

Ameraucana Breeders Club

July/August - 1993

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St. John's

59403



APA and ABA General License Judge



Bart Pals

1119 E. State
Mason City, IA 50401

Phone: (515) 424-3709

The N. Iowa Poultry Association is proud to be hosting the Ameraucana National Meet at the North Iowa Expo '93. We have a nice line-up of awards. The facilities are the finest you'll find anywhere. All birds are single decked in one building. Super lighting makes for quality judging. Wide aisles for easy movement, easy judging and easy visiting.

The show is held at the N. Iowa Fairgrounds in Mason City, Iowa. The all-season building can hold over 2,000 birds, single decked, and still have over 6 foot aisles. We also skirt the whole show, just for a little class.

The show dates are September 18th and 19th. Judging is completed on Saturday, by around 4:30 in the afternoon. This lets everyone relax and get ready for our "Appreciation Party" on Saturday evening. Snacks, refreshments and a D.J. set the tone for a fun evening.

The show headquarters is the Holiday Inn of Mason City. Phone (515) 423-1640, please ask for the "Poultry Rate." You'll find the rate very unbelievable especially if you consider the pool, Holidome, rooms, etc. all for around \$50.00 a night per family!

The N. Iowa Poultry Association trys very hard to make this show one of the finest you'll ever attend.

We also try to make this one of the most fun shows you'll ever attend, for you and your family.

We hope you'll attend and support your National Meer. WE're looking forward to it.

For more information contact: Roger Meyer
Box 88
Goodell, Iowa 50439

or Bart Pals
1119 East State
Mason City, IA 50401

ON THE ROAD (With apologies to Charles Kuralt)

I'm sitting atop a granite outcrop at Donner Pass, named of course, for the ill-fated Donner party, and overlooking Donner Lake, some two thousand feet below. This jewel is one of many alpine lakes scattered throughout the Sierra high country, but few can rival it's setting and intense blue color. On the east end of the lake, some ten miles away and surrounded by forest, lies the town of Truckee, where I lived briefly as a boy. Like Cutbank, Montana, the town shares the dubious distinction of frequently reporting the coldest winter temperatures in the nation.

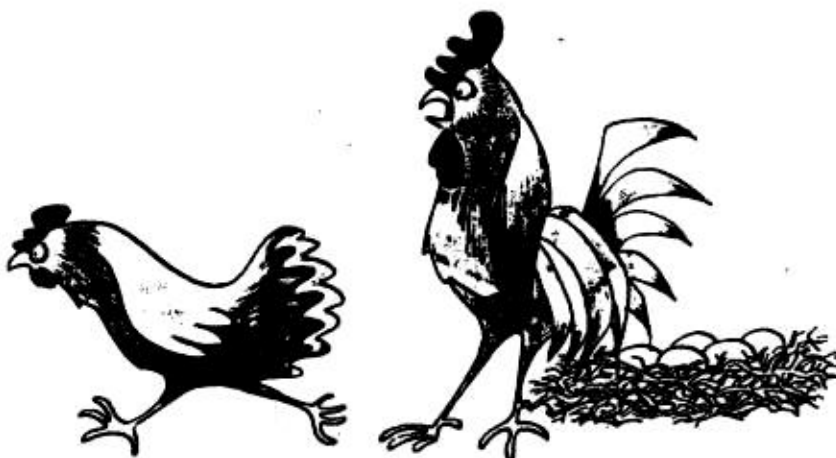
Here on the pass, evidence of these extremes surround me. Trees exposed to decades of blizzard-force winds are stunted, twisted and crouch close to any boulder large enough to offer some protection. Those in less exposed areas, able to sustain more normal growth, bear the scars of the winds force, their trunks abraded and lacking branches on their western flanks. However, these westerlies are wonderful in summer, especially when temperatures rise in lower elevations and this area provides a refuge from the heat and the pestering "skeeters".

At something over seven thousand feet, the pass is a modest altitude, but the beauty, pleasant summer temperatures and solitude make it one of my favorite places. The majority of travelers in haste or ignorance take the freeway over the mountains, leaving the old, narrow road to me on "the road less traveled".

So what has all this to do with anything? Beauty and solitude provoke thought. I am at that point in life where reflection becomes more important and as I total up the debits and credits, I want to maximize the latter in whatever years remain to me. On the credit side are the people that I have come to love and admire in this club, which is why our upcoming get-together in Mason City is so important to me. Now that I have retired, I do not know whether I will be able to manage such a journey in the future. Quien sabe?

I expect to be on the road by August 1st and head across the Southwest, up through Arkansas and be in Missouri by the middle of the month. I'll head up to Springfield to visit with Mary Lou Phelps, who has promised to fix green beans 'n' bacon with home grown 'maters - if the weather and bugs are kind to her garden. After Mason City, I hope to spend some time with Mike Gilbert and Bernard Kellogg in Wisconsin. If I can't meet the Readstown Coffee Boys perhaps I can meet a few Cranes in Baraboo. Jeannette Frank will fly into the show from Montana and will no doubt wow me with tales of giant trout just for the taking up in Big Sky Country. No doubt Jeanne, Randy, Cliff and all the others will be in attendance at Mason City in September. Please be there, too!

Don Cable



"Come back, Sylvia! Think about the eggs!"

FROM THE OZARKS

Greetings from the hot and humid ozarks. We've had lots of rain but have escaped the severe flooding that is plaguing so much of the midwest. My heart goes out to those folks. This has been a year to go down in the books!

Not a whole lot going on down here. The fair starts at the end of July. Bantams go in on Aug. 2 and out the evening of the 5th. I sure hope it cools off a bit before then. The building we use is in a low area and they have managed to enclose it on three sides so it's a real hot-box. I am most happy I don't have to show - even if I could, I wouldn't. I don't feel that little bit of premium money is worth the stress on the birds. I do all the feeding and watering for the fair birds and when it's hot I try to change their drinking water every 2 or 3 hours.

We're still green and lush - unusual for this time of the year - the garden looks really good..beans are blooming and sweet corn is tasseled. 'Maters are small baseball size.

Our National is just eight weeks away and I'm sure looking forward to it. Mike and Bernie are co-ordinating awards so get those prizes in to them.

Hope to see a bunch of you in Iowa.

Mary Lou Phelps
7/15/93

BREEDERS FORUM - #2

Now that those cute little balls of fluff are growing feathers, it's time to get them out in the sunshine and fresh air. I keep them in a separate run and let them outside when the weather is nice. I shut them in every night - we have possum problems. I wait until the youngsters are about three months old and vaccinate for Laryngo before I let them run with the old birds.

I do very little culling until they have their permanent feathers. The cull males I give away and the females stay with my "barnie" flock.

They stay all together unless the males start getting too rowdy - then they get booted out.

Even tho my starter grower is medicated, a 1/2 dose for 2-3 days every 4-6 weeks helps keep cocci under control. Laryngo vaccination is a must since it is on the place. The past three years, I've just done the youngsters and have had no problems. I also vaccinate any birds I bring in. It's cheap insurance. I've had no problems with pox. I use terramycin or Gallimycin plus a vitamin electrolyte in their drinking water for colds.

Now those cute little puff balls are gawky, long-legged teenagers and you wonder as you look at them, "will they ever amount to anything?"

Breeders' Forum Topic No. Two: MANAGEMENT OF GROWING BIRDS

I would love to give all my growing birds unlimited access to the natural conditions found only in the great outdoors. In my area, however, a free range chicken is a dead chicken with very few exceptions. If it isn't a hawk, coyote, coon, skunk, opossum, or neighborhood dog, it's swarms of bloodthirsty gnats that crawl under the feathers and bite until the bird goes into shock. In spring and early summer the only natural condition that holds the gnats and mosquitoes in check is dust, and the more the better. Even given a choice, my birds would rather stay inside where the dust from feather follicles, etc., provides a natural insect barrier during this time of year.

Later in the summer when the hot sun and drier conditions limit the insect population the better prospects are transferred outside to several small movable pens. Built of poultry mesh wire, these pens have roofs, roosts, and solid sides on one end for protection from the elements and from nocturnal predators.

The pullets are separated from the cockerels when the latter become aggressive. The young males are then housed with an old male to minimize "chasing" and feather damage. A few of the very best cockerels may be penned with a group of older females not to be shown, which settles the young males down.

Culling is a continuous process, especially in view of our limited indoor facilities. I use what I call a "double fault" method, named after a problem I used to have while playing tennis. It may be described simply as eliminating those birds in which two or more undesirable AND inheritable traits are found to be present. For example, a Buff Ameraucana cockerel is found to have both stubs and excessive black in the tail. Or a Wheaten Ameraucana cockerel is observed to have a poorly shaped comb and a black wing-bay. Or a blue-wheaten pullet has a very small beard and a "pinched" tail carriage. You get the idea.



"Fools! They made me into a free-range chicken ... and man, I never looked back."

I like to raise bantams from a very early age in pens adjacent to those holding adult birds. In this fashion the youngsters seem to develop natural immunities from limited exposure to whatever germs are present in the flock. I sometimes use Ren-O-Sal tablets dissolved in the drinking water, and this product is more of a conditioner and coccidiosis preventative than a medication.

6-12-93

Jeanette,

I received a newsletter today and read through it. I'm so busy that I just don't have the time to do all that I would like and of course poultry has to take a back burner, for the time.

Thanks to Don Cable for the S.A.S.E's and I will write for the newsletter as soon as I get a round tuit. Enjoy your retirement!

I really enjoyed Mike Gilberts response to Forum Question 1. I didn't incubate the large number of eggs that he claims (16,237) but I may have had better luck this time. Out of 775 Ameraucana eggs sat, 406 hatched. This is the first year I didn't check to see how many were not fertile, I just disposed of anything in the hatcher that was not a healthy chick. I depopulated all my adult stock after I collected the eggs I wanted to incubate, in the spring. My birds are now in one of three pens, one for bantams, one for large fowl, and one for rejects to be fattened for the oven. As they mature more and more end up in the reject pen. The criteria for rejection is relative to how many I have of each variety. I'm working on bantams in buff, blue, splash, & black and on large fowl in buff, silver, black, & white. Most of my large fowl need a lot of improvement.

Mason City? I don't know. If Kathy and I go we won't show, but may take young birds to sell. If anyone is interested in buying some birds this fall please contact me. I don't want to feed too many birds through the winter.

John W. Blehm
(517) 777-5050
4599 Lange
Birch Run, MI 48415

1993 AMERAUCANA BREEDERS' CLUB
NATIONAL MEET

Champion Ameraucana (large or bantam)	Trophy
Reserve Ameraucana (large or bantam)	Trophy

Ameraucana Large Fowl Awards

Best Large Fowl	\$20.00 + Placque + Rosette
Reserve Large Fowl	\$10.00 + Placque + Rosette
Best A.O.V. (than best or reserve) Large Fowl	\$10.00
Reserve A.O.V. (than best or reserve) Large Fowl	\$10.00
Best display Large Fowl	\$10.00
Reserve display Large Fowl	\$5.00
Best of Variety (if 10 or more)	\$10.00
Reserve of Variety (if 10 or more)	\$5.00

Ameraucana Bantam Awards

Best Bantam	Traveling Picture Placque \$20.00 + Placque + Rosette
Reserve Bantam	\$10.00 + Placque + Rosette
Best A.O.V. (than best or reserve) Bantam	\$10.00
Reserve A.O.V. (than best or reserve) Bantam	\$10.00
Best Display Bantams	\$10.00
Reserve display Bantams	\$5.00
Best of Variety (if 10 or more)	\$10.00
Reserve of Variety (if 10 or more)	\$5.00

Other Ameraucana Awards

Best Ameraucana (L.F. or Bantam) by a junior member	\$10.00 + '85 A.P.A. Standard
Reserve Ameraucana (L.F. or Bantam) by a junior member	\$10.00
Best Male and Two Female Bantam Wheatens	\$15.00
Best Male and Two Female Bantam Blue-Whetens	\$15.00
Best Male and Two Female Bantam Buffs	\$15.00

BRUCE HUTCHINSON MEMORIAL - This is a traveling plaque to be awarded to the best pair of Large Fowl Ameraucanas. These may be any age but must include one male and one female of the same variety.

Notes from here and there:

Hi,

I'm the Treasurer of our new club and Nina Autio gave me a newsletter of yours to read. Really enjoyed it. I wrote to you a few years back - all ways asking ?? I have a few Ameraucanas, if they have tails & muffs, that's what they are. Yesterday I fell heir to a gorgeous bird, blue breasted, gold & red neck and back. He's run wild for a year, I can't believe I have him in a cage! I best put another latch on the door and a sign "Do Not Open". Anyhow, what color do I look for in a hen for him? His legs are slate blue and he's blue on his thighs and some on his wings.

I love my colored egg layers. I may have to join your club. Would like a dues application and one newsletter. Will be anxious to hear from you.

Koralyn Kibbee
9069 Woodenshoe
Manhattan, MT 59741

(ED Note: I sent Koralyn the last three newsletters and the ABC Handbook. I'm sure she would be happy to hear from anyone who can advise her.)

April 4, 1993

I've read about your club in Poultry Press, August, 1992.

I became interested in Ameraucana bantams after I read about them in "Bantam Standard" of the ABA. Unfortunately there are none available in this country. I'd like to "import" some by means of eggs.

I know someone in Tennessee who visits South Africa from time to time. She will bring some eggs for me. Do you know of a breeder of Ameraucanas in that part of the USA?

I'm most interested in the Buff variety - both large fowl and bantams.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Best regards,
Jan Lombard
P. O. Box 1786
Kuruman 8460
Republic of S. Africa

(ED Note: I have written to Jan and sent the last three ABC newsletters. Any member who might be able to help with hatching eggs please contact me or write to Jan.)

Michigan Poultry Breeders Assn
State Meet

THE AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB

CHAMPION AMERAUCANA BANTAM FRANCIS STROUD COCK

RESERVE CHAMPION BANTAM FRANCIS STROUD HEN

BEST VARIETY -- WHEATEN: _____

RES. VARIETY -- WHEATEN: _____

BEST VARIETY -- BLUE WHEATEN; _____

RES. VARIETY -- BLUE WHEATEN: _____

BEST VARIETY --BLACK: _____

RES. VARIETY --BLACK: _____

BEST VARIETY - WHITE: COCK - FRANCIS STROUD

RES. VARIETY - WHITE: HEN - FRANCIS STROUD

BEST VARIETY - BLUE: _____

RES. VARIETY - BLUE: _____

BEST ANY OTHER VARIETY: _____

RES. ANT OTHER VARIETY: _____

CHAMPION LARGE FOWL: _____

RES. LARGE FOWL: _____

BEST VARIETY BLACK: _____

RES. VARIETY BLACK: _____

BEST VARIETY BLUE: _____

RES. VARIETY BLUE: _____

BEST BLACK-RED: _____

RES. BLACK-RED: _____

BEST BLUE RED: _____

RES. BLUE RED: _____

BEST ANY OTHER VARIETY: _____

RES. ANY OTHER VARIETY: _____

THE AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB

CHAMPION AMERAUCANA BANTAM Wheaton Pullet

RESERVE CHAMPION BANTAM Blue Wheaton CKL

BEST VARIETY -- WHEATEN: Pullet Cliff Ikenberry

RES. VARIETY -- WHEATEN: hen " "

BEST VARIETY -- BLUE WHEATEN: ckl Mary Lou Phelps

RES. VARIETY -- BLUE WHEATEN: pullet " " "

BEST VARIETY --BLACK: _____

RES. VARIETY --BLACK: _____

BEST VARIETY - WHITE: _____

RES. VARIETY - WHITE: _____

BEST VARIETY - BLUE: _____

RES. VARIETY - BLUE: _____

BEST ANY OTHER VARIETY: _____

RES. ANT OTHER VARIETY: _____

CHAMPION LARGE FOWL: none

RES. LARGE FOWL: _____

BEST VARIETY BLACK: _____

RES. VARIETY BLACK: _____

BEST VARIETY BLUE: _____

RES. VARIETY BLUE: _____

BEST BLACK-RED: _____

RES. BLACK-RED: _____

BEST BLUE RED: _____

RES. BLUE RED: _____

BEST ANY OTHER VARIETY: _____

RES. ANY OTHER VARIETY: _____

Ohio Nationals - Nov 13-15, 1992

MIKE STICHLER
1120 ST. RT. 603
GREENWICH, OHIO 44837

REFLECTIONS FROM THE BIG SKY COUNTRY

Here I sit with pen in hand - wondering what all of you would be interested in talking about today. (7/21)

Don't know about you but I'm starting to get a little excited about our upcoming show in Mason City, Iowa on September 17-18. By the time you receive this newsletter the show will be just over a month away. Where has the time gone? I'm ready but I'm not ready... know what I mean?

The awards list looks great. Mike and his crew have done a good job...as usual. Mike tells me he is working on a trivia test for this year. List of prizes to be posted at the show.

Let me remind you that there will be a club meeting at the show...where and time will be posted. If you have something to be discussed please let me know ahead of time or at the show.

Haven't heard from Jeanne T. in a month and a half. I know she was working hard to be able to move back to Central Lake by Labor Day. Don't know if she will be at Mason City or not.

Been wondering how the flooding thru the mid states has been affecting our members and their flocks. We have had rain and cool weather for the past two months in Montana. No flooding tho. We were so dry the moisture is just now starting to show on the surface.

I'm hoping our people and chicken turnout at Mason City is great. I've had so many people tell me hatching has been terrible for them this year so the bird count is way down.... then there is the young man in MT who borrowed one of my incubators and has hatched every egg he has put in it. He is up to his knees in chicks, poults, keets, ducklings, etc.

There are three responses to the Forum Don Cable started a couple months ago. Hopefully, e'll be able to continue the forum after the first set is finished. How about it, Don?

I've been told the newsletter is too "gossipy" and doesn't have enough show reports or educational material. I have tried to keep it from being too gossipy. I am acceptable to any suggestions you may have. I am always pleased to hear from any/all the members. I don't print everything I receive...just the ones I think would be interesting to the rest of the club members. And speaking of that...

I received a letter and some newspaper clippings from a lady in MT requesting my help. Seems the local Sheriff's office came out to their residence and confiscated 23 Old English Game bantams they had tethered to individual houses in their yard. The deputies didn't bother with the other 96 chickens they had on the place. Now this couple have to go to court to prove they weren't raising fighting game cocks for the purpose of fighting them. The judge at the hearing stated that because the cocks were dubbed, wing banded and were tethered that constituted fighting cocks. The couple was told the burden of proving otherwise is on their shoulders. They go to trial July 28. Interesting, huh?

Show reports....I've been told I don't print enough of the results. I can only print what I receive. And to get a show report all you have to do is ask for one. I do not have time to read the fine print in the POULTRY PRESS anymore. So get the show reports to me.

On the more personal note (if you don't care for the gossipy part don't read this). The camping trip over Memorial Day with my step-daughter and her family went just fine. I taught the three youngest kids how to fish for brook trout. In about two hours we had caught over 25 brookies. The two men and the teenage boy caught about 20 so we had a nice fish fry one night. My husband and I went out the day we left for a couple hours and caught 18 brook trout to bring home.

And yes, I went to the family reunion. My two sisters and brother-in-law drove a 22' motor home and we took our 19' travel trailer. I don't mind telling you my sisters and I had fun. We didn't tell our husbands what all we did...they wouldn't understand but

we laughed alot and visited some of the people we wanted to see. I did get to see my Father's 92 year old sister. She had a slight stroke a week later and is in the hospital. I got to see all three of my Mother's remaining siblings. And I went to the cemetary to visit my parents and two oldest bothers' graves. It was great seeing the Bitterroot Valley. Holds lots of childhood memories...good and not so good. My husband and I tried fishing the Bitterroot River but it was too high and wild.

Even tho the streams and reservoirs are high right now we manage to catch fish. We went to the mountains with our trailer the week end before the family reunion and caught some nice brook trout and cutthroats. Sure were good eating. And last fall we tried our luck with northern pike fishing. My husband is hooked on it. We went with the trailer + canoe this past weekend (7/17-18) for northern pike. My husband landed five..the smallest was 15" and 2#, the largest was 27" and 5 3/4 #. I am not that enthused about northern pike fishing but that's okay. They are a challenge. And not bad eating, either.

That was our last fishing trip until Labor Day. I know he'll want to go out then. I have too much to do between now and then to fish. The State Fair starts on July 30 and I'm judging the open class and the 4-H. Ginny Treager will be in town from Kalispell. Ginny is the Western Director for ABC. I haven't seen her for several years. I'm looking forward to it. I asked her if she was going to have any of her nice large fowl black Ameraucanas in the Fair. She isn't. We'll just visit.

Oh. Before I forget...Thanks to Mary Lou for the neat cover and the cartoons. Also, Mike Gilbert sent a cartoon with his article. Need all the help I can get.

See you in September

Janette Frank

Cartoon:



DON'T QUIT

When your luck is down
And your world goes wrong,
When life's all up hill
And the road is long -
Keep your spirits high
For through thick and thin
You must carry on
If you are to win.
Never mind if things
Slow you down a bit;
You'll come out on top -
But you mustn't quit.