

ET TU  
KUUUUUU



## DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

After having spent considerable time, effort and money nurturing this year's hatch, it is now time to make an appraisal of previous decisions regarding the matings you had put together. Did they produce the superior young that you had in mind? You will be able to answer this question later this summer as they grow out. Will your records indicate which matings were successful and which were not? If you did not keep a written record then your memory had better be good- darn good.

Culling is an ongoing process and even the best matings will produce their share of also-rans. It is not the obvious cull that is often responsible for lack of progress however, but rather the marginal bird, since the obvious cull is quickly eliminated while the marginal bird is too often found "too good" to dispose of. We rationalize this decision with the well-known, "After all, she's a full sister to the best pullet hatched!", or "She's out of my best pair last year.", and so we go on justifying poor decisions. Anyway, these marginal birds too often find their way into our matings and more often than not, produce marginal birds like themselves- lots and lots of them which pull down the average quality of the flock and thereby undermine our overall progress.

Most fanciers tend to keep too many birds and could probably reduce their flocks by a third to a half and still produce a hatch next year that is superior to this year's if they kept accurate records and culled severely. Too often we have a pre-conceived notion of just how many young we will keep and fall into the trap of keeping as many or more birds than we really have room for. As you decide which are the keepers for the year, remember that it is no sin to have a vacant pen or two, which may turn out to be a blessing for a variety of reasons.

Before you make your final decision about which birds that you are going to keep from this year's hatch, have someone who's opinion you trust, look them over and have them tell you why they select the birds that they do. You do not have to agree with their selection or even their reasoning, but a different perspective can often be a help and another informed opinion never hurt. Finally, exhibit that young stock under a competent judge or two and ask about their placing after the judging. If the judge finds that you are sincere in your effort to learn and are not just a disgruntled exhibitor, most will be glad to discuss your birds' merits if they have enough time. Give it a try.

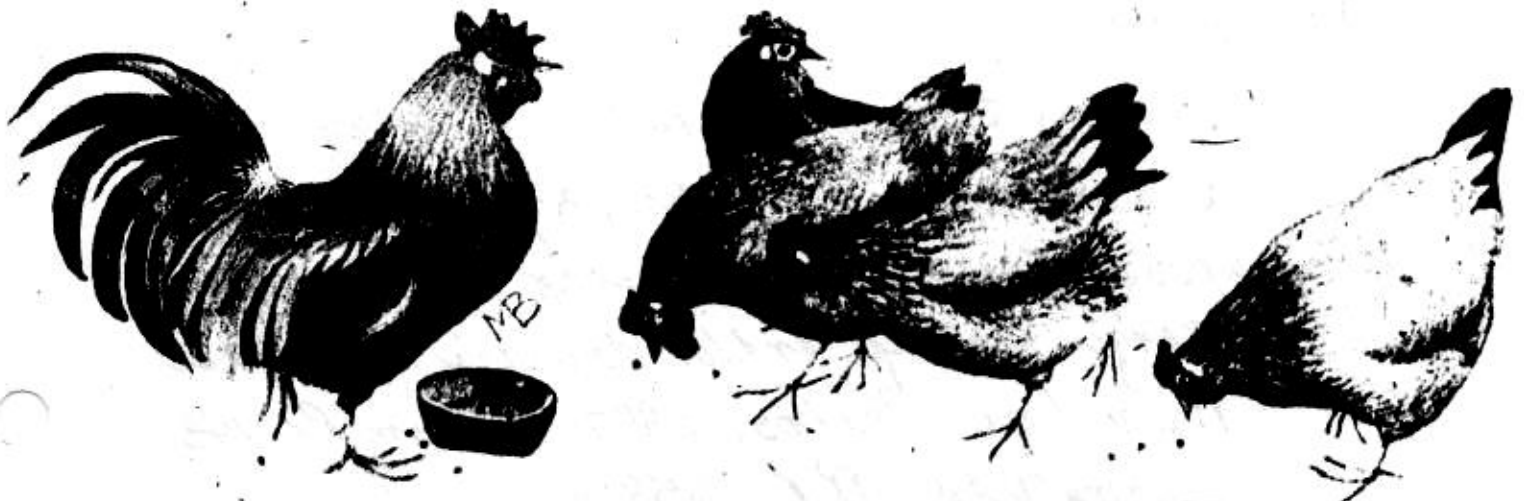
Producing and maintaining a quality flock of exhibition birds over a period of time is essentially the result of a series of the correct decisions. Your best decision was to keep poultry to begin with and besides, in what other hobby can you eat your mistakes?



Don Cable  
On the road

SUCCESS ISN'T MEASURED BY RICHES OR FAME  
OR BY HOW MUCH YOU OUTDO THE REST...  
IT'S THE MEASURE OF JOY  
THAT YOU BRING TO YOUR LIFE  
THAT DETERMINES IF IT'S A SUCCESS...  
IT'S NOT BEING BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE,  
JUST BETTER THAN YOU'VE EVER BEEN,  
YOU DON'T NEED THE ANSWERS  
TO EVERYTHING FIRST...  
ASK YOU NEED IS THE WILL TO BEGIN...  
YOU DON'T NEED TO CLIMB HIGHER,  
RUN FASTER, SOAR SWIFTER  
THAN ANYONE ELSE WHO HAS FLOWN.  
ALL YOU NEED IS THE WISDOM  
TO SEEK HAPPINESS,  
AND THE COURAGE TO MAKE IT ON YOUR OWN.

MYROU SPENSER DAVIS



3. 1985  
DEAR JEANNETTE,

MAY THIS LETTER FIND YOU WARMING UP AND DRYING OUT. BEING IN A SOUTHERN STATE DOESN'T GUARANTEE ANYTHING. WE'RE FREEZING HERE WITH 40 DEGREE TEMPERATURES.

THE REASON YOU DON'T HAVE A RECORD OF OUR BREED/VARIETIES IS BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE ANY "GOOD" AMERAUCANAS. ONLY A SPRINKLING OF HATCHERY AMERAUCANAS ALONG WITH A FEW WHITE ORPINGTONS AND TWO SILKIE ROOSTERS GRACE OUR POULTRY YARD.

WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF BUYING A HOUSE IN WEST VIRGINIA WHICH DOES NOT HAVE A BARN OR OUTBUILDINGS FOR LIVESTOCK. BECAUSE OF A PERSISTENT LEG MITE PROBLEM AND BLACKHEAD, WE HAVE DECIDED NOT TO TAKE OUR CURRENT POULTRY FLOCK WITH US. WE WILL RESTART OVER WHEN WE GET A HENHOUSE BUILT. SINCE THERE ARE A LOT OF OTHER THINGS THAT NEED OUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION, I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY HOW LONG WE WILL BE CHICKENLESS.

I SURELY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY SUGGESTIONS OR SURE FIRE METHODS OF ERADICATING BLACKHEAD BEFORE IT GETS IN THE SOIL, OR BETTER YET, HOW TO BUY CHICKENS THAT DON'T CARRY IT. CAN DAY OLDS (OR CLOSE TO THAT AGE) BE GIVEN WORMALL? I DON'T KNOW OF ANYTHING ELSE THAT IS SUPPOSE TO GET RID OF THE DECAL WORM. PERHAPS THIS MIGHT BE A QUESTION FOR THE NEWSLETTER.

HAPPY HATCHING,  
SANDE WHITE  
977 SALEM CHURCH ROAD  
STEPHENS CITY, VA 22655

ED. NOTE: SANDE, THERE IS AN EXCELLENT BOOK OUT FOR THE BACKYARD POULTRY RAISER. THE CHICKEN HEALTH HANDBOOK BY GAIL DAMEROW. I PICKED IT UP AT MY LOCAL FEEDSTORE FOR \$17.95. IF YOU NEED THE ADDRESS OF THE PUBLISHER LET ME KNOW.

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For Sale:

Country Boy incubator - 250 egg cap.  
all automatic, acrylic, 3 fans, auto turner.  
about 5 years old. Asking \$275<sup>00</sup>. You  
arrange pick up and/or delivery. Contact  
Mary Lou Phelps, 3997 N. Farm Rd. 143  
Springfield, MO 65803

## YOU'RE BEING WATCHED!

By: Lee Lindsey

PREDATION - That is probably the most anxiety provoking word a poultry breeder can imagine, except for maybe - DISEASE. I know I've lost twice as many birds from predation than all chicken diseases combined. I imagine many poultry owners and breeders have had similar experiences.

When I began raising chickens, they were pretty much on their own in the barn or a small coop. I had been told it was healthier for the birds if they were allowed free range and I agree up to a point. That point is when a healthy free ranging dead bird is less productive than a healthy cooped live bird. I would get angry when I found a mass murder outside my chicken coop, as I'm sure some of you have at some point. But, the fact is when you open that coop door, your chickens are allowed to enter a different world, a world of competition and survival. They are entering the world of the hawk, the coyote, the fox, the raccoon, the skunk, the possum, the snake, the... Well - you get the idea. That's quite a few hungry critters looking for an easy meal and believe me, the chicken is pretty easy picken's compared to dove, quail, mice, or any other wild, survival trained predator vittle. And yes, it is true that you always loose the best birds first. I don't know if the prettier or more productive birds are born with less survival instincts or just less brains, but they are always the first to go.

What may surprise most of you, is that while you are watching for, or trying to trap predators, you are also being watched. Like most people, animals often will have a routine that they will follow most days; even winged predators. While you are doing your routine of letting out the chickens at say - 7:00 a.m. before you go to work, the coyote is taking note of this, as he did yesterday and will again tomorrow. When I was taking college classes full time, I was in the habit of letting my chickens out at about 6:00 a.m., before I left for class. One morning I had just opened the coop door and the birds came flying out in mass, ran around the corner of the yard and headed for the woods. Just as they reached the trees, a coyote jumped up from under some poke weed, grabbed a bird and took off. This took all of 5 seconds and I was standing there with my mouth hanging open, amazed at the gall of that coyote. I had also failed to bring my Rottweiler out with me on that particular morning. The next two mornings I watched from the kitchen, two coyotes at exactly the same time of day, take a couple of spins around my coop. No! I didn't let the chickens out again! I did go down real early the third morning, with a shotgun and sit and waited for those coyotes, and of course they never showed up. They are watching!

I had another similar experience with hawks. I had again developed the habit of checking my birds when I got back from school, then went inside to read or whatever. A couple of hours later I'd go back down to the coop. Those couple of hours were about mid day and the horses were snoozing. The dogs were snoozing too and it was pretty quiet outside. One afternoon I heard a ruckus outside and I went to check it out. A hawk had just grabbed a hen. When I came running, the hawk flew away and the hen was mortally wounded. This was right outside the house! The next day the same thing happened except the hawk flew right into a pen to grab a young cockeral. Again, I came running and the hawk was so busy with what he was doing, that I could have almost touched him. But I didn't. I screamed at him instead. The startled hawk flew into the tree right above me and just sat there smirking at me. I think he thought he'd wait it out till I left so he could finish his meal. I hurled a feeder at him and he flew into the woods.

That was the last straw. My chickens don't compete with nature much anymore. I have bird netting over my chicken yards and runs, and the only time my chickens get out to play is under strict supervision by myself and my Rottweiler. I can honestly say that my chickens are now healthier, more productive and definately more lively than they have ever been.

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APRIL 24 1974

I AM WRITING TO YOU HOPING TO JOIN THE AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB . ENCLOSED IS MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR FAMILY.

CHARLIE SIMPSON FROM MINGO, IA IS THE ONE WHO GOT US INTERESTED IN THIS CLUB AND THIS BREED OF CHICKEN.

I WOULD ALSO , IF POSSIBLE, LIKE TO GET EXTRA NEWSLETTERS AND THE HANDBOOK. SORRY FOR NOT SIGNING UP SOONER. CHARLIE GAVE US SOME OLD 94 COPIES TO LOOK AT. WE CAN FIND MANY THINGS TO READ THAT ARE INTERESTING.

ROTH KIDS ARE IN 4-H AND SHOW. THE JUDGES DO ASK MANY DIFFERENT QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BIRDS YOU ARE SHOWING.

PLEASE SEND TO: ANDREW & SHARON BELL  
624 S. LINCOLN STREET  
COLFAX, IOWA 50054

THANK YOU.  
SHARON BELL

Dear Jeannette:

We are fairly new in the chicken business. Last spring (of 1994) we bought the last three "araucana" chicks at our local feed store. One of the original chicks got killed by a dog. We thought the two we had left were pullets, and bought a black and white "araucana" cockerel at the Tennessee Valley Fair poultry show in Knoxville.

From what little information we have been able to gather, it seems our "araucanas" may really be ameraucanas. There are not many illustrations to go by in the Standard.

Unfortunately, all three of our original birds have turned out to be roosters. One is the black and white mentioned before. One is buff, and one is very dark brown. All have the cheek feathers, pea combs, and fairly long tail feathers. These are all standard size birds and not bantams.

We recently acquired some "araucana" pullets from Murray McMurray. They are all brown.

We would like to see some photographs of araucanas and ameraucanas in the different colors, and would like to know what would be acceptable in the Standard. We are interested in showing and breeding, but don't have much to go by.

If anyone could send us some pictures (or let us know where we could see some live local specimens) it would help.

Thanks,

*Michelle and Doug*

Michelle and Doug Atkins  
632 Hiwassee Rd.  
Madisonville, TN 37354  
(615) 442-6401

DEAR JEANNETTE,

SORRY I HAVEN'T WRITTEN UNTIL NOW. I AM REAL BUSY WITH OUR NEW DAUGHTER, OLIVIA. SHE IS NOW 15 1/2 MONTHS OLD. SHE LOVES GOING WITH ME TO THE CHICKEN PEN AND GATHERING EGGS, PETTING THE CHICKENS AND RUNNING AROUND IN THE YARD.

I HAVE BLACK WYANDOTTES, BUFF BRAHMAS AND WHEATEN AMERAUCANA BANTAMS. I GOT A TRIO FROM STEWART CLEVELAND IN HARTWELL, GA. I HAVE ABOUT 20 CHICKS AND HOPE TO HATCH SOME MORE.

I HAVE RAISED CHICKENS ALL MY LIFE BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL RECENTLY THAT I DECIDED TO TRY RAISING AND SHOWING PUREBRED POULTRY. IT SEEMS THEY ARE A LITTLE HARDER TO HATCH THAN PRODUCTION OR CROSS BREEDS. BUT I HAVE ABOUT 50 CHICKS ALREADY AND MORE IN THE INCUBATOR.

I HAVE NEVER SHOWED BEFORE SO I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FIRST SHOW. MAYBE CHIP DANIELL WILL HAVE SOME COMPETITION THIS YEAR! I HAVE ALREADY ATTENDED SOME SHOWS TO GET THE FEEL OF WHAT IT IS LIKE. BUT EVEN IF THERE WASN'T SUCH A THING I WOULD STILL ENJOY HAVING CHICKENS.

I SURE WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE AMERAUCANAS HERE IN GEORGIA. I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANY UNTIL I WENT TO A SHOW IN COMMERCE, GA. AND STEWART HAD A TRIO THERE IN THE SHOW BUT NO OTHER AMERAUCANAS WERE THERE. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THAT CHANGE IN 1995.

I HOPE THIS LETTER HAS BEEN HELPFUL IN LETTING YOU AND THE CLUB GET TO KNOW ME BETTER. HOPE YOU HAVE A GOOD HATCHING SEASON.

MARK HOOD  
602 WILDCAT DRIVE  
LAWRENCEVILLE, GA 30243

*Thanks, JT  
for all the  
neat cartoons!*



"Don't encourage him, Sylvia."



4-24-97

DEAR J. BONIFATE,

I'M SORRY TO BE LATE WITH MY DUES. I WAS SICK FOR A FEW MONTHS BUT HAVE BEEN GIVEN A CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH. GOD WAS WITH ME.

I ORIGINALLY JOINED THE CLUB BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AMERAUCANA AND ARAUCANA. I HOPE TO PURCHASE AMERAUCANAS VERY SHORTLY.

I HAVE IN BANTAMS; COCHINS (4 VARIETIES, DARK CORNISH, MUTTLED DE, BLACK JAPS. IN LARGE FOWL; ARAUCANAS, SL WYANDOTTES. MOST OF MY STOCK IS YOUNG SO I'M NOT INTO SHOWING. I HOPE EVENTUALLY TO BREED AND SELL. WE ARE STILL WORKING ON BUILDING PENS. I ALSO HAVE PEAFOWL., SOME OF WHICH HAVE STARTED LAYING.

I REALIZE THERE IS SO MUCH TO LEARN. I LOST A LOT OF COCHINS BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW AT THE TIME THAT YOUNG BIRDS SHOULDN'T BE EXPOSED TO DRAFTS.

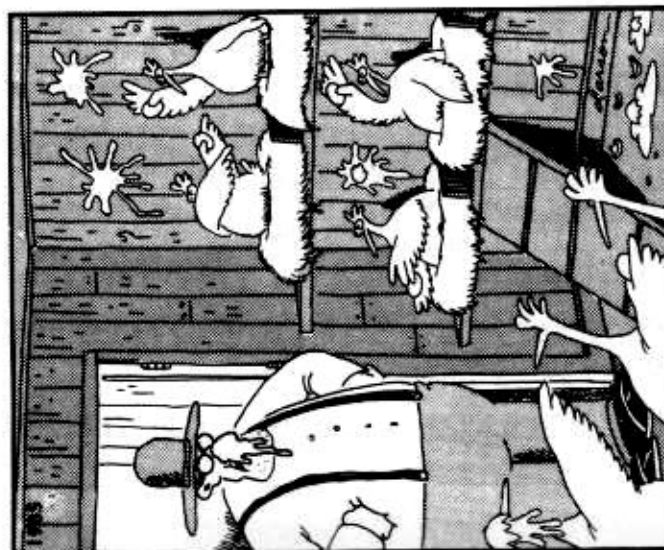
I LOST ANOTHER BIG BATCH OF CHICKS BY USING A MEDICATED FEED AND ADDING MEDICATION TO THE DRINKING WATER.

THIS CAUSED A LARGE SETBACK. I'M EVENTUALLY HOPING TO TURN A HOBBY INTO A PROFIT MAKING BUSINESS. I WAS INJURED PERMANENTLY ON THE JOB IN AUGUST, 1991 AND LOST THE JOB I HAD FOR 19 1/2 YEARS.

TO SUM IT UP, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A LITTLE MONEY AT DOING SOMETHING I LIKE AND ENJOY AND YET KEEP FIT WITH MY HANDICAP.

I KNOW THIS LETTER IS LONG AND IF YOU WANT TO PRINT ANY OF IT PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONDENSE IT.

SINCERELY,  
CHERYL LITTLE  
12905 CLOUD DRIVE  
SANTE FE, TX 77510



As quickly as it had started, the egg fight was over.

4-24-95

HI - FROM MANHATTAN,

JUST GOT THE ABC NEWSLETTER. LOVE THE CARTOONS. WISH I COULD DRAW. I'VE A COUPLE GOOD IDEAS! SEEMS WE HAVE THE SAME PROBLEM WITH MPF, NOBODY HAS ANYTHING MUCH FOR THE NEWSLETTER!

OUR CLUBS ARE IMPORTANT AND THE NEWSLETTERS ARE THE MEMBERS COMMUNICATION. IF WE HAVE TIME FOR SO MANY "OTHER" THINGS, WHY NOT THEN FOR OUR CLUBS AND OUR WONDERFUL BIRDS.

"IF IT'S WORTH A DOIN', IT'S WORTH A DOIN' RIGHT."

JEANNETTE, YOU CAN ALWAYS USE MY LETTERS OR PARTS, AS YOU SEE FIT. I HAD A GOOD LETTER COME OUT IN THE OE NEWSLETTER. MR. JEFFREY'S HAS WRITTEN ME SEVERAL TIMES, EVEN SENT ME ONE OF HIS BOOKS. AND A CONGRATULATION ON MY WIN IN SALT LAKE, W/A BLUE GOLDEN DW. NOW, HE'S A BUSY MAN AND ITS SO WONDERFUL TO GET PERSONAL LETTERS FROM SOMEONE THAT IS "FAMOUS" IN THE POULTRY WORLD.

BOTH MIKE GILBERT AND DON CABLE HAVE BEEN VERY HELPFUL IN MY DESIRE TO RAISE SILVERS W/ WHAT STOCK I HAVE, GIVING ME THEIR OPINIONS ON WHAT BIRDS TO CROSS- SO FAR I'VE GOTTEN ALOT OF BLACK CHICKS FROM PARENTS W/THE RIGHT SILVER COLOR- BUT I DO HAVE 2 PULLETS THAT ARE STARTING TO GET A LITTLE SALMON ON THE BREAST. NOW THESE ARE OUT OF A STANDARD SIZE HEN. SHE HAD SEVERAL HOMES BEFORE COMING TO ROOST HERE. TRACING BACK, I FOUND OUT THAT SHE CAME FROM DUANE URCH IN MN. I CONTACTED DUANE AND HE THOUGHT SHE MAY BE A 1ST GENERATION SILVER.

SEEMS I'M HAVING A LITTLE TROUBLE W/THE WHEATENS, BREEDING BLUE TO BLUE AND A FEW CHICKS ARE WEAK & DON'T DO WELL. THE GOOD ONES ARE GOOD - REALLY PRETTY. I STARTED OUT W/ONE ALD HEN - I TOOK MY BEST BLUE WHEATEN TO SALT LAKE. HE WON, BUT ONE 4 ENTERED. I ASKED THE JUDGE IF AN AMERAUCANA WILL EVER MAKE CHAMPIONSHIP ROW. HE LOOKED AT ME KINDA FUNNY AND SAID "I DOUBT IT!!"

MY INCUBATOR HAS BEEN ON FOR 3 1/2 MONTHS. HAVING GOOD LUCK, EVEN HATCHING SOME BIG BIRDS FOR A YOUNG MAN IN 4-H. SENT A BUNCH OF CHICKS TO LEWISTOWN. NETZI HAS A POULTRY GROUP STARTED UP THERE.

ARE YOU JUDGING GREAT FALLS? I ENJOYED THAT SHOW. COULD IT BE AN AMERAUCANA MEET?

KEEP UP THE GOOS NEWSLETTER. THANKS FOR THE ARTICLE ON VITAMINS.

KORALYN

FROM THE BIG SKY COUNTRY

I START THIS ARTICLE ON A SAD NOTE.....

MARY LOU PHELPS, CENTRAL DD, CALLED ME TO TELL ME HER HUSBAND OF OVER 26 YEARS HAD PASSED AWAY UNEXPECTEDLY ON MAY 30. I NEVER MET JIM IN PERSON BUT I HAD SPOKEN TO HIM SEVERAL TIMES ON THE TELEPHONE. HE ALMOST ALWAYS TEASED ME ABOUT MONTANA WEATHER..AND IF IT WAS BAD NOT TO SEND IT THEIR WAY. AND HE ALWAYS ASKED IF WE HAD GONE FISHING LATELY AND WHAT WE HAD CAUGHT. MARY LOU HAD JUST WRITTEN ME A COUPLE DAYS BEFORE JIM'S DEATH THAT HE WAS THINKING ABOUT COMING TO MONTANA THIS FALL TO FISH. MARY LOU, OUR HEARTFELT SYMPATHY TO YOU.

IN REGARDS TO THE 1995 ABC NATIONAL SHOW THIS FALL..I HAD SENT OUT A LIST TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS EARLIER BUT I EVIDENTLY OVERLOOKED SOME FACTS SO NO DEFINITE DECISION HAS BEEN MAKE. I'LL NOTIFY YOU AS SOON AS I KNOW.

THE MOVE OF THE BUSINESS HAS REALLY CHANGED MY LIFE STYLE...NOT NECESSARILY TO THE BETTER. I STILL HAVE NOT FOUND ALL OF MY CLUB INFO. I WENT FROM THREE 4 DRAWER FILES TO A COUPLE FILES IN ONE DRAWER. THE MAJORITY OF THE CLUB RECORDS ARE PACKED IN STORAGE BOXES AND YES, THEY ARE LABELED BUT IT IS TIME I DO NOT HAVE A LOT OF..TO GO DOWN AND SEARCH RIGHT NOW. THE ONE ADVANTAGE OF BEING HOME ALL DAY IS THAT MY HOUSE IS CLEAN (INCLUDING CABINETS AND CLOSETS) AND THE LAUNDRY GETS DONE DURING THE WEEK SO WHEN MY HUSBAND SAYS "I WANT TO GO FISHING" I CAN GO WITH HIM. HE IS SEMI-RETIRED.

MY PLEA FOR ARTICLES REAPED SOME GOOD ARTICLES FROM SOME OF THE MEMBERS. I'M STILL WAITING FOR ARTICLES FROM A FELLOW IN MI AND ONE IN WI WHO PUSHED FOR THIS PLAN. MY APPRECIATIVE THANKS TO THOSE WHO TOOK THE TIME TO SHARE THOUGHTS AND IDEAS WITH THE CLUB. I HOPE WE CONTINUE TO HEAR FROM THE MEMBERS. JERRY, I HAVE YOUR ARTICLES AND WILL USE THEM BUT THOUGHT I COULD SAVE THEM FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.

THE COVER AND BORDER OF TWO PAGES ARE FROM A HALLMARK CARD BY MARJOLEIN BASTEN. THESE CARDS ARE WELL DONE AND MUCH APPRECIATED BY US POULTRY PEOPLE.

TO THOSE OF YOU HAVE ASKED ABOUT JEANNE TRENT..SHE IS DOING FINE. WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU AND IS BACK IN CHICKENS.

PERSONAL NOTE: JESSICA, I HOPE YOU HAD A HAPPY BIRTHDAY ON JUNE 5. AND PAUL, HOPE YOU HAVE A HAPPY ONE ON THE 26TH

*Jeanette Frank  
P.O. Box 824  
Great Falls, MT 59403*

**1995 AMERICAN 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 #: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

If you are paying for a family membership would you please list family members names & ages?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Use additional paper if necessary.)

I (WE) raise and breed the following AMERICANS  
LARGE FOWL:

BANTAM:

I (We) will sell: Hatching Eggs \_\_\_\_\_ Chicks \_\_\_\_\_ Started Stock \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Birds \_\_\_\_\_

Will you ship any of the above? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes..which? \_\_\_\_\_

Will you deliver to shows any of the above? \_\_\_\_\_ What shows? \_\_\_\_\_

Please list below other breeds of poultry you raise, breed, show. Be sure to state if they are Large Fowl or Bantams, Bearded/nonbearded and varieties. Thank you.

Please use the space below for your comments, thoughts, ideas or general information about you or your family. Any suggestions for future newsletter articles would be appreciated.

Please return this questionnaire and membership dues to:

Americana Breeders Club  
Jeannette Frank, Sec./Treas.  
P. O. Box 824  
Great Falls, MT 59403-0824

Remember ALL membership dues are due the first of each year.