

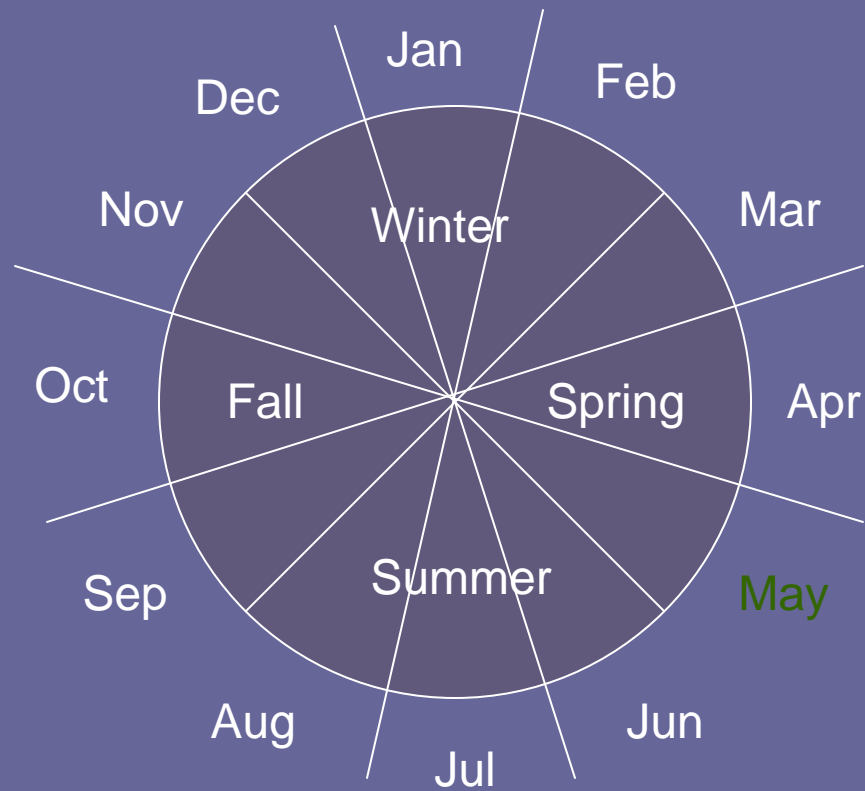


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# Livestock Production Cycle – A Framework



# The Planning Aspect of Raising Livestock

- Considerations
  - Which species do you plan to raise?
  - Where will you obtain the animals?
  - How many animals do you plan to raise?
  - When will you obtain the animals?
  - Do you know what it is going to take to raise the animals? care, feed, space, time, etc.
  - What are your expectations? meat, milk, fiber
  - What is your exit strategy?

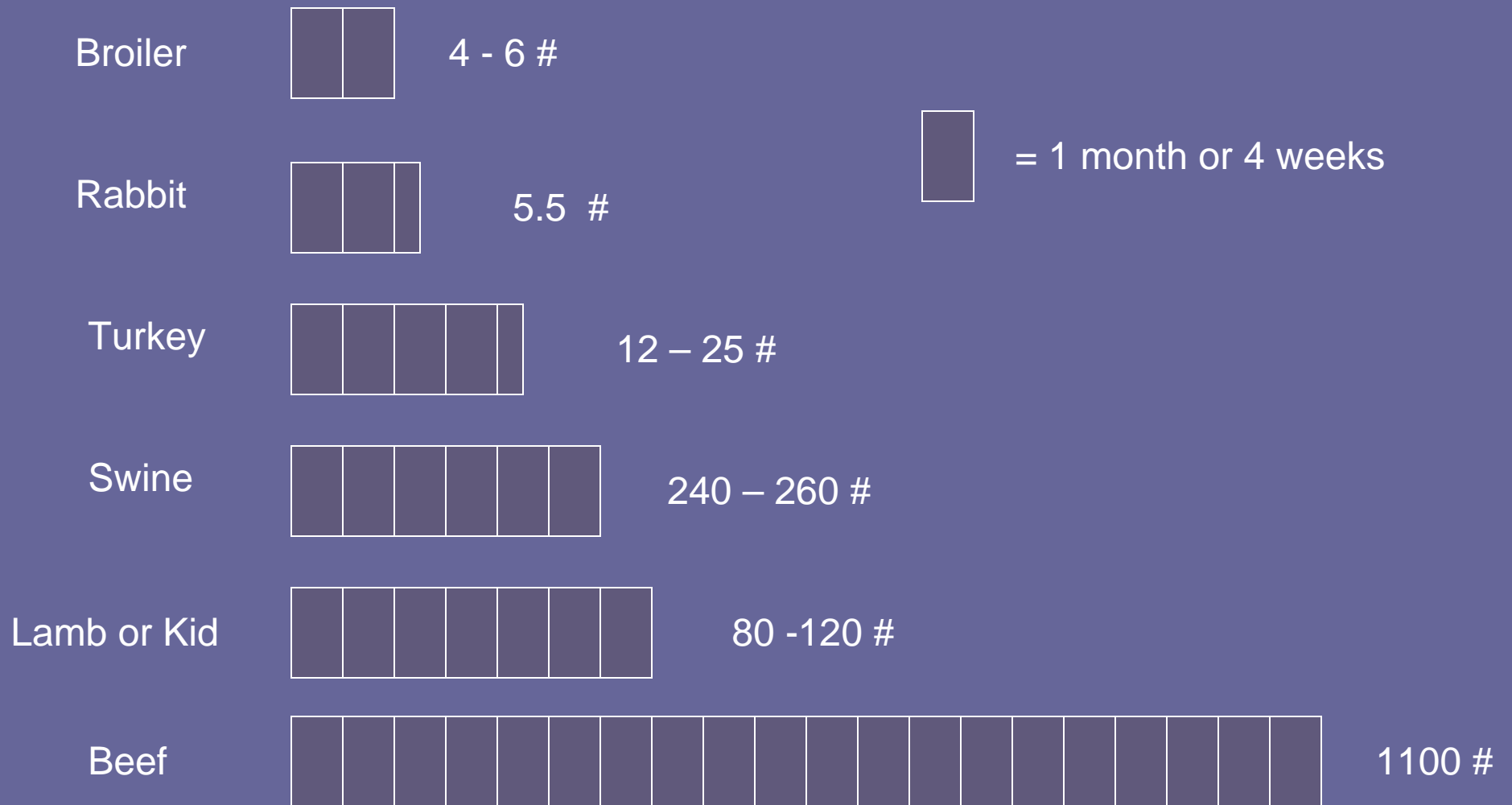
# Limiting Factors

- Availability of preferred species
- Space (facilities, pasture, etc.)
- Feed (grain price, hay price)
- Equipment (essentials)
- Time to provide proper care for animals
- Physical strength to care for animals
- Slaughter site and date (appointment)
- Transport to slaughter site
- Freezer space (yourself and customers)

# How much time is needed to raise animals to market weight?

- Rate of weight gain is influenced by:
  - The breed of the animals
  - Individual animal genetics
  - The age of the animal
  - Grouping of animals (competition)
  - How much the animals is fed (quantity)
  - What the animal is fed (feed quality)
  - Health of the animal
  - Environment & weather
  - Overall care provided

## Months to Market Weight for Meat Livestock



# Poultry Production Cycles

Broiler	6-8 weeks	4.5 to 6.5 lbs
Roaster	8-10 weeks	7 to 12 lbs
Turkey	16-20 weeks	12-25 lbs
Duck	6-8 weeks	~ 5 lbs
Geese	6-8 weeks	~ 8 lbs
Guinea Fowl	8-14 weeks	~ 5 lbs



# Consider Raising Livestock from Spring to Fall (No Winter Care)

- Grass is abundant from spring to fall.
- No permanent building is necessary to house livestock from spring to fall.
- Winter forages are expensive.
- Winter care is labor intensive.
- Most animals will reach market weight before winter.

# Slaughter Options

- Do it yourself
- Pay a processor
  - custom, state inspected or USDA inspected