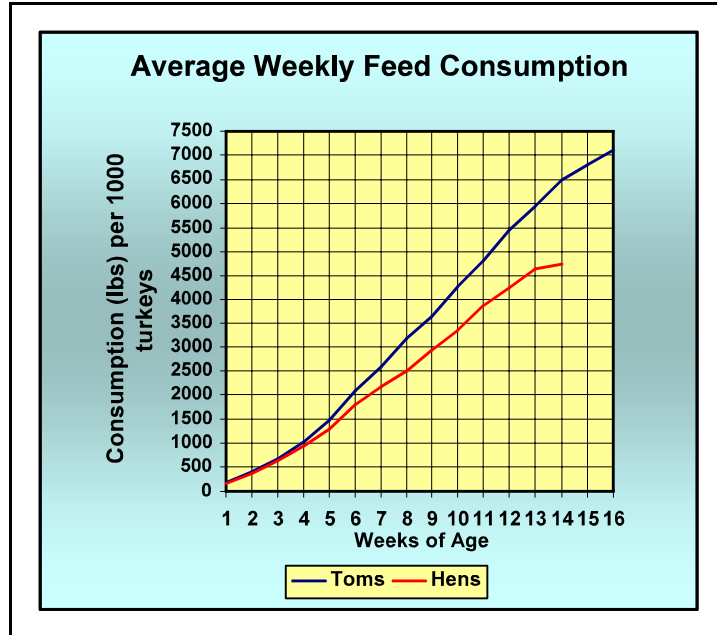


Table 1. Average weekly feed consumption (lbs) per 1000 turkeys.

Week	Toms	Hens	Week	Toms	Hens
1	183	164	9	3638	2936
2	413	382	10	4278	3353
3	663	614	11	4800	3868
4	1005	922	12	5450	4239
5	1475	1275	13	5950	4638
6	2100	1800	14	6504	4750
7	2600	2178	15	6800	-
8	3200	2510	16	7100	-

As Utah turkey growers begin to feed turkeys on an amount-fed basis rather than strictly by flock age, accurate weekly estimation of feed consumption will become increasingly critical. This publication serves as a guideline to the grower in determining weekly feed consumption in commercial meat flocks raised in Utah.

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