



Avian Science Notes

University of California • Cooperative Extension

April 2003

Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) - Where are we?

As I write this article on March 20th, 3,229,708 birds have been humanely euthanized in California due to the END outbreak. Of these, 3,101,730 were on the 21 affected commercial premises and 127,978 were on the 2,355 backyard premises involved. While this is no consolation to those who have lost their birds, cases have only been found in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties.

The State Veterinarian has established a statewide ban on the exhibition of poultry. That means that no gathering of poultry for sale or exhibition will be allowed in California for the duration of the ban. This action will officially shut down the sale of poultry at swap meets and auctions. No poultry shows will be permitted, this includes county, state and district fairs. Feed stores will not be allowed to sell adult poultry. The sale of immature poultry (chicks, poults, ducklings, goslings) at feed stores will also be prohibited. Feed stores may apply to continue their immature poultry sales if they are willing to apply for a compliance agreement and follow specific guidelines.

The END Task Force has established 3 Incident Command Posts (ICP). They are Inland Desert, South Coast, and the newest one, Central California, in Modesto. The Central California ICP is the only ICP outside of the current quarantine area. Personnel from this ICP, in conjunction with County Ag Commissioner staff, have started surveillance around commercial poultry operations in northern California.

END affected premises have been identified in Nevada (138) and Arizona (4). All of the premises were non-commercial, that is, backyard flocks.

If you are in an area where the END virus has not been isolated, consider yourself very lucky, but **DO NOT STOP YOUR BIOSECURITY EFFORTS**. Do not let visitors into your pens. Do not move birds.

Any sick bird should be immediately isolated from the flock. Check earlier editions of *Avian Science Notes* for END symptoms; go to <http://animalscience.ucdavis.edu/Avian> and click on "4-H Poultry Information," or go to www.cdfa.ca.gov/ and click on Exotic Newcastle Disease.

If you have concerns that your birds may have END or if you know of a suspicious flock, please call the END Hotline 1-800-491-1899.

2003 California State Fair

Obviously, the State Fair is included in the new statewide ban on poultry exhibitions. There will be no live poultry at this year's State Fair. However, Avian Bowl will continue. Please note **DAY-OF-THE-WEEK CHANGE**. This year Avian Bowl will be the first **THURSDAY** of the Fair. Please fill out your team entry forms (in this newsletter) and mail in to your Editor, Dr. Bradley, as early as possible.

State Fair is still deciding on what other avian events (that do not involve live birds) they will host. To find out their final decisions, call:

California State Fair Competitive Entry Office
(916) 263-3146.

Be specific with your question when you call. The operator may try to tell you there will be no live poultry - **THE END**. Be politely persistent and ask what other events will be held for Junior Poultry Exhibitors.

The OPEN Poultry Show has been completely cancelled.

2003 Avian Bowl Qualifier

This year's qualifier will be held on Thursday, August 21st at the California State Fair. Check-in time is 5:00 p.m. and the competition will begin at 6:00 p.m.

The Avian Bowl Qualifier forms are included in this newsletter on pages 3 and 4. **PLEASE NOTE THERE IS A SEPARATE FORM FOR JUNIORS AND SENIORS. THE FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN OUR OFFICE OR POST-MARKED BY JULY 14.**

2003 Avian Bowl Study Sections

<u>Title</u>	<u>Pages</u>
Avian Systems (Female Reproductive, Male Reproductive, Circulatory, Nervous, Muscle, Excretory)	37-39
Growing Blue Ribbon Pullets	57-65
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Eggyclopedia Germinal Disc through Roasted Egg	127-144
Fact Sheet - Ratites	171-173

Note: These study sections will not be used until the Qualifier in August 2003

Ordering New Revised Avian Bowl Manuals

To obtain the material from which questions will be prepared, rules, and other information, you may order the National Avian Bowl Study Packet from the Clemson University Bulletin Room, Room 96, Poole Agricultural Building, Clemson, SC 29634 (telephone 864-656-3261). The price is \$12.00.

2003 Egg Preparation Qualifier

Specific details (time and location) for the 2003 Egg Preparation Qualifier are still being worked on. We anticipate some excellent competition this year. Please keep checking <http://animalscience.ucdavis.edu/Avian> under "4-H Poultry Information" for details and entry blanks.



Poultry Judging

No Senior Team entered this year's qualifier held at Ag and Environmental Sciences Field Day at U.C. Davis. Therefore, California will not be sending a Poultry Judging Team to Louisville this year.

Your editor hears that a number of competitors are preparing to qualify in 2004 – keep practicing.



Susie Reichel Retires

After years as Poultry Extension's outstanding assistant, Susie Reichel has announced her retirement. For many of you, Susie was the one you could count on finding when your Editor was on the road or in the air. Susie is the one who helped you with all the details when you just couldn't find your last Avian Science Notes. She is the one who reminded you how to order your Showmanship Manuals and typed all your paperwork for the 4-H Nationals. And then there were the thousands of Avian Bowl questions that she typed onto index cards. She was also responsible for the lay-out and mailing of this newsletter.

As of April 12th, Susie will not have to worry about University deadlines, updating mailing lists, nor State Fair paperwork. However, we will all remember her skills, professionalism, and service to 4-H Poultry.

2003 Avian Bowl Qualifier

Thursday, August 21st (check-in 5:00 p.m.) Contest begins at 6:00 p.m.

JUNIOR ENTRY FORM

4-H Avian Bowl Contest Entry Form

FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT COMPLETE BIRTH DATE FOR EACH MEMBER

Entries must be postmarked by July 14, 2003

Juniors must have completed third grade by July 1, 2003 and must be younger than 14 years of age on January 1, 2003.

County _____

Team One name _____

Team members' names:

Month/day/year

1. _____ Birth date _____

2. _____ Birth date _____

3. _____ Birth date _____

4. _____ Birth date _____

Alternate _____ Birth date _____

Coach

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone # _____

Team Two name _____

Team members' names:

Month/day/year

1. _____ Birth date _____

2. _____ Birth date _____

3. _____ Birth date _____

4. _____ Birth date _____

Alternate _____ Birth date _____

Coach

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone # _____

**Send entries to: Dr. Francine Bradley, Animal Science, UC Davis,
Davis, California 95616-8521; FAX (530) 752-8960.**

2003 Avian Bowl Qualifier

Thursday, August 21st (check-in 5:00 p.m.) Contest begins at 6:00 p.m.

SENIOR ENTRY FORM

4-H Avian Bowl Contest Entry Form

FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT COMPLETE BIRTH DATE FOR EACH MEMBER

Entries must be postmarked by July 14, 2003

Seniors must be 14 to 18 years old as of January 1, 2003.

County _____

Team One name _____

Team members' names:

Month/day/year

1. _____ Birth date _____

2. _____ Birth date _____

3. _____ Birth date _____

4. _____ Birth date _____

Alternate _____ Birth date _____

Coach: _____
Name Address

_____ City Zip Phone #

Team Two name _____

Team members' names:

Month/day/year

1. _____ Birth date _____

2. _____ Birth date _____

3. _____ Birth date _____

4. _____ Birth date _____

Alternate _____ Birth date _____

Coach _____
Name Address

_____ City Zip Phone #

Send entries to: **Dr. Francine Bradley, Animal Science, UC Davis,
Davis, California 95616-8521; FAX (530) 752-8960.**

West Nile Virus (WNV) And Chickens

Your editor has received several calls regarding WNV. Most callers had questions after seeing a media report on WNV that also included photos of chickens.

Mosquitoes spread WNV. Humans, members of the horse family, and birds are affected by the virus. Although the disease was first identified in Uganda (West Nile District) in 1937, no cases were seen in the United States until 1999. Since that time the disease has moved westward across the country.

Komar (2001) indicated that both chickens and pigeons had been naturally exposed to WNV in the first American outbreaks in 1999-2000. Both types of birds developed antibodies to WNV, but neither became highly infectious to the mosquitoes that transmit the disease.

Langevin, *et al.* (2001) found under experimental conditions that chickens were suitable candidates for WNV sentinels. When experimentally infected with WNV, the chickens developed antibodies to WNV, survived the infection, and with only one exception, the chickens did not infect their cage mates.

Due to the research findings stated above, the State of California has placed hundreds of sentinel chicken flocks up and down the state. Throughout the mosquito season, these flocks are blood tested and checked for antibodies for WNV.

You should not be worried that your chickens are going to contract WNV and die. You can be proud that our feathered friends are serving a vital role in monitoring for the presence of this serious disease.

Komar, N., 2001. West Nile virus surveillance using sentinel birds. *Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci.* 951:58-73.

Langevin, S.A., M. Bunning, B. Davis, and N. Komar, 2001. Experimental infection of chickens as candidate sentinels for West Nile virus. *Emerg. Infect. Dis.* 7(4):726-9.

2003 Calendar

July 14

Avian Bowl entries due in Dr. Bradley's office or postmarked by July 14, 2003.

August 21

Avian Bowl Qualifier, California State Fair. Check-in 5:00 p.m.; contest begins at 6:00 p.m. (see article on page 2 of this newsletter).

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Distribution of **Avian Science Notes** is made to 4-H Poultry Leaders and Youth Advisors. Anyone wishing to be placed on the mailing list may send a request to Dr. Francine Bradley, Animal Science Department, University of California, One Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616-8521.

Trade and company names mentioned in this publication are for information only and does not imply University of California endorsement of the product.

Visit our website at:

<http://animalscience.ucdavis.edu/Avian>

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