

Avian Science Notes

University of California • Cooperative Extension

September 2003

EXOTIC NEWCASTLE DISEASE (END) QUARANTINE LIFTED

On September 16, the statewide END quarantine was lifted. This action was possible because testing by both our California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) revealed no further presence of the disease.

Since the first confirmation of END on October 1, 2002, a total of 3.16 million birds were humanely depopulated. These birds were from 21 commercial and 899 backyard flocks. The cost of the outbreak has been estimated at over \$160 million.

BAN ON POULTRY EXHIBITIONS LIFTED - HOW TO PROCEED

There is no longer a ban on poultry shows in California. We are now very late in the California Fairs and Expositions (F&E) season. Due to the late date and the fact that premium books have been printed and mailed, there will not be any poultry shows at the remaining 2003 California State F&E.

For the 2004 F&E season, Dr. Breitmeyer (CDFA State Veterinarian) will require mandatory bird health checks at a site remote to the poultry building. This means that if you are exhibiting at your local county or district fair, expect that you will be asked to go to a site separate from the poultry building, have your birds health checked, and then receive permission to coop your birds in. This will also be true for State Fair, but of course, your Editor has been doing this for years.

Open poultry shows, that is those organized by a fancier group or 4-H club, may resume immediately. Dr. Breitmeyer is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDING** that all such shows follow the same procedures described above. I fully support this recommendation. Actually, I have been recommending it for a long time. It just makes good sense to screen out any potentially diseased or parasite-infested birds **BEFORE** they get in the show room with healthy birds. Health checks can be conducted by experienced club members. You are not being required to hire a vet or have a CDFA official inspect the birds.

4-H often takes the lead with new ideas. I ask each of you to be good bird-owning citizens of California and follow Dr. Breitmeyer's recommendations.

STATE FAIR RESULTS

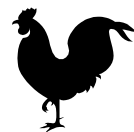
It certainly was a different State Fair without any live birds. What did not change was the wonderful leadership provided by Mr. Richard Schroeder, our Task Force Leader. When next you see him, say "Thank you," we can never thank him enough for all he does.

Mark Ryan took the Market Egg championship and did very well at the Auction. Our top Egg Prep Demonstration winners were Marta Kroger and Rachel Teagle. Both of these competitors did fine jobs. Do talk with them and get tips on your own demonstrations for 2004. Marta will be representing California at the 4-H Poultry and Egg National Conference in Louisville this November. We had a fabulous turn-out at both the junior and senior levels for Avian Bowl. Taking first place in the junior competition were the Poultry Punks from San Benito. This team may have tried to look like "low life Black Leghorns," but they certainly had studied and knew their material. Terry Lee coached the team of Ivy Lurz, John Lee, Sarah Lee, and Kathrine Hastings. Our State Champion Senior Avian Bowl Team is Emu on a Stick from Santa Clara County. The winning threesome of Aaron Teagle, Erica King, and Heather Welsch are coached by Dr. Linda Teagle. This group will also be traveling to Louisville this fall.

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CALENDAR

Amador Co. 4-H Poultry Show, Ione*

OCTOBER 2003

Central Coast Feather Fanciers, Paso Robles*

Bakersfield Fancy Feather Club*

25 – Sonoma Youth Invitational, Santa Rosa
Contact: Mrs. Shirley Conkling (707) 433-7329

NOVEMBER 2003

Golden Gate Bantam*

25 – Pacific Poultry Breeders' Association Fall Show
Angel Camp contact: Eric Kutch (209) 984-4773

DECEMBER 2003

Pacific Coast Bantam Club, Pomona*

JANUARY 2004

Gold Coast Poultry Fanciers, Hollister*

24-25 Pacific Poultry Breeders' Association; Roseville
Contact Janice Sherman (209) 296-6245

FEBRUARY 2004

7th – Avian Science Day, UC Davis (details in coming issues)

Humboldt Poultry Fanciers' Association, Eureka
Contact: Mary Willson or Agnes Wilson (707) 668-5405

MARCH 2004

Monterey Bay Bantam Club - no decision at press time
Contact Kitty Gleason (831) 770-1569

APRIL 2004

Northern California Bird Fanciers, Anderson*

*Cancelled for this season; be sure to support this show when it is back up and running