



# Avian Science Notes

University of California • Cooperative Extension

January 2007

## Fresno!

### California 4-H Poultry Judging Qualifier - If it's February, it must be Fresno

Once again, the Greater California Society of Poultry Fanciers (GCSPF) has agreed to host the California 4-H Poultry Judging Qualifier. The qualifier for the 4-H National Poultry and Egg Conference's Poultry Judging Contest will be held on Saturday, February 24 at the GCSPF Show (Big Fresno Fairgrounds). As usual, I am organizing and sponsoring the Qualifier. I am very grateful to have Ms. Marlies Boyd from Modesto Junior College back as Lead Judge.

The contest in Fresno will be open to both Juniors (11-13 years of age as of January 1, 2007) and Seniors (14-18 years of age as of January 1, 2007). For those new to 4-H Poultry Judging Contests, this competition involves the evaluation of commercial poultry (egg layers) and commercial poultry products (eggs, carcasses, and poultry parts).

To be the most competitive, each team should have four (4) members. According to the contest rules, a team of 4 may drop the lowest individual's scores. You may enter a team of three, but no scores will be dropped.

If you would like to enter a team, entry forms can be obtained by phoning my Junior Specialist, Michele Palmer, at 530 752-9040. Forms must be postmarked by February 12, 2007. No walk-in registration will be allowed.

### How do I prepare for the Judging Contest?

Dr. Jacquie Jacob (University of Minnesota) has developed an excellent 4-H Poultry Judging CD-ROM. It is interactive and allows the 4-Her to practice all the components of the contest. The CD is enhanced with over 1200 photographs.

You may order copies for \$20 each (includes shipping and handling) by sending a check made out to the "University of Minnesota" to Dr. Jacob at 305 Heaecker Hall, 1364 Eckles Ave, St. Paul, MN 55108. If you wish to pay by credit card, you may Fax your order to 612 625-5789. Any questions may be addressed to Dr. Jacob at 612 624-2766.



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## Avian Bowl & Poultry Showmanship to Roll at Greater California Show

In addition to the 4-H Poultry Judging Qualifier, the GCSPF Show will also be the site of Poultry Showmanship Classes and Avian Bowl Competition. I will begin judging the Mini and Novice competitors simultaneously with the start of the Poultry Judging Contest. Intermediate, Junior, and Senior Showmanship will follow. Start of the last three classes will be delayed until after the conclusion of Poultry Judging, if there are competitors entered in both.

Showmanship registration must be completed along with Junior Poultry Show entries and mailed to GCSPF. The showmanship bird cannot be entered in the out-of-coop judging portion of the show. There is a \$3.00 Showmanship fee. For more Showmanship details and forms, please contact Mr. & Mrs. Gallegos at (559) 855-3951. There will be NO on-site showmanship registration.

Junior and Senior Avian Bowls will be held immediately after Showmanship. Teams must sign up in advance of the show using forms that may be obtained by calling Michele Palmer at 530 752-9040. There will be no on-site registration for Avian Bowl.

## Who Are the People Asking to Test my Chickens?

I have received several calls from 4-H leaders asking for clarification on the following item. There is active, but voluntary, surveillance of backyard flocks for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and Exotic Newcastle Disease (END). This is an operation of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) District Offices and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The individuals who may come to your home will either be CDFA or USDA representatives.

As when dealing with anyone who comes to your door and purports to be from a government agency, you should ask to see their official identification. All segments of California's poultry industries and poultry owners are participating in voluntary surveillance of their flocks. This includes the commercial egg, broiler, and turkey industries, as well as game fowl breeders and the live bird market segment. Your participation will be greatly appreciated and there will be no cost to you. However, if for any reason you do not wish to give access to your birds, that is your right.



# Is there Avian Influenza in the United States?

**NO, WE DO NOT HAVE HPAI IN THE UNITED STATES.**

In addition, it is not present in Canada or Mexico.



## What is Happening with HPAI?

As I write this issue on January 22, the Egyptian Health Ministry has announced the death from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) of a 27 year old woman in Cairo. While there were some 19 cases of HPAI in Cairo in 2006, this woman was the first Egyptian death from the disease (Schmidt, T., Jan. 19, 2007, International Institute for Travel and Health).

On January 20<sup>th</sup> the 62<sup>nd</sup> death from HPAI was announced in Indonesia. This country has the world's highest human fatality rate from Avian Influenza. Indonesia is a country with a high concentration of people and poultry, both often sharing the same living spaces. According to BBC News, Governor Sutiyoso of Jakarta has announced a ban on backyard poultry. Residents of the capital city have one month to kill and eat or dispose of all of their birds. On February 1<sup>st</sup> there will be a complete ban on residential poultry. Jakarta is taking the lead in this program and eight other Indonesian provinces are to follow.

## Is Biosecurity Necessary?

Indeed it is. We have been fortunate that HPAI has not reached North America. However, the disease can be one international plane ride away.

Post your property with Biosecurity - Keep Out signs. Have the area where your birds are housed, fenced, gated, and locked. All birds should be in pens or houses with solid tops. Do not let visitors near your birds.

After you have been to areas where other bird owners are present (feed stores, poultry shows), shower and launder/clean all your clothing (including caps, hats, and shoes) before you go near your birds.



# Calendar 2007

## **Humboldt Poultry Fanciers' Show**

February 9-10, 2007; Eureka, CA  
Harry Majors, Show Superintendent;  
(707) 441-1164  
Showmanship and Avian Bowl Judge:  
Dr. Francine Bradley

## **Greater California Society of Poultry Fanciers' Show**

February 24, 2007 – one day show;  
Fresno, CA  
Hosting the California 4-H Poultry  
Judging Qualifier.  
(559) 673-5444; [www.gcspf.com](http://www.gcspf.com)  
Showmanship and Avian Bowl, Lead  
Judge: Dr. Francine Bradley

## **Avian Science Day**

Saturday October 6, 2007  
UC Davis

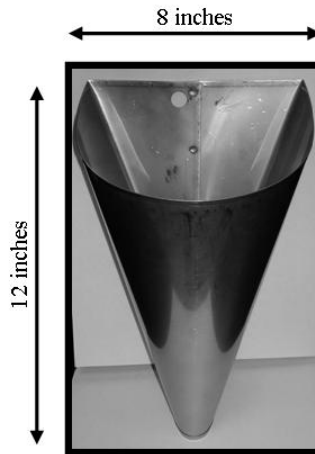
**Dr. Francine A. Bradley, Editor  
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Davis, CA 95616-8521  
Tel. (530) 752-6316  
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**Michele Palmer, Junior Specialist and Production Editor  
Tel. (530) 752-9040**

## How is Your Poultry Knowledge?

As promised, here is the second edition of the Poultry Knowledge Contest. There were a total of 7 correct responses to the item pictured in the last edition of the Avian Sciences Notes. 4-H Members who correctly guess the name and function of all four poultry products will be placed in a lottery. Five names will be pulled out of the lottery. The selected individuals will be awarded their very own copy of The American Standard of Perfection. The winners will be announced at the 2007 Avian Science Day and the Standards will be awarded at that time.

One entry per family will be accepted. Entry forms (see below) may be submitted by fax or mail. Entry forms for this issue of Avian Science Notes submitted by fax must be received no later than 5:00 PM on February 16, 2007. The fax number is (530) 752-8960 and faxed submissions must be to the attention of Dr. Brigid McCrea. Mailed submissions for this issue of Avian Science Notes must be postmarked no later than February 16, 2007.



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### Poultry Knowledge Contest

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address, City, Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Mystery Item: \_\_\_\_\_

Function of Mystery Item: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_