

## Northeast DHIA Members

(Continued from Page D3)

### MASSACHUSETTS

**Berkshire County**  
Mt. Prospect Farm, Inc.,  
Williamstown  
Bruce & Christine Andrews,  
Pittsfield  
Charles Proctor, Herd 1, Great  
Barrington  
Charles Proctor Herd 2, Great  
Barrington  
Donald R. Leab, Hancock  
Frederick G. Havill, Tyringham  
**Franklin County**  
Five Point Farm, Northfield  
Herbert & Robert Purington,  
Colrain  
Mark Fellows, Herd 1, Warwick  
Roland & Raymond Townsley,  
Ashfield  
**Hampden County**  
Morning Mist Farm, Wilbraham  
**Worcester County**  
Kenneth A. Voorhees, Herd 1,  
Rutland  
Richard Kimball, Spencer  
William & Wendy Rogers,  
Mendon  
**Middlesex County**  
Northeastern Corr. Center, West  
Concord  
**Essex County**  
Essex Agr. & Tech. Institute -  
Holsteins, Hathorne  
Bruce A. Colby, Newburyport  
**Plymouth County**  
Hanson Farm, Inc., Bridgewater  
Nuncketeset Farm, West  
Bridgewater

### MAINE

**Androscoggin-Sagadahoc  
County**  
Raymau Holsteins, Auburn  
Wauregan Farm, Turner  
Adrian Wadsworth, North  
Turner  
Ben & Mary Hurd, Herd 2,  
Sabattus  
Harold Souther, Livermore Falls

Joseph Roseberry, Richmond  
Raymon W. Small, Herd 1,  
Lisbon Falls  
Wayne & Shirley Ricker, Lisbon  
**Cumberland County**  
Juniper Farm Milk Facility, Gray  
Erwin & Grace Turner,  
Raymond  
Michael M. Wilson, Gray  
**Franklin County**  
Maple View Dairy, Inc., Phillips  
L. H. & B. York, Herd 1,  
Farmington  
Thayden Farrington, Dryden  
**Kennebec County**  
Rise' N Shine Jerseys,  
Monmouth  
Douglas & Linda Hartkopf,  
Albion  
John & Brenda Gerrish, Palermo  
Robert Herrin, Clinton  
**Knox-Lincoln County**  
Geo. Russell & Sons, Union  
Ralph Pearse & Sons, Herd 1,  
Union  
Ralph Pearse & Sons, Herd 2,  
Union  
**Oxford County**  
Alson E. Sherman, Center  
Conway  
Bradford Phillips, West Paris  
James & Wendy Hutchins,  
Center Conway  
Lester Bailey, Andover  
**Penobscot-Piscataquis County**  
Faber Farm, Bangor  
Stonyvale, Inc., Exeter  
University of ME, Herd 2,  
Orono  
Donald & Jill Perkins, Charles-  
ton

## Use Turkeys In 4-H Project

Herbert C. Jordan  
Assoc. Prof  
Poultry Science  
Penn State

Can living space and time possibly compensate for a well-balanced ration after four weeks of age in large white meat turkeys in a small, confined flock?

In late November of 1990, two day-old hens and two day-old tom poults were started in a cage to collect manure. All birds were given less than 2 square feet of floor space per bird from day old until four weeks of age. During this time they were fed only a starter ration. Granite grit was fed after 12 days of age and fresh water in a five gallon waterer every one to three days.

From four to 16 weeks of age, floor space was increased from less than two sq. ft. per bird to greater than four sq. ft. per bird at 16 weeks of age. During this time a complete grower diet was mixed half and half with whole oats and fed free choice. Granite grit was fed once every two weeks at the rate of 2 pounds per feeding. A vitamin, mineral, electrolyte (VME) was given at 1/2 strength in the

water for three days a week. When handled during this time, all birds seemed trim with no fat on them. This was done because some consumers like a lean turkey. No health problems were encountered from four to 16 weeks of age.

From 16 to 23 weeks of age, birds were given greater than eight square feet of floor space per bird and fed only whole Tyler wheat, free choice. Granite grit and VME were continued at the same level to 23 weeks of age.

No health problems were noticed to age of slaughter at 23 weeks; however, when liquid droppings started at 20 weeks of age, 1 pound of starter turkey feed with a coccidiostat was fed to each bird. All four birds lived and weighed a cumulative total live weight of 102.5 pounds after fasting 14 hours off feed. Total feed fed was 50 pounds of starter, 150 pounds of grower, 100 pounds of whole oats and 1 1/2 cubic feet of whole wheat or about 400 pounds of total feed. A cumulative total of 87.2 pounds of dressed ready to

cook (RTC) weight, with giblets, was produced.

The "good" news is that all birds lived and had normal giblets with nothing condemned. No excess fat appeared in or on any bird and no breast blisters or buttons. The "bad" news is all turkey skin was white, little to no fat was seen under skin, no dimple appeared on the breasts, and pin feathers were present.

Some commercial turkey growers believe a high fiber diet (such as oats) improves overall bird health, makes a skin more firm to withstand loading and machine processing, reduces ugly soft fat under skin, improves gut health, makes droppings more normal and easy to dry and handle. A veterinarian once said he can open the gut of a bird and tell by the gut lining if it is on oats.

Any 4-H member with an 8-foot x 8-foot pen could repeat this turkey project. 4-H or FFA poultry growers must count the cost of growing turkeys over a longer time using grain that is less costly than crumbles or a mixed feed.

Douglas & Sally Smith,  
Bradford  
**Somerset County**  
Watson Farm 2, St. Albans  
James & Helen Rowbotham,  
Fairfield  
**Waldo County**  
Dickson Family, Herd 1, Brooks  
Harold Ross, Thorndike  
Robert E. Gray, Troy  
Ronald Price, Thorndike  
Thomas Piersiak, Knox  
Walter Clements, Frankfort  
**Central Aroostook**  
Burns Lilley & Sons, Oakfield  
Michael & Lynn Umphrey,  
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