



# Northeast & Southeast District Virtual 4-H Poultry Judging Contest



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## WHY?

When face-to-face district-level Poultry Judging contests were cancelled in April 2020, 4-H programs across the state were in need of an avenue for 4-H'ers to showcase their knowledge and skill sets. Through collaborative efforts and assistance from the University of Georgia Poultry Science Department, a live virtual district-level contest was developed for both Northeast and Southeast region participants. The virtual event included all aspects of the Georgia 4-H Poultry Judging contest including oral reasons.



## SITUATION

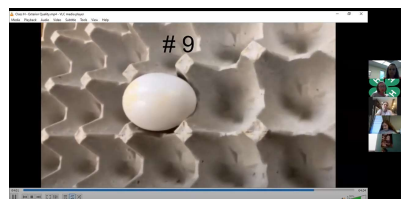
The COVID-19 pandemic halted all in-person youth development in-school and afterschool programs in March 2020. During the pandemic quarantine it was vitally important for youth to have a way to stay connected with their 4-H programs and peers. To continue to provide the essential elements of belonging, independence, generosity and mastery to our youth during a global crisis, 4-H programming had to adapt its delivery method to continue to meet the needs of youth in a positive way.

Amidst the pandemic quarantine, many county 4-H programs were preparing for district-level poultry judging contests, which were cancelled leaving county programs across the state without an option to compete at the district-level. This cancellation resulted in Cloverleaf and Junior 4-H'ers (grades 4-8) having no official contest planned for the year. With poultry judging being one of the largest competitive events in the state with \_\_\_\_\_ participants at the district-level in 2019, it was clear that an alternative option was needed for 2020.

## RESPONSE

In April 2020, a **cross-district** effort to develop a contest for 4-H'ers in both the Northeast and Southeast districts of Georgia 4-H began.

The goal in planning was for the virtual event was to mimic an in-person event as much as possible thus being a live, timed event with all classes included. Competition organizers consulted with Heather Shultz, Georgia 4-H Livestock Program Specialist and Steve Walker, Georgia 4-H IT Associate Director to develop logistical and programmatic plans. Lanier and Knight created classes using video and photo images to be shown via Zoom to participants during the contest time. The completed competition was critiqued by Dr. Casey Ritz of the University of Georgia Poultry Science Department in advance of the competition.



## IMPACT

47 youth from 10 counties competed in the first ever live virtual poultry judging contest through Georgia 4-H. 24 of these participants were in grades 4-8 meaning this was their only opportunity to compete this year. Four 4-H professionals and volunteer coaches also participated in the event as oral reasons takers.

13 participants completed a Qualtrics survey reporting the following:

- 77% were extremely or somewhat satisfied with the difficulty of classes and virtual format.
- 85% were extremely or somewhat satisfied with the oral reasons format of the contest.

Skills that 4-H'ers identified developing through Poultry Judging not only include knowledge about chickens and eggs but also how to compare and contrast, analyze, critically think and communicate. The impact of this event is best seen from the perspective of youth that participated. One 4-H'er said "virtual options should continue to be provided for those that can't go to the live contest" and another was very thankful "for giving Junior 4-H'ers an opportunity to compete."

Due to the success of this contest in a live virtual format, organizers of the state-level Virtual Poultry Judging Contest adopted many of the best practices used to execute a similar event for Senior 4-H'ers (grades 9-12) across the state.

