



# THE FEATHER REPORT

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## The New Kansas Cockfighting Bill

Senate bill no. 69 passed in the last legislative session. It was designed to prevent cockfighting in Kansas. I don't know what the real intentions were for this bill, however, since the State of Kansas has had an animal anticruelty law in place for decades which effectively prevented cockfighting in Kansas. A copy of the bill is in this newsletter.

I've had a lot of questions about the provisions in the bill concerning ownership and transportation of gamecocks. From reading the bill, the way I interpret it, is that ownership and transportation are allowed. In fact, I'm not sure what new concerns are brought up by this legislation that we didn't already have before its passage.

HOWEVER, if you have questions about the bill, you should consult an attorney to be sure. Apparently, passing the bill was to blunt the national misconception that Kansas did not specifically have a law against cockfighting. Although we've had effective legislation in place for decades, this was necessary to appease certain groups concerned about this specific activity.

### Senate Bill No. 69

An ACT concerning crimes, criminal procedure and punishment creating the crime of unlawful conduct of cockfighting; prescribing penalties therefore.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

**Section 1.** (a) Unlawful conduct of cockfighting is: (1) Causing for amusement or gain, any gamecock to fight with or injure another gamecock; (2) knowingly permitting such fighting or injuring on premises under ones' ownership, charge or control; (3) training any gamecock for the purpose or with the intent of having it fight with or injure another gamecock; or (4) attending the unlawful conduct of cockfighting as provided in this subsection.

(b) Unlawful conduct of cockfighting is a class A nonperson misdemeanor.

(c) As used in this section, "gamecock" means a domesticated fowl that is bred, reared or trained for the purpose of fighting with other fowl.

(d) The provisions of this section shall be part of and supplemental to the Kansas criminal code.

**Section 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

I hereby certify that the above BILL originated in the SENATE, and passed that body.

SENATE adopted  
Conference Committee Report

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

Passed the HOUSE as amended

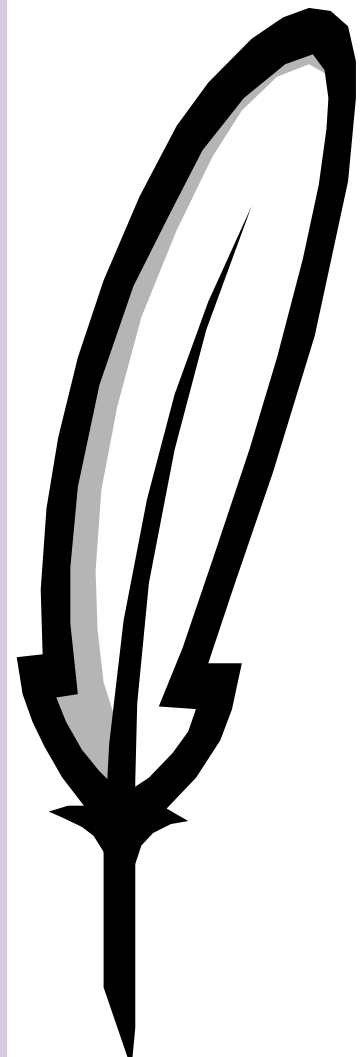
HOUSE adopted  
Conference Committee Report

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

APPROVED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor



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## Preparing For Winter

Winter is here and bad weather will soon be on the way. That means it's time to start getting small flocks that range outdoors ready for the colder temperatures. We get many questions concerning the safety and welfare of poultry during times of low outdoor temperatures.

Generally speaking, most types of poultry can easily survive winter conditions in Kansas provided that certain precautions are considered. However, some breeds and ages of birds may have a more difficult time. Obviously, small chicks and young stock cannot survive without supplementary heat. That's why most birds don't nest naturally in the winter, however, if you have breeding pens set up and you are still hatching chicks, you will need to provide supplementary heat.

The most important thing to provide birds during the winter is protection from the wind. Not only does a hard cold wind affect the bird's body temperatures, but it also causes exposed skin like combs and feet to become dehydrated and be more susceptible to cold injury. Be sure the birds have several areas in which to hide from the wind so that they have place to go no matter what direction the wind is blowing. Put plastic over windows and prevent any other drafts from getting in, but be sure the birds can still get fresh air. Be extra careful to ensure that there are no drafts around the roosting and perching area. Remember that birds held up off the ground with wire bottoms will encounter more drafts and colder temperatures.

Birds that have the frizzle gene that is so popular right now in the show arena are less likely to survive low temperatures. Birds use their feathers for insulation. When they are cold, their feathers stand up, reducing airflow across their bodies and retaining more heat. This is similar to how insulation works in your house. However, the frizzle gene causes the feathers to cork-screw and this prevents the birds from naturally insulating themselves. All frizzle type birds should be given some sort of winter protection. Birds with the naked neck gene will also have less resistance to cold climates. Naked neck birds are NOT crosses with turkeys, but are chickens that have a gene that give them fewer feathers. Any birds with fewer feathers will have less natural protection in winter.

Never molt birds during the cold weather. In Kansas, birds that are left to molt naturally usually start molt around State Fair time in September. This allows them to get a fresh set of feathers before the winter comes. If you have your birds on a light program, then decide to molt them during the winter, be careful since temperatures below 45 degrees F can cause death of birds in a forced molt.

Preparing for winter is also a great time to do some other chores with the flock. They should be dusted for mites and other parasites, and wormed for internal parasites. Be sure to dust the premises as well. For more information on how to get rid of poultry pests, refer to *Eliminating Mites in Poultry Flocks*, KSU publication number MF2387. You may also want to clip any toe nails and beaks that have grown too long.

Don't forget to keep drinking water available during a hard freeze. If you've been using a nipple drinker system, it will need to be in a place where it cannot freeze. If you are using open water sources, you can use the heater bases most often sold for pigs to keep the water pan from freezing.

Be sure that the house has dry, clean bedding. Old bedding should be moved to the compost pile. Keep the bedding loose during the winter so that the birds can bed down for extra warmth.

Be sure that your birds get plenty of feed during the cold days of winter. As the birds digest feed, it causes metabolic heat to increase and this helps keep them warm. Some flock owners will throw out some supplementary cracked corn as a snack which helps increase intake on especially cold nights. Most birds in Kansas can survive without supplementary heat if they have adequate feed and water, protection from the wind, and are in good physical condition.

## Poultry Research Farm Faces a Big Loss

Myron Lawson, Poultry Unit Manager at KSU, passed away December 6, 2004. Myron had worked for the poultry farm as Manager for 34 years. Many of you might have met him on a tour of the KSU Farm. Myron helped prepare all the materials for 4-H and FFA events. He will be greatly missed by all of us.

He was born March 16, 1944, in Leonardville, Kansas, the son of Earl and Mildred "Millie" (Skalla) Lawson, and had been a lifetime area resident. He graduated from Riley County High School and attended Manhattan Area Vo-Tech.

Mr. Lawson was the farm supervisor for the poultry unit at Kansas State University Animal Science Department since 1969. He was active with 4-H and FFA when he was young and judged many poultry competitions. His family said he enjoyed the outdoors including hunting and fishing, and was a loving and caring father. He enjoyed antiques, helping others and was an avid K-State football fan.

On June 28, 1969, in Keats, Kansas, he was married to Kathleen I. "Kay" Wood. She preceded him in death on July 15, 2001.

Survivors include one daughter, Lynn Lawson and husband Stuart Humberg of Knoxville, Tennessee; one son, Kyle Lawson and fiancée Ingrid Richmeier of Manhattan; one sister, Earlene Lagerquist of St. Paul, Minnesota; and his first grandchild to be born in January.

Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, December 11, 2004 at the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Chapel with Reverend Kevin Lawson officiating. Burial will follow in Sunrise Cemetery in Manhattan, Kansas.

The family of Mr. Lawson will receive friends from 7:00 until 8:30 p.m. Friday, December 10, 2004 at the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home. Online condolences may be left for family at [www.ymlfuneralhome.com](http://www.ymlfuneralhome.com).

The Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, KS, is handling arrangements.



## KSU Poultry Evaluation Team Places Second at Nationals.

The KSU Poultry Judging Team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> overall at the National Poultry Judging Contest held November 7-10<sup>th</sup> at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, AR. The team members included Seth Daly, Jacob Burden, Larissa Noonan, Kabel Robbins, and Samantha Swank. The team was coached by Dr. Scott Beyer, with assistance from Emily Diener.

With 4,164 total points, the team finished just 17 points behind the University of Arkansas. Kabel Robbins finished 3<sup>rd</sup> and Jacob Burden finished 9<sup>th</sup> as high individuals. Robbins finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the broiler division and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the egg products division. Larissa Noonan finished 4<sup>th</sup> in egg products. The team earned a 1<sup>st</sup> place finish overall in the broiler breeder and market products division and 4<sup>th</sup> overall in egg products evaluation. The next competition for the team will be at Louisiana State University in April of 2005.

“All of the competition teams from Kansas State University are known for being very competitive in national events. This team worked hard during preparation and I knew it would pay off. I thought they had a chance to trophy, and sure enough, they were just one break away from winning it all. This bunch was also a very personable group. I was glad to get back, because I’d laughed so much that I was sore and I wasn’t sure I could last another day”, said Dr. Scott Beyer

Student Info: Jacob Burden, ASI major, Jr, from Gardner, KS; Seth Daly, ASI major, Jr., from Thedford, NE; Kabel Robbins, ASI PreVet major, So, from Oskaloosa, KS; Larissa Noonan, ASI major, Sr. from St. Joseph, MO; Samantha Swank, ASI major, Sr., from Ottawa, KS



Fall 2004 KSU Poultry Judging Team. Front (L-R): Larissa Noonan, Samantha Swank, Emily Diener (Assistant Coach), Back: Seth Daly, Kabel Robbins, Jacob Burden, and Dr. Scott Beyer (Coach)



3<sup>rd</sup> high individual, Kabel Robbins.

# Poultry Results from the 2004 Kansas State Fair

## Market Broilers

Grand Champion: Kari Stark, Sumner  
Reserve Champion: Luke Whitehill, Finney

## Pigeons

Grand Champion: Brooke Sobba, Franklin  
Reserve Champion: James Heitschmidt, Finney

## Int. Poultry Judging Individual Results

1st Dorothy Menefee, Miami  
2nd Rebekah Gieringer, Franklin  
3rd Sarah Anderes, Central, KS

## Int. Poultry Judging Team Results

1st Franklin  
2nd Miami  
3rd Central, KS

## Sr. Poultry Judging Individual Results

1st Loren Topp, Franklin  
2nd Scott Wiens, McPherson  
3rd Emilia Chiroy, Lyon

## Sr. Poultry Judging Team Results

1st Franklin  
2nd Jefferson  
3rd Miami

## Congratulations to the 2004 4-H State Poultry Judging Team

The State Champion 4-H Poultry Judging Team from Franklin County competed at the National 4-H Poultry Judging Contest in November. The Team placed 10<sup>th</sup> overall and 9<sup>th</sup> Team High in Production Hens. The Team Members were David Droddy, Mikael Englund, Shane Oram, Brooke Sobba, and Loren Topp.

## *The Feather Report*

*R. Scott Beyer*

Grand Champion Market Broiler Kari Stark and R. Scott Beyer. Kari will receive a \$1000 U.S. Savings Bond.



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"K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer."



Reserve Champion Market Broiler: Luke Whitehill and R. Scott Beyer. Luke will receive a \$500 U.S. Savings Bond.

**We're on the Web?**  
[www.oznet.ksu.edu/pr\\_poultry/](http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/pr_poultry/)