

2021 News Release

National 4-H Poultry & Egg Conference

After a year hiatus because of COVID-19, the 2021 National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference was held in-person November 17-18 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. It also gives them the opportunity to meet and interact with 4-H poultry from around the country.

The annual national 4-H conference includes five separate competitive events. There are three divisions in the poultry judging contest – production hens, market poultry, and market eggs. In the chicken and turkey barbecuing contests participants barbecue four chicken thighs or use ground turkey to grill burger patties. They are also required to 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 knowledge 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. Mr. Brett Pickar spoke to the 4-Hers. He is the general manager from the Graettinger location of Daybreak Foods. Dr. Vanessa Kretzschmar-McCluskey, Global Technical Transfer Manager for Aviagen, Inc., also spoke at the career workshop and discussed the meat chicken and turkey industries.

Despite the COVID-19 restrictions that are still in place in many states, 103 senior 4-Hers, representing 20 states, participated as teams or individuals in the various events. Fourteen teams and three independent individuals participated in the poultry judging contest and ten teams competed in the avian bowl contest. Eight individuals participated in the chicken barbecue contest, eight in the turkey barbecue, and five in the egg preparation demonstration.

Mrs. Barbara Jenkins of the USPOULTRY Foundation, along with Mr. Jon Cole and Ms. Jacelyn Hemmelgarn of the Poultry Science Association, attended the conference and participated at the awards banquet. Along with the 4-Hers, an additional 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. Twenty-seven donors provided financial support for awards.

Alabama won the avian bowl contest. Each team member was awarded a plaque, gold pin and \$100. The winning team members were Tessa Hardaway, Aiden MacKenzie, Jordan Seegars, Miranda Turner. The Alabama avian bowl team were coached by Denise Anderson.

The remaining top teams were California (2nd – each member received a plaque, gold pin and \$75); Pennsylvania (3rd – each member received a plaque, silver pin and \$60), Minnesota (4th – each member received a silver pin and \$50); Kentucky (5th – each member received a bronze pin and \$25) and Oregon (6th – each member received a bronze pin and \$25); Other participating teams included Arkansas, Kansas, North Carolina, and Wisconsin.



*Avian Bowl winners – from Alabama, with coach
Presented by Ms. Jacelyn M. Hemmelgarn, Executive Director, Poultry Science Association*

The chicken barbecue contest was updated this year. Participants were required to grill four chicken thighs and turn in three. They were judged on cooking skills, sensory evaluation, and presentation skills. Evelyn Otto from Minnesota took first place and received a plaque, gold pin, and \$250. She was coached by Mark Otto who also received a plaque. Also placing in the chicken barbecue contest were Lance Munday from Kentucky who took second place, receiving a gold pin and \$200; and Winta Ykeallo from Georgia took third place, receiving a silver pin and \$175.

The turkey barbecue contest was also updated this year. Participants were given two pounds of ground turkey and required to hand in two patties for sensory evaluation. The patties had to be at least 75% ground turkey and have a minimum of ¼ pound pre-cooked weight. Annabelle Ferren from Arkansas took first place in the turkey barbecue contest and received a plaque, gold pin, and \$250. The plaque awarded the winner of the turkey barbecue contest is the Robert Hogue Memorial award. Ms. Ferren was coached by Jodie Ferren who also received a plaque. Also placing in the turkey barbecue contest were Rebecca Rasbury from Alabama who took second place, receiving a gold pin and \$200; and Kristen Richard from Louisiana who took third place, receiving a silver pin and \$175.

It was a very hard decision for first place in the egg preparation demonstration contest. The top two had identical total scores but the tie was broken based on the presentation and skill, which only had a single point difference. They were both excellent presentations. Placing first was Erica Kazin from Minnesota. She received a plaque, gold pin, and \$250. She was coached by Mark Otto, who also received a plaque. Matthew Hughes from Alabama took second place and received a gold pin and \$200. Rachel Thomason from North Carolina placed third and received a silver pin and \$175.



Chicken Barbecue Contestants



Turkey Barbecue Contestants



*Chicken BBQ winner – Evelyn Otto from Minnesota coached, by Mark Otto
Presented by Jesse Lyons, University of Missouri*



*Turkey BBQ winner – Annabelle Ferren from Arkansas, coached by Jodie Ferren
(Received the Robert Hogue Memorial award)
Presented by Jesse Lyons, University of Missouri*



*Egg Preparation Demonstration winner – Erica Kazin from Minnesota, coached by Mark Otto
Presented by Ken Koelkebeck, University of Illinois*

The poultry judging contest has three divisions with a total of 61 individuals participating. In the production hens division, participants are required to evaluate three classes of hens for the level of past egg production. They are required to give oral reasons on two of the classes to justify their placings. Rance Mangum from Texas placed first in this division and received a gold pin and a plaque. Blye Mangum from Texas placed second and received a gold pin. Nathan Phillips from Georgia placed third and received a silver pin. Overall, the team from Texas placed first in the production hens division, followed by Georgia and Tennessee.

In the market poultry division, participants are required to grade ready-to-cook chicken carcasses and parts, identify cut up parts, and evaluated further processed products. Daniel Lee from Texas placed first in the market poultry class and received a gold pin and a plaque. Deanne Speicher from Tennessee placed second and received a gold pin. Jack Cushenberry from Kentucky placed third and received a silver pin. Overall, the team from Tennessee placed first in the market poultry division, followed by the teams from Texas and Minnesota.

In the market egg division, participants are required to grade table eggs for exterior quality, internal quality by candling, and broken out quality. Gretta Lemke from Minnesota placed first in the market egg class and received a gold pin and a plaque. Jonathan Feathersone from Kansas placed second and received a gold pin. Brandon Boyd from Wisconsin placed third and received a silver pin. Overall, the team from Tennessee placed first in the market egg division, followed by the teams from Maryland and Kentucky.

The overall individual champion in the poultry judging contest, receiving a plaque, gold pin, and \$250, was Daniel Lee from Texas, with the Texas team (Miguel Borrego, Daniel Lee, Blye Mangum, and Rance Mangum) finishing as the overall team champions. Each team member received a trophy and gold pin. The top team also receives the Dr. Charles Wabeck Memorial Award. The Texas team was coached by Jeremy Lee, who also receives a plaque. Other top-ranking individuals in the poultry judging contest were Deanna Speicher from Tennessee (2nd, gold pin, plaque and \$225), and Nathan Phillips from Georgia (3rd, gold pin, plaque, and \$200). Other top-ranking teams were Tennessee (2nd) and Georgia (3rd).



*Production Hen division, top individual
Rance Mangum from Texas
Presented by Mrs. Barbara Jenkins, USPOULTRY Foundation*



*Production Hen division, top team
Texas Poultry Judging team
Presented by Mrs. Barbara Jenkins, USPOULTRY Foundation*



*Market Poultry division, top individual
Daniel Lee from Texas
Presented by Mrs. Barbara Jenkins, USPOULTRY Foundation*



*Market Poultry Division, top team
Tennessee Poultry Judging team
Presented by Mrs. Barbara Jenkins, USPOULTRY Foundation*



*Market egg division, top individual
Gretta Lemke from Minnesota
Presented by Mrs. Barbara Jenkins, USPOULTRY Foundation*



*Market egg division, top team
Tennessee Poultry Judging team
Presented by Mrs. Barbara Jenkins, USPOULTRY Foundation*



*Top individual overall
Daniel Lee from Texas*

Presented by Mrs. Barbara Jenkins, USPOULTRY Foundation



*Top team overall, Texas
Coached by: Jeremy Lee*

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

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

Checkout our website at www.National4HPoultry.com

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