

ORAL REASONS

FOR PAST PRODUCTION HENS

At the state contest, oral reasons are given for one class of past production White Leghorn hens.

Contestants are given two minutes to explain WHY they placed the class of hens the way they did.

The factors used in scoring include:

Appearance and delivery

Proper use of terms

Accuracy of statements

Completeness of coverage

Contestants are given one rotation (15 minutes) to examine the class of birds and a second rotation to prepare their reasons.

Oral reasons are then given during the next rotation.

Juniors may use notes while giving their oral reasons, but seniors may not.

Note: The judge(s) may ask the contestant questions or request them to define terms.

Example of oral reasons:

The following make-believe notes are used to demonstrate how oral reasons are given.

BIRD #	<u>PIGMENTATION</u>	<u>HANDLING QUALITIES</u>	<u>ABDOMINAL CAPACITY</u>	<u>MOLT</u>	OTHER OBSERVATIONS
1	Bleached through bottom of foot Yellow shanks	Thick, fat pubic bones Hard abdomen	2 x 2	None	Narrow head Shrunken comb & wattles
2	Bleached through hocks and tops of toes	Soft, pliable abdomen Sharp, flexible pubic bones	3 x 4	None	
3	Bleached through shanks Yellow in hocks and tops of toes	Soft, pliable abdomen Pubic bones sharp	3 x 4	None	Bright, alert eyes Red, waxy combs
4	Bleached throughout but some pigment on toes, back of shanks	Pubic bones sharp Abdomen hard	3 x 4	None	Bright, alert eyes Red, waxy combs

Final rank: 2-4-3-1

Good Morning:

I am contestant #10

I place the class of White Leghorn Production hens 2-4-3-1. I had an easy top pair, close middle pair and an easy bottom pair.

I placed Bird 2 at the top of the class over Bird 4 because of [pigment loss](#) and [handling qualities](#). Bird number 2 is totally bleached through the hock and top of the toes. This indicates that she is a [persistent](#) layer and has laid for a long time without stopping. Bird number 2 is also a more [intense](#) layer as evidenced by her superior [handling qualities](#). Her abdomen is soft and pliable and her pubic bones are sharp and flexible. Bird number 4 has a hard abdomen showing signs of fatty deposits. Both hens had an [abdominal capacity](#) of a 3x4 finger spread. The Bird number 2 was also larger and wider than the Bird number 4.

I placed Bird number 4 second and over Bird number 3 because of [pigment loss](#). I found that Bird 4 has slightly less pigment on her shanks than Bird 3, particularly on the hock joints and tops of the toes. I grant that Bird 3 has a slightly softer and more pliable abdomen than Bird 4. However, I still placed 4 over 3 because Bird 4 has been a more [persistent](#) layer as shown by the greater bleaching. Both hens had an [abdominal capacity](#) of a 3x4 spread. Both hens also had [bright and alert eyes, red and waxy combs](#) which demonstrates their [health and vigor](#).

In the easy bottom pair, I placed Bird 3 over Bird 1 because of [pigment loss](#), [handling qualities](#) and [body capacity](#). Bird 3 shows [pigment loss](#) in the shanks while bird number 1 has only bleached through the bottom of the foot and shows intense pigment over the entire shank. Bird 3 has a soft abdomen and sharper more flexible pubic bones, whereas Bird 1 has thick, fat pubic bones. Bird number 3 had a better [abdominal capacity](#) with a greater spread between the pubic bones and between the pubic and keel bones than Bird 1.

I placed Bird 1 last because she lacks [persistency](#) as shown by the intense pigment in her shanks. She also lacks [intensity](#) as well, because of her fatty abdomen and pubic bones. She also had a [narrow head and shrunken comb and wattles](#).

[Molt](#) was not a factor in placing this class.

For these reasons, I placed this class of White Leghorn hens 2-4-3-1.