

AMERAUCANA BANTAM BULLETIN

Ameraucana Bantam Club - 6442 Chestnut Ave., Orangevale, CA 95662

Spring, 1982

Vol. IV, No. 1

President's Message

As the daylight hours grow longer and another hatching season gets underway we look forward to producing another generation of our favorite bantams which, hopefully, will prove to be the best yet. Now is the time to do a bit of advance planning in order to avoid disappointment and mediocre results later. This must be experience speaking; I seem to have made every mistake in the book.

The first step is to obtain quality hatching eggs. Assuming the eggs are to be produced by your own hens, be sure the breeder ration contains plenty of protein- at least 20 percent, and more would be better. A maintenance ration just won't get the job done. If you discover embryos dying in the shell before fully developing, this is a likely cause.

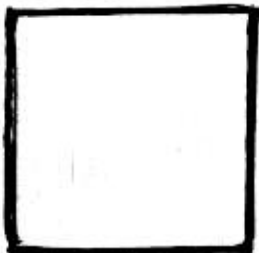
Also, be sure the breeding pens are kept clean, as dirty eggs will not give the results you want and expect. A clean, pleasant environment makes for contented layers and more eggs.

Next, don't hatch more chicks than you have adequate space for. Overcrowding leads to cannibalism, high mortality, and poor performance by the survivors. Breed only from your very best matings if you have decent quality birds, and then cull the offspring regularly. If the quality of your breeders is not up to par it will be necessary to hatch far more chicks to obtain a few good birds.

Once you have those good young cockerels and pullets take extra care to protect them. In the fancy poultry business "Murphy's Law" is in full force. If something can go wrong it will go wrong. (My best white cockerel last year was lost to a neighbor's dog.)

Good luck! But if luck isn't on your side perseverance and hard work can yield good results anyway. "Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished; but he that gathereth by labour shall increase." Proverbs 13:11

Mike Gilbert



An "X" in the box to the left indicates that our records show that we have not received your dues for 1982. We look forward to your continued support. Please send your \$5. annual dues to the address at the top of the page soon. Thank you.

Report of National Meet

Our National Meet was hosted by the Pacific Poultry Breeders in Santa Rosa, CA on January 30-31. Bill Wenger, of Washington, judged the Meet. Results were as follows:

Champion Ameraucana Bantam . . . Don Cable
Reserve Champion . . . Don Cable
Champion Display . . . Don Cable
Reserve Display . . . David Dancer

Rayher 2,4C, 3H. Dancer 3K, 3,4P, 1 YT.
Cable 1,3C, 1BB, 2H, 1BOB, 2K, 1,2P, 1 OT.

There were twenty birds shown by three members, all in wheaten. Our junior member, David Dancer, of Roseville, CA, had Reserve Display on his first entry in an open show. Not a bad start for a 13-year-old. Good work, David! Members in attendance were Western Director Marie Rayher and her partner, Jane Brooksher, Bill Holland, David Dancer, Jaime Ikeda and your secretary.

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Ameraucana Bantam Handbook

It was recently decided by your Board of Directors to compile and have printed an Ameraucana Bantam Handbook as a service to our members. The Handbook will contain such items as a brief history of the breed and club, our standard, constitution and bylaws, complete membership list and a compilation of the best articles from past issues of our club bulletin. It will also contain photographs of representative birds in our established varieties and we are looking for good, clear black and white photos for this purpose.

The Handbook will be financed by ads taken by individuals and organizations much like a yearbook, but unlike a yearbook, it will be intended to serve as a guide and ready reference for several years. Ads are \$50. for a full page, \$30. for a half page, and \$15. for a quarter page. We have already sold four full page ads, a half page and a quarter page ad and are asking for your help and support by taking an ad as we approach our financial goal of \$500.

The Handbook will be by and for Ameraucana bantam breeders and if you would like to help support this important club project by taking an ad, please contact your secretary soon. We will be contacting poultry organizations and businesses soon and all ads will be on a first come, first served basis. This is not a money-making enterprise, as we only intend to raise enough to cover the printing costs and our goal is to have all material in the printer's hands by November 15 in order to have the Handbook available with membership next year. We need your help!

Non-specific Enteritis

By Jerry Segler

Last year I had a problem with the disease non-specific enteritis, which really had me stumped. Losses were never many at once. I would lose a bird every now and then, but the pace was consistent. I tried terramycin; but it failed to help. Symptoms were first detected when the bird seemed slightly ruffled; and upon closer examination, I found that the breast was thin and the bird slightly emaciated.

I sent five birds to a diagnostic lab. The birds varied from one frozen dead, one definitely affected, two moderately affected, and one suspected of having it, but not for sure. It took six weeks to get the test results. I will list the test results from the dead one:

1. Hepatitis, chronic, multifocal, severe, liver/6556
2. R.E. hyperplasia, mild spleen/5211
3. Enteritis, subacute, diffuse, mild, intestine/6182
4. Inflammation, subacute, multifocal, mild, crop

One bantam had the following report listed:

1. Enteritis (Coligranuloma's) granulomatous, chronic, severe

Two bantams had the following report:

1. Peritonitis, chronic, multifocal, moderate, peritoneum/0336
2. Enteritis, subacute, multifocal, moderate, intestines/6182

Comments were as follows:

Most of these histological alterations are consistent with bacterial infections like E coli, Salmonella, etc. Use of medicated feed or periodic antibiotic therapy is recommended.

Still not sure of the best medication to use, I contacted the lab by phone. Gallimycin was one of the drugs recommended. I tried it and it was effective.

I was still not sure of the cause of the disease or how it worked, but recently everything seemed to make sense and fall into place. I had a few birds show symptoms again. They were a little ruffled and losing some weight. I then realized that cold weather had made my ducks seek shelter in the chicken house at night and sometimes during the day. The same thing had happened last winter. I then realized that only the birds in the pen that the ducks could get in had the symptoms. Then it hit me that that was true last year also.

An article in Poultry Press on The Greens came to mind. It listed bluecomb, the greens, new wheat disease, and enteritis as the same disease; and an article in Organic Gardening on the treatment and recycling of grey sewage water stated that E. coli is a normal human intestinal bacteria and is common in the soil and droppings of all animals, especially in moist areas, I can now relate what I believe the cause and cycle of the disease to be.

-To be continued-

Under The Mulberry Tree

The catkins are out and the buds are about to burst on the Mulberry tree, so spring is just around the corner. This is the best of all times for bantam breeders and I hope that each of you has a successful season hatching out chicks. I have about fifteen chicks out, which is early for me, but with bantams as prolific as Ameraucanas, it is no trick. What we must do is keep our breed prolific while we continue to improve it. No small task, but vital.

Our National Meet was small by most standards, but it was the most Ameraucanas ever shown under one roof on the West Coast. A modest beginning certainly, but a beginning, never-the-less, and I was as proud as could be to take part. Unfortunately, there was a mixup and Jack Gard, of Marysville, CA, was unable to show his fine wheatens, which would have added both quantity and quality to the Meet. It was a pleasure to finally meet Jaime Ikeda, another of our up-and-coming teenage members, who incidentally, is secretary of the Ancona Breeders Club. Jaime also signed up his grandparents, (the Ziegler's) in our club. In any case, the Meet contained a fine display of wheatens and perhaps by the time the National Meet returns to the West Coast, we will have some other varieties to show. My thanks to Chicken Marie Rayher and David Dancer for their support of the National Meet and again to all of those members who were so generous with their awards as well.

It was my pleasure to work with a group of 4H youngsters a couple of weeks back who held their own open show in Auburn, CA, and who judged the 400 or so entries. These young people were from all over Northern and Central California and they did an excellent job. They were as poised and competent and the fancy is in very good hands if they are representative of the upcoming generation. I will be judging a couple of county fairs again this year and I will have to have my act together as I know some of these kids will be looking over my shoulder! It'll keep me on my toes- for a change.

The latest issue of The Backyard Flock, put out by Bill Cawley, of Texas A&M has an interesting item about an egg within an egg, complete with illustration and as you might have guessed, was produced by an Araucana. In another item in the same issue, the Araucana and Leghorn eggs were compared for their protein, cholesterol, zinc, iron and calcium contents. It was found that cholesterol concentration was higher in Araucana eggs on a dry yolk, wet yolk and whole wet egg basis. No significant differences were found in yolk zinc or calcium concentrations. A typical 50 gram Araucana egg would have 2% less protein and 41% more cholesterol than a comparable Leghorn egg. So much for the ballyhoo about Araucana eggs containing more protein and less cholesterol than other eggs. Incidentally, if you are not receiving the Backyard Flock, you are missing an excellent, free publication. To get on the mailing list, contact William O. Cawley, Extension Poultry Specialist, 107 Kleberg Center, TAMU, College Station, Texas 77843. The man also knows his oats- just ask me!

Finally, the last page of the Bulletin contains a form for your listing in the annual Breeder's List which will be out in the next issue of the Bulletin. If you have a change from last year, clip and send it to me.

Welcome New Members!

The following are new or reinstated members since our last Bulletin:

C.L. Donaho 4401 Wilson Lane, Fort Worth, TX 76133

William Edwards 1437 Lakeside Dr., Garland, TX 75042

James Tuckwood Rt. 3, Box 21, Boscobel, WI 53805

Dr. F. Turner Reuter Glenstone, Aldie, VA 22001

F. Turner Reuter, Jr., Box 1182, Middleburg, VA 22117

Mr. & Mrs. W.C. Ziegler 10411 Byrne Ave., Cupertino, CA 95014

Jaime Ikeda 811 So. Knott Ave., #C, Anaheim, CA 92804

1982 Breeder's List

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I breed the following varieties of Ameraucana bantams:

Clip and send to:
6442 Chestnut Ave.
Orangevale, CA 95662

By June 1, the deadline!