

Summary:

The word "poultry" comes from the French / Norman word *poule*, itself derived from the Latin word *pullus*, which means small animal. Poultry are domesticated birds reared by humans for the eggs they produce, their meat, their feathers, or sometimes as pets. These birds are most typically members of the super order Galloanserae (fowl), especially the order Galliformes (which includes chickens, quails and turkeys) and the family Anatidae, in order Anseriformes, commonly known as "waterfowl" and including domestic ducks and domestic geese. Poultry also includes other birds that are killed for their meat, such as the young of pigeons (known as squabs) but does not include similar wild birds hunted for sport or food and known as game.

The poultry industry has become an important economic activity and vital source of livelihood in many countries. In the last 10 years, the consumption of poultry meat has increased rapidly, and it is expected that it will continue to grow in the future. The poultry industry has been also continuously increased within a short period and this increment results not only from expanding commercial meat-type breeds, but also from a growing population of local breeds. Modern commercial poultry grow faster due to genetic selection, efficient rearing system and improved nutrition supply. But, selection for fast growth and high yield may adversely impact the functional and sensory qualities of meat. Several factors have been shown to influence poultry meat quality such as genetic strains, age, sex, nutrition, environment, slaughtering and processing conditions.