



# Avian Science Notes

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University of California • Cooperative Extension

October 2004

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## Avian Science Day 2005

Avian Science Day is ALWAYS the FIRST SATURDAY in FEBRUARY. We apologize that the wrong calendar date was printed in the last issue of this newsletter. Avian Science Day will be on February 5, 2005.

## Dr. Ralph Ernst Retires

Poultry Extension Specialist, Dr. Ralph Ernst, retired from the University of California in June. Dr. Ernst started his appointed at UC Davis in 1966. During his career he has been especially helpful to California's youth. Through the 1970s he was very involved with the poultry shows at State Fair and the Cooperative Extension booths at the Pacific Poultry Breeders' Association shows. Along with his colleagues Francine Bradley and John Emo, he helped develop the now nationally popular Avian Bowl. Active in poultry judging during his youth and college years, Dr. Ernst has been very generous with his time in running poultry judging contests at UC Davis and at the Greater California Show in Fresno. Members of past State Poultry Judging Teams attribute much of their success at the Nationals in Louisville to Dr. Ernst's coaching.

The "retired" Dr. Ernst still comes into his office and is working on some special projects for the State Veterinarian and for the Pacific Egg and Poultry Association.

I know that many of you have been helped by Dr. Ernst over the years. If you wish to send him a "Happy Retirement" card or note, you may mail it to him at Animal Science, UC Davis, 1 Shields Avenue, Davis, California 95616.

## It Only Took Two to Win

The Avian Bowl team of David Copperman and Sarah Hubbard captured the Senior State Champion title at State Fair. Coached by Mrs. Connie Hubbard, they will be joining at the 4-H Nationals our State Champion Poultry Judging Team (Natalee Russel, Paul Soto, and Kyle Linfor).

The Champion Junior Avian Bowl Team was another team of two. Abigail Reed and Seth Washman were coached by Nancy Washman.

## More State Fair News

Both the Supreme Champion Challenge exhibitor, Rachel Teagle, and Reserve Champion Challenge exhibitor, Sarah Hubbard, came from the 4-HPoultry Program.

Zeb Gnehm of Monterey County captured the Junior Egg Preparation Demonstration Title. Zeb also exhibited the Champion Dozen Market Eggs. Indeed he is the EGG MAN!

The Junior Avian Bowl competition was hot. There seemed to be teams from every part of the state. A special feathered salute to the team from Orange County. They drove the 425 miles up to Sacramento, competed in their first State Fair (captured 4<sup>th</sup> place), ate lots of ice cream at Leatherby's, and drove home the next day. Dr. B says, "Well done," and challenges the rest of Southern California (her birthplace) to follow the lead of Orange County Poultry 4-Hers and compete at State Fair in 2005.

## CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT

Ever since the outbreak of Exotic Newcastle Disease in fall of 2002, I have been talking to you about BIOSECURITY. I would like to know what all of you learned from this. Therefore, I am hosting a competition where ALL youth (regardless of club or organizational affiliation) can describe their new understanding and use of the biosecurity information that has been circulating for the past two years. The contest is described on the entry form in this newsletter.

I will award a new colored edition of The American Standard of Perfection to the first place winner in each of the age categories. All the top entries will be acknowledged in this newsletter.

Biosecurity Contest entries must be postmarked by November 8, 2004. Please mail entries to me, Dr. Francine Bradley, Animal Science, UC Davis, 1 Shields Avenue, Davis, California 95616 or Fax them to me at 530 752-8960. NO e-mail submissions.

**HINT TO POULTRY LEADERS:** You may want to use this contest as part of one or more of your fall meetings. Club members could brainstorm their ideas at one meeting and could bring their draft entries to the next meeting. You and other club members could help contestants proof and finalize their entries.

## New Poultry Club in the State

Congratulations to The Seaside Feather Fanciers (SSFF), a new club that was organized in February of this year. The Club is promoting land fowl, waterfowl, and pigeons. Details on their first show can be found in the Calendar section of this newsletter.

Special kudos to SSFF for arranging to have a certified Poultry Health Inspector (PHI) at their Show.

**LEADERS** – Are you frustrated trying to photocopy this colored newsletter? We hear from leaders who want us to print the Avian Science Notes on white paper. They tell us they photocopy the newsletter and pass it out to other families in the club. This is extra work and expense that Leaders should NOT have. We are happy to send the newsletter to any 4-H poultry family. Just have them send their complete name and mailing address to Jeri Hansen, Animal Science, UC Davis, 1 Shields Avenue, Davis, California 95616.

**New Poultry Leaders:** Do you know what to do when a bird dies?

It is a fact of life that your birds will die at some point. Many 4-Hers are lucky enough to have a pet chicken reach teenage years. However, some birds may be lost much earlier.

If a bird dies and the cause of death is not obvious (attacked by predator, etc.), you should get a diagnosis. Unfortunately, there are few poultry veterinarians in the state and even fewer who will see clients with backyard flocks. So what is a 4-H leader, 4-H parent, backyarder to do?

We are very lucky to have as part of the University of California, the California Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS) Laboratory System. You may take a live, but ill, bird directly to one of the labs. It is important for you to know that this is NOT a treatment facility.

If you take a live bird, the veterinarians will observe the bird, then humanely kill it, and conduct a post mortem. No live bird that is submitted to the lab is returned to the owner. If you have a bird die, double bag it in plastic and keep it cool (in the refrigerator or in an ice chest). Do NOT freeze the carcass, as freezing destroys the tissue.

The CAHFS labs are open Monday through Friday, 8AM to 5PM. You do not need an appointment. If you can only get to a Lab after hours, or on the weekend, call the lab and they will make arrangements to meet you whenever it is convenient.

Before leaving home, write down as much information as you can remember that is related to the sick bird(s). This would include, but is not limited to:

How many birds do you have?

Species?

How many birds are ill?

How many have died?

What have the birds been vaccinated against? What medicines have you used?

How long have the birds been ill?

Have you recently brought any new birds onto your property?

You will be asked for this type of information at the Lab and it will be easier for you, if you have it written down ahead of time.

Tell the Lab personnel that you are a backyarder. There is NO charge to poultry backyarders for routine post mortems. You can request to have the post mortem results mailed, e-mailed, or faxed to you. When you receive the results, read the report carefully. If you have difficulty deciphering them, you may call our Extension Poultry Veterinarian, Dr. Carol Cardona (530 754-5041), for assistance.

If you have questions about how to get specimens/samples to the Lab, please call the Lab directly. Of course, select the Lab that is most convenient for you. Note: the Turlock Lab devotes itself entirely to poultry. The other Labs also work on horses, cattle, swine, and other food animals.



# CAHFS

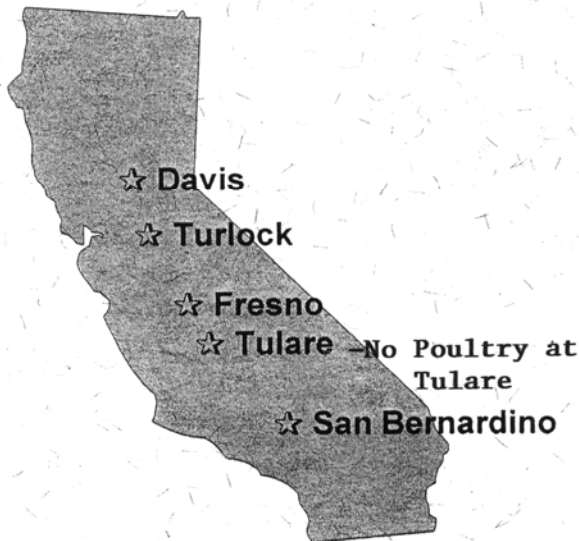
California Animal Health & Food Safety Laboratory System

*CAHFS is a cooperative  
effort involving*

*UC Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine*

*California Department of Food  
and Agriculture*

*California's Animal Agriculture Industries*



## ADDRESSES, TELEPHONE AND FACSIMILE NUMBERS

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University of California  
PO Box 1770  
Davis, CA 95617-1770  
(530)752-8700  
FAX (530) 752-6253

Fresno Branch Laboratory  
California Animal Health & Food  
Safety Lab System  
University of California  
2789 South Oranga Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93725  
(559) 498-4470  
FAX (559)483-8097

San Bernardino Branch Laboratory  
California Animal Health & Food  
Safety Lab System  
University of California  
105 West Central Avenue  
San Bernardino, CA 92408  
(909)383-4287  
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Turlock Branch Laboratory  
California Animal Health & Food  
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University of California  
PO Box 1522  
Turlock CA 95381  
(209)634-5837  
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Biosecurity Contest entries must be postmarked by November 8, 2004. Please mail entries to me, Dr. Francine Bradley, Animal Science, UC Davis, 1 Shields Avenue, Davis, California 95616 or Fax them to me at 530 752-8960. NO e-mail submissions.

Contestant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Circle your affiliation:                      4-H                      FFA                      Grange                      Independent

Based on your age, circle the category in which you are competing:

8-10 Years                      11-13 Year                      14-16 Years                      17-19 Years

Describe the most important thing you have learned about Biosecurity and explain how it has changed your poultry project. You are limited to the space on this page and the reverse side of this page. All entries must be typed or neatly printed.

You may attach a drawing or photograph. However, an entry cannot consist of just a drawing or photograph; there must be the written description. NO electron or video entries will be accepted.

**October 30-31**

The Seaside Feather Fanciers' First Annual Bash at the Beach, Ventura Fairgrounds, Ventura. Full poultry + pigeon show. Showmanship classes; Judge: Mr. Glenn Heathman. Information: Seaside Feather Fanciers, 1947 Grand Ave., Fillmore, California 93015

**November 13-14**

Golden Gate Bantam Club's Show, hosting the ABA National, Calaveras County Fairgrounds, Angels Camp. Information: Eric Kutch 209 984-4773; P.O. Box 1663, Jamestown, California 95327-1663

**November 20**

Bakersfield Feather Fanciers' Show, Kern County Fairgrounds, Bakersfield. One day show. Information: Nathan Branum 661 589-8179

**December 3-4**

Pacific Coast Bantam Club, Ventura County Fairgrounds, Ventura. Information: Juanita Hall 818 353-6749

Happy Holidays

**2005**

**January 8-9**

Gold Coast Poultry Fanciers' Show, San Benito County Fairgrounds, Hollister. Information: John Monaco 408 779-2383

**January 29-30**

Pacific Poultry Breeders' Association Show, Placer County Fairgrounds, Roseville. Showmanship classes: Lead Judge: Dr. Francine Bradley. Information: Bonnie Sallee 209 296-8084

**February 5**

Avian Science Day, UC Davis Details in the next newsletter

**February 12-13**

Humboldt Poultry Fanciers' Show. Show site TBA. Showmanship and Avian Bowl; Judge: Dr. Francine Bradley. Information: Mary Willson: 707 668-5405

**February 26**

Greater California Society of Poultry Fanciers' Show, Big Fresno Fairgrounds, Fresno. Hosting the California 4-H Poultry Judging Qualifier. Showmanship and Avian Bowl; Judge: Dr. Francine Bradley. Note this will be a one day show. Information: David Tune 559 673-5444

**March 12-13**

Monterey Bay Bantam Club's Show, Monterey County Fairgrounds, Monterey. Information: Rita Martin 831 663-4444

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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 Jeri Hansen, Animal Science Department, University of California, One Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616-8521.

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