



4-H - A life-spanning experience

Editor's note: Attached to a fair entry form, the note at right caught the eye of 4-H Program Assistant Dee Miller, who thought it deserved a wider audience.

A subsequent phone call revealed that Trent, a 22-year Antrim County resident, spent eight years in a Sanilac County 4-H club as a youngster.

The club's focus was cattle and horses, so she had plenty of exposure to the challenges of the show ring.

"My mom went to a lot of trouble making blankets from burlap sacks to keep our show cows and horses clean," she recalled. "She dyed the sacks green and when they were finished, there would be a white 4-on them. The fair was the highlight of the summer, and we always planned to have the farm work all caught up so the whole family could be part of it."

Although it's been five years since she has entered an exhibit in the Antrim County Fair, the "middle-aged" former farm girl is back in the barns in a big way this year, with seven chickens and a duck.

"I like the local fair because it's convenient and fun," she said. "I think it's good for other people to see the variety of birds a person can raise."

Preparation is the key to a successful outcome for exhibitors of any age, she noted. "I'll be washing, trimming toes, beaks, etc. - that's what we do in 4-H. Take the "bestest"

and make them look the "bestest."

With her confidence and enthusiasm, the former 4-H'er demonstrates an abiding truth: The lessons learned as a member of one of America's most respected youth programs have a lifelong impact.

I was born and raised with farm and 4-H - can't seem to get either out of my system.

I've seen the Antrim County Fair grow and it makes me happy. I went to Michigan State University on a 4-H scholarship. 4-H is all-important.

I miss being a 4-H kid at the fair - but I can be a kid again and show my birds in the open class, thanks to the Antrim County Fair!

Sincerely,

Jeanne Trent, Central Lake



THE YEAR WAS 1962; the subject: the future Jeanne Trent and Tango - her Grand Champion 4-H Holstein.

Americana Breeders Club
P.O. Box 824, Great Falls, MT 59403
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PROGRESS REPORT ON BROWN-RED LARGE FOWL

By M.K. Gilbert

A number of years ago, to satisfy my curiosity, I made an experimental cross between silver and white large fowl Ameraucanas. Most of the first generation were nondescript in color, but a couple of them developed into something closely resembling the birchen color pattern. I used these sports in developing an improved strain of whites, but always kept one or two of the better birchens just to have "something different."

Two or three years ago it dawned on me that these non-recognized birchens might be used to develop a strain of the A.P.A. and A.B.A recognized brown-reds. Birchen and brown-red are very similar, genetically, with the main difference being the presence of the Silver gene in Birchens versus the Gold gene in brown-reds. This same difference exists between buff and light Brahmas, silver penciled and partridge Rocks, and silver and light brown Leghorns, to name a few examples.

Silver/Gold is found on the sex-linked chromosome. Female chickens can carry only one gene for Silver or Gold, therefore they are always pure for one or the other. But males, with the extra chromosome, can be pure (homozygous) for Silver (two Silver genes), pure for Gold (two Gold genes), or they can inherit one of each, as they do receive one sex-link chromosome from each parent. The latter types are impure, or heterozygous. Silver being dominant to Gold, a heterozygous male will always have mostly white, as opposed to red or buff, feathers in certain sections of their plumage. They will usually, however, show traces of red or buff in with the white.

Female birchens, whether out of a pure birchen or heterozygous sire, will have white lacing on the upper breast and predominantly white head and hackle feathers. The rest of the plumage is black. In brown-red females, the white sections are replaced with a shade of dark red to lemon buff, depending upon the modifying genetic factors present. The preference for Ameraucanas is a deep orange-red.

When starting out with the brown-red project all my large Ameraucanas were pure for Silver. So, I secured a young Ameraucana male from my friend Wayne Meredith in the fall of 1994. This cockerel resembled a light-brown (as in Leghorns), obviously pure for Gold. In 1995 he was used over, if I remember correctly, a pair of birchen hens. Many color variations resulted from this cross, but it did produce two females with poor but recognizable brown-red markings. They were pure for Gold, since they could only inherit one sex-link chromosome from their sire. In fact, all such crosses would result in homozygous females and heterozygous males.

The major coloration problems with the two pullets were poor breast lacing (a lot of shafting, which is very undesirable) and not enough red color in the hackles, which were too black. All other Ameraucana traits were excellent. In 1996, to retain the proper color pattern, I used these two pullets in a mating with a pure birchen male. He was selected because of good breast lacing with little shafting and because of sufficient white in the hackles. From the 1996 mating I have saved two nicely colored pure birchen pullets and one cockerel which is, of course, heterozygous for Silver/Gold.

The 1996 cockerel will be used in 1997 over the two 1995 "brown-red" hens to produce some pure brown-red cockerels. Theoretically, one-half the males will be pure brown-red, the other half impure. The best 1997 male(s) will subsequently be mated with the 1996 birchen pullets to produce brown-red females. And from that point on it will be brown-red to brown-red, simply selecting for best type and color. End of project.

From time to time I've been asked how purebred Ameraucanas were originated. The foregoing provides an example involving only a simple color pattern. Back when other breeds were being utilized to obtain basic color patterns the complexity of these projects were multiplied, exponentially, many times over. It has involved a lot of time, effort, and resources; hopefully future generations will come to appreciate what is gradually coming to be a splendid breed of fowl.

Post Script: The next edition of A.P.A. Standard of Perfection will include paintings of Ameraucana large fowl in brown-red, silver, and blue-wheaten. Perhaps we can add more illustrations, both large and bantam, in the future.

Jeanette,

Sorry it took so long to correspond. As you've probably guessed, I've been pretty busy.

This is a picture of Rebecca at 3 months old, on her changing table. The pictures in the background I drew for her. I did not have time to enter my beautiful chickens in the fair this year as I had planned, because I had to start back to work.

The other picture I'm sending is of my 2 1/2 yr. old rooster "Brownie". He is the only one of 3 chicks left that I had purchased from a feed store. All of them turned out to be roosters, and these were the first chickens I had ever owned. Poor Brownie's legs are all swollen up and he is getting crippled. I'm afraid he won't make it through another winter. I kept one of Brownie's sons (Rusty) and found loving homes for the rest of my cockerels. Every Ameraucana chick that hatched was different from the others. I got solid white, greys, blacks, reds, and combos. I got all these from Brownie and some brown hens, so I am still very confused about these colors. I also got an accidental late hatch. One of my ameraucana hens hatched out 4 barred-rock eggs. One chick is pure barred-rock, and the others have ameraucana characteristics with the barred coloring. If any of these lay green, I may let them hatch out and try to start a barred- ameraucana color.

There are a lot of people in this area who are interested in raising "araucanas". (that's what everyone still calls them.) They are a novelty because of the green and blue eggs, and they were a novelty to me as well when I first got them. I also got interested in barred- rocks because I liked the way they looked. (everyone calls them "dominikers"!) I had also read that the barred-rocks were one of the best laying and setting hens. Guess what? The only hens that got broody were my ameraucanas. Another thing I can give the ameraucanas credit for is their disposition. My rooster will let even the tiniest chicks take food right out of his mouth, so to speak. He is very protective of his chicks, and he became very upset with me one day for disturbing a baby pigeon who was nesting in his roost. You can also walk up and pet him like a dog or pick him up. I hope his offspring are as mild mannered as he is. My barred-rock roosters and cockerels (who are no longer with us) would not hesitate to kill a small chick if "mama" was not around to protect it. They would also bully everything that was smaller or weaker than them.

One more thing I just have to add. I got a call from a woman I had never heard of before. She lives very close to me, and was wanting one of my spare ameraucana cockerels so she could try to start her own flock. Guess what? Her name just happened to be Jeanette Frank! Do-de-do-do do-de-do-do (theme from the twilight zone).

Well, it was good talking chickens once again. Hope you liked the pictures.

Sincerely,

Michelle

Michelle Atkins

(and Doug & Rebecca)



Sept 7/96.

Dear Folks

I've been an avid fan for almost 30 years! 4 years ago a dog wiped out my prize winning flock, and now I'm looking to replace them. I'm looking to start again, and know what I want to do, but the only stock available to me all comes from Murry McMurry! And I want better than that!

I am looking for: bright Blue eggs (large if possible), heavy ear muffs and beards, tufts if possible, and speckled or Duckwing colours if possible - NO solid white, black, or red.

Due to regulations - I have to consider shipping in hatching eggs, and set them myself. I have a USA postal address, so they can be sent there and I can pick them up.

If you could send me club info, and some breeders to contact, I would greatly appreciate it! I would order eggs now, if I can, and need some degree of breeder backing (I set 6 dozen eggs from a breeder in Ontario in July, and only have 2 chicks - poor hatch, poor egg quality, and he knew that I would have a bad hatch; then offered to SELL me more eggs at the full price!! I used to sell hatching eggs, and ALWAYS made sure that folks got a 50% hatch - or more eggs!) I'll be hanging around my mailbox to hear from you... Thanks so much!

MRS A. Smith
523, CE, RR#1
Keremeos, BC
Canada V0Y 2N0

Mrs. Vera Smith

9/3/96

Dear Jeannette,

I apologise for taking so long to write . Things have been hectic and just now we are starting to feel somewhat settled.

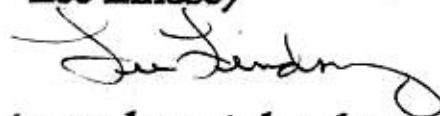
I bought a house with two acres and thanks to a good neighbor the horses have extra pasture to graze on . We love our new home and have lots of plans for improvements. Unfortunetly we still do not have any chickens, but one of those improvements is to build a small coop. I am hoping to get some buff Americaunas next spring, so I will be hunting sources of chicks or eggs. I really miss having fresh eggs, especially blue eggs. Most of all I miss the birds and there antics!

My mother is now breeding parakeets for a pet store supplier. She has some unusual and beautifully colored birds. We also are planning to start breeding cockatiels next spring.

My Arab mare and pinto 1/2 Arab filly are doing great and I plan to breed my mare and start riding the filly next spring.

There is not to much else going on right now. I really enjoy the ABC newsletter even if I do not have any birds. It is like having a backup family when times are less than perfect.

*Thanks,
Lee Lindsey*



P.S. I am enclosing a check to go towards past due dues or as a donation to ABC. I also have a new mailing address:

*Lee Lindsey
Route 1, Box 644
Double Springs, Al. 35553
1-205-489-3026*

September 9, 1996

Dear Jeanette:

WOW! I was all set to write and tell you how frustrated we have been with a problem we were having and all I did was read the newsletter first to get excited.

January 1995 was the last show Allison entered and it looked as though it was the last show. She showed in the Junior Division a few black and white Ameraucanas and some gold and silver Seabrights. We are new to this "show business" and ignored the Seabrights next to hers, remarking how dirty they looked. She took home a ribbon and a disease that we had no idea how to deal with. A few days after the show we noticed the Seabright cock coughing and off his feed. I medicated him with some antibiotics which did absolutely nothing and watched hopelessly while the disease ran through my whole chickenhouse. Being the dead of winter, they all were confined and susceptible. I lost 10 of my layers and most of our Ameraucanas including our best males. This happened so fast it was all over in less than two to three weeks. In the meantime I checked with the local feed stores and vet but they couldn't help me. I contacted a supplier of medications and they diagnosed it over the phone as laryngotracheitis. They sent me the gallimycin and we got to work and dosed the whole flock. They stopped dying but they were still coughing. I waited a month and dosed them again - no change. We segregated the ones that were still coughing (what a pain finding individual pens!).

We were now into the beginning of March and I knew if I didn't get the males & females together soon, we weren't going to have any chicks. The males did their thing and we managed to get about 3 dozen eggs a month later despite the diminished stock.

Ten days into the incubator and I knew we were in trouble when we candled them. To make a long story short we tried two hatches of about 3 dozen each and our end result was zero. We weren't surprised though because we knew the medication was going to affect them. We just didn't know how badly. We had no birds for showing last year.

We tried again this year but the eggs were either infertile or the chicks were deformed. We hatched out one black pullet. We did something wrong and we have no idea what!

Now we only have left six black hens/one black cock and two white hens/one white cock. These birds were not the best of the bunch and they are all several years old.

I opened the newsletter today and the first letter talks about laryngo. The few books I have on chicken diseases did not give me the information that this one letter did re: Tetracycline. They only recommended the gallimycin.

Allison and I are at a crossroads right now. Do we start from scratch and build up our brood again or do we just keep the few birds we have left as pets. With Allison starting her first year of high school this year, her chicken priorities aren't quite the same as they were four years ago. She still loves her birds but the show bug has left her. What a dilemma!

We'll let you know what the outcome is. Winter is coming and I'm putting decisions on hold for now. Spring always changes my mind.

Broodingly yours,
Suzanne and Allison Morgan



AMERICAN POULTRY ASSOCIATION YEARBOOK 1997

Lorna F. Rhodes • 133 Millville Street • Mendon, MA 01756

Dear Club Secretary:

If your club has placed a Club Ad in the APA Yearbook in the past, I thank you and appreciate the extra effort on your part. I am sending this to you now so that you may be able to get some of the work done at the fall shows. The rates remain the same as they were last year.

CLUB PAGE

1 Square or 1/8 Page	\$10
2 Squares or 1/4 Page	\$20
4 Squares or 1/2 Page	\$40
6 Squares or 1 Page	\$60*

*(includes 1/4 page heading FREE to each advertising Club)

JUDGES AD

Judge's Section \$20

We will need new pictures for these Ads, they will be returned to you.
(There is no fee for Judges photo.)

NON-CLUB RATES

1/8 Page	\$15
1/4 Page	\$25
1/2 Page	\$40
Full Page	\$70
Back Cover	\$90
Inside Back Cover	\$90
Opposite Inside Back Cover	\$90
Inside Front Cover	\$90
Opposite Inside Front Cover	\$90

Photographs submitted for the use in the Yearbook will cost \$5 each to defray printer's cost.

No advertisements will be printed in the book without full payment by January 31, 1997. Any articles you may wish to submit will be greatly appreciated.

We wish to thank you for advertising in our yearbook. Our yearbook will be sent to all APA Members and advertisers. This years' committee members are:

- Lorna Rhodes, 133 Millville St., Mendon, MA 01756 (508-473-7943)
- Bart Pals, 1119 E. State, Mason City, IA 50401
- Tami Johnson, 1245 Vivian St., Golden, CO 80401
- Emmett Rachels, P.O. Box 1161, Tavares, FL 32778
- Dick Stevens, P.O. Box 884, Amherst, VA 24521

Please feel free to contact any of the above with Ads, Articles or any questions you may have about our 1997 APA Yearbook. Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

Lorna Rhodes, Chairman

REFLECTIONS FROM THE BIG SKY COUNTRY

Hope you enjoyed the cover article - Our little Jeanne way back when. Jeanne called me last night (10/13) from the cloud she has been floating on since her wheaten bantam pullet won Best of Ameraucanas in a class of 36 large & bantams at the Alma, MI show (Oct 12/13). Hope Columbus is ready for her. WAY TO GO, JEANNE!! Welcome back to our world.

Mike Gilbert has been working with the APA Standard Committee on the new pictures of the Ameraucanas. Sounds he has everything under control. He'll give us a report at the ABC National in Hutchinson.

Had a nice long chat with Mary Lou a few weeks ago. She celebrated another 39th birthday in Sept. She sounds good...says all is well. While we were talking I could hear one of her feathered friends in the background. She stays busy with lots of projects but still misses her poultry people.

Mike Gilbert's article in this newsletter may answer some of your questions regarding the brown red variety. I'm so glad that Mike has been taking time to write articles for the newsletter. Thanks, Mike.

I've received a nice bunch of letters in the past few weeks. One of the greatest pleasures of my job. And the phone calls. Thank you and keep it up. One phone call I'd like to share with you was from Alice Lee in New York State. She has three delightful children involved in 4-H. Anyone who has had kids in 4-H knows that the parents are just as involved. Alice's 4-H'ers print a poultry calendar..one of their many projects. Alice sent me a 1996 and a 1997 calendar. Don't try to buy one this year (for 1997). They are already sold out. But if you would like information about the calendars for a project contact Alice Lee, 131 Howland Hill Rd., Berkshire, NY 13736.

Talked to Bernard Kellogg last month. He was/is scheduled for cataract surgery this month. I haven't received a report on the results of the election at this writing but maybe by the time I get to Hutchinson. Bernard told me about Duane Urch loosing a battle on his tractor with a tree stump. Broke both his legs in more than one place, I guess. Hope Duane is doing better by now.

On the more personal front - my kids are all doing fine. Mona is working on her masters - part time. Keeps her young and on the go. Mona's 16½ yr old daughter, Talena, is driving now. We all remember what it is like having a teenage driving. What fun!! Denise and Eric are due back in Montana by the end of October. I am really looking forward to having them back close and teaching Eric Grandma's way of fishing (and catching fish). Cynthia and husband, Mike, just published their second comic book under their Black Peke Comic label. The whole comic book from start to finish is their work...Any of you who collect comic books look for **VORTECH** or have your comic book dealer order it for you. My son just finished hydraulic school and will be assigned to a carrier in Whidby Island, WA. At least he will be close to home.

My father-in-law is staying with us 85% of the time now. He had a nasty bout in the hospital last month and needs a bit closer supervision. He finally had to give up driving his car. I can not imagine giving up that bit of freedom easily...but I'll probably not live to be 88½ yrs old.

By the time you are reading this I will either be in Hutchinson, MN or on my way. A really neat surprise from my husband. It may be my last chance to go to an ABC National. I'll give you a full report in the next newsletter.

Until next time..... Ameraucanally yours,

