

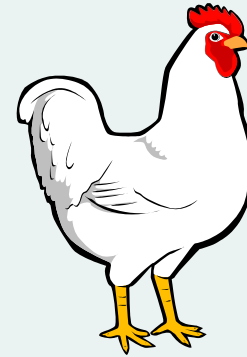


4-H Poultry Judging



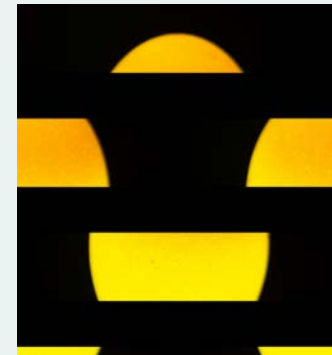
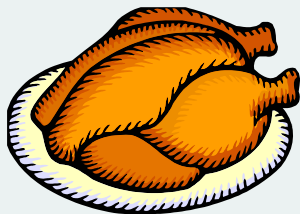
Why Poultry Judging?

- Learn how to pick out the best laying hens
- Learn how to know if an egg is still fresh
- Learn the cuts of meat
- Meet others interested in chickens
- Win awards
- HAVE FUN!



Parts of the Contest

- Past egg production-Live bird evaluation (reasons class for sr. high)
- Interior egg quality – candling
- Interior egg quality - broken out
- Exterior egg quality
- Poultry carcass parts identification
- Poultry carcass quality



Let's start with bird evaluation

- Judge White Leghorn Hens
- Will have one class of 4 birds
- Past Production Judging-How many eggs has this hen laid in the past?
- Judged on Persistency, Intensity, and Health & Vigor
- Reasons class for Sr. High

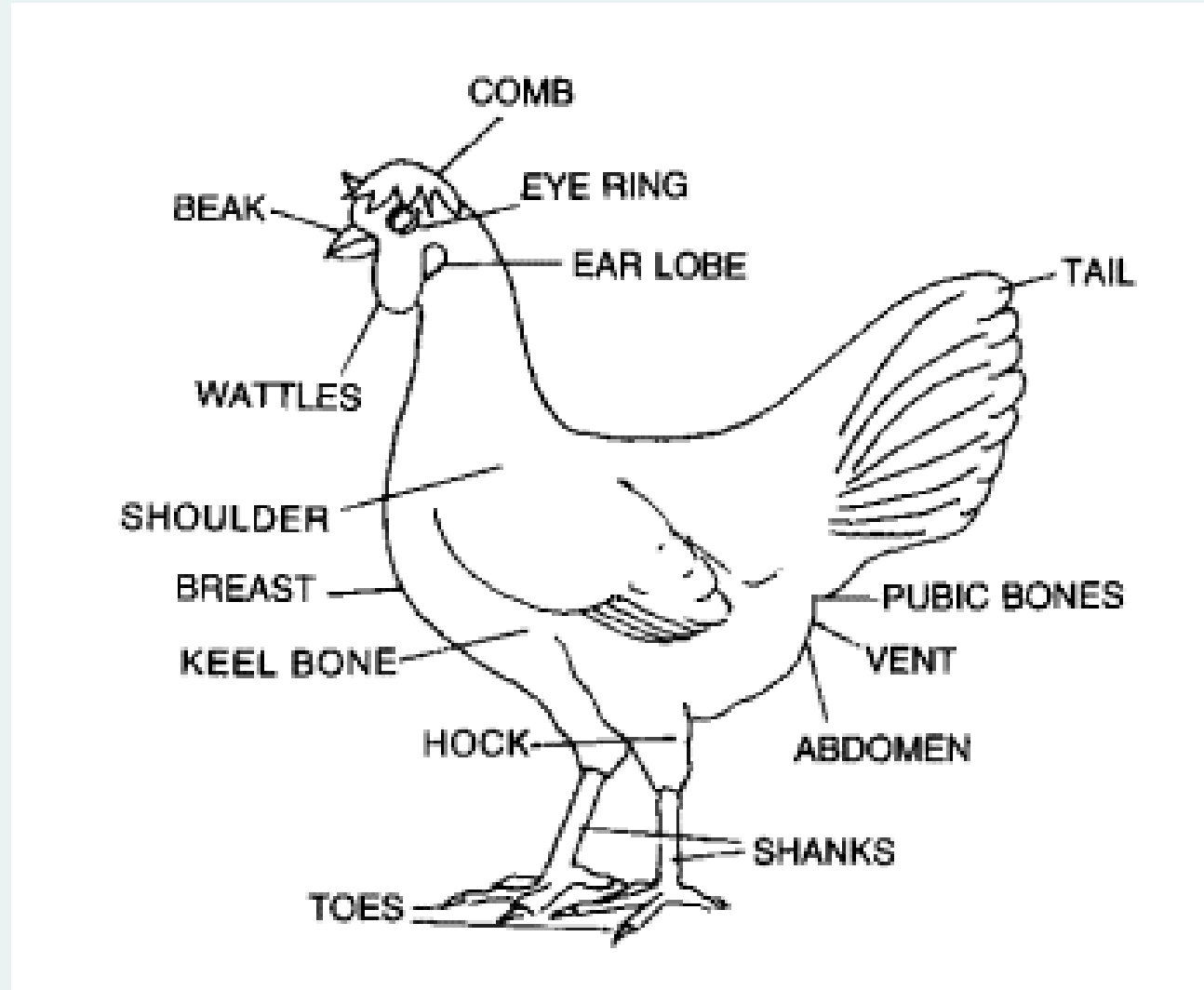


The White Leghorn

- Originated in Italy
- Lay large, white eggs
- Can lay 220-300 eggs per year
- White feathers, bright red comb
- Adult hens weigh usually weigh 4-5 pounds



Parts of the Chicken

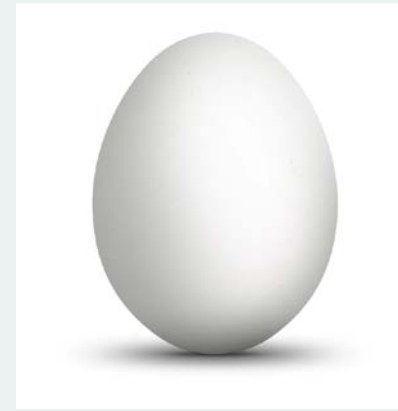


Persistency

- Which hen has the longest period of continuous production?
- Pigment loss and molt are determining factors



Intensity



- The hen's current rate of egg production
- Determined by handling the bird: quality of the pubic bones, abdominal skin, vent, lack of fat under the shank, comb, and wattles



Health and Vigor

- Does the hen have eye appeal and look healthy?
- Indicated by brightness of the eye, proportional shape of the head, and condition of the comb and wattles



What Do I Need To Look For?

1. If possible, place the class based on loss of pigment (bleaching) from the skin.
2. If a pair of hens has equal loss of pigment, then use handling qualities to decide which hen is best.
3. If a pair of hens has equal loss of pigment and equal handling quality, then use abdominal capacity to decide which hen is best.
4. If a pair of hens has equal bleaching, handling quality and abdominal capacity, then use molt condition to decide which hen is best.



Getting Started

- Look at the class as a whole
- Try to sort them into pairs
- Look for pigment loss
- Look for bright red, glossy combs and wattles

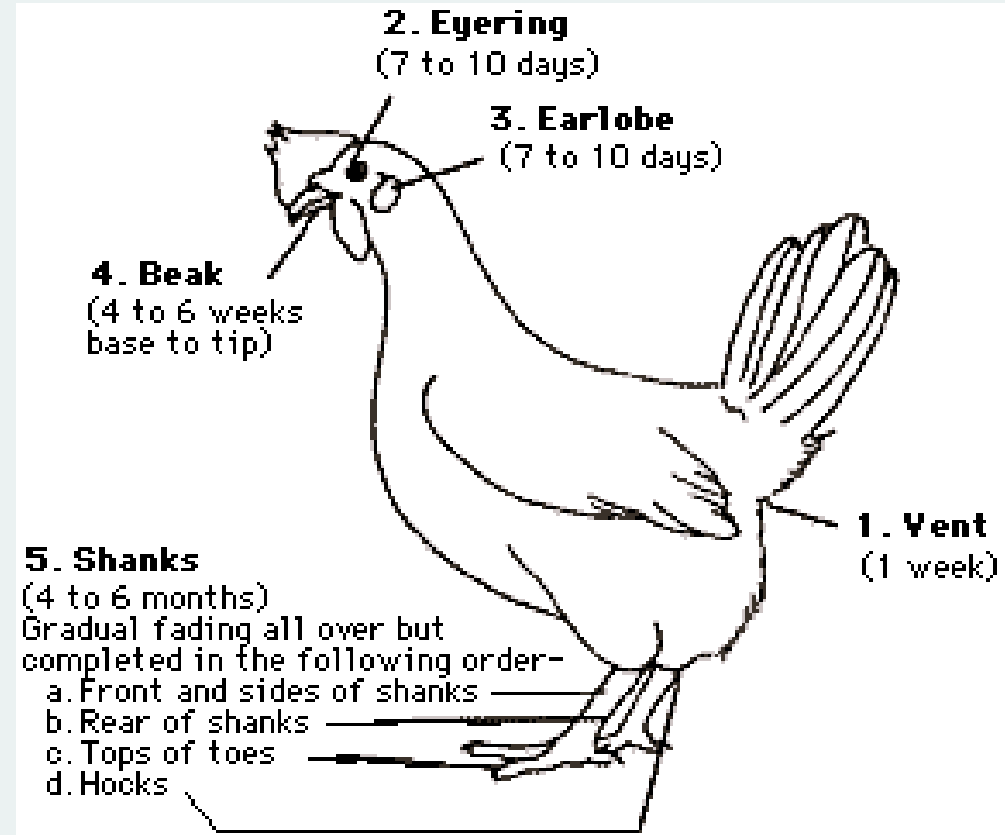
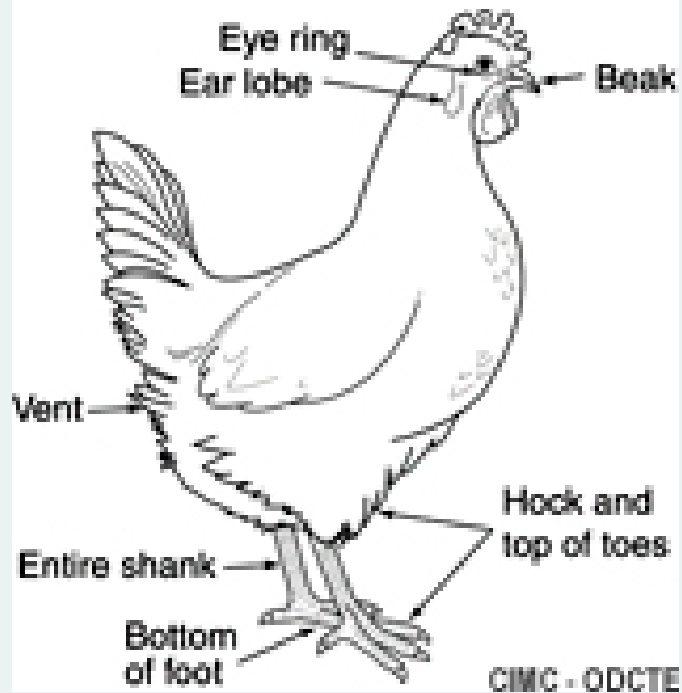


Pigment Loss

- “Bleaching”
- Loss of color from the skin and shanks
- White Leghorns have yellow pigmented skin
- After a hen starts laying eggs, she loses color in the following areas, in this order:
 1. Vent
 2. Eye Ring
 3. Ear Lobe
 4. Beak (corner of the mouth toward the tip)
 5. Bottom of the foot (not the top!)
 6. Shank
 7. Hock and top of toes
- When a hen stops laying (molt), pigment returns in the same order as it was lost (vent to top of toes) but returns about 3 times quicker than it was lost



Location of Bleaching



Pigment Loss

- REMEMBER: The hen with the least amount of color has laid the most eggs!
- You want “bleached” white skin



Which is the Better Layer?



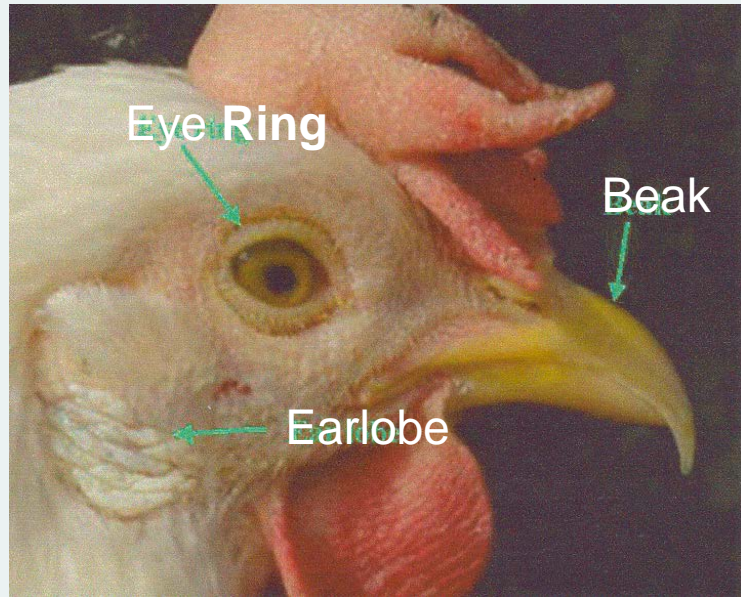
Which is the Better Layer?



Vent should be bleached with no yellow pigment, moist, large, and oblong in shape



Which is the Better Layer?



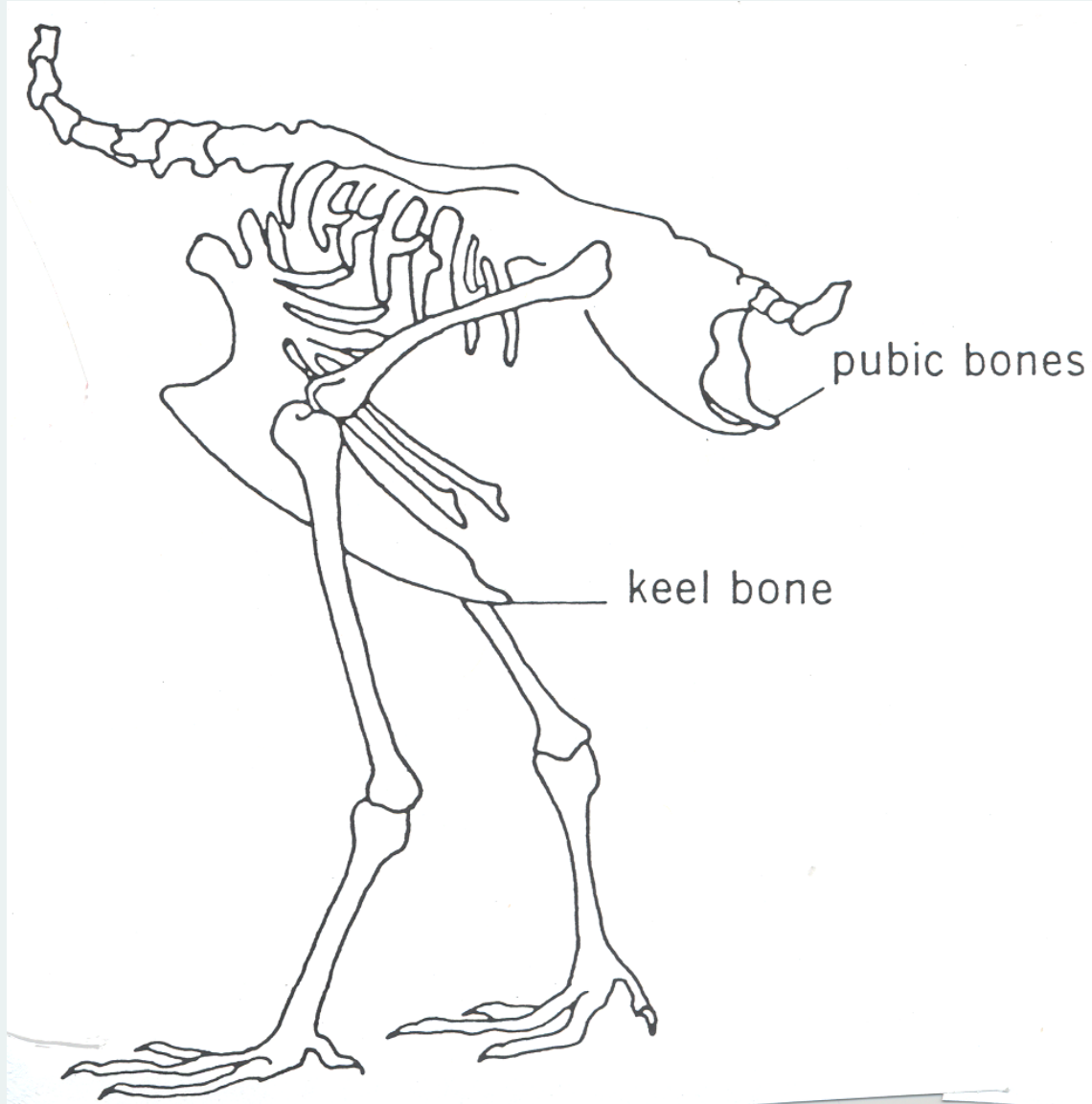
Handling Qualities



- We will go over how to handle the birds later
- Feeling for the sharpness and flexibility of the pubic bones
- The skin just below the pubic bone should be thin and soft
- Thick, tough skin indicates too much fat in the abdomen



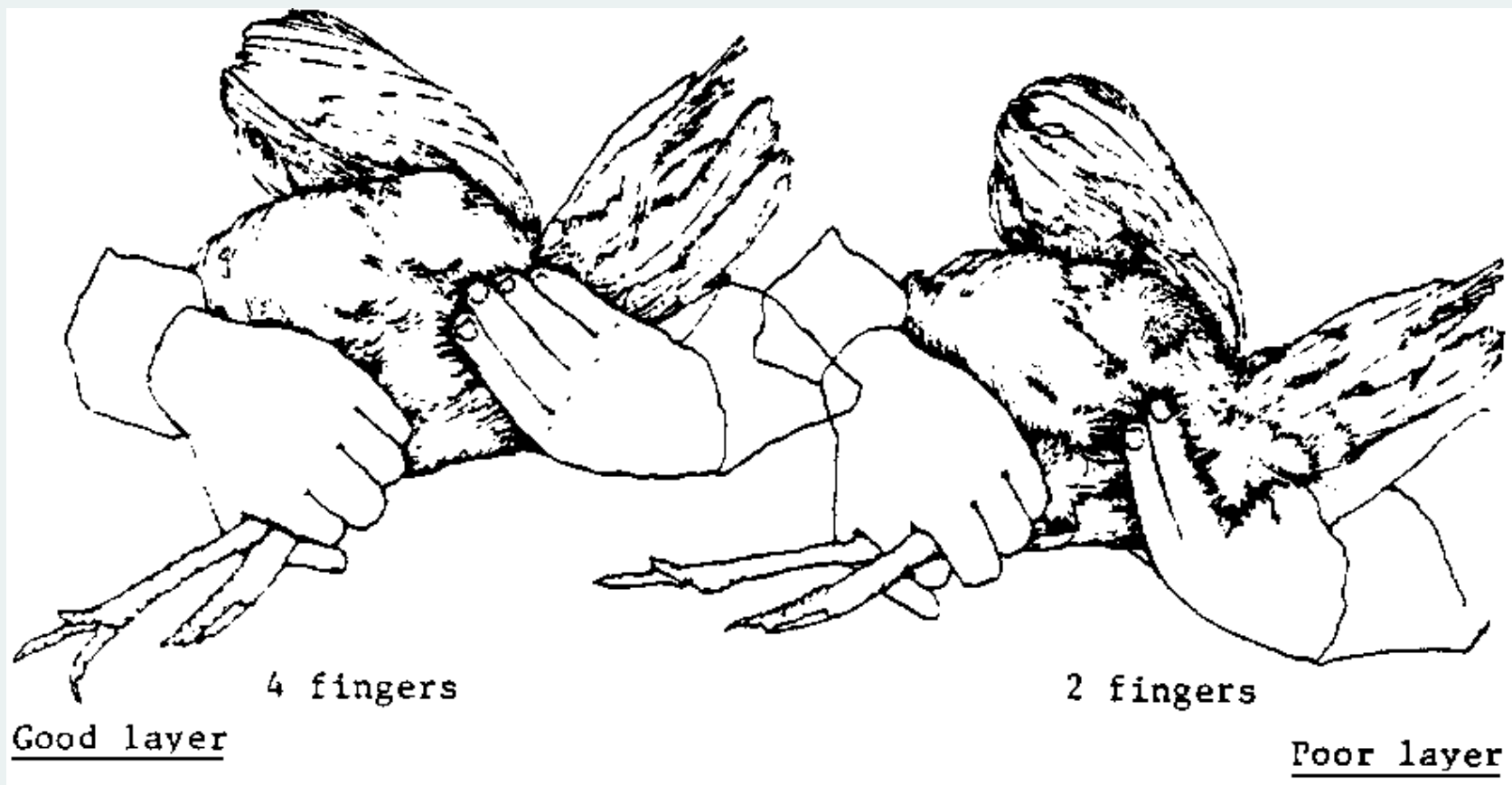
Handling Qualities



Handling Qualities

- Examine the abdominal capacity
- Place as many fingers as you can between the bottom of the pubic bones and the rear tip of the keel bone
- Turn the bird sideways and count the fingers between the pubic bone
- 3 fingers (wide) by 4 fingers (deep) is a desirable capacity





Molt

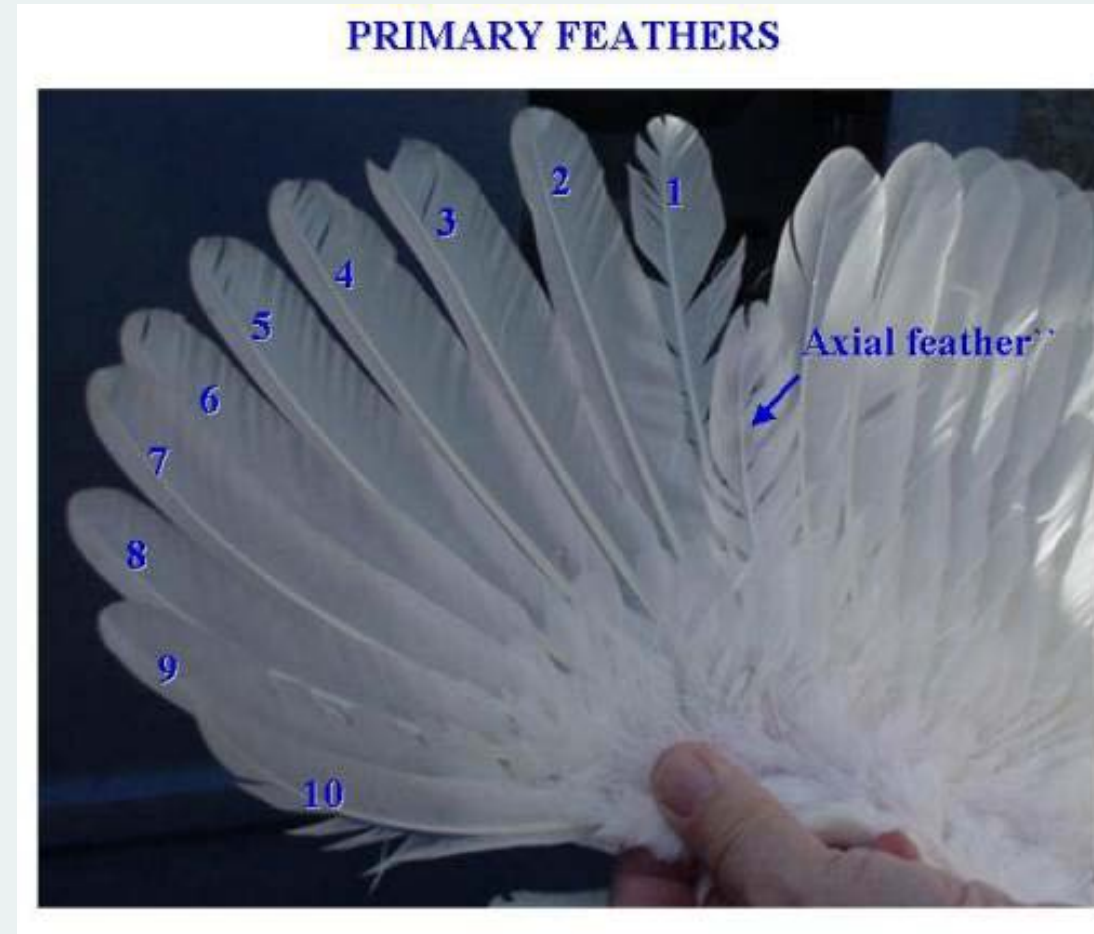


- Good layers have old, worn feathers indicating she has not yet molted
- Poor layers have some short new feathers showing she is in molt
- The ideal hen will not molt until she has completed 12-14 months of production
- The hen that has lost the fewest feathers is the most desirable

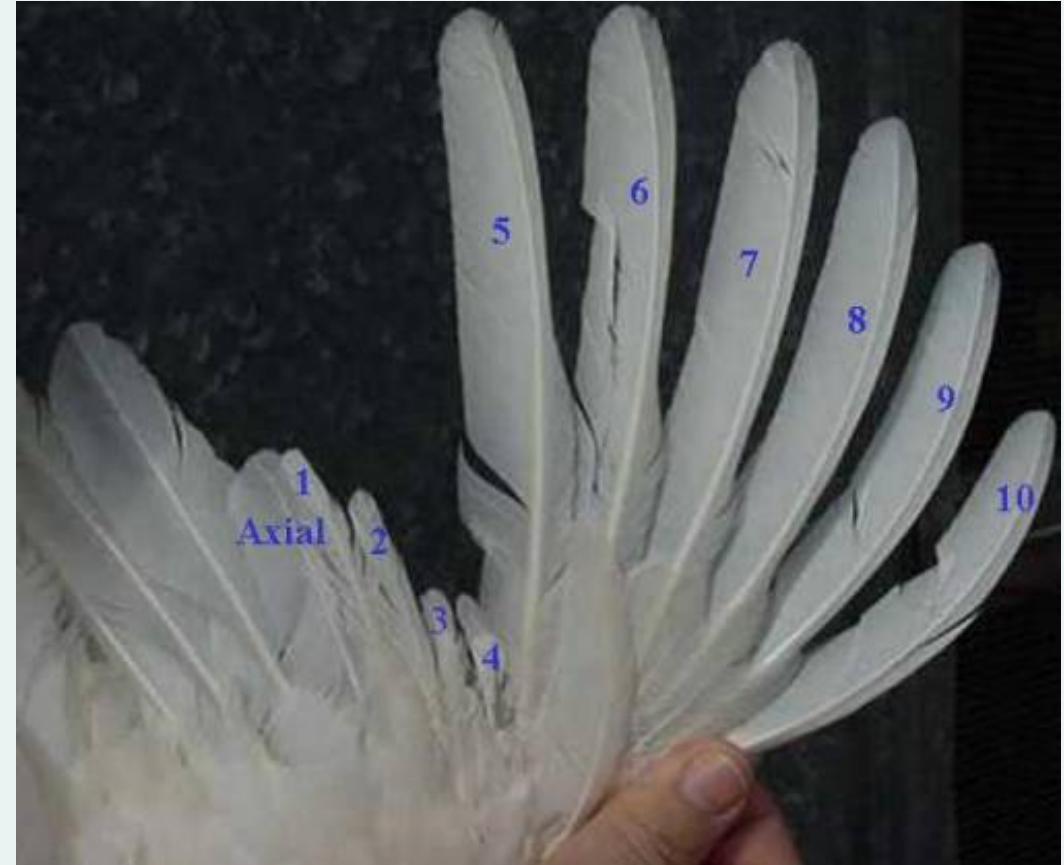


Molt

- The short feather in the middle is the axial feather
- There are ten primary feathers on the outside of the axial
 - this is what we look at
- Old feathers will be worn on the ends and may be broken or dirty
- New feathers will have smooth, neat ends and appear clean
- Birds molt from the axial feather out to the 10th



Which is the Better Layer?



Wrap Up Video

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bGv0eKeDH6M>



Taking Notes

- It is important to take good notes during the contest
- Get in the habit now so you will be prepared for reasons at Senior High Level

TABLE FOR TAKING NOTES

BIRD #	PIGMENTATION	HANDLING QUALITIES	ABDOMINAL CAPACITY	MOLT	OTHER OBSERVATIONS
1					
2					
3					
4					

Final rank _____



Let's Practice!

CAGE 1	CAGE 2	CAGE 3	CAGE 4
