

News Release
2013 National 4-H Poultry & Egg Conference

The 2013 National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference was held November 20-21 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.

This annual 4-H conference includes five separate competitive events. In the Poultry Judging contest, participants are required to judge ready-to-cook chicken and turkey carcasses, live production hens and market eggs. In the Chicken and Turkey Barbecuing contests participants barbecue three chicken halves or two turkey fillets and give an oral presentation on the corresponding poultry industry. In the Egg Preparation demonstration contest participants prepare an egg dish and give an oral presentation on the nutritional value and versatility of eggs. In addition to these events, the conference includes an Avian Bowl contest which is a double-elimination round robin 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. Ms. Tracy McKinney spoke about her job as Flock Advisor with Perdue Farms. Dr. Carey Ritz from the University of Georgia discussed the career opportunities available in the poultry industry and how to pursue a college program that will give students diverse experiences in poultry to develop a successful career.

At the 2013 National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference, 157 senior 4-Hers, representing 26 states, participated as teams or individuals in the various events. Twenty-one teams and four independent individuals participated in the Poultry Judging contest and 13 teams competed in the Avian Bowl contest. Eleven individuals participated in the Chicken Barbecue contest, nine in the Turkey Barbecue, and nine in the Egg Preparation Demonstration.

Mrs. Barbara Jenkins of the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association, along with Jon Cole of Poultry Science Association, attended the conference and participated at the awards banquet. Along with the 4-Hers, an additional 207 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. A total of 30 donors provided financial support for awards.

The Avian Bowl contest was won by the team from Louisiana. This is the first time a team from Louisiana has won the Avian Bowl Contest. Each team member was awarded a plaque, gold pin, and \$100. The winning team members were Austin Gaspard, Ty Zaunbrecher, Connor Waits, Justin Punch. They were coached by Hilton Waits. The remaining top teams were Kentucky (2nd) and Wisconsin (3rd).



Avian Bowl winners – from Louisiana
Coached by Hilton Waits
Presented by Jon Cole, Poultry Science Association

In the cooking contests, Anne Catherine LeBlanc from Louisiana took first place in the Chicken Barbecue contest; Jacob Hall from Missouri took first place in the Turkey Barbecue contest; and Emily Falica from Kentucky placed first in the Egg Preparation Demonstration. Each contestant received a plaque, gold pin and \$250. The plaque awarded the winner of the turkey barbecue contest is the Robert Hogue Memorial award.



Chicken barbecue contestants



Turkey barbecue contestants



Chicken BBQ winner – Anne Catherine LeBlanc from Louisiana
Co-coached by Shannon Waits and Michelle Gaspard (in photo)
Presented by Jesse Lyons, University of Missouri



Turkey BBQ winner – Jacob Hall from Missouri
(Received the Robert Hogue Memorial award)
Coached by Becky Hall
Presented by Jesse Lyons, University of Missouri



Egg Preparation Demonstration winner – Emily Falica from Kentucky
 Coached by Michelle Falica
 Presented by Cassinda Bechanan from the Kentucky Poultry Federation

In the Poultry Judging contest, Miles McDonald from Georgia placed first in the Production Hen division. Maryland (Josh Clark, Malinda Grimm, Justin Moxley and Allie May Wilson) was the top team in this division. There was an unbreakable tie for first place in the Market Poultry division, Michaela Lubbers and Miles McDonald from Georgia. Georgia (Michaela Lubbers, Miles McDonald, Ben Branch and Carolina Carter) was the top team in this division. Elizabeth Allen from California placed first in the Market Egg division and Georgia was again the top team. Each individual winner received a gold pin and a plaque. Each team member was awarded a trophy and a gold pin.



Production Hen division, top individual
 Miles McDonald from Georgia

Presented by Mrs. Barbara Jenkins, U.S. Poultry and Egg Association



Production Hen division, top team
 Maryland Poultry Judging Team



Market Poultry division, top individuals (tie)
 Michaela Lubbers & Miles McDonald from Georgia
 Presented by Mrs. Barbara Jenkins, U.S. Poultry and Egg Association



Market Poultry Division, top team
 Georgia Poultry Judging team



Market egg division, top individual
 Elizabeth Allen from California
 Presented by Mrs. Barbara Jenkins, U.S. Poultry and Egg Association



Market egg division, top team
 Georgia Poultry Judging team

The overall individual champion in the Poultry Judging contest, receiving a plaque, a gold pin, and a \$250, was Miles McDonald from Georgia, with Georgia finishing as the overall team champions (Michaela Lubbers, Miles McDonald, Ben Branch and Carolina Carter). They were coached by Brian Tankersley and Ashley Davis. Each team member received a trophy and a gold pin. The top team also receives the Dr. Charles Wabeck Memorial Award. Other top ranking teams were Maryland (2nd), Missouri (3rd), Indiana (4th), Virginia (5th), Pennsylvania (6th), Tennessee (7th), New York (8th), Kentucky (9th), and Florida (10th).



Top individual overall
Miles McDonald from Georgia
Presented by Mrs. Barbara Jenkins, U.S. Poultry and Egg Association



Top team overall, Georgia
Coach: Brian Tankersley & Ashley Davis
Presented by Mrs. Barbara Jenkins, U.S. Poultry and Egg Association

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

- The poultry judging contest teaches participants to make decisions in an orderly manner, use reasoning skills, and to accurately communicate decisions. Participants are required to evaluate ready-to-cook chicken and turkey carcasses, live production hens and market eggs.
- The avian bowl is a double elimination contest for state teams patterned after other knowledge bowls. Contestants must have a comprehensive knowledge of subject matter for several species of poultry, food safety, physiology, nutrition, eggs, and other subjects.
- In the egg preparation demonstration contest participants are required to prepare an egg dish, demonstrate presentation skills and incorporate knowledge of the egg industry, egg quality and nutrition.
- In the chicken and turkey barbecue contest participants barbecue three chicken halves or two turkey fillets and give an oral presentation on the corresponding poultry industry. Participants develop skills in barbecuing, preparation of a product, and a presentation that demonstrates knowledge of the subject industry, food safety and product attributes.

For states interested in participating in the annually event, a webinar was held February 27, 2013 through eXtension. This webinar was followed up by webinars on coaching a poultry judging team and participation in the cooking events (egg preparation demonstration and the chicken and turkey barbecue contests). The recordings are available online through www.extension.org/poultry.

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.

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