

Turkey –

Meleagris gallopavo dom

Terms

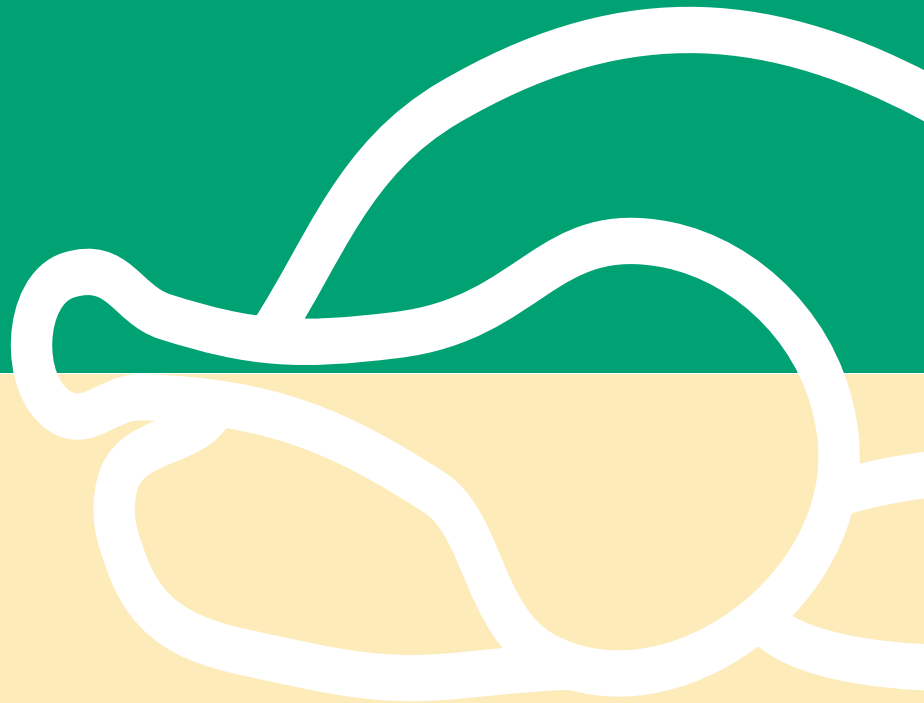
Young turkey

Turkey

Definition

Bird in which the tip of the sternum is flexible (not ossified)

Bird in which the tip of the sternum is rigid (ossified)



Class A



Class A – Conformation and appearance of the whole turkey is good. The carcass is well shaped and symmetrical. It has well-developed legs and the breast is fleshy, broad and long. The bird is well plucked, with a regular layer of subcutaneous fat. There is no significant skin damage or bruising.

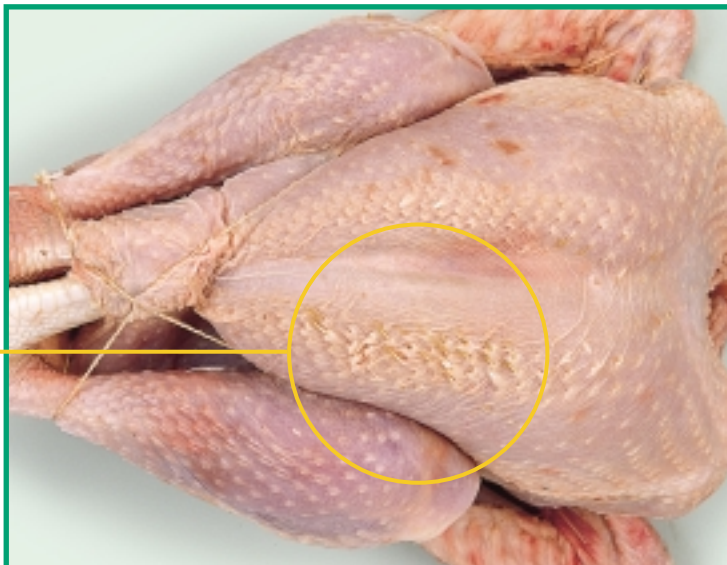
Class A



Class A – It is unlikely that perfect breasts will be exhibited in all instances. Therefore slight red marks on the breast are acceptable, as long as they are unobtrusive, as in this case.

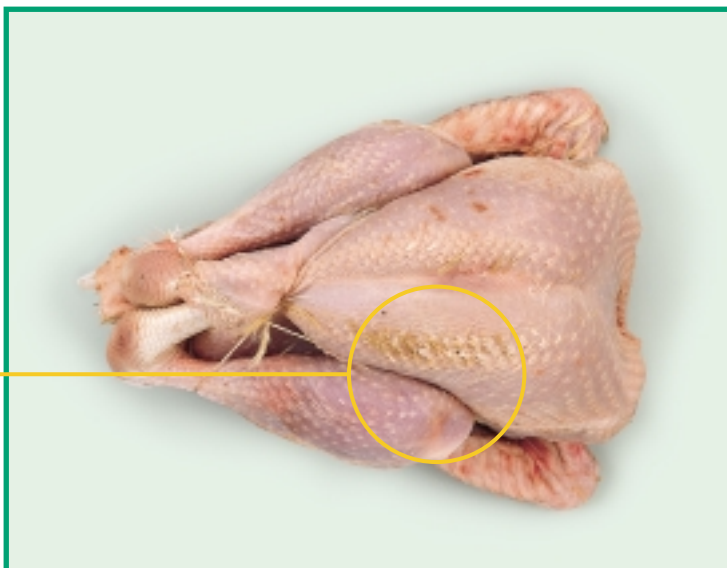
Class A

Class A – In some cases, feathers may be left on the breast area. As this is such a prominent part of the carcass, they must be small and few in number.



Class B

Class B – This level of feathering is unacceptable in a Class A turkey, but is sufficient for Class B classification.



Class B

Class B – Skin tears as illustrated here, are also unacceptable for a Class A turkey.



Class A



Class A – Some abrasion of the skin over the breast may occur during plucking, commonly known as barking. It is most noticeable after plucking, once the skin has dried. It will fade if the bird is placed in a bag and chilled for 24 hours.

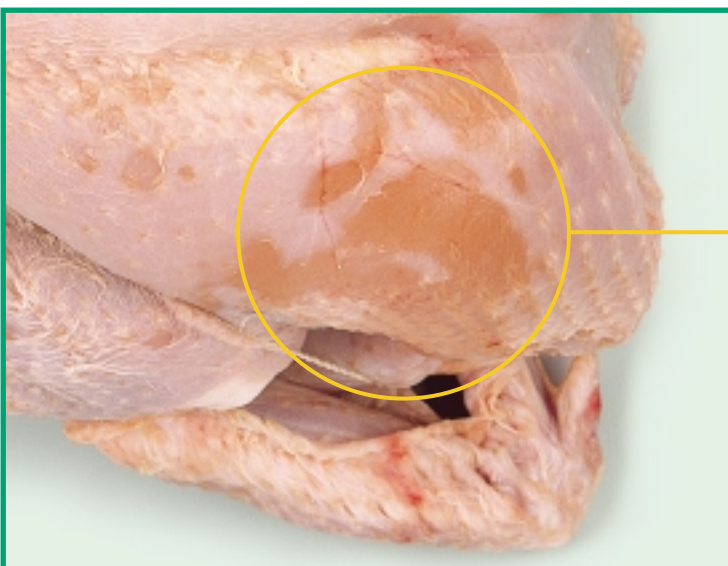
This is an acceptable level for a Class A bird.

Class A



Class A – This picture shows the maximum allowable marks for Class A.

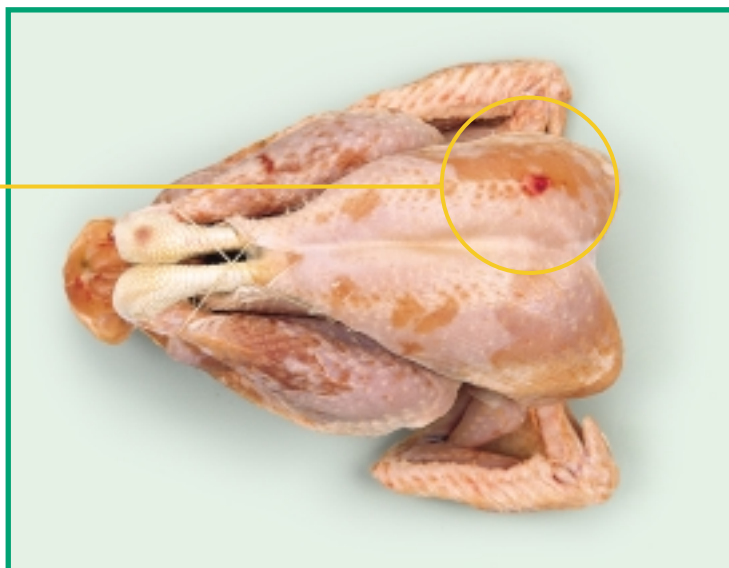
Class A



Class A – Note the red veins in this picture. This is natural and not classed as damage.

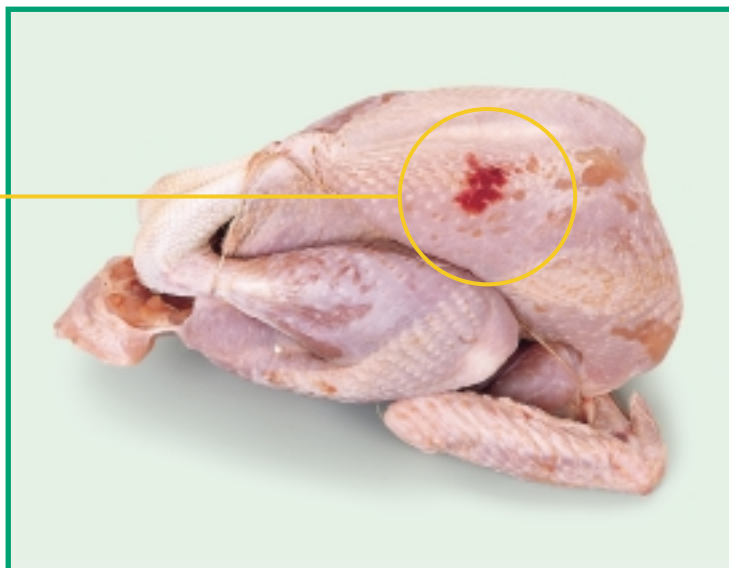
Class A

Class A - Small red marks are acceptable if they are only skin deep and not obtrusive. This picture shows the maximum size of mark allowable on the **side** of the breast. This is a good example of a skin blemish, which does not penetrate through to the muscle below. Skin blemishes larger than this example would require the bird to be classified as **Class B**.



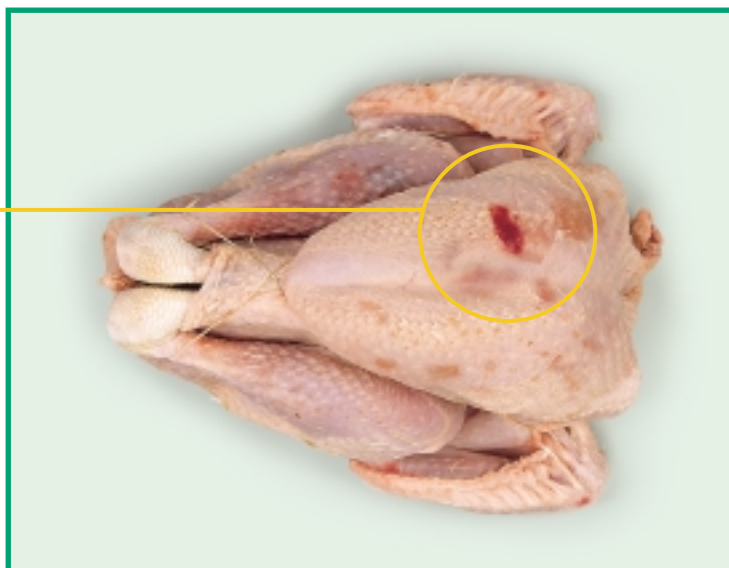
Grading failure

Downgrade/Ungraded – This picture shows a bruise, which has penetrated the meat, which is unacceptable for Class A or B.



Grading failure

Downgrade/Ungraded – This is another example of a deep bruise, unacceptable for Class A or B.



Class A



Class A – The back of the bird should be free from skin tears and large areas of reddening or bruising. However, there is a greater tolerance of faults on the back of the bird, compared to the more prominent breast area.

Class A



Class A – Some reddening is permissible on a Class A bird. This picture is indicative of the maximum allowable for Class A classification.

Class B\Grading failure



Class B/Ungraded – This level of bruising is unacceptable for Class A, and could only be classified as Class B if the reddening is not caused by deeper bruises to the musculature.

Class A – This is a good example of a Class A wing.

Class A



Class A – Turkeys are more prone to wing damage than other species, due to their size. This level of damage is acceptable on a Class A bird.

Class A



Class B – This level of reddening is unacceptable for Class A.

Class B



Class B



Class B – This picture shows inner wing damage too great for Class A.

Class A



Class A – The level of reddening on this wing tip would cause the bird to be rejected if left in place. However, if the wing tip is removed at the first joint (as illustrated) the whole turkey may still potentially be classified as Class A.

Grading Failure



Note: In some cases, turkeys are presented with part of the wings removed at the second wing joint (as illustrated).

The Regulations permit only the wing tips to be removed. A turkey presented in this way does not fall within any of the product definitions in the Regulations, and therefore cannot be marketed as a 'whole turkey'.

Class A – Turkey wings can be difficult to pluck; the process generally leaves some feathers and stubs. This is acceptable on Class A birds.

These parts have been removed from the bird at the second wing joint to better illustrate faults shown.

Class A



Class A/Class B – This example shows the maximum level of feathering allowable for Class A. Any greater feathering would be Class B.

Class A/B



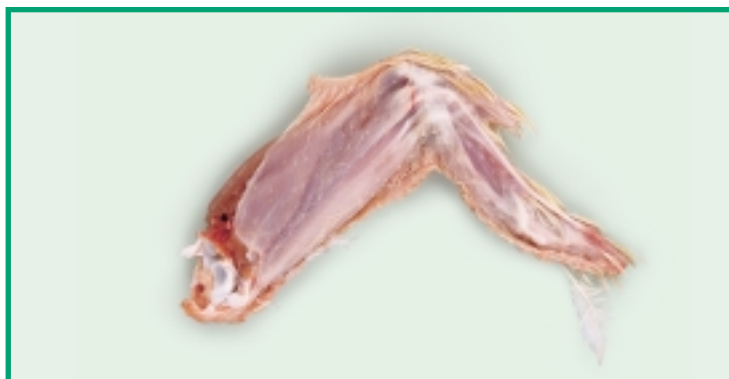
Class B – This level of feathering would be unacceptable on a Class A bird.

Class B

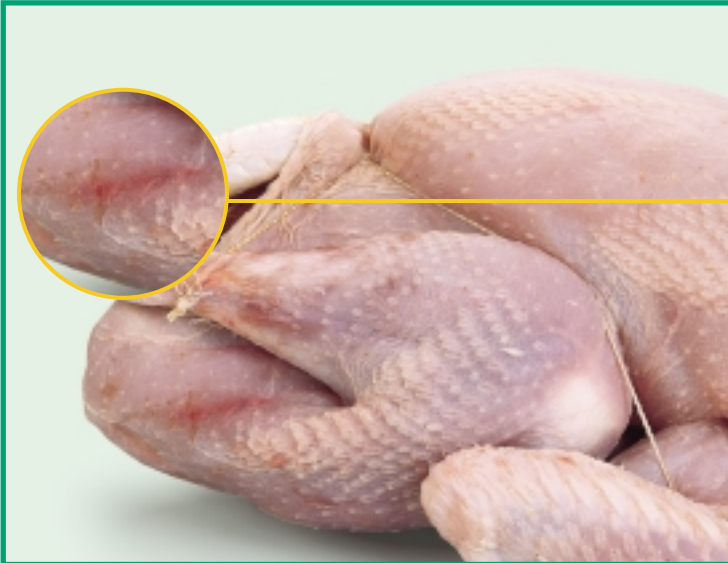


Class B – This picture illustrates the underside of the wing shown above.

Class B



Class A



Class A – This is a good example of a Class A leg. Some skin reddening, bruising or scratches are generally unavoidable, and therefore acceptable. These should not however, penetrate to the muscle.

Class A/B



Class A/Class B – This picture demonstrates the maximum level of damage acceptable for Class A.

Grading failure



Downgrade – This level of bruising is unacceptable for Class A or B.

Class A – Feathers can often be found around the hock joint. This is a good example of the acceptable level of feather on a Class A hock joint.

Class A



Class A – This picture shows a greater degree of feathering around the hock. This example shows the maximum allowable level of feather around the hock joint, and would be a borderline case for downgrading to Class B.

Class A



Class B – This amount of feathering would be unacceptable for a Class A bird.

Class B



