

Ameraucana Breeder's Club  
PO Box 824, Great Falls, MT 59403  
July / August 1996 XVI #4

#### WHY THE ABC?

Recently I received an inquiry about the Ameraucana Breeder's Club in which a prospective member asked the basic question- why? It had been a while since I had thought about it myself and after a bit of genuine analysis, I came up with three basic reasons why any interested person should join our association. While there may be a number of clubs with similar virtues, I suspect that it boils down to the degree- why we are the best.

1. This is an organization that truly cares about you. Our Board of Directors consists of a group elected by you and takes their responsibilities to you seriously. We want you to be able to rely upon us for help in any phase of this great pastime- just ask. We encourage your participation in all club activities. We seek your input in all decisions made for the betterment of the club and expansion of communication. In short, we want to hear from YOU. A welcome is always out for letters, inquiries and yes, even your criticisms providing they are constructive, reasonable and given without malice. This is YOUR club and we want you to be able to support and take pride in it.
2. We want you to feel a part of the concerted effort to continually develop America's newest breed. We have come a long way in a relatively short time to establish the Ameraucana in both large fowl and bantams, due in great part to the persistence, cooperation and skill of a comparatively small number of outstanding breeders. We want you to join this group and welcome your efforts in the continual improvement of the breed. Fewer than twenty years since its establishment, the Ameraucana provides a real test of your skills. The challenge is there. Go for it!
3. We have the finest newsletter in the fancy. Our secretary-treasurer, Jeannette Frank, takes immense pride in providing the best, most informative and easily the friendliest newsletter on time, every time. If you are a member of another poultry organization devoted to a specific breed, compare our newsletter to theirs for timeliness, regularity and especially quality. You will agree. It is no easy task, either- if you do not see what you want to see in the newsletter, ask yourself, when was the last time that YOU submitted an article, news item, or just a friendly letter? Again, this is your club and your newsletter, so remember: your gain from any activity is almost always directly proportional to your input. Support the ABC. It's YOUR club.

Don Cable  
On the road

Hi y'all. Winter is over or is it? I had to dig for my window scraper yesterday before I went to work. We are a good 3 wks behind schedule - still cool and oh so dry.

I've had a few trials and tribulations as usual - learned a lot which is why I'm writing this. One of the benefits of having chicken friends in general and great club members of the ABC We all help each other. I've had three calamities 1. Critterized, 2. coccidiosis, 3. laryngo-tracheitis. The calamities went from bad to worse. All is well now after I called for help all over the state and country. Now I have an arsenal of medication.

Both diseases/illnesses are as awful as you heard. Both happened overnight, especially coccidiosis. I had 22 3wk old chicks in a big box in the bathroom - all of a sudden they started dying. I knew it was coccidiosis - they kind of fluffed up, eyes closed and died, just like that. I didn't have \*Ren-O-Sal. That's the tablets to put in chicks water from "get go". I knew there must be something else to use. I looked it up - Corid or Abon. The Co-Op had Corid. As soon as I got it I put it in the water - no more died. I lost ten before I got the medication. My good friend, Tim, tells me Corid is better than Ren-O-Sal (\*Ed. note: Ren-O-Sal has arsenic in it. Read the label carefully and be sure the treated water is never exposed to direct sun or heat.)

I cleaned everything the chicks used because cocci is everywhere. Even if you have never had coccidiosis medicate the water from day one. I think it was \$10.00 for a packet of powder and you only need 1T for 4 gallons of water. Tim says you can use 1t. per quart.

June 28 - Sorry, I never finished this. We've been working ten hour days and I'm so tired when I get home. Summer seems to have arrived. I'm outside at the picnic table in the shade and I have company - some young AMs. The cockerels have just began crowing this week and some muscovy ducks. I have ducks hatching. A Swede and a Runner have been sharing a nest. They have 5 so far and 4 to go. Sierra, a Muscovy, has a nest in the same building. Madre has nest under a wheelbarrow and I know Houdini is setting somewhere. Lord help me if they all hatch a bunch. I'll have more ducks than chickens. These ducks are fierce moms. I tried to look under to see how many, etc. Well, I'll never do that again w/o gloves and my arms covered. These ducks can really get you with their bills.

Critterized - always a bad thing for us poultry people. I had trapped a pair of raccoons, left traps set for 3 wks. No more critters. I thought I was safe! WRONG! I put 2 of my best blue large fowl AM's in pens to set - I lost both of them. I had caught a raccoon the night I lost the second hen. All was well at 2 A.M. Come morning the second hen was dead and half eaten eggs were destroyed. That night I trapped a 'possum. I have never seen a 'possum here. I caught it and it's gone. Since then I've trapped four more raccoons. Surely I've gotten rid of them. I set the live trap each night. It is a darn nuisance carting those animals in the cages to remote areas far from me but it is worth it. I haven't lost any more birds. I do lock my birds in at night. Those Hav -A - Hart traps are worth it...once you get the hang of it. I'm a pro.

As before mentioned I also experience laryngo for the first time. It's like a cold but worse. They really sneeze and cough but the rattling chest and gasping to breathe are additional. I was giving aureomycin and even injected gallimysin - no improvement. Alarm bells started ringing. I called Tim. It's treatable with mega doses of tetracycline. The vet called in a RX for me - 20 capsules. I used that the first night. Two days later I called the vet for more. They couldn't believe a chicken could handle 250 mg. This time I got 100 capsules. Vets don't always know what to do for chickens but if you explain what you need they are usually willing to help. I lost 2 Silks and my two MG AM's to laryngo. The medication saved the rest. I figured I got it because I am starting over and my birds came from various places.

A few words of wisdom - always keep medication on hand. Most of the time all is well but things happen. If you have a problem and don't know what to do call me or Jeannette. My number is 616-544-8136. I'm always home after 6 P.M. and I have an answering machine.

At my feet just now is a cocky little wheaten AM. Apparently he just came by the table to say "Hi" to y'all.

NOTES FROM NORTHERN MICHIGAN - continued

Don Cable, God love ya, has decided to step down as ABC President. What we need is a dedicated Ameraucana person - someone who loves the breed and keeps us all together.

And on that I better count beaks and get everybody locked up for the night and the traps set.

Jeanne Trent

8/21/96

The above article was received too late for the last newsletter so I saved it for now.

Jeanne called me last night - she was very excited about going to the fair in Bellaire, MI today. She has some birds entered and her pal, Rusty Hart, was judging. She also told me about an article that appeared in the local paper about her. She promised to send me a copy.

In the meantime if anyone wants some Muscovy ducks...Jeanne is up to her kneecaps in them. She said she has 19 two week olds, 23 one week olds and 8 day olds. Her Swedish are hatching quite well also. She is still loosing birds to critters but she didn't say what.

Also had a great conversation with Mary Lou last night. She is doing well. Working hard and surviving. I could hear one of her little feathered friends chatting while we were talking. Mary Lou is really enjoying her air conditioning thru this hot, hot dry summer. If some of your ears were burning last night it is because we talked about most all of you.

didn't think about it at the time but I was talking to Mary Lou on the home phone when Jeanne called me on the business line. I could have pushed the conference button and all three of us could have chatted. Maybe next time, ladies.

JF

Notes from Mike Gilbert - John & Kathy Blehm are planning on being at the National. Mike says John is working to refine his line of buff bantam Ameraucanas and is working on large fowl Silvers.

Guess Mike found out the hard way that WI has some nasty blood sucking gnats when he put some 3/4 grown cockerels in an outside pen. He lost one so did some heavy fogging for a while.

Jason took six Ameraucanas (and only Ameraucanas) to his final <sup>competition</sup> ~~competition~~ at LaCrosse Interstate Fair. There were somewhere around 230 ± chickens entries. Jason won best bantam overall with a buff pullet and top large fowl with a white pullet. Way to go, Jason!!

Mike will have pairs and trios available in started stock in buff and wheaten if anyone wants good exhibition quality bantams.

And in answer to your question about the Poultry Press club ad, Mike. I pulled it because I felt that one new member per year did not justify the expense of the ad. If you feel it should be there let me know.

And as an added note: I really can't remember what my contribution to the 1976 ABA Standard was. I did a lot of writing back then about a lot of subjects and birds. I'll have to take my standard out of storage and do some reviewing.

1996 AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM (cheap imitation)

(Hey, there was writing on the other side and I wanted to keep the page!)

name: Maggie Nelson  
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except when I'm on call!  
birth date: 19 April 1951

No, I don't raise any large fowl. My husband and I used to keep some for pets -- the big white crossbred "broilers" they raise for Tyson. We live in the top poultry producing county in North Carolina, and across the street from one of the biggest processing plants. They've gotten better at loading and locking down those big poultry trucks, but we used to have refugees wash up on our shores here at the house, and we'd take them in. It's so touching to watch a grown chicken learn to scratch, enjoy its first ever dust bath or bug. Those babies never lasted more than a few months, though. They seem to be genetically programmed to literally eat themselves to death, and if we rationed their feed they became cranky and unapproachable.

Right now I have one breeding group of Belgian D'Anvers (quail), and one very old D'Uccle who supervises my husband as he crawls around under his beloved scouts. I still find myself just gaping at the wild variety of bantams. Only in dogs is there this kind of variation. I'm VERY interested in Ameraucanas, especially since I've been buried under this avalanche of info. wow! Digging out was never so entertaining.

I used to keep Nubian goats, but I quit when I went back to school a few years back, then I met the bantams. I'm an animal control officer, so I have a lot of dogs -- you might say I work in a "candy factory."

COMMENTS, THOUGHTS, IDEAS, OR GENERAL INFORMATION:

I've never ever met such a group of people for sharing time and information. I hope I can pay it back. Tell Ken Duvall I grew up in Snoqualmie. Naw, never mind, I'll tell him myself. I've been planning to go home to visit my mom for my birthday next year. She lives in Long Beach. Lo and behold, there, right on my birthday, in Eugene, Oregon, is a big poultry show! Mom doesn't know we're going there yet. . . .

Mrs. Frank, you write a lot about cold weather care. How do these birds do in hot weather? As I told Mr. Gilbert I've wound up mowing grass at Christmas time occasionally, and I've had setting hens in January. But what about in the summer when it's 95 by ten in the morning and stays there until late evening?

Thank,  
Maggie Nelson



exhibitors wants your opinion on the birds in the carrier." My immediate answer was that they were crossbreeds and really not worth wasting any time on. Then she told me Ginny Treager had got them "as purebred black large fowl Ameraucanas" from some guy who is suppose to be a top breeder of Ameraucanas. I found out more later when I talked to Ginny. These birds were a sorry group of birds...the only thing about them that showed Ameraucana was the pea combs and muff & beards. They had crow heads, lots of brassy and red shafting in the hackles, saddles, breast feathers, white wing primaries and nothing resembling the Ameraucana breed in body shape. The legs and feet were coal black. The eyes were almost amber. I hope Ginny gets her money back. I did take pictures. Hope they turn out okay. I'm sure I'll hear from some of you regarding my comments.

On another subject - I was in Bozeman, MT in mid-July to judge the Montana Poultry Fanciers Show..the show room was decorated so it felt like you were in someone's backyard. The quality of the birds was impressive. Koralyn Kibbee has some very nice Ameraucana bantams. She has worked hard on her quality and it shows. For some reason I did not have my camera-most unusual. Koralyn's trio of white bantams looked great. I thought their beaks a bit too white for the breed but I've been told that is normal for the variety. She also had some nice Blue Wheatens and Wheatens. Everyone I met at Bozeman was so friendly and down to earth. A real pleasure to be there.

By the time you read this I should have judged my last (7th) show in just over a month. Summer came quick - it got hot and dry for about three weeks- now Fall is beginning to show it's colors. It is a lot cooler..still dry tho.

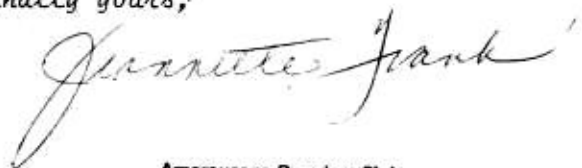
With Fall comes the club election of officers. Please take the time when you receive your ballot and fill it out..then mail it to the Election Commissioner as soon as possible so your vote will be counted. You do have to supply your own stamp..those will be going out in September.

The ABC National show is just a few weeks away. Are you ready??? I hope so because this is a major show for our club and more importantly...our breed. I won't be there in person but I'll be thinking of all of you who will be there....and anxiously awaiting your reports.

Now - I'm in a dilemma - and need your thoughts and ideas. With the rising costs of the printing and postage the club is either going to have to cut back to four newsletters per year and cut back on the pages and articles or increase the dues. What do you think? Each edition of the newsletter averages out to about \$65.00 right now - 6x\$65.00 totals out to more than the club takes in per year. And before some of you suggest I don't use the envelopes let me tell you that the envelopes do not add to the postage...if they did I wouldn't use them. They just ensure your newsletter getting to you in one piece.

And on that note I'd best sign off and get this to the printer so you will get it sooner.

Ameraucanally yours,



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