

# Youths Win For 'Best-Dressed' Broilers

NEWARK, Del.— The 40th annual junior broiler contest netted cash awards for Delaware youths with the "best-dressed" broilers.

Dan Palmer, University of Delaware extension poultry specialist and coordinator of the program, says this year's contest, held earlier this month, drew 48 entries.

The Junior Broilers Program, sponsored by Delaware Cooperative Extension and Delmarva Poultry Improvement Association, is open to 4-H'ers, FFA members, and Junior Grange members. Boys and girls from ages 8 to 19 grow flocks of 50 chicks to market weight in 42 days. They are expected to manage their flocks and keep accurate records. Each child's family is responsible for buying feed for the chicks.

Palmer says cooperators in the Junior Broiler Program include hatcherymen, integrators, breeders, feed dealers, and industry representatives. Service clubs representing a wide range of interests donate money to the program.

The children look for uniformity in size and conformation in selecting seven live broilers from their flock. Essentially, they look for seven carbon copies, said Palmer.

The live birds were weighed in at the state fairgrounds on April 30 from 4 to 7 p.m. so participants could watch the process. The next morning, the chickens were dressed and inspected at Allen's Family Foods Inc., in Harbeson, DE. The birds were kept iced down, placed in bags, and taken to Lake Forest High School for judging by an industry professional that afternoon.

This year's judges were Andrea Volmi and Barbara Johnson, who are responsible for quality control in the poultry processing plant at Allen's Family Foods and Townsends Inc., respectively.

"Both judges volunteered their time and expertise. They made an indispensable contribution to the program," Palmer said.

Volmi and Johnson picked the best five of the seven dressed birds that made up each child's entry, Palmer said. The entries were then judged in five categories: conformation; condition and appearance; uniformity; weight; and records that the youngster kept.

Marty Butterfield, extension assistant director of human resources, tabulated all the results on a computer and gave each contestant a printout to take home.

The chickens remained on display at the awards banquet, where all the children could see their

entry dressed. A barbeque awards banquet rounded out the event. Contestants left with their dressed broilers.

But what happens to the remainder of the flock? Palmer said that the broilers are usually sent to a private dresser.

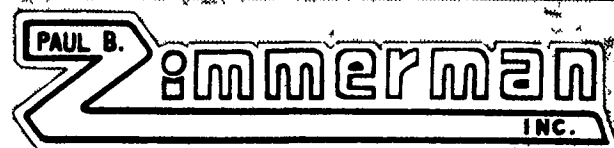
Through the Junior Broiler Program, youngsters learn that food production involves record-keeping and attention to detail, Palmer said.

First place went to J. Rob Voorhees (Houston, DE) for a first-place cash award of \$50 in addition to a \$50 savings bond. He received an additional award of \$15 for the heaviest entry. His seven birds weighed in at 40.75 pounds.

Wendy Webb (Greenwood, DE) netted second place for an award of \$45. Kevin Evans (Bridgeville, DE) took third place for a \$35 award.

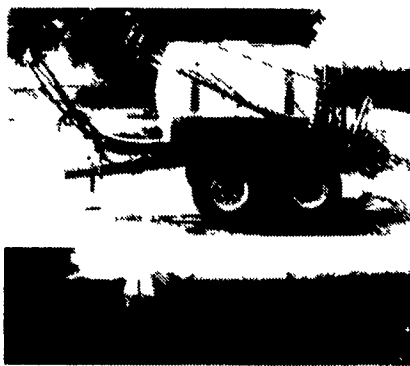
Fourth place went to Crystal Dulin (Clayton, DE) for a \$30 award. Jay Davis (Clayton, DE) took the fifth-place award of \$25.

Sixth- through 10th-place winners each received \$20 awards. They were George Dixon (Clayton, DE), Jennifer Callaway (Felton, DE), Cade Wilkins (Milford, DE), Kim Dannenhauer (Felton, DE) and Kevin Warren (Kenton, DE).



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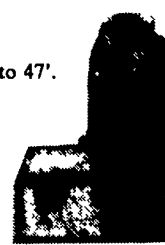
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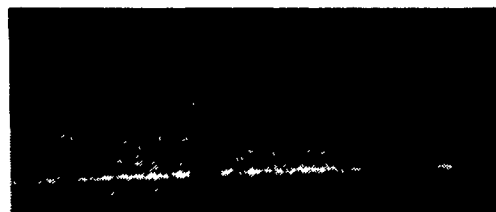


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