

News Release
2017 National 4-H Poultry & Egg Conference

The 2017 National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference was held November 15-16 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 competitive 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 three chicken halves or two turkey fillets and give an oral presentation on the corresponding poultry industry. In the Egg Preparation demonstration contest participants demonstrate preparation an egg dish while giving an oral presentation on the nutritional value and versatility of eggs. In addition to these events, the conference includes an Avian Bowl contest which is a double-elimination 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-Hers to hands-on information from poultry food industry personnel and the participants are given pertinent information about career and educational opportunities in poultry industries. This year there were two speakers at the workshop. Tracy McKenney spoke about working at Perdue. Mr. Phillip Clauer, from the Pennsylvania State University, spoke about opportunities in poultry science programs.

At the 2017 National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference, 147 senior 4-Hers, representing 26 states, participated as teams or individuals in the various events. Twenty teams and four independent individuals participated in the Poultry Judging contest and thirteen teams competed in the Avian Bowl contest. Eleven individuals participated in the Chicken Barbecue contest, seven in the Turkey Barbecue, and eight in the Egg Preparation Demonstration.

Mrs. Barbara Jenkins of the USPOULTRY Foundation, along with Mr. Jon Cole of Poultry Science Association, attended the conference and participated at the awards banquet. Along with the 4-Hers, an additional 203 people, including poultry specialists, county extension agents, 4-H leaders, coaches, chaperones, and other family members, 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 23 donors provided financial support for awards.

The Avian Bowl contest was won by the team from California. Each team member was awarded a plaque, gold pin and \$100. The winning team members were Siana Barrett, Kayla Hurl, and Abigail Milanese. They were coached by Mr. Dan Milanese. The remaining top teams were Ohio (2nd – each member received a plaque, gold pin and \$75); New York (3rd – each member received a plaque, silver pin and \$60), Minnesota (4th – each member received a silver pin and \$50); Pennsylvania (5th – each member received a bronze pin and \$25); and Wisconsin (6th – each member received a bronze pin and \$25). Other participating teams included Alabama, Alaska, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, and North Carolina.



Avian Bowl winners – from California
Coached by Dan Milanesa
Presented by Jon Cole, Poultry Science Association

In the cooking contests, Steven Peters from Missouri took first place in the Chicken Barbecue contest; Brent Seyer from Missouri took first place in the Turkey Barbecue contest; and Rachel Smith from Missouri placed first in the Egg Preparation Demonstration. Each contestant received a plaque, gold pin and \$250. The plaque awarded the winner of the turkey barbecue contest is the Robert Hogue Memorial award. The coach for the top individual in each contest also receives a plaque.



Turkey Barbecue Contestants



Chicken Barbecue Contestants



Chicken BBQ winner – Steven Peters from Missouri
Coach: Jill Peters
Presented by Jesse Lyons, University of Missouri



Turkey BBQ winner – Brent Seyer from Missouri
(Received the Robert Hogue Memorial award)
Coach: Jill Peters
Presented by Jesse Lyons, University of Missouri



Egg Preparation Demonstration winner – Rachel Smith from Missouri
Coach: Ann Smith
Presented by Cassinda Bechanan, Kentucky Poultry Federation

In the Poultry Judging contest, Madison Shaw from Pennsylvania placed first in the Production Hen division. New York (Madeline Chairvolotti, Peter Lukach, Grace Sayward, and Liam Layward) was the top team in this division. Alyssa Neff from Pennsylvania placed first in the Market Poultry division. Pennsylvania (Addison Neff, Alyssa Neff, Andrew Rheam, and Madison Shaw) was the top team in this division. Josiah Caswell from Florida placed first in the Market Egg division Florida (Josiah Caswell, Grace Lynch, Harrison Sharp and Patrick Sharp) was the top team in this division. Each individual winner received a plaque and gold pin. 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 \$250, was Madison Shaw from Pennsylvania, with Indiana (Jarret Bailey, Logan Lemaster, Kaitlyn Melcher and

Corey Miller coached by Bradley Smazenko and Andrew Werling) finishing as the overall team champions. Each team member received a trophy and gold pin. The top team also receives the Dr. Charles Waback Memorial Award. Other top-ranking teams were Pennsylvania (2nd) and New York (3rd).



Production Hen division, top individual
Madison Shaw, Pennsylvania

Presented by Mrs. Barbara Jenkins, USPOULTRY Foundation



Production Hen division, top team
New York Poultry Judging Team



Market Poultry division, top individual
Alyssa Neff from Pennsylvania

Presented by Mrs. Barbara Jenkins, USPOULTRY Foundation



Market Poultry Division, top team
Pennsylvania Poultry Judging team



Market egg division, top individual
Josiah Caswell from Florida

Presented by Mrs. Barbara Jenkins, USPOULTRY Foundation



Market egg division, top team
Florida Poultry Judging team



Top individual overall
Madison Shaw, Pennsylvania



Top team overall, Indiana
Coach: Bradley Smazenko (in photo) and
Andrew Werling (unable to attend conference)

Presented by Mrs. Barbara Jenkins, USPOULTRY Foundation

The National 4-H Poultry and Egg conference is where competition and fellowship develop the next generation of leaders.

- The poultry judging contest teaches participants to make decisions in an orderly manner, use reasoning skills, and to accurately communicate decisions. Participants are required to evaluate ready-to-cook chicken and turkey carcasses, live production hens, and market eggs.
- The avian bowl is a double elimination contest for state teams patterned after other knowledge bowls. Contestants must have a comprehensive knowledge of subject matter for several species of poultry, food safety, physiology, nutrition, eggs, and other subjects.
- In the egg preparation demonstration contest participants are required to prepare an egg dish, demonstrate presentation skills, and incorporate knowledge of the egg industry, egg quality and nutrition.
- In the chicken and turkey barbecue contest participants barbecue three chicken halves or two turkey fillets and give an oral presentation on the corresponding poultry industry. Participants develop skills

in barbecuing, preparation of a product, and a presentation that demonstrates knowledge of the subject industry, food safety, and product attributes.

For more information on the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference

Checkout our website at www.National4HPoultry.com

Donors and Sponsors

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

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