



# Avian Science Notes

University of California - Cooperative Extension

December 2012

## Commanding Victory by Californians at National Avian Bowl

Our State Champion Avian Bowl defeated all competitors at the 4-H National Poultry and Egg Conference in Louisville on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Jesse Hazeltine calmly captained the team and had great support from his teammates, Spencer Downey and Ashley Ruzicka. The three of them dominated the buzzers. No team scored more than 5 points against the Californians!

The team members, their coach, Mrs. Hazeltine, and accompanying family members (Mr. & Mrs. Ruzicka, and Sarah Hazeltine) beamed throughout the awards ceremony. They were able to proudly accept all their awards from the Manager of the Poultry Science Association (the new sponsor of the National Avian Bowl) knowing they had put in the required studying and effort to capture the national championship. Congratulations competitors, coach, assistant coaches (Mrs. Marcia Downey and Sarah Hazeltine), and supportive family members.



(Pictured: L to R, Spencer Downey, Ashley Ruzicka, Jesse Hazeltine, Coach Mrs. Sandi Hazeltine; Mr. Jon A. Cole, Director of Business Operations, Poultry Science Association)

### 2013 AVIAN BOWL STATE QUALIFIER

Information and Entry Forms in this issue

Details on Youth Activities at Greater California

Society of Poultry Fanciers' Show

# October Avian Science Notes Contest Winners

In the last issue of Avian Science Notes, 4-H readers were challenged to draft a plausible explanation for a commercial poultry problem I described. The contest winners were:

Maddye Cumming, 10 yrs old, Fresno Co.

Ariel Anton, 12 year old, Mendocino Co.

Mariah O'Grady, 14 year old, Monterey Co.

Danielle Gonzales, 11 yr old, Nevada Co.

Mirette Ochsner, 12 year old, Sutter Co.

The winners followed the contest instructions and came up with the most plausible answers. Their entries reminded me of the principle of Ockham's Razor. William of Ockham was a Franciscan monk and logician, who lived in the 14<sup>th</sup> C. The original statement in Latin of his principle is: "*Pluralitas non est ponenda sine necessitate.*" The translation is "Entities should not be multiplied unnecessarily." Today's scientists have reworked Ockham's razor into the advice that if you have two theories that make the same prediction, the simpler theory is the better one.

I was very pleased that the contest winners concisely stated the simplest explanation for the case of Vit. E deficiency in commercial 6 week old layer pullets. The case description provided also mentioned that the pullets had twice the normal level of Vit. A in their livers. The winning entries suggested that human error in the preparation of the vitamin premix was the likely cause. A vitamin premix contains the various vitamins needed by the birds, but not found in sufficient amounts in the feed ingredients. The employee manufacturing the premix, added Vit. A to the mix twice, but failed to add Vit. E.

Non-winning entries went into great detail about much more complicated and far reaching theories. As I always instructed my University students, when asked a scientific question, begin your response with the most basic information and explanation. Most often the instructor will want to confirm that you understand the basics. If you confirm you understand the basics and can state them clearly, the line of questioning may stop. Or, for more advanced students, the instructors may ask you additional more specific and complicated questions on the same topic. It is at that point that you can go into greater depth. Once you are giving more difficult answers, if you state something incorrectly, at least the instructor can give you credit for having command of the basic information. If you begin your answer with the complicated explanation and get that wrong, you will receive absolutely zero credit.

## Introducing Dr. Maurice Pitesky

Maurice Pitesky attended Pierce Jr. College and received a BS in Biology from UCLA. He has a MS in Agriculture from cal Poly San Luis Obispo and his DVM from the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. Before accepting a faculty position at Davis, Dr. Pitesky worked as a Biomedical Scientist at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. This fall he was named Asst. Specialist in Cooperative Extension for Poultry Health and Food Safety Epidemiology. I am very pleased that Dr. Pitesky wanted to write the following article for Avian Science Notes.

# Very Virulent Infectious Bursal Disease Virus: What You Need to Know to Protect your Chickens - Dr. Maurice Pitesky

The bursa of Fabricius is an extremely important organ in a bird's immune system. The bursa is present at hatching and through the early life of the bird and then gradually disappears when the bird reaches sexual maturity. The very virulent Infectious Bursal Disease Virus (vvIBDV) destroys the bursa and thus causes the juvenile bird to be greatly susceptible to secondary infections such as *E. coli*, *Salmonella*, coccidia, and Marek's disease.

Several unique strains of vvIBDV are present in backyard 'specialty' chickens in California. Researchers and veterinarians from the California Animal Health and Food Safety System (CAHFS), The Ohio State University (OSU), the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) have been working with the local poultry industry to understand where the disease exists and how it spreads.

Until 2008, the virus had never been identified in North America. Since then we have identified it primarily in backyard 'specialty' chickens. The California poultry industries employ over 25,000 people and produce sales in excess of 2.5 billion dollars annually. Due to the poultry industries' prominent roles in our state and the ability of vvIBDV to spread via lapses in biosecurity, we highly encourage all chicken enthusiasts to use the utmost caution in order to prevent the spread of the disease. As an example, the virus can persist in the environment for over 6 months before infecting a susceptible bird. Therefore, be sure to clean and disinfect your poultry equipment on a regular basis. In addition, when bringing new birds into your flock, quarantine those birds for 30 days in a separate pen. This will help insure they are not introducing new diseases into your flock.

If you would like to learn more about basic biosecurity prevention tips please visit:

[http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal\\_Health/Avian\\_Health\\_Program.html](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/Avian_Health_Program.html) and look under 'Backyard Poultry.' If you are interested in participating in a 'Survey Monkey' questionnaire designed to help identify risk factors for the spread of the disease, please contact Dr. Maurice Pitesky at [maurice.pitesky@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:maurice.pitesky@cdfa.ca.gov). No personal information is used.

## 2013 Avian Bowl State Qualifier – Saturday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>

The Greater California Society of Poultry Fanciers (GCSPF) is once again providing the facilities for the Avian Bowl Qualifier at their winter show in Fresno. The GCSPF hosts a one-day show and the youth activities will include Showmanship and Avian Bowl.

Avian Bowl teams must be pre-registered; the entry forms (one for Junior Teams and one for Senior Teams) are included in this issue. Only 2 players of the same age division (Junior or Senior) are needed to make a team. There can be as many as 4 players on a team. Multiple teams in the same age division can be entered from one county. If you do not have enough 4-Hers of similar ages to field a team from your county, there is no problem in counties coming together to make a team. In fact, the members of the 2012 National Champion Team came from 3 different California counties.

It had been my hope to provide inexpensive or free housing on Friday night before the contest. The Grow Family and Mr. Alan Gallegos worked long and hard to find a school or private auditorium where Avian Bowl teams might comfortably bed down. Unfortunately, insurance issues kept that from becoming a reality.

Required sign-in for pre-registered Avian Bowl teams is slated for 12:30 PM on Saturday. The Senior Team members will also take their written tests at that time. I anticipate that we will conclude the Avian Bowl by 3 PM. So those of you coming from 3-5 hours away can comfortably drive down Saturday morning and home Saturday evening. I hope that many of you will want to enter both Avian Bowl and Poultry Showmanship. So if you are coming from the far ends of the state and need to be in Fresno early on Saturday, I understand that spending Friday night in Fresno, would make for an easier trip. I urge you to use one of the many hotel/motel search engines. In just a few minutes, I found a dozen or more Fresno hotels with “good” ratings offering rooms for as low as \$50 on the Friday night of the show.

## National Avian Bowl Study Sections for 2013

Avian Systems (Female Reproductive System and Male Reproductive System)	37-38
Growing Blue Ribbon Pullets	57-65
Breeds, Varieties, and Strains (All Other Standard Breeds Class)	79-80
Eggyclopedia (Eggs from A to Z through and INCLUDING Custard)	103-119
Fact Sheets:	
Ratites (entire Section)	171-173
Avian Influenza	181-182
Embryology (Science of Incubation through Hatching)	186-190

## HOW TO ORDER THE NATIONAL AVIAN BOWL MANUAL

The National Avian Bowl Manual is available from the Clemson University Bulletin Room. The cost is \$15.00 per copy and may be ordered online using either a VISA or MasterCard by going to the following: URL: <http://shopping.clemson.edu> When the Clemson Shopping page comes up, enter **Man161** (NO spaces between the alpha and numeric) in the Search Products Box.

Payment should only be for \$15.00 per copy. There is no tax or shipping/handling charges. Shipment is via USPS fourth-class mail.

If you prefer to **pay by check**, you may send payment to:

Clemson University Bulletin Room  
Poole Agricultural Building  
Clemson, SC 29634-0129  
Toll free: 1-888-772-2665  
(864)-656-3261—Phone

Checks should be made payable to: Clemson University.

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

## **CALENDAR**

**February 9, 2013** Avian Bowl Entry Forms  
due (postmarked or FAXed)

**February 9-10, 2013** Humboldt Poultry Fanciers'

Association Show

New location: Humboldt County

Fairgrounds, Ferndale

Showmanship and Avian Bowl judged by

Dr. Bradley

The Bowl Q/As will be based on the 2012 Study  
Sections, as published in AVS Notes Dec. 2011. That  
issue can be found on-line at:

<http://animalscience.ucdavis.edu/avian/newsletters.htm>

Youth Show information, call

Mrs. Cristal Wilson (707) 768-3024

Show website: [www.humboldtpoultry.org](http://www.humboldtpoultry.org)

**February 16, 2013** Greater California Society of Poultry  
Fanciers' (GCSPF) Show, Fresno County Fairgrounds,  
Fresno

Showmanship and Avian Bowl State

Qualifier judged by Dr. Bradley

Show information [www.gcspf.com](http://www.gcspf.com)

**February 16, 2013** Avian Bowl State Qualifier

GCSPF Show, Fresno County Fairgrounds,  
Fresno

12:30 PM Registered Avian Bowl teams

sign-in; Senior teams take written test

1:00 PM competition begins

First time for Q/As based on 2013 Study Sections, as  
published in this issue.

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

**TBA**

Seaside Feather Fanciers' Spring Fling Show

Ventura County Fairgrounds, Ventura

Information: Dave Anderson

1947 Grand Ave., Fillmore, California 93015

(805) 524-4046

[danderson@keygroupinc.com](mailto:danderson@keygroupinc.com)

# 2013 Avian Bowl State Qualifier

Saturday, February 16 at the Greater California Society of Poultry Fanciers' Show  
Fresno County Fair Grounds, Fresno

## JUNIOR ENTRY FORM

### 4-H Avian Bowl Contest Entry Form

**FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT COMPLETE BIRTH DATE FOR EACH MEMBER**

*Entries must be postmarked or FAXED by February 9, 2013*

**Junior Teams: Members must be 13 years or YOUNGER on January 1, 2013. Two, three, or four members are allowed per team.**

County \_\_\_\_\_

Team One Name \_\_\_\_\_

Team members' names: \_\_\_\_\_ Month/day/year

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

Coach \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Address

City Zip Phone #

Team Two Name \_\_\_\_\_

Team members' names: \_\_\_\_\_ Month/day/year

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

Coach \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Address

City Zip Phone #

**Send entries to: Dr. Francine Bradley, University of California, 1775 E. Palm Canyon Dr., Suite 110 – 129, Palm Springs, California 92264  
(760) 699-5078 FAX (760) 699-7056 \*\*\*If you Fax your entry, you MUST leave a message on the (760) 699-5078 voice mail indicating you have Faxed an entry.**

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# 2013 Avian Bowl State Qualifier

Saturday, February 16 at the Greater California Society of Poultry Fanciers' Show  
Fresno County Fair Grounds, Fresno

## SENIOR ENTRY FORM

### 4-H Avian Bowl Contest Entry Form

**FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT COMPLETE BIRTH DATE FOR EACH MEMBER**

*Entries must be postmarked or FAXED by February 9, 2013*

**Senior Teams: Must be 14 to 18 years by January 1, 2013. Two, three, or four members are allowed per team.**

County \_\_\_\_\_

Team One Name \_\_\_\_\_

Team members' names: \_\_\_\_\_ Month/day/year

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

Coach: \_\_\_\_\_

Name Address

City Zip Phone #

Team Two Name \_\_\_\_\_

Team members' names: \_\_\_\_\_ Month/day/year

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

Coach \_\_\_\_\_

Name Address

City Zip Phone #

**Send entries to: Dr. Francine Bradley, University of California, 1775 E. Palm Canyon Dr., Suite 110 – 129, Palm Springs, California 92264  
(760) 699-5078 FAX (760) 699-7056 \*\*\*If you Fax your entry, you MUST leave a message on the (760) 699-5078 voice mail indicating you have Faxed an entry.**

Seniors  
Senior