

SUMMARY OF THE FFA POULTRY CDE CHANGES FOR 2012

- **The Market Broilers** change from the 8 keep/cull format to *placing* 4 live birds. I think this is a great change as it cuts down on the number of live birds being transported to the contest. The birds could still have disqualifications like the old keep/culls. If so, then that bird would automatically be placed last in the class. The other 3 birds would then be judged on conformation and meat yield just like before. I won't let the class have more than one disqualification.
- **The Exterior Eggs Class** will be bumped from 10 to 15 total eggs to help balance the point value in the contest.
- **The Processed or Patties Class** will be split into two separate classes of 10 products each, thus creating a new class. The poultry industry is all about further processing and this makes sense. Separating the two also helps coaches and students because it will be easier to understand the differences between the bone-in products and the boneless products. They will basically be judged with the same criteria as in the old manual, but since they are separated it makes it easier for the student to understand.
- **Other** changes in the book are simple corrections or changes in the old class numbers, etc. These changes have no real impact on the contest. The information sections are a bit different too, some old items have been deleted and new ones added. For the DISTRICT exam and team material, I will TRY my best to only use questions that appear in both the old and new material. At the state contest, everyone should have the updated 6th edition with time to prepare, so the state contest in 2012 will be based on the new version. The precopy I have says that we should focus on how to judge, the career info, and then hatchery, broilers, turkeys, and eggs for exams and team events in the 2012 season.
- **Changes to the district grading cards.** I have updated the cards, making them more like the scan sheet in the back of the book. There is no way that I can bring a scanner – it's too big and too expensive, plus the scan sheets cost money as well. So I have tried to make them emulate the scan sheet to help students become familiar with it but still help with hand grading. **PLEASE NOTE:** at the district level I have changed the point value of the classes that have quality grades such as the parts quality section. I have increased the point value, though very slightly, for some of these classes. This is because I want to make it easier for the graders. Our state FFA contest will grade as per requirements: 1 point, 2 points or 3 points off according to the values of the student's mismark. However, I am going to even these numbers out so that a grader doesn't have to spend a lot of time figuring all the differences out. I think this will cut down on a lot of mistakes, and bumping up the point value prevents negative scores. I will make a set of instructions on the class grading rules and bring it to your contest. However, I still leave the grading rules, point values, and methods up to you as I am only making suggestions.