

AVS CORNER

TEACHING • RESEARCH • EXTENSION

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SPECIAL DELIVERY: Rebecca Watson, Hayley Boyd, Kyle Caldwell and Megan Kelley continue the proud tradition of delivering a turkey to the President's home, received by Mrs. Clements for Thanksgiving.

Let's Talk Turkeys

BY MEGAN KELLEY

A flock of pure white birds stand clustered at the front gate of the outdoor pen. Two students clad head to toe in bio-secure farm gear pile feed into large bins, fill buckets with clean water, and check the health of the flock.

The Turkey Project had begun.

The Clemson University Poultry Science Club (CUPSC) raised and harvested free-range turkeys for the Thanksgiving holiday for their annual Turkey Project. Every morning, CUPSC students visited the outdoor pens housing the turkeys to make sure the birds were safe and had access to food and water.

Harvesting the turkeys the weekend before Thanksgiving was a department-wide endeavor; students, CUPSC members, and AVS faculty all participated to ensure that the process was up to state and federal standards. The fresh-dressed turkeys averaged 19.45 lbs and were distributed by the students to their respective buyers out of Newman Hall. As is tradition in the CUPSC, a turkey was presented to the President of Clemson University and his family at their home on the Clemson campus.

The Turkey Project does more than provide a bird for families during the holidays. It provides students with hands-on husbandry experience and allows them to have sustained

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