

Don Cable
On The Road

It's Egg Time!

You are probably busy gathering eggs from your flock and setting them as well. Or at least trying to. Like most folks, you are attempting to get those eggs hatched while you are also doing a zillion other things, not the least of which are maintaining a job and/or family. For the busy, harried fancier, a few tips:

Select eggs which are blue. If they are not blue, they are not the required color, and in as much as egg color is an inherited characteristic, you do yourself and the breed a disservice if you attempt to hatch any eggs of a color other than blue.

Next, select eggs of normal shape, not some of the occasional torpedo shape you might find. Make certain the shell texture is smooth - a small bit of dried manure should not prevent hatchability. In any case, do not scrub with soap and thereby remove the natural, protective "bloom" on the surface of the egg.

Mark your eggs as they are gathered with a soft leaded pencil by number, letter or whatever code you may use to indicate which eggs came from which pen or mating. This simple task will give you an idea of which matings are producing the best fertility, hatchability and if you mark them, ultimately, which chicks.

If you use an incubator in which you are forced to turn the eggs by hand, make an "X" directly opposite the number or letter on the reverse side of the egg to make certain that you turn them over completely when you do so - it is easy to miss doing this properly, especially if you are in a hurry to get to work.

Setting your eggs on weekends will provide the time you need to be at home when the hatch comes off three weeks later. This will give you time to attend to the chicks just hatched, remove shells, etc. and set the next batch.

Hatching eggs may be saved safely between a week and ten days providing they are kept from extremes of temperature, before they are set. If kept much beyond two weeks, the hatchability may suffer. If placed in egg cartons large end up, in a steady cool temperature such as in the closet of your home and tilted long side up on a two-by-four, then reversed at least once a day, eggs to be hatched will keep nicely.

Follow directions on your incubator to the letter, making certain to add more moisture just before the hatch as directed. If you are turning by hand, three times a day may give better results than just twice. Before leaving for work in the morning, when arriving home from work and again just before bedtime should space the turning adequately.

Whether you have automatic turning or not it would be wise to candle your eggs at a week to ten days and remove infertile eggs (noting which mating is producing them) in order to lessen the gasses produced by this decay from the interior of your incubator. A dark spot surrounded by a spidery network of blood vessels at this stage should indicate a developing embryo, while a lack of development or a large, shadowy circle are often indicators of eggs to exclude. If uncertain, candle again within a few days for a better indication.

March 7, 1995

Dear Jeannette,

I'm sorry it's taken me so long to write. Between school, weathering snow storms, and chores we've been swamped around here!

All my beautiful babies are laying! They started a little earlier this year, but I'm having troubles with fertility. Since the weather has been crazy, I'm sure it's not all their fault.

I'd like the chance to comment on your article in the last newsletter on vitamin b. Last year I experienced the very same problem in my chicks. I couldn't understand what was happening, since the "illness" was only striking certain breeds. My daughters R.I. Red Bantams and Black Wyandotte Bantams were unaffected as were my Frizzle Cochin Bantams and Cochin Bantams. The chicks would be fine until around 2-3 weeks. Then in a day they would start bending their necks. Eventually they would fall over, unable to eat or drink. The local vet suggested that I destroy all the chicks, and "start over". I spent many nights crying and trying to save what chicks I could.

The vet thought we had coccidiosis and gave us medication. They started dropping like flies! I stopped all medication, and sent a live chick to the University of Nebraska.

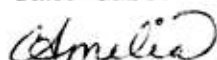
When the tests came back with vitamin deficiency, I was somewhat relieved. The medication the vet had given me for coccidiosis had stripped more vitamins from the chicks systems, and had made the condition worse! So much for counting on my vet! I was told to add vitamins to my remaining chicks water. I also changed my feed, just to be safe. I had no more problems.

After reading your article I am positive I had the same problem! I made my first error by not asking the advice of other breeders. I am new at chicken raising, and didn't want others to know about my "chicken disease". I do not plan to make that mistake again! Thanks for the article!

Anyway.... As you know, I'm the new show sec. for the S.I.P.A. I would be neglecting my duty, if I didn't encourage all Ameraucana breeders to attend our show. We have been given a State Meet (Thank you Mary Lou!) and hope some of you can attend. The show will be held in Clarinda, IA, on May 27 & 28. Yes, I know it's Memorial week-end, but if you can attend, PLEASE DO!

Well, I've been long winded today! Jessica is working on her article, but I'll try to speed her up some.

Take care!



Amelia McAlexander
Rand-Am Exotics

L. T. Williams
RR 2 Box 192
Belfast
ME 04915

Dear Jeanette

my apologies for the lateness of the enclosed does check. Somehow, probably because I'd planned to send it last Jan. I thought (misremembered?) that I had.

Want to thank you for your information on the flea trap. When I called my daughter to give it to her she said that the flea had disappeared - maybe because their dog had been ~~bitten~~ by a cat and killed. However when I go out there (Wash.) this March I'll still help her set one up per your instructions as with a rabbit and a rat and now another puppy she might have another infestation and, if so, we can find out if it actually works.

Thanks again

L. T. Williams.

March 5, 1995

Jeannette,

The days here in Georgia are wet and mild. Which make it almost impossible to run my Lawn Care Company. So we use this time to get all our equipment ready for the spring days to come. This also gives me some time to get my chickens ready for the up coming shows. I recently went to Calhoun, Ga. to a show this February. It was a pretty good trip, But there were no Ameraucanas at this show. I hope that by the next show, I will have some Buff Ameraucana Bantams to show. Also if anyone has some real nice Black Ameraucana Bantams or chicks for sale, please call me at (404)949-4898. Thank you.

Your club member,

Chip Daniell

Chip Daniell

2/6/95

Ameraucana Breeders Club
Jeannette Frank
P.O. Box 824
Great Falls, MT 59403

After contacting the Bay City Poultry Association, this past fall, about hosting the ABC National for 1995, I now have the following information to pass along.

Show to be held the last weekend in October, in Alma, Michigan.

The Bay City Poultry Association will offer:

Trophies for Champion Ameraucana, Best of Breed Large fowl, Best of Breed Bantam, Reserve of Breed Large Fowl, & Reserve of Breed Bantam.

Plaques for Best of Variety Large Fowl & Best of Variety Bantam.

Rosettes for Reserve of Variety Large Fowl & Reserve of Variety Bantam.

Cash - \$75 in cash awards.



John W. Blehm

cc:
Mike Gilbert
Ross & Jones

Nine mile per hour is about top speed for a motivated chicken.

Report is a chicken in Thailand laid 17 eggs in six hours. Name of that bird is not in the record at hand. Call it Jackpot.

Those who purport to know say a fresh hen's egg will float in the mid-Atlantic.

COOL FEET

Chickens with cool feet lay more eggs. Realize you knew that. But if you're called upon to explain why, say birds release some body heat through the skin of their feet. If said feet get too warm, the hens let up a bit on the egg laying.

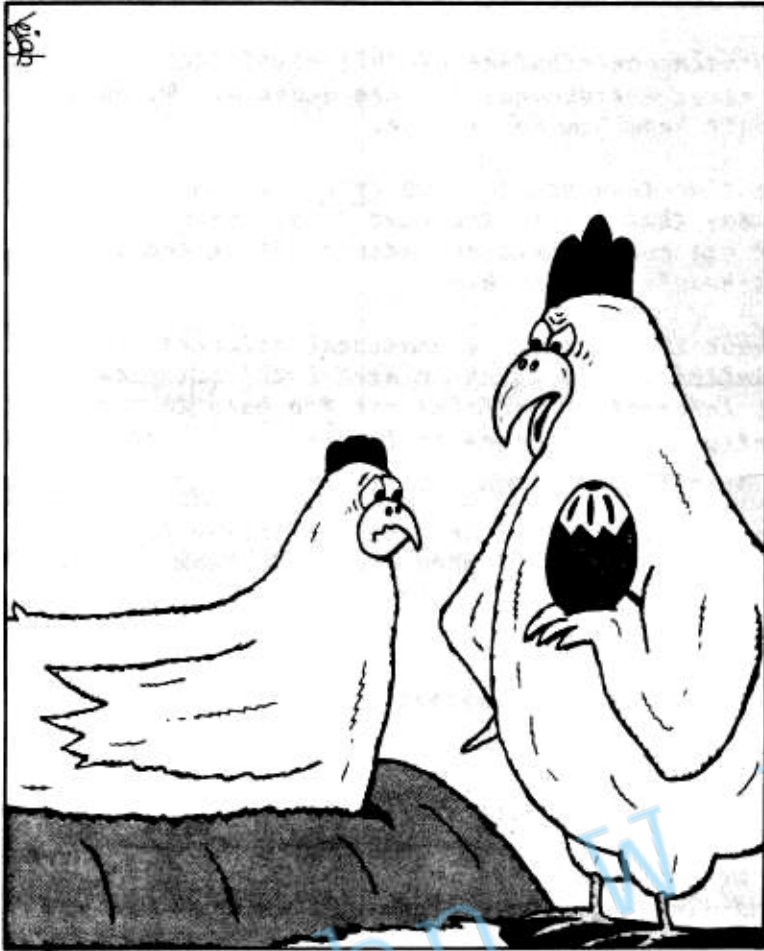
Rousted by a rooster

HOLLAND, Mich. — A Holland man pleaded innocent in District Court Tuesday — to a charge of possessing a rooster.

"I've heard of possession of cocaine, possession of stolen goods, but never possession of a rooster," said Parmenio Iglesias, who got his rooster 10 days ago.

Iglesias said he keeps "Scott" in his garage at night and tied in his yard during the day. But someone complained to authorities soon after he got the bird.

City ordinance allows only domesticated animals to be kept at homes, said Larry Dalman, Holland's animal control officer. He considers roosters farm animals.



"So you only gave the Easter Bunny a peck on the cheek? Well, then just how do you explain this?"



