

New Commercial Grade Full Length

Years ago, we were able to routinely cut two 4-inch feathers from each raw turkey pointer we purchased. As the years passed, the quality of raw feathers steadily declined. Turkey farms raised more of the birds indoors (in “pole sheds”, for example) where the birds did not develop good feathers. The feathers which did develop on the “indoor” birds were beaten to junk status well before the birds were mature. Feeding programs for turkeys were adjusted for maximum meat growth in the shortest possible time. This also was not good for feather growth.

In time, we no longer found raw material good enough to double cut 4-inch die cuts. The best we could do was a 4 inch, plus a 2.25 inch.

In recent years, even that proved impossible. We resorted to single cutting 4 inch, 5 inch and sometimes even 3 inch. Cutting a single die cut from each ground feather raises costs and slows production. But we had no choice. The part of the web that is not well developed does not make for good archery fletching. We can't use it.

As this was happening, we were able to find fewer and fewer ground feathers meeting our standards for “Select Full Length”. We tried very hard to pick full length good enough for multiple cuts. Only a very small percentage of ground feathers came close. Finding these became enormously expensive... and frustrating. **There simply aren't enough raw feathers available any more to meet our “select” standards.**

Because of these circumstances, we have been forced to replace our “Select Full Length” feathers with “**Commercial Grade**” feathers. “Commercial Grade Full Length” have the same finely ground base, and brilliant colors you expect from Trueflight Feathers. However **the minimum amount of useable web (suitable for strong archery fletching) is 5.5 inches for “Commercial Grade”.**

The 5.5 inch minimum standard insures that the full length can be used for the longest, highest archery fletching. It may be possible to cut more than one shape from a single “Commercial Grade”, indeed, some very long “Select Full Length” may be included but **we cannot GUARANTEE more than a 5.5 inch**



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minimum useable web length. We are sad to end “Select Full Length”, but one plus is that the new “Commercial Grade” are much easier to find and produce, **which allows them to be priced substantially below our “Select Full Length” price.** In the long run, we believe this is a good trade off for our customers and for our hard working production people. ☺