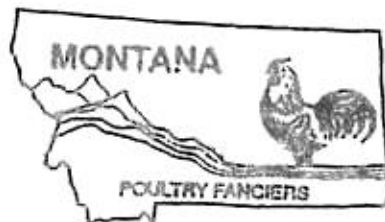
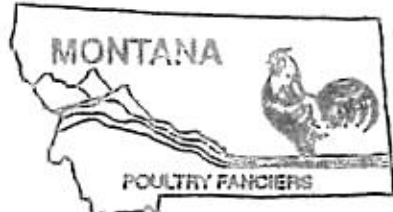
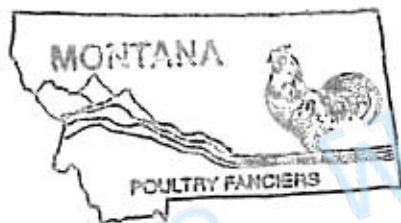


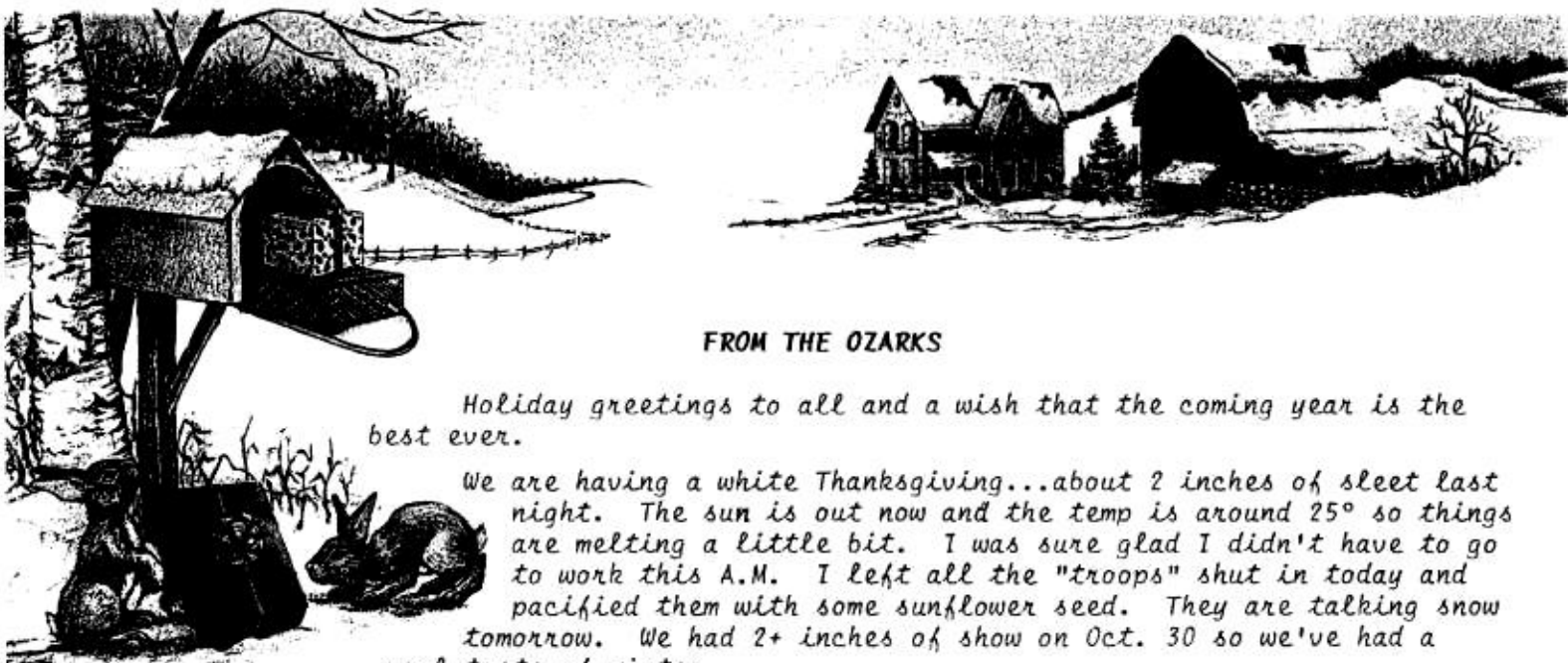
AMERICAN BREEDERS CLUB
P. O. Box 824
Great Falls, MT 59403-0824
Nov/Dec 1993 Vol XV #6



Holiday Greetings



"Twas the night before Christmas when all thru the coop,
Not a Creature was stirring 'cause they were all in a group.
The stockings were hung by the nest box with care
In hopes that St. Chickolas soon would be there.
The chicks were nestled all snug in their straw,
While visions of sugar corn danced in their craw.
And Ma Hen in her kerchief and I in my cap
Had just settled down for a long winters nap.
When out in the run there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my roost to see what was the matter.
Away to the door I flew like a flash,
Tore open the hatch and fell with a crash.
The moon on the crest of the new fallen snow
Gave a lustre of egg whites to objects below.
When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a teeny sleigh and eight banty Brabanteer.
With a little old driver so lively and quick,
I knew in a moult it must be St. Chick!
More rapid than chicken hawks his coursers they came
And he whistled and shouted and called them by name:
"Now Scratcher! Now Cackler! Now Crower and Gritzen!
On Crummet! On Coopid! On Duster and Pipzen!
To the top of the perch, to the top of the wall!
Now dash away, dash away, dash away all!"
As dry straw before the wild hurricane fly,
When it meets with an obstacle, mount to the sky,
So up to the coop top the coursers they flew
With a sleigh full of toys and St. Chickolas, too.
And then in a twinkling I heard on the peak
The clucking and crowing of each little beak.
As I drew in my head and was turnign around,
Down the hole in the roof St. Chick came with a bound.
He was dressed all in fur from his beak to his spurs,
His clothes were all tarnished, very dirty they were.
A bag of toys he had slung on his back,
And he looked like a feed man just opening his sack.
His eyes how they twinkled! His wattles how merry!
His earlobes like roses, his comb like a cherry!
His droll little beak was drawn up like a bow
And the feathers on his chin were as white as the snow.
The stump of his pipe he held tight in his beak
And the smoke it encircled his head as it reaked.
He had a broad face and a round little belly
That shook when he hopped, oh that Silkie was silly.
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf
And I laughed whe I saw him, in spite of myself.
A wink of his eye and a flap of his wing
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to sing.
He clucked not a crow but went strauhgt to his work,
And filled all the chicks socks, then turned with a jerk,
And laying a feather aside his beak
And giving a nod up he went like a streak.
He sprang to his sleigh, to the team gave a click,
And away they all flew like the down of a chick.
But I heard him crow as they drove into the sky
"If you believe all of this - you'll believe any old lie!"



FROM THE OZARKS

Holiday greetings to all and a wish that the coming year is the best ever.

We are having a white Thanksgiving...about 2 inches of sleet last night. The sun is out now and the temp is around 25° so things are melting a little bit. I was sure glad I didn't have to go to work this A.M. I left all the "troops" shut in today and pacified them with some sunflower seed. They are talking snow tomorrow. We had 2+ inches of snow on Oct. 30 so we've had a real taste of winter.

The shop starts staying open on Monday starting the 29th and then around the 15th we'll be open 'til 5:30. Sure does make it dark coming home and doing chores. I'd be in a real fix if Jim didn't do the "outers" as he calls them. I do the barn bunch after I get home.

I had a possum attack while I was finishing up one night last week. There are about a dozen birds who go to roost on a rail down in the barn. Every night I lift them off and put them inside. This time I heard squawks and hollers. I went tearing out - grabbed a hoe handle and hit the varmit a glancing blow. Of course, all the chickens took off in the dark, but we managed to find them all, but two roosters. They spent the night outside but were okay the next morning. I set the trap and caught the varmit. He won't do it again. This seems to be a bad year for critters - earlier this fall we had two skunks hanging around. Haven't seen them for awhile so I hope they moved on.

I have a new bird at the feeder this year. A red breasted nuthatch showed up here the 20th of Oct. and is still here. It's a bird of the northern forests but when food is short they migrate south. It's a real thrill to add him to my list.

I had a bantam hen hide a nest and on Halloween she showed up with 16 little ones. Hopefully, there will be some good ones. At least I had a good sized pen empty for her. She's back to laying already so no doubt will be weaning them before long.

One thing I would like to ask the midwest members... PLEASE if you are going to attend a show and you want an Ameraucana meet, please let me know and send me the show secretary's name and address so I can get the meet forms off to the show. So far there will be meets at North Iowa in April and the So. Iowa show. Also they will have a meet at the New Ulm, MN fall show and one in the spring if they want it.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND BEST WISHES FOR '94. --

Mary Lou Phelps

11-26-93

Ill-Mo Bantam Club

Fanciers of Purebred Bantams

Dolores Kniepkamp, Secretary
Phone: (618) 233-5005

2020 Centerville Avenue
Belleville, Illinois 62220
November 20, 1993

Ameraucana Breeders Club
Jeanette Frank, Secty.
P.O. Box 824
Great Falls, Montana 59403

Dear Jeanette:

Mr. John Wunderlich has asked me to write to you and inform you that he will donate \$100 to your Club if you will hold your National Meet at our Ill-Mo show in 1994. The dates are November 5th & 6th 1994. This will be Ill-Mo's 40th anniversary and we will be planning big thing for this show and we would be happy to accomodate you in any way we can.

Our Club will give a trophy in any class where there are 10 or more birds of one variety shown. We also award ribbons to third place.

Whereever you decide to hold your National Meet I hope it will be a very successful one.

Sincerely



Dolores Kniepkamp Secty.
Ill-Mo Bantam Club

Rec'd
11/26/93



RICHARD A. ORR
DEPUTY SHERIFF
FAIRFIELD COUNTY

40 WOODLAWN ROAD
MONROE, CONN. 06468
HOME (203) 268-5745
OFFICE (203) 268-9669
MOBILE CAR (203) 556-1040

November 9th, 1993

Dear Jeannette;

I received your package today, and am writing to respond to your questions.

First of all, Suzanne Morgan is the mother of Allison Morgan, whom you carry as a member and who shows her flock at times in Massachusetts. Actually, it is a family enterprise. They have a large flock of Ameraucanas, mostly Wheatens, some blue, some lavenders and some whites. They have decided to concentrate on breeding lavenders and whites as they are not so common. When I visited them they GAVE me six of their production from this spring. Three cockerels (2 wheaten and one blue-red) and three females (all cream colored as is typical with wheatens). Their original stock was purchased from Mike Gilbert. These are bantams.

In addition, I have three cockerels and three pullets that I purchased from an OK hatchery (Blue Ribbon) as "Araucanas" which are developing with all different characteristics, some with muffs and pea combs, all tailed -- thus they are NOT "araucanas", but rather closer to "Ameraucanas" -- I suspect they are called Araucanas simply because they will produce blue eggs. They are large fowl.

I have another pair purchased earlier this spring, that are mature, and the pullet has been laying for several months, blue eggs. The cockerel has no muffs but has a pea comb and in color is Golden Duckwing---BEAUTIFUL. The pullet is the normal wheaten color with muffs. The two of them stick together--as do the other six Ameraucanas that the Morgans gave me.

Also have buff and Partridge Cochin bantams, white and black Silkies, Sultan bantams, Bel. D'Uccle- Mille Fleur, various Polish and large fowl Jersey Giants and Australorps. Only a few of each variety. They are all young and not up to showing yet. I don't know if I will be showing, as I have them mostly for "pets" - and the shows in New England are some distance away. The closest is about 1½ hours to the north in Massachusetts. There is little interest from what I can see in fancy fowl in this area of Connecticut. In Rhode Island, there is a lot of interest but almost entirely in OE Game, which do not interest me. I want birds that are docile and not wild.

I did attend three "fairs" in CT this fall. I was disappointed with some of what I saw. There were birds shown as "Araucanas" that were no where near being either Araucanas or Ameraucanas. And they got awards for Best of the Class.. simply because there were no more.

I do read the newsletters that I get and am anxious to see more on the culture of the birds, history, etc.---something more on the Ameraucanas -- and less on people that I have never met, and do not know. This is a friendly suggestion, to pass along. I agree with the comments made that the members could contribute more articles--about their experiences with the breed, etc. And suggestions for their care.

I have constructed three different houses for my flock and they might be described as follows: a two story (elevated) duplex house, divided throughout, with removable trays below the enclosed area. The birds can use a ladder to get down to ground level, where they have a sand covered run and their food and water. They are secured "upstairs" at night. The second one is an 8' lon portable unit, which includes sand insulated "living area" and an attached run, all covered with hatches - and an exterior run where they are allowed out in good weather. The latest, is another "two story duplex" designed for bantams, with enclosed quarters, nests, etc and a run on the elevated area but a ladder that can be dropped in good weather to go down to ground level and a sand run. I have taken pictures of the latest in case there is any interest in having an article on that item.

That's it for now---Thanks for responding so promptly to me.

John W. Blehm

(517) 777-5050

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JEANETTE,

11-27-93

I WILL TAKE ORDERS FOR AMERAVCANA CHICKS,
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AN ORDER FORM THEY CAN SEND ME A S.A.S.E.
YOU MAY INCLUDE A COPY (ENCLOSED) IN THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER ALSO. I ALSO HAVE A FEW EXTRA
BLACK AND BLUE ADULT BANTAMS FOR SALE, IF
SOMEONE IS INTERESTED IN BIRDS FOR BREEDING
THIS SPRING. HAPPY AND BLESSED HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

THANKS

JWB





BIRCH RUN HATCHERY

John W. Blehm
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Birch Run, MI 48415
517-777-5050



1994

We are offering day old **Ameraucana** chicks that will be sold "Straight Run". An assortment of color varieties will be included, in your order, depending on our hatches. The varieties are listed on the order form. Chicks are shipped by "Priority Mail" on Tuesdays and should arrive within 48 hours. Your local Post Office will call you to pick up your chicks as soon as they arrive. To order please send the information requested below, along with your payment for the chicks. Pay the shipping and insurance fee, at your Post Office, C.O.D. If you live in IN, KS, MN, MT, NJ, or VT we will need sufficient time to meet special importation requirements.

Years of selective breeding are behind these chicks, but unwanted characteristics may show up. No guarantees will be made. A limited number of chicks will be available so please order early.

We support the Ameraucana Breeders Club, the National Poultry Improvement Plan, Poultry Press, and John 3:16.

1994 ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Address _____

Post Office: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ - _____ - _____ or: _____ - _____ - _____

Preferred shipping: April() May()

() 25 Amer. chicks, bantam - buff, blue, & black	\$50.00
() 25 Amer. chicks, large fowl - white & black	\$50.00
Ameraucana Breeders Club members check here () and deduct	\$5.00
Grand Total	_____

I have been asked by the editor of another newsletter to do an article for their club on how I winterize my birds...especially the single comb ones.

Earlier this spring I had a neighbor ask me if it wasn't kind of expensive to have adult stock shipped in every year. I told her, "Yes, it would be. Why? Are you thinking about having some shipped in?" It seems another neighbor had told her you couldn't keep any chickens thru a winter...they would freeze to death. I tried not to laugh. (It really is funny how these stories get started. Remind me some day to tell you about the fellow who killed all his first year layers because they got some disease that made them loose all their feathers and stop laying.) I told my neighbor some of my chickens were over five years old and I had raised them from chicks.

I have to admit there are some cold, blizzardy, miserable mornings that I'd rather snuggle under the warm blankets another half hour but the chickens are waiting for someone to come to feed and water them. So the warm bed will have to wait. One bad point for a living hobby.

In the course of my years living on top of a hill in the boondocks off Bootlegger Trail and having the wind blow from one of 360 directions I have learned a few things. Here are a few of my pet theories:

1. Protection from wind and wet are the most crucial for chickens and geese.
2. Roosts for chickens - everyone thinks round is better. I disagree. I am a firm believer that FLAT is best. Reason: on round roosts the feet curl around and leave the toes exposed to the cold. On flat surfaces the feathers cover the toes and keep them warm. The bird is comfortable and tucks the head under the wing..protecting the comb and wattles from the cold. (Don't you sleep better if your toes are warm?) For penned birds I use small bricks..usually one per cage but if necessary one on top of two bricks. The birds like this arrangement.
3. I have also found that there are certain breeds that tolerate our climate (Harsh, cold & windy) better than others. (Or maybe I should rephrase that...some birds require more complex housing in our climate than others.) Birds with loose, full feathering (such as cochins) do better than those with hard, close fitting feathers (such as Modern Games & Cornish). Another breed that I have trouble with in this climate is Silkies. I think it has to do with their thin feathering. (I realize there are some of you who will argue this..that's fine. I'm stating my point of view. If you wish to speak your thoughts.. write an article.)
4. I keep geese also. With the geese I have found that a small can of water is all you want to give them in the winter. Anything large enough for them to get their feet and/or body in can be a hazard.
5. Only in the very coldest part of winter do I use a milk house heater. I usually use a red heat light at night. And I have found that warm mash at night helps the chickens.
6. I also keep a bale of good alfalfa hay in the chicken house and goose pen thru the cold. Keeps them out of trouble and is nutritious. Just be sure it isn't moldy. I do not use straw as litter...it gets wet and moldy to fast.

Editor's note: It has been several years since I wrote the above article. I don't have geese any longer and very few chickens. When I had geese I use to make an igloo or semi-igloo for them out of hay/alfalfa bales. Very cosy..kept the wind out and by spring they usually had it just about eaten thru in places. This year (1993) I made a runway for my chickens with alfalfa bales. They really enjoy sitting in it. I have to drive them in the building so I can close the door in really bad weather.

Anyone who wishes to write their own article or comment on this one can do so. Send to: Jeannette Frank, P.O. Box 824, Great Falls, MT 59403-0824

Have your chickens had their vitamin B today?

Deficiency symptoms can be mistaken for diseases.

by Jeanette Frank
Great Falls, Montana

Right after the fair in August, 1980, I opened my chicken coop door one morning to let the chickens out to range and found one of my new Naked Neck pullets with her head twisted under her. My immediate reaction was . . . "Oh! No! She's dead!"

She wasn't!! I put her in a cage and gave her a drink of water. Since it was a weekend and I was cleaning the chicken coop, I was close by and I made a point of picking her up often and stroking her long velvety-soft neck into the correct position and giving her a drink of water. That night I put her in a separate building thinking she would be dead by morning.

This went on for two days and nights and, lo and behold, she seemed to be normal. On the fourth day I put her back with the rest of the pullets. I really felt proud of my accomplishment. I soon found I would never want to use her for a breeder. She had what is known as B-1 Syndrome.

* * *

About one month later I found one of my 16-week-old Belgian d'Anver pullets with the same twisted neck. My efforts to help were in vain. However, the loss of this particular pullet spurred me into some research.

A couple of weeks later my son's 18-week-old Cubalaya cockerel develop-

ed the same problem. After conferring with a local veterinary it was generally thought to be a virus of some sort. We tried massage and an injection of Terramycin. The cockerel continued to get worse. Nothing helped, and after 2½ days, he died.

I continued to read anything and everything I could that might explain what could be causing this strange malady of my poultry. I ruled out what is known as limberneck because the cases were isolated and all the chickens were fed the same food. Limberneck is caused by botulism, or food poisoning. I also ruled out Newcastle Disease because this would affect more than one bird in a two or three week time limit. And so far in a two month span only three birds had been affected . . . two in one building and one in another building. The only real clue I had was what is commonly called "wry neck." I had known about wry neck for quite some time. It is generally associated with Silkies and generally is a recessive but hereditary gene. The adults may not show any sign of wry neck but sooner (or later) the offspring will.

Wry neck is a slightly to badly twisted neck. The bird looks as if it has stood on its head to get a different look at the world. Looks very uncomfortable. And probably is!!

Two weeks after the Cubalaya died my son's blue tasselled rooster started looking at the world upside down. Needless to say, I was ready to destroy the whole flock of birds. However, I

proceeded stubbornly. In all my reading of books and magazines I thought I finally found the problem but it still didn't make sense since only a few birds had been affected. But I decided that lack of B-1 was the problem. I had read that lack of Vitamin B-1 was one of the major factors in "wry neck. Why only a few birds?? Same reason only some Silkies have wry neck . . . the recessive gene.

(I used to have nightmares of walking into my chicken house and having all my chickens looking cockeyed at me.) Well, I cried a little, gave the blue rooster a shot of Terramycin, cried some more, put the rooster into a cage with half a bale of straw and called another veterinarian and held my breath. How do you describe, via the telephone, an upside-down neck?

When the doctor called me back he confirmed what I thought and explained that it wasn't just Silkies that had the recessive B-1 syndrome gene. The doctor wasn't any more positive than I as to what would really help, but he was the first one who was willing to listen and try to help. What we decided to try was B-1 injections and B-1 vitamins.

It is now going on four months later and the rooster has only a slightly cocked head. Within eight hours after the initial injection he showed improvement. It has been a long slow project but it has been worth it to see him act like a normal rooster again.

Since the above incident I have talked to several veterinarians, including the State Vet, and all have concluded that it can be a recessive gene brought to the surface by a lack of vitamin B-1 . . . and it can affect any bird.

My son's rooster is still being treated with a vitamin B-1 tablet in his water once a week. I'll never use him for breeding but he doesn't care.

I also found another source for my commercial feed. Read the label. Does it say "thiamin?"

Editor's note: There's more to this story:

Jeanette originally wrote this (and sent it to *Backyard Poultry*) in early 1981. It wasn't printed, because several advisors were uncomfortable with the vitamin B-1 theory, and thought that limberneck or newcastle disease were more likely.

However, in the more than four years that passed since she changed feeds, Jeanette has not had any problems with her flock. What's more, she kept digging for more information... found it... and wasted no time in sharing it with us.

Dr. B.R. Cho, poultry pathologist at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Washington State University, confirmed that a chicken which loses its ability to stand or sit upright and topples to the ground with its head still retracted, may be suffering from the vitamin deficiency. Commercial poultry rations should be balanced, but look for vitamin B-1 (or thiamine) on the label. Alfalfa meal, wheat bran, and wheat middlings are sources of thiamine, or more expensive brewer's yeast could be used.

However, because the vitamin deficiency causes an extreme loss of appetite, supplementing the feed may not be adequate for birds already affected. In this case oral administration of the vitamin is necessary. The bird should respond in just a few hours.

Dr. Cho added that an adult chicken can show signs of the vitamin deficiency after about three weeks on an inadequate diet, but young chicks will be affected in less than two weeks. The birds lose their appetites, lose weight, have ruffled feathers and leg weakness and an unsteady gait.



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Illini Poultry Club
Club Meet 1993

THE AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB

CHAMPION AMERAUCANA BANTAM # 33 *chick*

RESERVE CHAMPION BANTAM # 33 *Pull*

BEST VARIETY -- WHEATEN: _____

RES. VARIETY -- WHEATEN: _____

BEST VARIETY -- BLUE WHEATEN: _____

RES. VARIETY -- BLUE WHEATEN: _____

BEST VARIETY --BLACK: _____

RES. VARIETY --BLACK: _____

BEST VARIETY - WHITE: # 33 *chick*

RES. VARIETY - WHITE: # 33 *pull*

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: _____

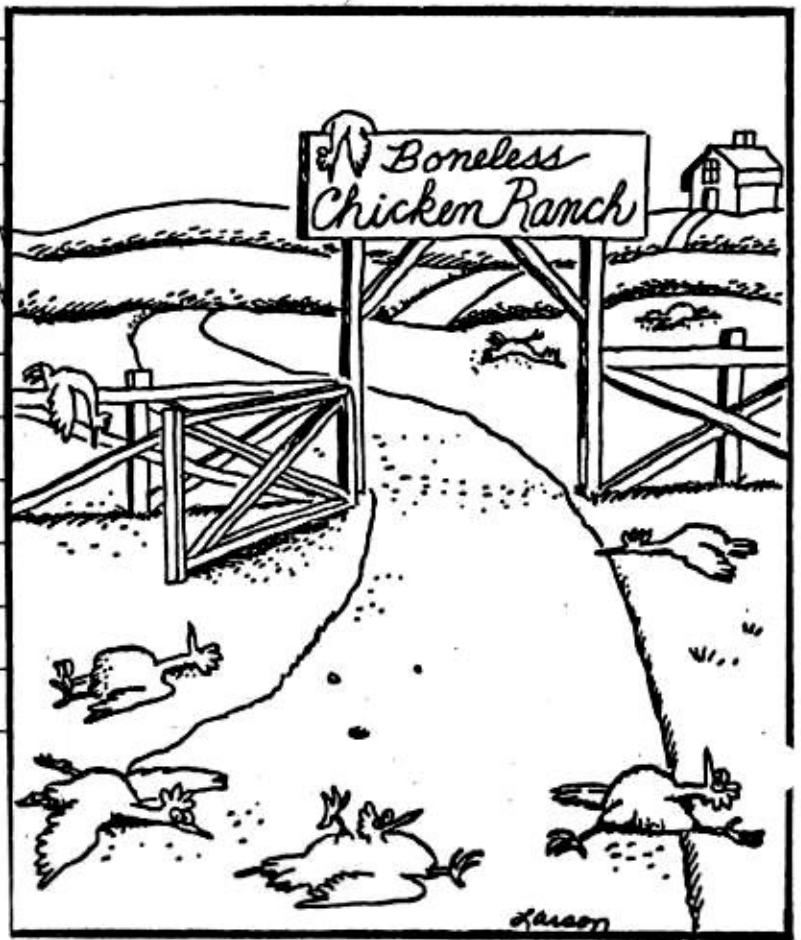
RES. BLACK- RED: _____

BEST BLUE RED: _____

RES. BLUE RED: _____

BEST ANY OTHER VARIETY: _____

RES. ANY OTHER VARIETY: _____



REFLECTIONS FROM THE BIG SKY COUNTRY

Greetings of the Season - to everyone. 1993 will soon be a memory - lots of memories for me - some good, some great and some I'd rather forget. How about you?

I'd like to take this opportunity to say 'THANK YOU' to all who supported and encouraged me in my APA judges test. And yes - I did pass. I am now an APA licensed judge for large fowl and bantams. I couldn't have done it without your support.

One of the most often asked questions from new members and those inquiring about our club is "How are Ameraucanas and Araucanas different?" I hope the article by Mike Gilbert helps answer this question.

I've included parts of an article I wrote several years ago about wintering my chickens. Also in this issue is an article about B1 syndrome. The Night Before Christmas is for fun. The cartoon was given to me by the person who brings my office supplies.

Even tho everyone agrees that more of the members should write articles for the newsletter I haven't heard from anyone except Mary Lou and Richard Orr. I know everyone is busy with the time of year and their own schedules...for the record...so am I.

There are a couple of important items I want to bring up at this time. Number 1: It is time for dues. All dues are due by January 1. If there is a red X in this box your dues should be paid by Jan. (This is the only resource for newsletter expenses.)



Number 2: The APA yearbook ads are due in Feb. 1994. Anyone who wishes to place an ad on the club page needs to send me the money and the ad no later than Jan. 31, 1994. The cost is \$10.00 per ad. Please keep the ad simple...remember it will be 1/8 of a page. Checks can be made payable to: Ameraucana Breeders Club or to American Poultry Association.

On the personal note: I had a chance to take a trip by myself the second week of November. My #2 daughter moved to Tucson, AZ in early September. She was ready to move into an apartment and needed the household items in storage here in Great Falls brought to her. I drove a 31' U-Haul truck with her furniture, etc. down. What a kick! I left on 11/11 and got to her apartment at 1 p.m. on 11/13. I really hated flying home on the 15th. I could easily be talked into moving to the Tucson area (or a bit further southeast.)

On the not so happy note - my step daughter-in-law was taken to the hospital on 11/11 with what the Dr. thought was a burst aneurysm. Two weeks later the Dr's implanted a shunt and today (12/1) she is home but still has to have someone with her all the time. I will be daughter-in-law sitting for two or three days. A terrible thing to happen to anyone and Vicki Jo is only 34. She is really doing very well. Some of her memory is still foggy. It will take time and patience.

I want to extend my personal congratulations to Bernard and Dorothy Kellogg on their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Wish I could be there to help you celebrate.

Happy Holidays to all,

Jazzelle



1990 AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Dues; Family \$10.00 Individual \$7.50 Junior \$5.00 (All dues due 1/1)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE #: (_____) _____ .

If you are paying for a family would you please list family members names and ages:

Use additional paper if necessary.

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List other breeds of poultry you raise or breed, please. Be sure to state if they are Large Fowl or Bantams, Bearded or Non-bearded and varieties, please.

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

Please return this questionnaire and membership dues to:

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

Remember ALL Memberships are renewable on January 1, 1994.