

(Turkey)

SAN Diego County

CO-OPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
IN
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

TU-SC-51

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CO-OPERATING

EXTENSION SERVICE
FARM ADVISOR WORK
AGRICULTURE CLUB WORK
HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK

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July 20, 1951

TURKEY LETTER

Feeding growing turkeys efficiently depends mainly upon the following factors (in addition to favorable conditions of breeding, freedom from disease, and proper environmental conditions):

1. Proportion of grain to mash fed according to requirements at the different age growth periods.
2. Amount of greens available.
3. Adequate source of grit.
4. Adequate supply of clean water.

The first named in the above is increasingly recognized for its importance. Mash costs more than grain; therefore, feeding grain at the maximum recommended level is indicated. A general guide is shown in the enclosed tabulation for the amounts of grain which may be fed with the different protein content growing mashes throughout the growing period. The recommended protein levels for the different ages are also presented.

Charts showing relative efficiency of gain during the growing period are also enclosed.

Sincerely,

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

Robert H. Adolph

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Farm Advisor

RHA:bl
Encl.

UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

6.52
250 c.
June, 1951

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APPROXIMATE PERCENTAGE OF PROTEIN REQUIRED
BY GROWING TURKEYS AT VARIOUS AGES.
PROPORTIONS OF GRAIN AND MASH REQUIRED
TO GIVE RECOMMENDED LEVEL OF PROTEIN IN RATION.

Prepared by

Robert H. Adolph, Farm Advisor
San Diego County

Age of Poults in Weeks	Recommended Per Cent Protein	Proportions of Grain and Mash					
		Starting Mash 24% Protein	Growing Mash				
			20% Protein	22% Protein	24% Protein	28% Protein	32% Protein
Pounds of Grain to be Fed with 100 Lbs. of Mash							
0-6	24	0	-	-	-	-	-
7-8	20	20	0	-	-	-	-
9-10	19	50	10	30	50	-	-
11-12	18	-	25	50	75	125	150
13-14	17	-	40	70	100	150	200
15-16	16	-	60	100	130	200	250
17-20	15	-	100	140	180	260	340
After 20	14-15	-	100+	140+	180+	260+	340+

Based upon data published in Circular 110, Turkey Production in California, with additional material supplied by Dr. F. H. Kratzer, Division of Poultry Husbandry, University of California.

TURKEY MEAT PRODUCTION EFFICIENCY

Prepared by
Robert H. Adolph, Farm Advisor

RAPID GROWTH IMPORTANT FACTOR

The ability to produce turkey meat efficiently is dependent upon rapid growth. The following figures show a growing period of 32 weeks for broad breasted bronze turkeys. They are based on data from M. L. Scott of Cornell University. Conditions represented in his data, are on dry lot feeding with free choice of mash and grain.

GREENS MAY SAVE UP TO 15% ON FEED

In the discussion of the data, it was pointed out that consumption could be reduced as much as 15% where good alfalfa, or other greens, was made available to birds. M. L. Scott also pointed out that weather conditions affect feed consumption and growth and may be the reason for superior or inferior results on a comparative basis with the data. The main purpose of the figures is to show graphically what happens to feed efficiency during the growth of turkeys and to point out one of the reasons why some producers obtain better feed efficiency per pound of gain than others.

DATA ON GROWING BIRDS PRESENTED

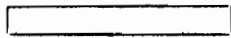
Figure 1 shows the relationship of total feed intake per bird to the average weight at four week intervals.

Figure 2 breaks down this relationship further by showing feed consumed during each four week period and its relationship to the amount of gain during that four week period.

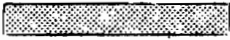
Figure 3 shows the final relationship in ratio of pounds of feed required for one pound of gain for each four week period and the ratio of total feed required to total average weight of birds. This final figure shows graphically how increased pounds of feed required per pound of gain in the latter part of the growing period pushes up the total pounds of feed required per pound of gain.

EARLY MARKETING SAVES FEED COST

The main efforts on the part of the turkey producer should be to produce a prime turkey as early as possible. The most economical marketing should occur during the 26 to 28 week period or about 6 to 6 1/2 months of age. Late summer and fall warm weather may affect finishing of turkeys which means that a longer period on early marketed birds may be required. Every effort should be made to move birds immediately once they are ready for market. The producer should keep in mind that birds held longer than 6 1/2 months require around 12 to 14 pounds of feed per pound of gain or from 50 to 70 cents feed cost per pound of gain.



Total feed per bird



Av. weight, toms and hens

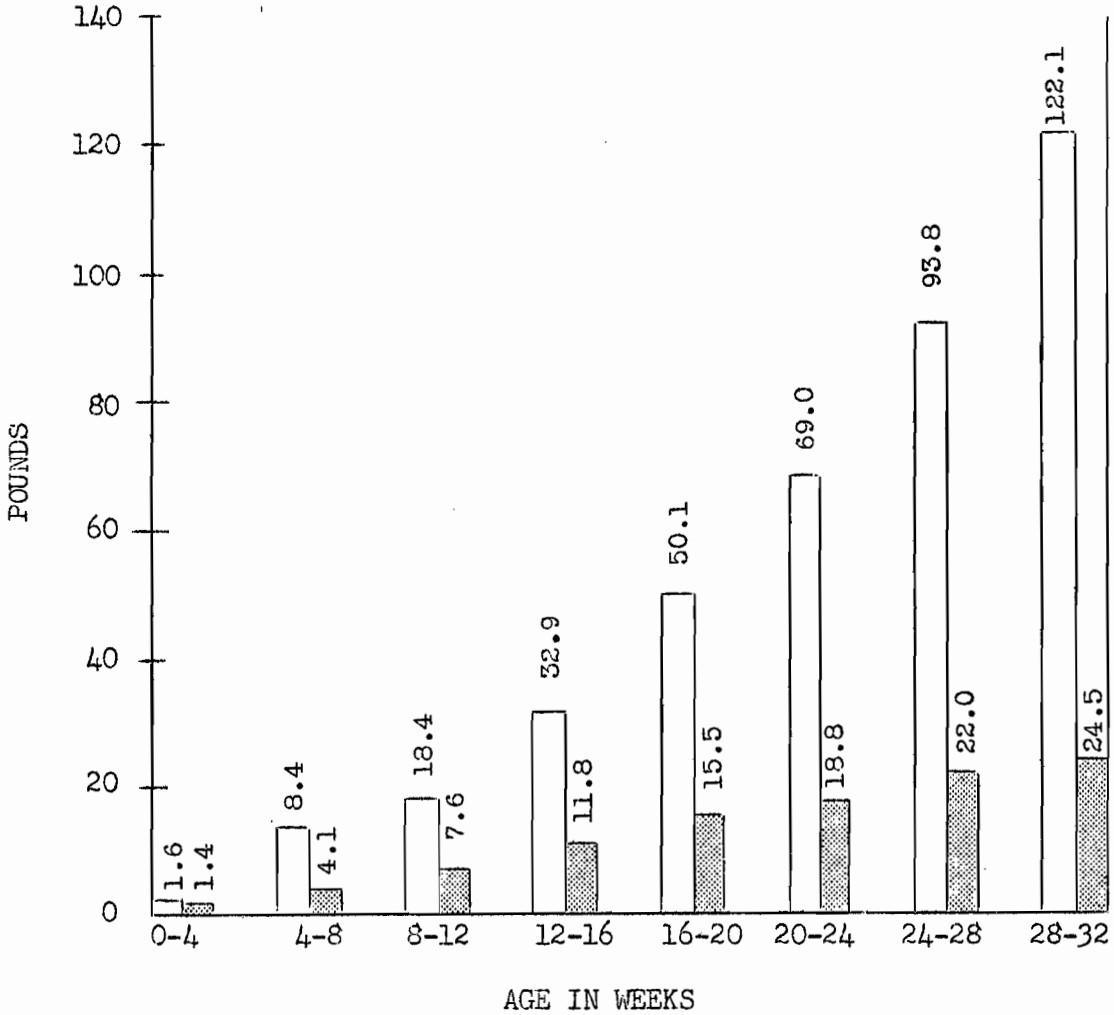


Figure 1.

Relationship of total feed per bird to average weight at 4 week intervals.

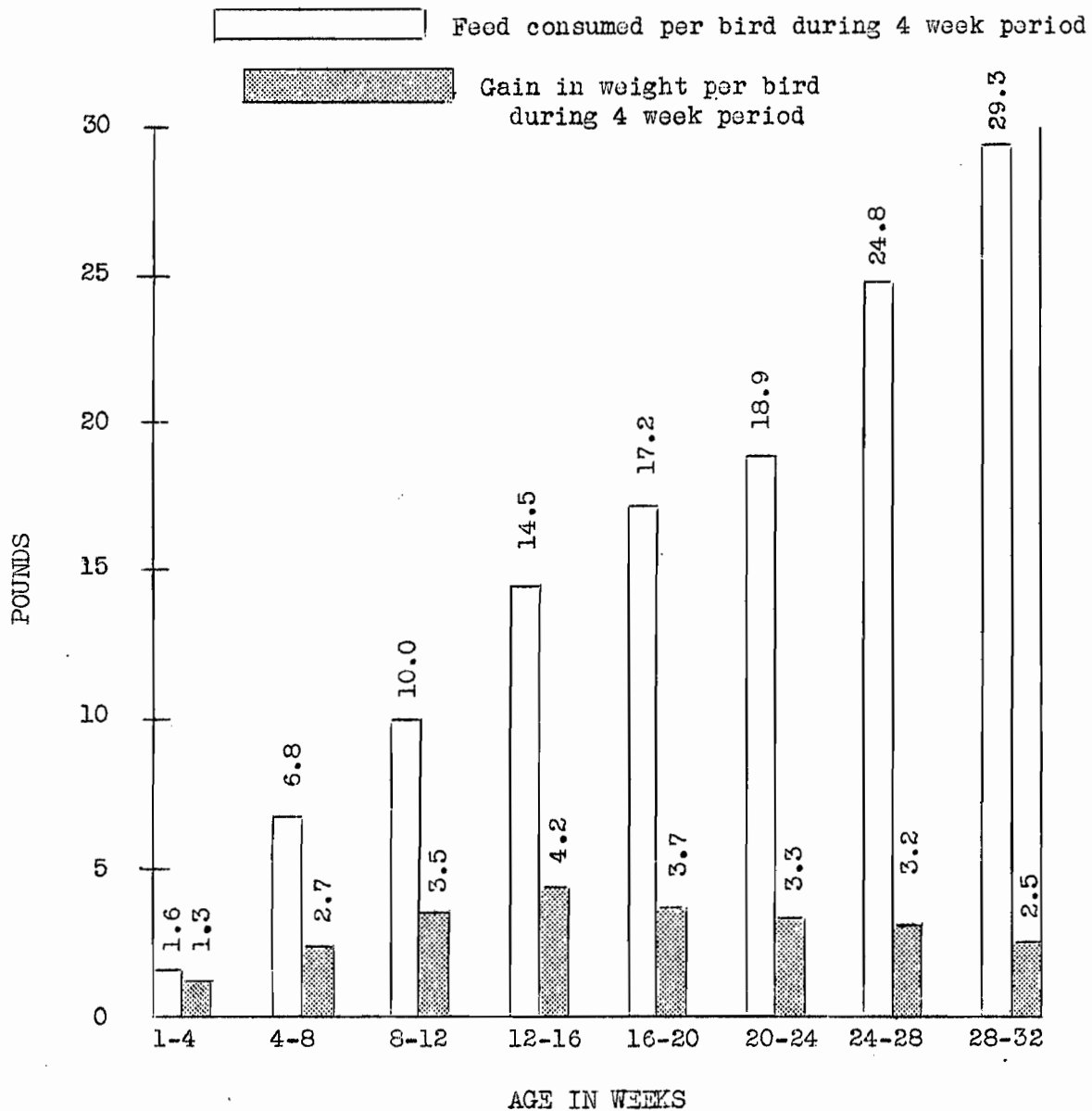
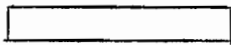


Figure 2.

Relationship of gain in weight to feed consumption during 4 week periods.



Ratio of feed required to pounds gain during 4 week periods



Ratio of total accumulated feed required to total average weight of birds

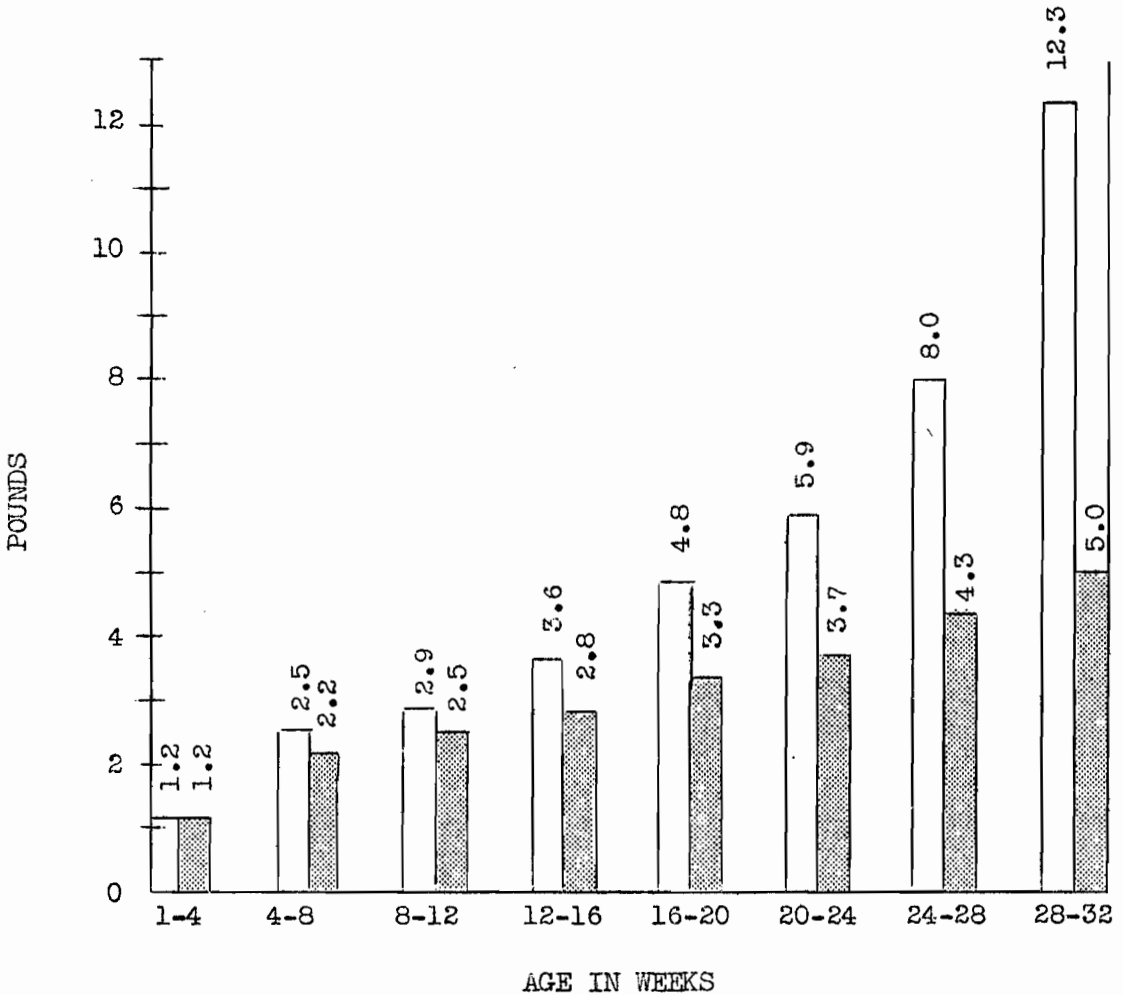


Figure 3.

Ratio of total accumulated feed required to total average weight of birds compared with the ratio of feed required to pounds of gain during 4 week periods.