

## **2022 News Release**

### **National 4-H Poultry & Egg Conference**

The 2022 National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference was held in-person November 16-17 at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, KY. 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 Chef Challenge contest participants demonstrate how to prepare an egg dish while discussing 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. The workshop's first speaker was Blake Van Denburgh. He works for Cargill but was also a 4-Her who competed in several events at the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference. After graduating from university, he became an active member of the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference specialist committee and continues to participate to this day. The other speakers were, Kerry Trambaugh, District Sales Manager for Chore-Time in Corydon, Indiana, and Jodie Pitcock and Samantha Rhoderick from USDA-AMS.

Despite the COVID-19 restrictions that are still in place in some states, 130 senior 4-Hers, representing 24 states, participated as teams or individuals in the various events. Eighteen teams and six independent individuals giving a total of 78 contestants participated in the poultry judging contest and fourteen teams competed in the avian bowl contest. Nine individuals participated in the chicken barbecue contest, seven in the turkey barbecue, and six in the egg chef challenge.

Mrs. Barbara Jenkins of the USPOULTRY Foundation, along with Mr. Sam Shafer of the Poultry Science Association, attended the conference and participated at the awards banquet. Along with the 4-Hers, an additional 195 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-one 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. The Alabama avian bowl team were Jordan Seegars and Zoey Steele. They were coached by Denise Anderson.

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



*Avian Bowl winners – from Alabama, with coach  
Presented by Sam Shafer, Poultry Science Association  
Left to Right: Coach, Madison Richter; Jordan Seegars; Zoey Steele; Sam Shafer*

In the chicken BBQ contest, participants were required to grill four chicken thighs and turn in three. They were judged on cooking skills and sensory evaluation. They were also required to do a presentation on the value of chicken and the chicken industry. Gideon Linton from North Carolina took first place and received a plaque, gold pin, and \$250. She was coached by Mary Fosnaught who also received a plaque. Also placing in the chicken barbecue contest were Abbye Buchanan from Mississippi who took second place, receiving a gold pin and \$200; and Tanner Campbell from Kentucky took third place, receiving a silver pin and \$175.

In the turkey BBQ contest 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. Isaac Linton from North Carolina 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. Isaac Linton was coached by Mary Fosnaught who also received a plaque. Also placing in the turkey barbecue contest were Erica Kazin from Minnesota who took second place, receiving a gold pin and \$200; and Winta Ykeallo from Georgia who took third place, receiving a silver pin and \$175.

There were six contestants in the Egg Chef Challenge. Placing first was Lauren Poole from Louisiana with her Farm Fresh Casserole who received a plaque, gold pin, and \$250. She was coached by Danette Bourgoynne, who also received a plaque. Addie Dillon from North Carolina took second place and received a gold pin and \$200. Anna Rios from Alabama placed third and received a silver pin and \$175.



*Chicken Barbecue Contestants*



*Turkey Barbecue Contestants*



*Chicken BBQ winner – Gideon Linton from North Carolina coached, by Mary Fosnaught  
Presented by Samantha Rhoderick, USDA-AMS*



*Turkey BBQ winner – Isaac Linton from North Carolina, coached by Mary Fosnaught  
(Received the Robert Hogue Memorial award)  
Presented by Samantha Rhoderick, USDA-AMS*





*Egg Chef Challenge winner – Lauren Poole from Louisiana, coached by Danette Bourgoyne  
Presented by Anthony Pescatore, University of Kentucky*

The poultry judging contest has three divisions with a total of 78 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. Daley Rogers from Arkansas placed first in this division and received a gold pin and a plaque. Carson Meeks from Tennessee placed second and received a gold pin. John Otto from Minnesota placed third and received a silver pin. Overall, the team from Indiana placed first in the production hens division, followed by Arkansas and North Carolina.

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. Lexi Pritchard from Georgia placed first in the market poultry class and received a gold pin and a plaque. Scarlett James from Texas placed second and received a gold pin. Marisa Goode from Texas placed third and received a silver pin. Overall, the team from Texas placed first in the market poultry division, followed by the teams from Florida and Tennessee.

In the market egg division, participants are required to grade table eggs for exterior quality, internal quality by candling, and broken out quality. Brock Hurley from Indiana placed first in the market egg class and received a gold pin and a plaque. Carson Meeks from Tennessee placed second and received a gold pin. Scarlett James from Texas placed third and received a silver pin. Overall, the team from Indiana placed first in the market egg division, followed by the teams from Texas and Kansas.

The overall individual champion in the poultry judging contest, receiving a plaque, gold pin, and \$250, was Lexi Pritchard from Georgia, with the Texas team (Marisa Goode, Summer Halbert, Scarlett James, and Victoria Lowe) 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 Monica James, who also receives a plaque. Other top-ranking individuals in the poultry judging contest were Carson Meeks from Tennessee (2<sup>nd</sup>, gold pin, plaque and \$225), and Scarlett James from Texas (3<sup>rd</sup>, gold pin, plaque, and \$200). Other top-ranking teams were North Carolina (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Indiana (3<sup>rd</sup>).



*Production Hen division, top individual  
Daley Rogers from Arkansas  
Presented by Mrs. Barbara Jenkins, USPOULTRY Foundation*



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



*Market Poultry division, top individual  
Lexi Pritchard from Georgia  
Presented by Mrs. Barbara Jenkins, USPOULTRY Foundation*



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



*Market egg division, top individual  
Brock Hurley from Indiana  
Presented by Mrs. Barbara Jenkins, USPOULTRY Foundation*



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





*Top individual overall  
Lexi Pritchard from Georgia*

*Presented by Mrs. Barbara Jenkins, USPOULTRY Foundation*



*Top team overall, Texas  
Coached by: Monica James*

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](http://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.

### **COMPLETE LIST OF DONORS**

California Poultry Federation  
Dr. Francine Bradley  
Hy-line International  
Indiana State Poultry Federation  
Kentucky Poultry Federation  
Kristie and Jamie Guffey  
Midwest Poultry Federation  
Missouri Egg Council  
Nebraska Department of Ag-Poultry and Egg  
Division  
North Carolina Egg Council  
North American International Livestock  
Exposition

Pacific Egg & Poultry Association  
PennAg Industries Association Poultry Council  
Poultry Science Association  
Texas Broiler Council  
Texas Egg Council  
Texas Poultry Federation  
Texas Poultry Improvement Association  
United Egg Producers  
USPOULTRY Foundation  
World's Poultry Science Association (WPSA-  
USA Branch)

Dr. Jacquie Jacob, National Conference Secretary, Poultry Extension Project Manager; University of Kentucky, 604 Garrigus Building, Lexington, KY 40546-0215; phone: 859-257-7613; email: [Jacquie.Jacob@uky.edu](mailto:Jacquie.Jacob@uky.edu)