



Avian Science Notes

University of California - Cooperative Extension

March 2015

A Really Big Bowl

This year's Avian Bowl State Qualifier attracted a large number of participants from 13 different counties around the state (Alameda, Butte, Calaveras, Fresno, Kern, Madera, Monterey, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, and Santa Cruz

In Senior Avian Bowl, once again Mrs. Paulette Sauln coached a strong team from San Diego Co. After losing their first game, the San Diego "Faultless Fowl" ran the Loser's Bracket. In the Championship game, Faultless Fowl played the Next Best Thing. As it turned out, this team was not the next best thing for Faultless Fowl. With team members Te'a Rice and Keaton Kelm (both from Orange Co.) and Ellie Milanesa (Monterey Co.), The Next Best Thing had the highest scores on the written Avian Bowl Test and defeated every team they faced.

The Next Best Thing is coached by Mrs. Shar Rice. She is a veteran Avian Bowl coach and this is her second State Championship Team. The group now begins the work of staying sharp and learning even more before they compete in the National Avian Bowl Championship in Louisville.

The Next Best Thing: L to R Keaton Kelm, Ellie Milanesa, (Dr. Bradley), and Te'a Rice



In Junior Avian Bowl, 8 teams battled it out. The Game Birds from San Luis Obispo managed to beat every team they met, except for one and came in second place. Winning every one of their games was the power duo of Abby Milanesa (Monterey Co.) and Jordan Randolph (Santa Cruz Co.). Given all the correct answers they gave during the course of the contest, it was fitting that the 2 named their team "Perfect Peeps."

Attentive readers will have noticed that there are individuals with the same surname on both The Next Best Thing and the Perfect Peeps. I believe this is the first time that in the same year we have siblings on the Champion Junior and Senior Teams. I trust that little sister Abby Milanesa will be helping her sister Ellie prepare for the National competition.

Perfect Peeps: L Jordan Randolph, center Dr. Bradley, right Abby Milanesa



Is Your Flock Biosecure?

Unfortunately, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is again on the west coast. In addition to outbreaks in British Columbia and our Pacific Northwest, there have been two outbreaks in California:

Jan 28, 2015: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N8 has been confirmed in ONE commercial turkey flock in Waterford, Stanislaus County, California. There have been no confirmed cases in backyard chickens.

February 13, 2015 Yet another case of HPAI. On Feb. 12, the Animal Plant Health and Inspection Services (APHIS) confirmed that a broiler flock in Kings County, California was infected with HPAI, H5N8. The flock has been depopulated.

REMEMBER: Avian Influenza, like other poultry diseases, is opportunistic. It does not care if it attacks commercial turkeys or backyard chickens. All poultry owners must PRACTICE the best biosecurity measures possible.

Birds that have been exhibited at poultry shows should be quarantined when owners return home, before the birds are reintroduced to the home flock.

You can always go the Avian Sciences Website: http://animalscience.ucdavis.edu/Avian/disease_control.htm to see my latest postings on any catastrophic poultry disease outbreaks in California. Also on this page are links to publications on biosecurity for the small flock owner.

And Speaking of Biosecurity....

As a backyard poultry flock owner, of the places you visit in relation to your flock, what is potentially the most dangerous? Some of you may think - poultry shows. Well, we would like to believe that most of our fanciers are aware of diseases and do not bring sick birds to the shows. Also, at all our county, district, and state fairs, the poultry entries are examined by a Poultry Health Inspector.

My colleague, Dr. Dave Castellan, who worked with our CDFA Poultry Programs for many years, liked posing this question. Many were surprised when he would tell them that the feed store was the most dangerous spot. Of course, we need and love feed stores. Who doesn't like looking at all the new feed and watering equipment, admiring the chicks, etc. However, we need to remember that every non-commercial poultry owner goes to the feed store. Birds must eat. We do not know all the other customers who go to the feed store. Nor do we know about their level of disease prevention knowledge.

Dr. Castellan and I like to suggest that you keep a pair of washable tennis shoes in a plastic bag in the trunk of your vehicle. When you go to the feed store, put on those shoes. After shopping, take off the shoes and put them in the plastic bag BEFORE you get back in your vehicle. Wash the shoes when you get home. Also keep a small container of hand sanitizer in your pocket. Again, after shopping, and BEFORE entering your vehicle, use the hand sanitizer. You do not want to touch your steering wheel and door handles with potentially contaminated hands.

Yes, the above steps will take a few extra minutes. However, that is a timely investment, if it can prevent you bringing a disease back to your flock.

Taking the Top Awards at Recent Poultry Showmanship Competitions

St. Valentine's Day weekend saw poultry 4-Hers enjoying the youth activities and hospitality of the Humboldt Poultry Fanciers' Show in Ferndale. Top in their showmanship divisions were:

Novice, Kayle Hamm

Junior, Emma Soberhrad

Intermediate, Haley Jenkins

The entries just kept rolling in for Showmanship at the Greater California Society of Poultry Fanciers' (GCSPF) Show. The GCSPF event in Fresno continues to host the most competitive fields of poultry showmen in the state.

Top individuals and their divisions:

Novice, Rachel Berryman

Intermediate, Garrett Tahara

Junior, Katelyn Hurl

Senior, Amanda Kimmons

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CALENDAR

March 28, 2015, Saturday - NorCal Poultry Association Show, Red Bluff

Avian Bowl Judged by Dr. Braldehy

Entry forms available at: www.norcalpoultryncpa.com;

Mail entries to:

Susan Smallbrook

21087 Hackett Lane

Redding, CA 96003

July 18, 2015, Saturday - Orange County Fair, Costa Mesa, California,

Avian Bowl judged by Dr. Bradley.

On-line entries only. See www.ocfair.com

Questions: Dr. Bradley 760 699-5078