



Avian Science Notes

University of California • Cooperative Extension

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State Veterinarian gives fanciers green light for cautious bird movement

Dr. Richard Breitmeyer has told your editor that poultry fanciers outside the quarantine area may slowly resume routine bird activities. Many people are anxious to sell birds and an equal or greater number are eager to buy new stock. Dr. Brietmeyer feels that ONE-ON-ONE direct sales are now safe. That means that Jessica from Porterville may arrange to sell some of her birds to Randy from Sutter Creek. Neither person lives in the quarantine area and the birds are not coming out of the quarantine area.

The green light does NOT mean that Min, Louisa, Mike, Jamie, and Carolina from a club in Sacramento County can come together and hold a poultry sale. That would be considered an exhibition and that is still banned throughout the state.

You should continue to limit access to your pens. If someone wants to buy birds from you, let them know that the transaction must be conducted at a neutral location. The buyer can get an idea of the quality of your birds by your description of your original source stock, your breeding program, and the types of awards your birds have received. Some 4-Hers may have the capability of sending pictures of their sale birds or posting the pictures on a web site. If the buyer wishes to proceed, arrange for a mutually agreeable location and time. Some possible meeting locations could include a park or rest stop. Especially during the hot months, try to arrange for an early morning meeting. Be sure that the area you select has shade trees. Remember to bring cool drinking water (for you and your birds). If your birds start panting or holding their wings out, they are being stressed by the heat and you need to immediately move them to a cooler location.

Anyone purchasing new birds, should arrange a quarantine area at the home site. The quarantine pens should be as far away as possible from any existing birds. It is best if one member of the family can care for the quarantined birds and not go near the existing home flock. If only one person is available to care for all the birds, take care of your home flock first and then the quarantined birds. If possible, keep a pair of boots and coveralls in front of both pens and put them on before servicing the birds. Never go from the quarantined birds to your home flock before showering.

The new birds should be quarantined for a minimum of 14 days. If the new birds start showing any sign of disease, call the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory System (530) 752-8700 for the location of the Lab nearest you.

If after 14 days your new birds still look healthy and thrifty, you may introduce them to your regular pens.

More on State Fair

We will be holding the California Egg Preparation Demonstration Qualifier at State Fair on Thursday, August 21st (THE SAME DAY AS AVIAN BOWL). Both Juniors and Seniors may compete. The first place senior will represent California at the 4-H National Poultry and Egg Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. Entry information and more details on the National Egg Preparation Demonstration Contest can be obtained by contacting our Poultry Extension Assistant, Jeri Hansen, Animal Sci., 1 Shields Ave., UC Davis, Davis, California 95616 (530) 752-9040; e-mail jghansen@ucdavis.edu.

The Egg Prep Contest allows youth to develop their knowledge of the egg industry, food science, functional properties of eggs, nutritional value of eggs, and egg marketing. In addition, competitors learn demonstration and public speaking skills.

LEADERS: please note that the Egg Prep Qualifier AND Avian Bowl are on the same day. This is an opportunity for your youth to participate in two major competitions without overnighting (for those living close to Cal Expo) or with two nights at most in Sacramento for those of you coming from the distant parts of the state.

It is true that we cannot have live birds at this year's State Fair, but we still can have an exciting Junior Poultry Show. Please enter at least one event.

Important State Fair Dates

- July 14 Avian Bowl entries due - entries are to be mailed to Dr. Bradley (see form in April 2003 AVS Notes)
- July 15 Egg Preparation Demonstration Qualifier entries due to Dr. Bradley (see premium book for details)
- Entries for all other Junior Poultry events due to State Fair
- August 15 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM Market Eggs due at Fur & Feathers Bldg
3:00 PM - Judge Market Eggs
7:00 PM Champion Challenge - Written Qualifying Exam (L-3)
- August 18 5:00 PM Social Event for Sale of Champions (Best Dozen Eggs will go to Sale)
6:30 PM Sale of Champions
- August 21 9:00 AM California Egg Preparation Demonstration Qualifier
5:00 PM Check-in Avian Bowl Teams
6:00 PM Avian Bowl
Post-Avian Bowl - Annual Social for all at Leatherby's Ice Cream Parlor
- August 23 6:00 PM Check-in for County Fair Best of Show Small Animal Master Showmanship (Fur & Feathers)
7:30 PM County Fair Best of Show Small Animal Master Showmanship (Livestock Pavilion, L-2)
- August 24 10:00 AM State Fair Small Animal Master Showmanship (Livestock Pavilion, L-2)
Labor Day Weekend - NO Open Poultry Show

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