

 **Activity 8.2.1 Vital Signs****Purpose**

You wake up one morning not feeling well and your mom takes your temperature. The thermometer reads 104°F and she starts to get really worried. You wonder why this is so bothersome. After a visit with the doctor, you find out you have a bad case of the flu and he says you should feel better in a few days. Your mom was worried because she realized your temperature was well above normal. The average human body temperature is 98.6°F.

When you are feeling better, you realize your chickens have looked a little off lately and you wonder if they too have a flu-like virus. After finding the temperature of two chickens to be 106°F, you get worried and call the local vet. He tells you there is nothing to worry about that 106°F is the normal temperature for chickens. You are confused; you ended up in the doctor's office a lower temperature. He reminds you that all animals have slightly different vital signs and it is important to remember when checking the health of animals.

Materials**Per student:**

- *Modern Livestock and Poultry Production* textbook
- Computer with Internet access
- Agriscience Library
- Disposable thermometer
- Stopwatch
- Pencil
- *Agriscience Notebook*

Procedure

You will be researching the vital signs of the animal you plan to produce as well as your vital signs.

Part One – Animal Vitals

Using the sources provided and your *Presentation Notes* complete *Activity 8.2.1 Student Worksheet*. Research and record the signs of health, vital signs, and proper restraint procedures for the animal you are studying. Include the worksheet in your *Producer's Management Guide*.

Part Two – Your Vitals

1. Using the disposable thermometer provided by your teacher, take your temperature by placing the thermometer under your tongue for at least one minute. Record in Table 1.
2. Find a partner with whom to work. Determine your resting heart rate by having your partner find the pulse on the radial artery in your arm. Once your partner has located your pulse, he or she should count the number of heartbeats for one minute while you operate the stopwatch. Record in Table 1.
3. Have your partner count the number of breaths you take in one minute while you time. Try not to alter your normal breathing as you wait. Record in Table 1.
4. Switch and count the heart rate and respiration rate for your partner while he or she times.

Table 1. Your Vital Signs

Temperature	Pulse Rate	Respiration Rate
(degrees F)	(beats/min.)	(breaths/min.)

Part Three – Comparing Vitals

In Table 2, record your vital signs and the animal you are studying.

Table 2. Comparing Vitals

	Temperature	Pulse Rate	Respiration Rate
	(degrees F)	(beats/min.)	(breaths/min.)
Animal			
You			
Avg. Person	98.6	60-100	12-20

1. How do your vital signs compare to the animal you are studying?
2. Why is it important to know the difference between normal signs for humans compared to vital signs of animals?
3. How do your vital signs compare to the average person’s vital signs?
4. Why might you be different from the average person?

Conclusion

1. Based on what you have learned, why do you think knowing the signs of good health and the vital signs of animals is important in disease diagnosis?
2. List four signs that indicate an animal is not feeling well.
3. What might a high temperature in an animal indicate?

