From Shasta to Louisville

This year’s 4-H National Poultry and Egg Conference took place in November in a very cold Louisville, Kentucky. “How cold was it?” Well, in the entire history of horse racing at Churchill Downs, the racing card has only been cancelled four times. Two of the four were the Wednesday and Thursday of this year’s National Conference.

Chilly temperatures did not weaken the resolve of our California State Avian Bowl Champions. Of the 13 states competing, the California team had the highest average team score on the written test used for seeding of the actual Avian Bowl. The two Shasta County 4-Hers who made up our State team, Kutter Wright and Emma Osborn, ran the winners’ bracket. They defeated North Carolina, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania on their way to taking it all.

How did our team of two from California become so successful? Well, they started as Juniors in Avian Bowl, attending competitions in the far north of the state and the State Qualifier. This is the first year the team was eligible for senior competition and took the State Championship, with Mrs. Kris Wright as their Coach. Following their victory this past February in Fresno, they continued to hone their skills by taking in as many Avian Bowl competitions as possible. This included traveling all the way to Costa Mesa to participate in the very competitive Avian Bowl at the Orange County Fair.

I want to congratulate both Kutter and Emma, as well as their support team of Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Gabriela Osborn. Not only were these Californians responsible for bringing the Avian Bowl title back to the Golden State, they were also friendly California Ambassadors at the national event.

L to R: Kutter Wright, Emma Osborn, and John Cole of the Poultry Science Association
2015 Avian Bowl Qualifier
At the Greater California Society of Poultry Fanciers’ (GCSPF) Show

Once again I will be holding the State Qualifier at the GCSPF Show. For the second year in a row, I will be able to rent a dedicated building for all the youth activities, including Avian Bowl. There is a building change. For the 2015 show we will be in the Gem and Mineral Building, on the Big Fresno Fairgrounds.

***COACHES: You must have Avian Bowl teams pre-registered. The entry forms (one for Junior Teams and One for Senior Teams) are enclosed with this issue. Only 2 players of the same age division (Junior or Senior) are required to make a team. A team may have 2, 3, or 4 members. Multiple trams in the same age division may be entered from the same county. You may also make up a team with individual members coming from different counties.

National Avian Bowl Study Sections for 2015
National Avian Bowl Manual

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These sections will be used starting at the State Qualifier in Fresno and then for the remainder of 2015.
HOW TO ORDER THE NATIONAL AVIAN BOWL MANUAL

The National Avian Bowl Manual is available from the Clemson University Publishing Bulletin Room. The cost is $15.00 per copy (plus shipping charges) and may be ordered online using a major credit card by going to the following website:  http://shopping.clemson.edu When the Clemson Shopping page comes up, enter Man161 (NO spaces between the alpha and numeric) in the Search Products Box.

There is no tax, and the Priority Mail (2-3 days) shipping charge is $12.05 (1 copy to California). This is cheaper than ground shipping. Shipping charges will vary when ordering multiple copies.

If you must pay by check (rather than credit card), you may call 1-888-772-2665 to make arrangements and ask for help in calculating shipping charges for the total invoice. You can then send a check made payable to "Clemson University" for the total amount (manuals and shipping charges) to:

Clemson University
Public Service Publishing Bulletin Room
96 Poole Agricultural Building
Clemson, SC 29634-0129
Toll free: 1-888-772-2665; (864)-656-3261—Phone

Get your USDA Official Egg Air Cell Gauges FREE

For a limited time, 4-Hers and leaders who need air cell gauges, may obtain them free of charge. Please send your e-mail request (indicating the number you wish and your mailing address) to:
Jeff Shomaker, National Compliance Office - jeff.shomaker@ams.usda.gov

These are excellent tools for determining egg grades and to help 4-Hers better understand how egg candling and air cell size are essential to establishing the grade of an egg.
February 14, 2015  Humboldt Poultry Fanciers’ Association Show  
Location: Humboldt County Fairgrounds, Ferndale  
Showmanship and Avian Bowl judged by Dr. Bradley  

The Bowl Q/A for this show will be based on the 2014 Study Sections as listed in AVS Notes Dec. 2014. That issue can be found online at:  
http://animalscience.ucdavis.edu/avian/newsletters.htm  

Youth Show information contact Harry Majors, 707 496-6350, harrymajors2000@yahoo.com  
Show website www.humboldtpoultry.org  

February 28, 2015  Greater California Society of Poultry Fanciers’ (GCSPF) Show, Fresno  
County Fairgrounds, Fresno  
Showmanship 9 AM and Avian Bowl Qualifier (1 PM) judged by Dr. Bradley  
Show information www.gcspf.com  

February 28, 2015  Avian Bowl State Qualifier  
GCSPF Show, Gem and Mineral Building, Fresno County Fairgrounds, Fresno  
12:30 PM registered Avian Bowl teams must check-in; Senior teams take written test  
1:00 PM Competition begins  
Questions: Dr. Bradley 760 699-5078