Smyth 4-Her Claim State Title!

We may not have any commercial poultry operations in Smyth County, but when it comes to chickens, your Smyth County 4-H Livestock Club and their Poultry Judging Teams know their stuff!

Led by our 4-H Livestock Club volunteers, Mrs. Ashley Osborne and Mrs. Kristen Haynes, the poultry judging team has been working very hard for the past several weeks and this past Monday, their efforts paid off.

Monday morning, our youth left Smyth County and traveled to Blacksburg for the Virginia State Poultry Judging Contest and everyone brought home some significant awards.

Our Senior Team members Charity Osborne, Anita Bear and Bryton Atkins came home as State Champions and will be representing Virginia at the National Poultry Judging Contest in Louisville, KY in November. Individually, Charity was the third high individual while Bryton and Anita were fourth and sixth respectively.

Behind our Senior leadership, Smyth County boasts two competitive Junior Teams as well. Team A, consisting of Preston Gollehon, Levi Osborne, Lucas Haynes, and Ryan Haynes had a great outing. Overall the team was second in the State and Levi was the county’s highest placing individual, taking second place honors. Lucas was the fourth high individual while his brother Ryan placed eighth.

Our Team B also had a good day. The team made up by Kiley Bear, Grayson Hubble, and Aaron Osborne finished a strong fourth in the State team competition. Among Team B, Grayson led the way as the seventh high individual Junior judge.

While our teams were very successful, we are also very proud of the fact that they are also great ambassadors for Smyth County. They are kind, mannerly and respectful and a joy to be around.

And while our teams are successful, they could always use some more talented members. If you are between the ages of 5-19, we welcome you to join our 4-H Clubs, and if you are 9-19 our judging teams may be an opportunity for you.

If you are over 19, that’s okay too! As mentioned earlier in this column, the Senior Team will be travelling to Louisville this fall to compete at the National Contest. If you would like to help sponsor the team, you can donate to the Livestock Club at any time. Just mark your gift as being “in support of the Poultry Judging Team” and we will direct it 100% to the Club and Team.

Once again, congratulations to our Teams and their Coaches for representing Smyth County so well!