

News Release
2007 National 4-H Poultry & Egg Conference

The 2007 National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference was held November 14-15 at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center in Louisville. This annual conference allows 4-Hers from all over the country to compete in educational events that help them learn to make and defend decisions, speak publicly, and gain poultry-related skills.

This annual 4-H conference includes five separate events. In the Poultry Judging contest, participants are required to judge ready-to-cook chicken and turkey carcasses, live production hens and market eggs. In the Chicken and Turkey Barbecuing contests participants barbecue four chicken halves or two turkey fillets and give an oral presentation on the corresponding poultry industry. In the Egg Preparation demonstration contest participants prepare an egg dish and give an oral presentation on the nutritional value of eggs. In addition to these events, the conference includes an Avian Bowl contest which is a round robin tournament in which the contestants are required to answer questions regarding poultry science, poultry meat and egg production, and information about the poultry industries.

A Poultry Careers workshop is also held at the Conference, exposing the 4-H'ers to hands-on information from poultry food industry personnel and the participants are given pertinent information about the career and educational opportunities in the poultry food sciences and industries. This year the speakers at the workshop were Milt McPike of Cargill Meat Solutions in Virginia and Blake Van Denburgh of Center Egg in Iowa.

At the 2007 National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference, 158 senior 4-H'ers, representing 25 states, participated as teams or individuals in the various events. Team competitions were held in the Poultry Judging and Avian Bowl contests. Individuals competed in the Egg Preparation and the Turkey and Chicken Barbecuing contests. Eighteen teams and 3 individuals participated in the Poultry Judging contest and 16 teams competed in the Avian Bowl contest. Twelve individuals participated in the Chicken Barbecue contest, nine in the Turkey Barbecue contest, and twelve in the Egg Preparation Demonstration.

Ms. Barbara Davis of the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association attended the Conference and participated at the awards banquet. Along with the 4-H'ers, an additional 98 people, including county extension agents, 4-H leaders, chaperones, coaches, family members and poultry specialists, helped make the conference a success. The conference was funded through contributions of goods, finances, and services from many individuals, companies and commodity organizations. A total of 26 donors provided financial support for awards.

The California team won the Avian Bowl contest. Each team member won a plaque, gold pin and a \$200 savings bond. The winning team members were Chelsea Pugh, Rachel Hazeltine and Abigail Berke. They were coached by Jan Johansen. Other top ranking teams were Wisconsin (2nd), New York (3rd), North Carolina (4th), Pennsylvania and Ohio (tied for 5th), and Minnesota and Virginia (tied for 7th).

In the cooking contests, Justin Lyles from Tennessee took first place in the Chicken Barbecue contest; Leann Barger from North Carolina took first place in the Turkey Barbecue contest; Anna Carman from Kentucky placed first in the Egg Preparation Demonstration. Each contestant received a plaque, a gold pin and a \$500 savings bond.

In the Poultry Judging contest, Cody Quebedeaux from Louisiana placed first in the Production Hen. California (Chelsea Pugh, Rachel Hazeltine, Sarah Hazeltine and Will Simmons) was the top team in this division. Bethany Lightfoot from Georgia placed first in the Market Poultry division. Florida

(Crystal Gordon, Rachel Gordon, Callie Newbern and Shane McWilliams) was the top team in this division. Laura Gaylord from Virginia placed first in the Market Egg division. Georgia (Bethany Lightfoot, Courtney Brooks, Cynthia Nixon and Layne Nixon) was the top team in this division. Each individual winner received a gold pin and a plaque. Each team member was awarded a trophy and gold pin.

The overall individual champion in the Poultry Judging contest, receiving a plaque, gold pin and a \$500 savings bond, was Sarah Hazeltine from California with Louisiana finishing as the overall team champion in the Poultry Judging contest. The Louisiana team consisted of Chase Granier, Caitlyn Rogers, Ashley Rome and Cody Quebedeaux). They were coached by David Boldt. Each team member received a trophy and gold pin. The top team also receives the Dr. Charles Wabeck Memorial Award. Other top ranking teams were Georgia (2nd), Florida (3rd), California (4th), Indiana (5th), Ohio (6th), North Carolina (7th), Arkansas (8th), Minnesota (9th), and Maryland (10th).

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Many business firms, associations and individuals provide funds and resources from the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference. Listed below are the donors who help make this Conference possible.

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