



# Avian Science Notes

University of California - Cooperative Extension

October 2012

## STATE CHAMPION AVIAN BOWLERS

Thanks again to the Greater California Society of Poultry Fanciers for providing space for the Avian Bowl Qualifier at their annual show. Winning the Junior Avian Bowl Competition were (top photo, left to right) Ellie and Abby Milanesa, and Mariah O’Grady. These “Perfect Peeps” are from Salinas in Monterey County and were coached by Mrs. Deirdre O’Grady.



Capturing the Senior Avian Bowl Championship was True Grit with team members (bottom photo, left to right) Jesse Hazeltine, Spencer Downey, (Dr. Bradley), Sarah Lloyd and Ashley Ruzicka, and alternate Haley Ward (not pictured). The team was coached by Mrs. Marcia Downey.

I want to thank the wonderful officials who assisted me with the contest: Drs. Carol Beatty and Linda Teagle, Elise Rodriguez, and Aaron Teagle. These members of the greater 4-H poultry flock just keep on giving.

Our State Champions have been busily studying for the Nationals. My thanks to other 4-Avian Bowlers and Coaches across the State who have been helping our state champions with their preparations.

Blue and gold California cheers of support go out to our State Champions. We know they will show true grit when they compete this November at the 4-H National Poultry and Egg Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.



H

**CONTEST on Page 2**

# Leaders Help Your Members with Skill that will Serve them for a Lifetime

There was a thought provoking and disturbing article by Nick Schultz in the September 20, 2012 issue of the Wall Street Journal. Mr. Schulz is the DeWitt Wallace Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. He referred to the 2012 Talent Shortage Survey conducted by the Manpower Group. According to the results of that survey, 20% of employers said they were not able to hire needed employees because the applicants lacked “soft skills.” The soft skills mentioned were: interpersonal skills, enthusiasm/motivation, and command of the English language. Representatives from over 50% of the surveyed companies reported that their younger employees did not have the simple grammar and spelling skills possessed by their older employees. In terms of applied skills, those surveyed said they were most looking for professionalism/work ethic in new employees.

With my educator’s eye-in-the-back-of-the-head, I have seen parents and 4-Hers alike, make faces when I insist that a poultry showman:

1. Give the judge a firm handshake
2. Say “yes” and not “yeah.”
3. Speak politely to fellow competitors
4. Know how to spell words commonly used in poultry production/science
5. Use proper grammar
6. Look interested and happy to be in the contest

One of the main missions of the 4-H program is to teach life skills. While we are helping 4-Hers learn about poultry and poultry science, let us try to incorporate as many life skills as we can. This will help them not just in their 4-H activities, but as they enter and move through their careers.

## CONTEST

In the September 2012 issue of the CAHFS Connection (published by the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory System - CAHFS, UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine) there was a very interesting case report. A producer reported neurological disease in 3 houses of commercial 6-wk old layer pullets. Due to the histological results of brain samples (parts of the cerebellum were processed and examined microscopically), the pathologists at the CAHFS Lab determined the chicks were suffering from Vitamin E deficiency. The liver, which normally contains Vitamin E, had NONE. However, the level of Vitamin A in the liver was twice the normal level.

Commercial poultry ranches purchase commercial poultry feed. Poultry feed mills are highly computerized operations. Of course, humans still need to punch the keys on the machinery.

I am offering prizes to the first five (5) 4-H members who mail me (by U.S. mail) a PLAUSIBLE (look this word up, if you do not know what it means) explanation of HOW the chicks ended up with Vitamin E deficiency.

Type or neatly print your explanation (you will only need a few sentences) on a piece of paper, and include your NAME, AGE, and complete MAILING ADDRESS. Mail your entry by Nov. 1, 2012 to Dr. Bradley, 1775 E. Palm Canyon Dr., Suite 110-129, Palm Springs, California 92264.

# West Nile Virus in Parrots

As I have discussed many times, chickens do not become INFECTED with West Nile Virus (WNV) and they cannot spread it to humans. Chickens are considered to be dead-end hosts for WNV. That is why they are used as “sentinels” to detect WNV in the environment.

It has been well publicized that members of the corvid family (crows, jay, ravens, and magpies) can become infected and die from WNV. A special report on WNV (September 2012, published by the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory System - CAHFS, UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine) described WNV in psittacines or parrot-like birds. The CAHFS labs have diagnosed 70 cases of WNV in parrots since 2004.

Unfortunately, the clinical signs of WNV in psittacines are non-specific. That is, they include weight loss, sudden death, anorexia, and lethargy. CAHFS staff can diagnose WNV with a variety of laboratory tests.

If you keep a pet psittacine, you always need to be vigilant as to changes in the bird’s health. If you observe the above symptoms, contact your avian veterinarian.

**Dr. Francine A. Bradley, Editor  
Extension Poultry Specialist  
1775 East Palm Canyon Dr.  
Suite 110 - #129  
Palm Springs, California 92264**

## CALENDAR

### **October 27, 2012**

Seaside Feather Fancier’ Bash at the Beach  
Ventura County Fairgrounds  
Dave Anderson  
[danderson@keygroupinc.com](mailto:danderson@keygroupinc.com)

### **December 1, 2012**

Pacific Coast Bantam Club, ABA Special Meet  
San Bernardino County Fairgrounds, Victorville  
Juanita Hall - [juanita.hall1@verizon.net](mailto:juanita.hall1@verizon.net)

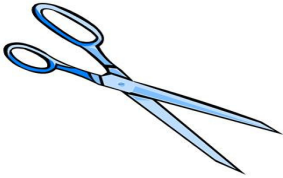
**Questions: Dr. Francine Bradley (760) 699-5078**

**YES! KEEP ME ON THE  
AVIAN SCIENCE NOTES MAILING LIST.**

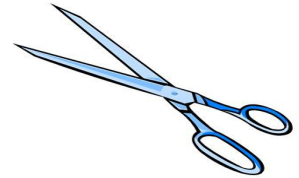
Please fill out the form below and return to:

Dr. Francine A. Bradley, Editor  
Extension Poultry Specialist  
1775 East Palm Canyon Dr.  
Suite 110 - #129  
Palm Springs, California 92264

If we do not receive your information, you will be taken off  
the Avian Science Notes mailing list.



\*\*\*\*\*



Must be postmarked by November 1, 2012

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State & Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Area Code (\_\_\_\_\_) Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_