

Ameraucana Breeders Club
Jan/Feb 1996 Vol XVI #1



R. HART

COLD WEATHER CARE

If you live where severe cold occurs, you have no doubt made a few modifications to your chicken house to make it a bit easier for your birds to make it through the winter weather. Electricity is practically a must in order to keep water from freezing over so that it is unavailable to the flock. There are a variety of good products available; everything from simple light bulbs to heating rods that will even keep enough water in a good sized bird bath relatively ice free.

It is a chore to have to break through the ice on a winter's morning, but the worst part was the aching hands and fingers that went along with this unpleasant activity. I finally let Mother Nature in the form of sunlight help me with this problem. I enlarged the window on the south side of the chicken house and covered this as well as all of the other windows with a product called mylar- a plastic material that admitted sunlight. The material does not have to be transparent, as even an opaque film will do. In any case, with the sun streaming in the south window, the interior temperature increased significantly during the daylight hours. It helped keep the water ice-free, kept the litter dry and fluffy and the birds became much more active. If the mylar is stretched tautly over chicken wire and secured well, it will stand up to even very strong winds.

I once visited a friend in Oregon who claimed he raised Brahmas because they were good cold weather birds. He said the pea comb was much less susceptible to freezing as compared to a straight comb and that the feathered shanks and toes were an advantage as well. Never-the-less, he did have some trouble with frozen toes on some of his birds during extreme weather. In order to solve this problem, he sent away for several heating cables such as the ones sold in seed and nursery catalogs for heating soil in greenhouses and cloches or seed-starting boxes.

With the aid of extension cords to each of a half dozen pens, he secured a heating cable to the topmost perch with electrician's tape, running it along the top of the perch as far as it would stretch. The initial cost was high, but in as much as the heating cables drew little power, the power bill was not excessive. More important, the Brahmas took to the heated perches and he lost no more birds to frozen or damaged toes. This may seem an extreme solution to a cold weather problem, but what the hey, who's to say chicken booties are beyond the pale?

Mike Gilbert sent along some snapshots from the National Meet last fall in Michigan, and I must say that I was impressed with the birds, especially the large whites. These went home with Dick Orr and I expect to hear more good things about them in the future at some of the eastern shows. Thanks to those who supported our national meet and best wishes to all for the NEW Year!

LET'S GET THOSE DUES IN!

Don Cable

Dear Jeanette,

Here's how our 1995 show season was:

May 1995 our 4-H group went to Bloomsburg PA. Eleven members showed. Andy Lee won the showmanship class they had sponsored.

June 1995 12 members showed birds at Syracuse NY at the Finger Lakes Show. Becky Ticknor won Best Standard by a Junior and Best American by a Junior. She also won a parakeet in the raffle. John Hayes won a 4 hole traveling case in the raffle.

July we had a club competition. It was open just to club members. Each member had to judge a class they had nothing in. Then we had a real judge place the classes. Prizes were awarded as he placed them and prizes for who judged like the judge were also awarded. We are definitely doing this again.

July we had our 4-H show at the County Fair (Broome). Mindy Lee won showmanship after being second two years running. We had seven members do this class. It is optional. Our sponsor this year gave a 2 and 1/2 foot trophy for this class. It made competition real fierce. We had a 115 birds shown. This year we had no turkeys or geese but lots of ducks and all kinds of chickens. Andy Lee won best of show with his black giant pullet.

August we sent four giant cockrels to the state fair.

September we exhibited in Bath NY (our favorite show) at the Twin Tiers Show. We also judged classes and then after the real judge went through checked ourselves. Amanda Shedd agreed with the judge 100% in the Silver Sebright class. She is nine. Eleven members went to this show. We had the only three Ameraucanas there. but I can't tell you what varieties because I have no idea.

September we also showed at Cobleskill. We didn't do well there.

That was our show season for 1995.

Andy Lee

What kind of bird do you hear when you eat?

A swallow

What do you get when you cross a chicken and a bell?

An alarm cluck.

What do you get when you cross a turkey with a whale?

A Thanksgiving dinner that needs a ton of stuffing.

Why did the confused hens hatch each others chicks?

Because their eggs were scrambled.

How can you keep a rooster from crowing on Monday morning?

Eat him for Sunday dinner.

What does a hen do just before she stands on one foot?

She lifts up the other one.

Why are a roosters feathers always smooth and neat?

Because he carries a comb.

Why did the gentleman invite a flock of ducks to dinner?

Because he wanted to have quakers with his soup.

What do you get when you cross an octopus and a chicken?

8 feather dusters.

What do you get when you cross a frightened skin diver and a rooster?

Chicken of the sea.

What do you get when you cross a rhinoceros with a goose?

A bird with a big horn to honk.

What do you get when you cross a mallard with a basketball?

A rubber duck.

What do you get when you cross a lighthouse and a henhouse?

Beacon and eggs.

Genius: I have just invented a way to get eggs without chickens!

Farmer: That's great! How?

Genius: Raise ducks.

A few notes from here and there....

nice long letter from Ron Nelson - he asked that I print this for the newsletter...

"I would like very much to hear from members who have large fowl AMERAUCANAS that lay blue eggs - the bluer the better - sky blue if possible! If your strain lays blue eggs or even if you have a few birds which do - would you please take time to send me a note? I also want to thank those of you who have already helped me in my search. It is much appreciated!"

Sincerely,
Ron Nelson
E 3073 Wesley Rd.
Ogdensburg, WI 54962

A neat post card sent from Columbia over the holidays from our Eastern DD, Richard Orr. Thank you, Dick. So nice to be remembered from so far away. Did you ever find any birds similar to Ameraucanas there? Ha.

A nice letter from Alice Lee and family. Alice sent me copies of some articles reprinted from THE NEBRASKA FARMER dated April 2, 1896. Very interesting articles. Also the show report from the Lee Family. Busy people. Keep up the good work, all of you.

A long letter from Bernard Kellogg. He is busy hatching some of his smooth necked friends. So far he and Dorothy are holding their own. Good to hear from him. I'll get a letter off when I mail this newsletter out.

brief note from our president. He make a comment about the average rainfall in the north part of California where he has wintered..something about growing webs between his toes.. How about it, Don, can you paddle like a duck now?

Mike and I have been exchanging notes and letters for a couple months trying to be sure we have all the bases covered with the changes and improvements on the Ameraucanas for the APA standard. From now until June don't try to communicate with Mike this is his very busy time of the year. One item Mike has asked me about is the club's 1996 National Show. I don't have much to report on this right now. Hope we get some firm requests/offers for this soon.

A brief note from Ginny Treager with a name to send a complimentary newsletter to. Any of you who knows of someone interested or raising Ameraucanas please don't hesitate to let them know about the club and send me the name and address...I'll be sure they receive a newsletter.

Guess that about covers it..if I missed any one please forgive me this time.

A new member: Murray Natkie - 32 Cedar Grove Rd., Annadale, NJ 08801 (He is a junior)

Happy Birthday..Amelia, Sharon, Alice, Jerry and all those I don't have written down who celebrate between Jan 1 and Mar. 31.

A few of my thoughts in print...

I've lived in Montana most of my life and my parents always kept a flock of chickens.. but I got into poultry as an adult when I lived in Tarpon Springs, FL. In the south the major problems are heat, humidity and bugs. In Montana it is the cold and wind.

While living in Florida I can remember innoculating my 200+ birds and my neighbor lady's 100+ for fowl pox on a 93° day with 110% humidity...what fun!! I also learned the hard way that one of the more popular medications added to the drinking water has arsenic in it and heat (or direct sunlight) turns it into straight poison. I lost a lot of exhibition birds in one day! Talk about heartbreak. Moral: Read all labels very carefully.

Then I moved back to Montana and got into poultry on an even larger scale. When I started raising geese in the late '70's I found that they needed shelter from the wind and extreme cold for the winter months so built them a straw igloo. I used some straw and some alfalfa hay bales. The geese like the alfalfa to eat and were quite comfortable thru the very coldest of weather.

Chickens usually had heat lamps or heaters in their houses. I discovered early on that square or rectangular perches protected the feet and toes on cold nights. I used bricks and cinder blocks for perches also. Once I changed from round perches I never had frozen or frostbite toes again.

I'm from the old school of old fashioned common sense rather than alot of fancy medications, etc. (Learned the hard way in Florida.) To prevent colds and sinus infections from being shut up in the winter I fed my birds chopped raw onion once a week in the warm mash I gave them every evening. I also rubbed Vicks on the perches every so often.

I also fed my birds alfalfa hay in the winter. I kept a bale in the open space for the birds running loose in the houses. My caged ones got alfalfa once a week in their pens.

This year I have but a handful of chickens. I got rid of all my big houses and pens earlier. So I built a straw house for my chickens this fall. I used a drop light for general warmth and to keep the water from freezing and I did use a reflector light when the temperatures dropped to -35°/-40° (not counting the wind chill factor). My birds stayed warm and comfortable. A couple mornings the water bowl had a bit of ice on it but generally even with the wind howling and snow drifts 2' deep or better my birds were fine. I was even gathering eggs in the cold.

Don't know how your birds fared thru this cold winter but hope some of my thoughts help in the future.

AMERICAN BREEDERS CLUB

SHOW REPORT

VARIETY	C.H.K.P	EXHIBITOR'S NAME
Champion Ameraucana <u>BTM-BLUE WHEATEN</u>	P	#83 Eric Wilhelmi
Reserve Champion Ameraucana <u>LF-SILVER</u>	K	#68 Brandon Samsalla
Champion Large Fowl <u>SILVER</u>	K	#68
Reserve Large Fowl <u>SILVER</u>	C	#68
Champion Bantam <u>BLUE WHEATEN</u>	P	#83
Reserve Bantam <u>BLUE WHEATEN</u>	H	#83

BANTAM	LARGE FOWL
Best Variety - Wheaten <u>Ø</u>	Ø
Reserve Variety - Wheaten <u>Ø</u>	Ø
Best Variety - Blue Wheaten <u>P-#83</u>	Ø
Reserve Variety - Blue Wheaten <u>H-#83</u>	Ø
Best Variety - Black <u>Ø</u>	Ø
Reserve Variety - Black <u>Ø</u>	Ø
Best Variety - Buff <u>Ø</u>	Ø
Reserve Variety - Buff <u>Ø</u>	Ø
Best Variety - White <u>K-#83</u>	Ø
Reserve Variety - White <u>Ø</u>	Ø
Best Any Other Variety (other than listed above) <u>Ø</u>	SILVER K-#68
Reserve Any Other Variety (other than listed above) <u>Ø</u>	SILVER C-#68

Please list exhibitor's name with champions and reserve champions. If there are no winners please enter Ø in space. Enclose exhibitors list with this report, please.

Type of show: (eg- District, State, National, Regional) STATE
 Host Club Name WISCONSIN INTERNATIONAL
 Date of Show SEPT. 23-24, 1995 Location JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN
 Judge of Ameraucanas JOHN THOMFORDE
 Show Secretary REV. PAUL ASHBROOK Phone # 414-622-4992
 Address RT. 1, Box 165 City, State & Zip WILD ROSE, WI 54984

Please send copy of this report to: AMERAUCAANA BREEDERS CLUB
 Jeannette Frank, Sec/Treas.
 P. O. Box 824
 Great Falls, MT 59403-0824



AMERICAN BREEDERS CLUB

SHOW REPORT

VARIETY	C.H.K.P.	EXHIBITOR'S NAME
Champion Ameraucana <u>Wheaton Bantam</u>	K	J. Trent #159
Reserve Champion Ameraucana <u>Wheaton "</u>	P	J. Trent #159
Champion Large Fowl <u>White</u>	P	R. Virts #146
Reserve Large Fowl <u>Silver</u>	C	R. Stonerack #169
Champion Bantam <u>Wheaton</u>	K	J. Trent #159
Reserve Bantam <u>Wheaton</u>	P	J. Trent #159

BANTAM - 5 birds

LARGE FOWL - 2 birds

Best Variety - Wheaton	K	J. Trent #159
Reserve Variety - Wheaton	P	" " #159
Best Variety - Blue Wheaton		
Reserve Variety - Blue Wheaton		
Best Variety - Black		
Reserve Variety - Black		
Best Variety - Buff		
Reserve Variety - Buff		
Best Variety - White	P	R. Virts #146
Reserve Variety - White		
Best Any Other Variety (other than listed above)		Silver C. T. Stonerack #169
Reserve Any Other Variety (other than listed above)		

Please list exhibitor's name with champions and reserve champions. If there are no winners please enter 0 in space. Enclose exhibitors list with this report, please.

Type of show: (eg- District, State, National, Regional) state

Host Club Name Ohio Poultry Breeders - Ohio National

Date of Show Nov 10-12 1995 Location Columbus, Ohio

Judge of Ameraucanas Danny Padgett

Show Secretary MIKE STICHLER Phone # 419-895-1147
 1120 ST. RT. 603

Address GREENWICH, OHIO 44837 City, State & Zip

Please send copy of this report to: AMERICAN BREEDERS CLUB
 Jeannette Frank, Sec/Treas.
 P. O. Box 824
 Great Falls, MT 59403-0824



Reflections From The Big Sky Country -

Hopefully by the time you are reading this Mother Nature has turned up the thermostat and shut the back door. I don't think there is any section of the USA that was ignored (or spared) by the overpowering hand of nature this year. Unfortunately it isn't just us humans who suffer when the weather turns against us.

I've mailed off my many pages of changes for the APA Standard Revisions Committee...including several pages of changes for the Ameraucana breed. Early 1997 is the projected date for the new Standard of Perfection. At this point I have no idea of what the status is on the color plates for Ameraucana breed. Anyone want to tell me?

The club is in need of articles and dues! If there is a red check mark here your 1996 membership dues have not been received. Without dues the newsletter doesn't get printed or mailed...so please send in your dues now.

ABC will have a club page in the 1996 APA Yearbook. A portion of the dues paid was used to pay for the ad. Any \$\$ you want to send extra is always gratefully accepted.

I've told you this before but I feel it needs to be repeated...1996 is election year for our club. We need nominations for candidates. All nominees must be paid up to date in dues and give permission to be nominated. Offices needing nominees are: President (Don Cable is our current president and might run again if asked..How about it Don?) Secretary/Treasurer (I am current S/T), all District Directors need nominees. Currently they are Eastern - Richard Orr; Southern - Chip Daniell; Central - Mary Lou Phelps and Western - Ken Duvall. Let me hear from you ASAP—next newsletter deadline for material is March 30.

ABC will have the Utah Fancy Poultry Show in Farmington, UT (just east of Salt Lake City) as the Western District Meet. Date is March 1-3, 1996. Koralyn Kibbee will be there with her Ameraucanas. Anyone in the area should plan on being there.

On the personal side of life...I was asked by the GF Park Dept. if I would sex the ducks and geese wintered in their facilities. They plan on finding homes for at least half of their current flock (175-180 birds) and needed breeds and sex. My son and I went down on the only warm, sunny Monday in Jan. to do this. Ducks are easy because of the sex feather on the male but the geese were something else. The park department has a beautiful pair of Tundra Swans this year. The waterfowl are released into a central park and pond usually the first of April and the public enjoys watching them and feeding them thru the summer.

I want to thank all of you who have written - a note, a letter or an article. Helps fill space.

Everyone is holding their own for now. Holidays were a bit rough...my 7 year old grandson was in the hospital in TX and I couldn't be there. My father-in-law is holding his own in his battle with cancer. My brother-in-law is doing fine after his dual angioplasty and the biopsy reports on my sister are good. My son is back in college for the Spring Semester and this summer will go back into the Navy full time..they made him a good offer. Oldest daughter and granddaughter are doing fine. #2 daughter found another job..in the hospital where her son was. #3 daughter is doing fine...still working at the book store and at the local paper. She has a puppy named, Delilah, that is such a delight. As for the fishing...haven't had time to do any this year...wait until the weather warms up a bit.

Hope 1996 is good to you and yours... Ameraucanally yours,

Jeannette

Jeannette Frank, P.O. Box 824, Great Falls, MT 59403
406-761-5853 or 406-452-6171

1996 AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Dues: Family \$10.00 Individual \$7.50 Juniors \$5.00 (all dues due by 1/1)

name: _____

address: _____

city: _____ state: _____ zip: _____

phone: () _____ birthdate: _____

If you are paying a family membership would you please list family members names and ^{birthdates} ages?

(Use additional paper if necessary.)

Use this space below to list the breeds, varieties of large fowl you raise and/or sell:

Use this space below to list the breeds, varieties of bantams you raise and/or sell:

Use this space below to list any other type of poultry or/and livestock you keep:

Any comments, thoughts, ideas or general information?

Please return this questionnaire and membership dues to: Ameraucana Breeders Club
Jeannette Frank, Sec/Treas.
P. O. Box 824
Great Falls, MT. 59403-0824

Questions? Don't hesitate to ask!
(406) 761-5853

