

Prologue to the Avian Bowl Manual

As you use the Avian Bowl Manual, and this applies to coaches, leaders, and Avian Bowl team members, it is important to understand its function. The Manual is an essential part of the mission of Avian Bowl. That is, encouraging youth to study the many aspects of avian sciences. For many readers, it may be a first exposure to certain topics: poultry diseases, egg cookery, and game bird production, to name just a few. While **questions and answers for the contest only come from the Manual**, the reader may certainly use the Manual as a starting point for exploring many other publications.

The bulk of the Manual is comprised of excellent publications from Land Grant Universities across the country. The field of avian sciences not only deals with birds, but the people who raise, enjoy, and utilize them in many different ways. As always, when humans are involved, philosophies, practices, and legislation change.

Do not be concerned that the text in Breeds, Varieties, and Strains section does not list every breed and or variety you know to be in The American Standard of Perfection. The American Poultry Association publishes this extensive book. As new editions are released, often new breeds and/or varieties are added. Therefore, readers of the Avian Bowl Manual are encouraged to consult the latest editions of the APA, as well as the American Bantam (ABA) Standards of Perfection. Poultry housing is another topic that is in flux. Some states and countries have moved from caged housing of layers to free range management. However, in times of a catastrophic disease threat, the free range operators may be told to place their birds in confined housing, for greater protection.

The Avian Bowl Manual is updated regularly. The short Fact Sheets in the Manual lend themselves to more frequent revisions and organizers update these, as needed.

While leaders may find the Manual to be a helpful source of information for club meetings, in no way is it intended to be a curriculum for the 4-H Poultry Project. To emphasize once again, think of the Manual as a passport to a much wider world of literature in avian and poultry sciences. Use it as your exclusive study guide for the contest, but let it entice you to visit other science-based information.