



Cheeps & Chirps

..... Points for Poultry Profitability

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 3

DECEMBER 2018

4-H POULTRY ACTIVITIES AT THE KY STATE FAIR

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The 2018 state 4-H poultry judging contest was held at the state fair August 17. A total of 34 juniors and 25 seniors participated.

The top juniors were:

1. Kye Havens from Morgan County
2. Chloe Rickard from Muhlenberg
3. Kara Kelly from Morgan County
4. Demi Smith from Warren County
5. Caden Couch from Perry County

The top seniors were:

1. Ava Dixon from Perry County
2. Hannah Young from Caldwell County
3. Alyssa Preston from Lawrence County
4. Katie Thacker from Pike County
5. Allison Keeton from Morgan County

The top four seniors usually represent Kentucky at the national contest. Hannah Young and Allison Keeton are unable to attend and Katie Thacker will be participating in the national avian bowl contest. The backups are Raymond Carter from Lawrence County and Anna Sweets from Warren County. So Ava, Alyssa, Raymond and Anna represented Kentucky at the national contest.

There were 19 teams and 78 individuals. The Kentucky state poultry judging team did well in the national contest November 15. The team placed first in the market egg division, fourth in the past production division and third overall. Alyssa Preston placed 4th in the market egg division and Anna Sweets 7th. Anna Sweets

placed 6th overall while Alyssa Preston placed 12th.

The 2018 state 4-H avian bowl contest was also held at the state fair August 17. A total of eleven junior teams, with 29 total participants, and eight senior teams, with 21 total participants.

The winning team was from Perry County and included Caden Couch, Joseph Amburgen and McKinnleigh Amburgen.

The participants are also scored individually. The top junior individuals were:

1. Caden Couch from Perry County
2. Sydney Bush from Carter County
3. Jack Cushenberry from Warren County
4. Caleb St. Pierre from Madison County
5. Layna Taylor from Warren County

The winning senior avian bowl team was from Pike County and consisted of Katie Thacker and Ciara Kilgore. The top five senior individuals were:

1. Katie Thacker from Pike County
2. Irena Wolfrom from Madison County
3. Kierston Dotson from Pike County
4. Ava Dixon from Perry County
5. Ciara Kilgore from Pike County.

Ava Dixon will be participating in the national poultry judging contest so Ciara Kilgore was the fourth member of the team that represented Kentucky at the national contest.

There were 16 avian bowl teams. Kentucky won two matches before being eliminated. There were several very good teams and Kentucky did not place.



ECONOMIC VALUE OF APPLYING BROILER LITTER IN THE FALL

Spring application of broiler litter is ideal for maximizing the economic value of poultry litter but faces challenges that include wet soil conditions, lack of time to spread litter near planting, and availability of poultry litter in the spring. Therefore, it is a common practice in Kentucky to apply broiler litter in the fall. While not optimal from an economic, agronomic, or environmental perspective, producers still need to understand the economic value from applying poultry litter in the fall.

Litter applied in the fall to fallow cropland will suffer from ammonium volatilization and leaching resulting in little to no nitrogen available to the crop come spring. This results in an economic value less than if applied in the spring. To evaluate the economic value of litter applied in the fall, first assume that soil test recommendations indicate the need for phosphorus and potassium. Also, assume that "as received" broiler litter has a nutrient content of 50 lb. of nitrogen, 56 lb. of phosphorus, and 47 lb. of potassium (average for Kentucky). With current fertilizer prices of \$399/ton for anhydrous (\$0.24/lb. N), \$418/ton for DAP (\$0.36/lb. P₂O₅) and \$316/ton for potash (\$0.26/lb. K₂O), the expected value of broiler litter applied to fallow cropland in the fall is \$29/ton. This value should cover the price paid for the litter, transport, and application to compete with commercial fertilizer when applied in the fall. The value of broiler litter increases to \$33/ton if it is spread in the fall to cropland that has a cover crop planted. Both fall broiler litter prices are lower compared to 2016. This is directly attributed to the decrease in nitrogen prices from \$0.32/lb. to \$0.24/lb. This decrease value was slightly offset by small increases in both phosphorus and potassium prices.

If availability of litter in the spring is a concern, stockpiling litter purchased in the fall can be an option if local, state, and federal regulations allow. With the correct storage techniques and a properly staked litter pile, producers can expect minimum nutrient loss for spring application. If the same commercial fertilizer prices hold, the average broiler litter in Kentucky would have a value of \$36/ton if properly stored and applied in the spring.

The value of broiler litter differs in the fall if applied to pastures or land for hay production. If applying broiler litter to an established stand

of alfalfa with a legume mix of <25% of the stand, the average poultry litter in Kentucky at current commercial fertilizer prices has a value of \$40/ton. The value of broiler litter will vary based on grass type, established stands versus new seeding/renovation, and whether the land is used for hay, pasture, or silage.

Since the value of broiler litter is dynamic and always changing, decision tools have been developed so producers can enter soil test data, nutrient content of measured litter, commercial fertilizer prices, and management practices of poultry litter applied to determine the value. Tools for applying litter to both grain crops and land in hay/pasture/silage are available and can be found on my website at the following link:

http://www.uky.edu/Ag/AgEcon/shockley_jordan.php

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DAN FLANAGAN NAMED KPF PRESIDENT



Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles (left) delivered the keynote address at the 20th Annual Kentucky Poultry Federation meeting in Lexington, Kentucky. He recognized our newly elected president Dan Flanagan (right).

Commissioner Ryan Quarles touted the major accomplishments and efforts of Kentucky's poultry industry. Commissioner Quarles said, "as Kentucky's number one agricultural commodity, poultry has a positive effect on other commodities and the economy of Kentucky."

A Taylor County farmer, Dan Flanagan has been named the next board president of the Kentucky Poultry Federation. Flanagan has served on the KPF board in years

past representing growers and Keystone foods.

Flanagan, a first-generation farmer, purchased the beginnings of his farm at the age of 18. He explained it was through God's help, grace and hard work, as well as the support from his wife Ginny and two sons, Will and Matt, that he was able to grow his operation to 850 acres of small grains and wholesale and retail vegetable crops, along with six broiler houses contracted through Keystone Foods.

Off the farm, Flanagan completed his undergrad at Campbellsville University in English and History, and earned his Master of Divinity in Pastoral Psychology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary as well as his Masters of Social Work Administration and Counseling from University of Louisville.

Flanagan has dedicated his career to agriculture and education. He has been elected and served on numerous boards around the state including past Vice-Chair of Kentucky Council for Post-Secondary Education, Vice President of Student Affairs at Campbellsville University,

Chief of staff Kentucky Department of Agriculture, past Vice-Chair of Farm Credit Mid-America Board, past Chair of Kentucky Agriculture Council, past chair of Lake Cumberland Area Development District, past officer of Kentucky Soybean Board. He has also served on Farm Credit AgriBank board (St. Paul MN) and on the National Farm Credit Council (Washington, D.C.). Additionally, he was named Taylor County Agriculture person of the year and Taylor County Soil Conservationist of the year. Flanagan was named to the Kentucky Poultry Hall of Fame in 2016.

"Dan has been an asset to the federation and will continue to be an advocate for agriculture in Kentucky," Jamie Guffey, KPF Executive Director stated.

The Kentucky Poultry Federation was organized in 1957 as a civic and educational non-profit corporation. The federation exists for the purpose of fostering, promoting and encouraging the improvement of production and marketing of all types of poultry, poultry products, eggs and egg products in Kentucky.

Slow versus fast growing chickens

The poultry industry changed the shape of the chicken, and subsequently the market for meat, through the 'Chicken of Tomorrow' contest in 1946. It was a push to develop a bigger, faster-growing chicken.

Today, a new small, but vocal, segment of consumers are primarily concerned about animal well-being. Critics say that chickens grow so fast that they are not able to support their own weight and are prevented from performing natural behaviors. Proponents of modern poultry production, however, argue that scientific research shows that chickens today are stronger and healthier than ever before and have a much

smaller environmental foot print. Research now allows producers to increase the amount of breast meat using fewer natural resources. But, while science validates what we can do, society is asking if we should. But the switch to slower growing chickens can impact the environment.

If one third of chicken meat producers switch to slower growing strains, nearly 1.5 billion more chickens will be needed to produce the same amount of chicken meat currently produced, requiring increases in water, land and fuel.

The amount of additional feed required would be enough to fill 670,000 trucks on the road per year,

using millions more gallons of fuel annually. Growing the corn and soybeans would require 7.6 million acres annually. Slower growing chickens stay on farms longer, producing 28.5 million additional pounds of manure annually. One billion additional gallons of water per year for the chickens to drink.

We need to have a willingness to engage in an ethical value-based discussions. Engage the public on values you share including care of animals, the environment, and food safety. Rarely do consumers hear that quicker growth is better for the environment or how the evolution of chicken farming has made protein more available and affordable.



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NEW KENTUCKY POULTRY CURRICULUM AVAILABLE

The Kentucky Poultry Federation recently completed a Kentucky-specific poultry curriculum for use by FFA advisors around the state.

Below you find the link to the latest version. It is intended to fill the gap in the educational program for

high school students. Feel free to review and give us feedback

—Jamie Guffey (jguffey@kypoultry.org)

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1si0UFtpkz1iV_AlJF7r61vzoGutPv3lV

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