

4-H and FFA Members Compete in 2nd Annual Regional Chicken Show

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Youth ages 5 to 18 representing 4-H and FFA in the region competed in the 2nd annual Regional Chicken Project May 10 in Elizabethtown. Eighty-nine youth showed the hens and broilers they had been raising and caring for over the last few months. The number of participants doubled over last year.

In order to participate, the youth had to register in January through their school FFA adviser or through their NC Cooperative Extension 4-H or Livestock Agent. They had to choose whether they wanted to raise laying hens or broilers. At least two required trainings were provided in each county to teach proper care, biosecurity, showmanship techniques, record keeping and more. The three areas of competition judged were showmanship, which is the handling of the bird and being able to verbally share knowledge about the anatomy and breed to a judge; breed, which is the overall look of the bird including fullness, color and health; and project recordbooks, which are written records of knowledge gained and evidence of learning through the project.

This is the second year the Regional Chicken Project has been offered in the area. Children representing Bladen, Columbus, Cumberland, Hoke, Pender, Robeson, Sampson and Wayne counties signed up. All 4-H Cloverbuds ages 5 to 8 were given recognition and ribbons for their participation in Showmanship and Recordbooks.

Sami Drake was awarded 5th place in the Junior Showmanship Division. Jett Shuey won 3rd place and John Faatz won 5th place in the Senior Showmanship Division. All three youth are from Gray's Creek FFA. They received cash prizes and ribbons.

The youth were also recognized later for their achievements in completing required project recordbooks documenting their individual chicken project. Winners received ribbons and cash prizes in the amounts of \$15 for 1st place, \$10 for 2nd place and \$5 for 3rd place. Area FFA students also completed project recordbooks and competed in two age categories. Middle school winners were 1st place, Sami Drake, and 2nd place, Cooper Strickland. Both students are from Gray's Creek Middle School.

Parents reported that their children learned new ideas about communication skills and responsibility as a result of their participation in the Regional Chicken Project. For more information about youth livestock programming in Cumberland County, please contact Cooperative Extension at 910-321-6862.



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Pictured left to right: John Faatz (Gray's Creek High School FFA), Justin Locklear (FFA, Robeson County), Jett Shuey (Gray's Creek High School FFA), Lena Devlin (Brunswick County 4-H) and Rebekah Taylor (Brunswick County 4-H).

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