Poultry 4-H Loses a Great Friend

Mrs. Sharon Palmer of San Rafael, passed away this January. Mrs. P’s involvement in 4-H poultry dated back to the 1980s. When her daughter, Michele (yes, the same Michele who is my Junior Specialist) joined 4-H, Mrs. P plunged in, too.

My earliest memories are of her participation in springs shows and events in West Marin and San Rafael. Mrs. P’s motivation was to help ALL the poultry children, not just her child. She eventually became a leader and held numerous posts in Marin County 4-H. She and her van were often seen going up and down the state to poultry shows and judging contests. Mrs. P was a coffee-lover. The joke among her 4-H brood was how far out of San Rafael would they be before Mrs. P dribbled coffee on her blouse! But, very seriously, Mrs. P was the reason many children were able to show at and participate in distant events.

For many years, she ran the poultry show at the Marin County Fair. Whenever there was a threat to the poultry component, Mrs. P went to battle. She preserved both space and time for poultry. If the powers to be suggested the show could not go on because there were no sponsors, Mrs. P put up her own money. I dare say, her efforts are a major reason poultry remains at the Marin Co. Fair.

For multiple years, Mrs. P was my Task Force Leader at the California State Fair. For those of you who have been disgruntled about some aspect of that event, but did not know what to do...well, you should have seen Mrs. P in action. She said and did what others wanted to say and do, but lacked the gumption to do so. Some of her State Fair accomplishments are legendary.

It was no surprise to me that in her will, Mrs. P permanently funded the Best of Show Trophy for a junior poultry exhibitor at the Marin Co. Fair. For those of you who wish to remember Mrs. P, the family asks for memorial donations to The Supporters of Poultry Youth. This is the booster group I organize to support children with the champion meat birds and eggs at State Fair’s Junior Livestock Auction. To make a memorial donation, send checks made out to “Supporters of Poultry Youth” to me (Dr. Francine Bradley, Animal Science, UC Davis, Davis, California 95616).
Start Studying - New Avian Bowl Study sections for State Fair 2008 and Beyond

The Avian Bowl study sections that you used for the 2007 State Fair will be used through this summer’s country fairs. The sections that will FIRST be used at this year’s State Fair Avian Bowl Qualifier are as follows:

The National Avian Bowl Study Packet was revised in 2004. Please make sure your team has the 2004 version. All questions at the National contest will come from the 2004 version.

The following sections and pages have been selected as study materials for the 2008 National 4-H Poultry & Egg Conference.

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The 2004 version of the National Avian Bowl Manual is available from the Clemson University Bulletin Room. The cost is $12.00 per copy and may be ordered online using either a VISA or Master card by going to the following URL: [http://national4hpoultryandegg.psu.edu/avianbowl.html](http://national4hpoultryandegg.psu.edu/avianbowl.html)
Chicken Parts are Parts and This Team Knows Them Well

Congratulations to the Senior Poultry Judging Team: Katelyn Beckmann, Chenoa Van Gerpen, Michaella Patt, Zachary Thode and Nicole Peterson. Coached by Mrs. Catherine Thode, the team took first place honors at the Poultry Judging Qualifier held at the Greater California Society of Poultry Fanciers’ Show in Fresno. Our Champion Junior Poultry Judging Team is Allison Kostecki, Peri Wong and Elena Wyckoff. The Junior Team was coached by Mrs. Julie Wong.

The Seniors will continue to work on their judging skills as they prepare to represent our state this November at the 4-H National Poultry and Egg Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. Be sure to give these individuals and their coach a full feathered salute when you see them.
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