

Getting into the Business Kit



TURKEY FARMERS OF ONTARIO

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is quota?

Quota is a licence to produce and market turkey in Ontario. It is issued by Turkey Farmers of Ontario (TFO) under authority delegated to it by the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission under the *Farm Products Marketing Act*. Quota allows a person the privilege of producing and marketing a certain number of kilograms of turkey during a specific period of time as determined by TFO. Quota represents a share of a market. A producer's share will increase or decrease in terms of the amount of turkey they are able to produce. When there are increases or decreases in national turkey allocation, they are determined by Turkey Farmers of Canada (TFC) and implemented by TFO.

How do I get quota?

TFO does not issue new quota. To purchase quota, you need to connect with an existing turkey producer who may transfer/sell quota to other persons. If you need assistance in this process, please contact us at regulatory@turkeyfarmers.on.ca. Buyers and sellers of turkey quota must apply to TFO to have the quota transferred according to the TFO General Regulations and Policies.

Am I able to produce turkey without quota?

You may, however, individuals are limited to producing no more than 50 turkeys per calendar year per premises. You can read more about the requirements in the TFO General Regulations and Policies. Alternatively, you can apply to our Small-Scale Grower Program. Please see <https://turkeyfarmers.on.ca/small-scale-grower-program/> for more information.

Are there different categories of turkey quota?

Yes, there are three types of basic turkey quota:

1. Broiler—Turkeys that are under 6.20 kilograms
2. Hen—Turkeys that are 6.21 to 10.80 kilograms
3. Tom—Turkeys that are 10.81 kilograms and over

What other requirements are there in order to hold quota?

It is required that you have the property (premises) registered in your name in which you will produce turkeys and a barn that meets the requirements of TFO General Regulations and Policies and the PoultryCode of Practice.

If I purchase quota how many turkeys can I produce?

The amount of turkey you can raise depends on the amount of basic quota you hold and what the allocation percentage is set at.¹ A producer must hold a minimum of 2,000 kilograms of basic quota to be considered a licensed turkey producer. You can use the categories and weights listed in the previous answers to approximate the number of turkeys you would be able to produce.

How long does it take to raise turkeys to market weight?

It depends on the size of bird that the processor requests from you. Below are approximates for each category:

- Broilers grow for approximately 11 weeks
- Hens grow for approximately 13 weeks
- Toms grow for approximately 16-20 weeks

How much space do turkeys require in the barn?

You can find read about housing and environment requirements, including stocking density in the [Poultry Code of Practice](#).

How much of an investment is required to enter turkey production?

TFO does not control or monitor the price of quota; therefore, we cannot provide an approximate cost per kilogram. Each quota transfer is dependent upon the buyer and the sellers agreed upon price. Barn construction costs are estimated to range from approximately \$40.00 to \$65.00 per square foot.² Land costs vary by property location in the province, and you should look into the local nutrient management programs required at the property location.

What are the programs required to be a licensed turkey producer?

Turkey Farmers of Canada (TFC) requires successful implementation and certification of their [On-Farm Food Safety Program](#) and [Flock Care Program](#) be considered a licensed producer. You must also ensure you are operating your farm according to [TFO General Regulations and Policies](#).

Where do I purchase turkey feed from?

There are various feed mills across the province that specialize in poultry feed, please see page 5 for more details.

¹ Please contact the office for current allocation percentages.

² These are approximate costs only. Construction costs are subject to changes at any time.

If you have any additional questions, please contact a member of our Field Team:

TFO FIELD STAFF		
Manager - Field Operations Amber Ritchat	226-751-4284	amber@turkeyfarmers.on.ca
Field Inspector Kate Cross	519-571-4185	kate@turkeyfarmers.on.ca

Please visit the resources below for additional documents and information.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

1. [Poultry Handling and Transportation Manual](#)
2. [National Poultry Code of Practice](#)
3. [Turkey Safe Work Practices Manual](#)
4. [Euthanasia Training Manual](#)
5. [Turkey Farmers of Canada](#)
6. [Poultry Industry Council](#)

CONTACT LIST:

FEDERALLY LICENSED PROCESSING PLANTS		
COMPANY	PHONE	PLANT LOCATION
Belwood Poultry	519-736-2236	Amherstburg, Ontario
Sofina Foods - Hanover	519-364-1770	Hanover, Ontario
Hayter's Turkey Farm	519-237-3561	Dashwood, Ontario
Maple Leaf Foods	905-285-5000	Mitchell, Ontario
Sofina Foods - Mitchell	905-638-7902	Mitchell, Ontario

PROVINCIALY LICENSED PROCESSING PLANTS
Please visit the OMAFRA link here for a list of provincially licensed plants. Phone : 1-877-424-1300

FEED MILLS		
COMPANY	PHONE	HEAD OFFICE LOCATION
Floradale Feed Mill Limited	519-669-5478	Floradale, Ontario
Grand Valley Fortifiers	1-877-625-4400	Cambridge, Ontario
Hensall Co-op	1-800-265-5190	Hensall, Ontario
Jones Feed Mills Limited	1-800-235-8735	Linwood, Ontario
Masterfeeds	519-685-4300	London, Ontario
New Life Mills	1-800-463-1196	Cambridge, Ontario
Trouw Nutrition Shur Gain	519-349-2152	St. Marys, Ontario
Wallenstein Feed & Supply Ltd.	1-800-265-8858	Wallenstein, Ontario

POULT SALES		
Cuddy Farms	519-245-1592	Strathroy, Ontario
Canadian Select Genetics	519-485-0990	Wingham, Ontario
Sofina Foods - Hanover	519-364-1770	Hanover, Ontario