

AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB BULLETIN

May, 1999

Vol.XIX #2

Ameraucana Breeders Club, 4599 Lange, Birch Run, MI 48415

Yearly Membership Dues are \$10.00 / Family, \$7.50 / Individual and \$5.00 / Junior.

Members receive quarterly Bulletins & are eligible for awards offered by the club.

New Members also receive a ABC Handbook.

President.....Mike Gilbert, Holmen, WI
 ameraucana@aol.com
Director/central.....Ron Klemmedson, Blair, WI
 celtblair@aol.com
Director/southern.....Scott Eutsler, Stuart, VA
 tucherth@swva.net

Secretary/Treasurer...John W. Blehm, Birch Run, MI
 wknox@acd.net
Director/eastern.....Richard Orr, Monroe, CT
 sherifforr@aol.com
Director/western.....Koralyn Kibbee, Manhattan, MT
 (406) 284-6978

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

- Mark Sandone, Hyannis, MA
- Renwick Family-Teresa, John, Christina & Brandon, Grass Valley, CA
- Bernard Gil, Port Hope, Ontario
- Sandy Houck, Mt. Vision, NY
- Douglas Stewart, Fairfield, IA
- Daniel & Tim Burke, Iowa City, IA

The deadline to submit articles & ads for the next bulletin is August 15th.

Treasurers Report

2/26/99 - 5/29/99

Checking Account at Frankenmuth Credit Union, 485 N. Main, Frankenmuth, MI
#0000016980

<u>Opening Balance,</u>	<u>\$317.09</u>
Income - Membership Dues & Donations,	\$175.00
Income - Handbook Sales,	\$32.00
Income - Designated for Awards,	\$00.00
<u>Subtotal,</u>	<u>\$524.09</u>
Postage,	\$56.00
Supplies & Printing,	\$46.64
Check Printing Charge,	\$00.00
Advertising - Poultry Press ad for 2 years	\$000.00
<u>Balance as of 5/29/99</u>	<u>\$421.45</u>

Respectfully Submitted, John W. Blehm, Secretary/Treasurer

The dues income is a bit high, due to some members paying for a couple years in advance (which is great).

I am looking into the possibility of an Internet Web page for this club. Let me know of your comments, ideas, etc., about this venture.

HANDBOOKS: We have 7 copies of the club's original ABC Handbook for sale at \$15 each and extra copies of our current ABC handbook for \$6 each. Both prices include shipping.

THE ABC NATIONAL - Indiana Poultry Breeders Association, Dec. 3, 4 & 5, at Connersville, Indiana. Offering trophies for champion AM, BB bantam, RB bantam, BB LF, RB LF and \$10 for BV in the top 10 recognized varieties shown. Also, an ABC national show report on the front page of the Poultry Press. That's 5 trophies/plaques and \$100 cash!

Donations? Please don't wait to send donations for our National meet. Anyone wishing to contribute to a general award fund or give toward a designated award should send a check to me, so we can let members know about it in the next bulletin, which will be the last one before the show! Mike Gilbert has already donated \$50. Start making plans now to attend, if at all possible.

5/8/99

Hi John, I have the following meets lined up:

ABC District Meet

Sept. 18 & 19---Illini Show at Belvidere, IL

**Contact: Ruth Ann Van Fleet
11099 Beloit Rd
Belvidere, IL 61008
(815) 544-4603**

ABC State Meet

Sept. 25&26 Wisconsin International show at Janesville, WI

**Contact: Byron & Laura Kershaw
N 5514 Dunning Road
Pardeeville, WI 53954**

Oct. 23 & 24 ABC State Meet

Minnesota State Poultry Club at Hutchinson, MN

**Contact: Adrian & Mary Ann Rademacher
9185 Count Rd. 10 East
Waconia, MN 55387**

Regards, Ron (Klemmedson, Central District Director)

I have also requested a state meet with the Bay City Poultry Association, at Alma, MI the second weekend in October. For information contact Richard Ross, 2180 Froede, Caro, MI 48723

Contact western district director Koralyn Kibbee or check the Poultry Press for more details about the following:

North West Mont. Fair,, Kalispell, Montana, 3rd week in Aug.

Mont. State Fair, Great Falls, Montana

Utah, Oct, 99

April 99

Jeanne Trent received a letter from the family of member Gary Gray, informing this club of his passing. I have included a copy of the letter. Although I had only met Gary a couple times, we had some great conversations. Lets remember his family in our prayers.

As this is written in early May we (Gilbert family) have taken six weekly hatches from the incubator, and we expect to remove three more before pulling the plug for good in 1999.

As is the norm, results have been mixed. Good hatches were obtained in six bantam varieties (all but white and blue), but we experienced poor to nonexistent fertility in the large size blue-wheatens and brown-reds. We will drop the blue-wheaten standards for now, as Wayne Meredith continues to be an excellent resource for this variety. We'll continue to work with the standard size brown-reds and silvers along with the bantams.

Almost overnight it seems, white Ameraucana bantams have become a rare commodity. Members I have spoken with or otherwise contacted are experiencing difficulty hatching them, and the very few we kept to breed from have not been laying. This points up the danger of maintaining only one line in any given variety, as too-close inbreeding will sooner or later exact a heavy toll in terms of productivity, fertility, and hatchability. Each of these is a different problem, but they can be and often are related as to cause.

If we are to succeed over the long term with any variety we must maintain access to a gene pool large enough and varied enough to sustain itself.. If we cannot personally keep enough breeders due to facility or other limitations, then networking with others is a good alternative. For example, fifteen years of breeding-up a superior strain of buff bantams would have gone down the tubes this year had a local 4-H contact not been able to supply us with a decent cockerel from the same strain with which to breed from.

We have express-mailed several orders of started bantams this year. They seem to be able to withstand the rigors of travel as soon as they are completely feathered out. Also, the lighter body weights and smaller containers can reduce considerably the cost of shipping. As always, there is more demand for stock than we have been able to supply. Right now we have prospective members waiting for a start in blue and in blue-wheaten bantams. And I know of at least two members who would like to find some white bantams. If anyone can help please contact me as soon as possible at (608)857-3386 or e-mail ameraucana@aol.com.

We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Gary Gray on April 15th. "Hi, I'm Gary the goat guy!" was the way he used to introduce himself, referring to his purebred dairy goats. Gary was an author and was employed by Northern Illinois University. A repeat customer, he really liked the wheaten bantams and showed them several times at Janesville and at the Illini show at Belvidere. We'll sure miss seeing him there this fall.

As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, Belvidere is the site of our central district meet for 1999. The show is being held the weekend of September 18th and 19th. We hope to see many of you there, or at the state meets in Janesville, WI, or Hutchinson, MN.

Finally, at the end of each breeding season we usually have a few surplus breeders to share, and this year is no exception. So if you need a certain type of bantam or two be sure to let us know. We have a few of the smaller boxes for express mail shipments.

FYI

Gary G. Gray, PhD, 59, Kingston, IL, died at 10:24 a.m. on Thursday, April 15, 1999, at St. Anthony Medical Center in Rockford, IL. He was born on January 21, 1940 in El Dorado, KS, son of Cecil T. and Neva N. Gray. He was an academic advisor at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, IL. He had also taught biology at the University of Illinois at Chicago and at Northern Illinois University and had been an assistant ecologist at Argonne National Laboratory. He was a graduate of Wichita High School North, class of 1957. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in Wildlife Biology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA. He received his PhD in Wildlife Biology from Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX in 1980. He was a certified wildlife biologist and author of Wildlife and People: The Human Dimension of Wildlife Ecology. He was also a contributor of articles to professional journals and appeared twice in Who's Who in Science and Engineering.

Hobbies included breeding purebred registered Toggenburg Dairy Goats and Bantam Americana Chickens.

Survivors include his daughter Nike Gray, Arvada, CO; mother Neva Gray-Jones and step-father Glen Jones, Wichita, KS; sister Greta (David) Tasker, Olathe, KS; and nephews Jack and Rick Tasker. He was predeceased by his father Cecil T. Gray in 1980.

Memorial services will be held at 4:30 p.m., on Thursday, April 29, 1999, at the Wesley Foundation Building, 633 W Locust, DeKalb, IL (adjacent to Northern Illinois University Campus, south side.)

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316-943-3904

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OLATHE, KS 66062
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NIKE GRAY
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ARVADA, CO 80004
303-420-7443

SOUTHERN DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Greetings from Virginia!!

Things go well here, smack-dab in the middle of Spring. Despite intentions to the contrary, I'm literally sitting in the middle of TOO MANY CHICKS (and young adults)! I suppose I'm like a gambler, thinking that the next roll of the dice will make him rich. In my case, however, every time I "harvest" an egg and try to put it with the "edible" ones, I say "Well, this may be that Brown-Red with the perfect breast-lacing and better color I've been looking for. I think I'd better incubate it." With a great F-1 last year, us "Brown-Red Boys" were expecting a similar F-2. I think the end of the rainbow fell on our brooder house because, man, have we got color! If we standardized all of the colors our birds have produced and got them recognized, we'd have 18 varieties instead of 8! This is a bit of exaggeration and we have some nice Brown-Red and Golden Quail....but it has been challenging.

We've had a couple of shows recently and hit both ends of the spectrum regarding judging. At the Blue Ridge Poultry Club Show in Galax, Virginia, our girls' birds didn't even rate comments on the Coop Cards and a 10 week old Brown-Red Pullet with some color in the hackle that we entered as a Black, wound up winning Best of Breed. A squirrel-tailed Brown-Red Cock took BV and our Champion Ameraucana Bantam from Columbus placed third in the Variety! My wife Kay, mom-Jeanne, and our girls Katie and Amber, took the birds to the show as my Dad-Jim and I were trying to supplement our income at a trade show. This being the case, I don't know who the judge was but I'll update you all on this when I find out.

At the Forsyth Fowl Fanciers the next weekend, we had a total of 13 birds entered, including 4 of our daughters' birds. Although their Golden Quail won Best of Breed and Fourth best Junior (which it was but probably was not eligible for since the variety is, as of yet, unrecognized), the open show judging by Mr. W. D. Jones was exemplary. Unfortunately, we had the only Ameraucanas at the show but, in a way, it allowed me to be more objective in the analysis of the birds. Mr. Jones picked the birds exactly as I would have right down the line. I may have reversed BB and RB, but it was really a toss-up. Our BB (also BB at Columbus) went on to take Reserve Champion AOCCL. I complimented Mr. Jones on his command of the Standard and he was most gracious. He really gave Ameraucanas their due and was as dumbfounded as I was that an unfinished Brown-Red Pullet could win BB as a Black at Blue Ridge. It is a whole lot easier to cover up ignorance of the Standard or total disinterest in the breed by choosing a solid bird over one with colors that require critical analysis. My experience was a classic case of this. I informed Mr. Jones that the ABC is considering the Southern District for National in 2001 and asked if he would be interested in looking at our birds there. I surely hope he considers it because he did, and would do, an excellent job as a judge there.

I'm still setting up State, Regional and District Meets for the Fall of this year. I'd REALLY APPRECIATE the input of my fellow District members. I sent a questionnaire to all members active as of January 1999, requesting preferences and suggestions....and got a whopping response of 11! (Thanks, John and Sue Marshall for

your response). If anyone has comments or suggestions, please contact me at the following address:

J. Scott Eutsler, Spirithaven Farm
88 Dobyns Church Road, Stuart, VA 24171
E-mail: tucherth@swva.net Phone: (540)694-5910

Thanks...happy rearing...and Good Luck at the Shows!!

Scott

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



3/26/99

John,

...Not a lot of news out here - Our hatching was awful - lost nearly 60 - w/ the incubator going bad. Got a new one and the chicks died at 16 to 18 days in the shell. Last week I mailed 3 dozen white Ameraucana eggs to Ken Knittle, in Washington state. Next week eggs go into the Bozeman Grade school, for a hatching project. I also do work shops for the poultry 4-H and ABA-APA youth programs, 2 a month till July...We went to the Utah Spring Show, Mar. 6 & 7. 648 birds. One of my wheaton hens, #16-51, went AOCCL Champion. There was 2 judges, Gary Agajanian, Calif. and Ed Carter, Utah.....I had very good comments about my birds...At their Oct. show, we are having a meet for Ameraucanas and Brahma's. That club puts on a good show....

Sincerely, Koralyn Kibbee

March 99

John

Sorry I forgot about the dues. Been helping my son with a house addition. Still only have a few (Easter egg) chickens. I really wanted to get to Mich. And visit Will's Sausage shop again, but I just couldn't get away...(please note address change).

Jerry (Segler)

March 4, 1999

Dear MR. Blehm,

As I was surfing the web for information on chickens, I came upon your club. I am new to chicken raising and last year I purchased 4 Ameraucana hens. I was wondering if you could furnish information about this breed, as there does not

seem to be too much information in books I have read. I really enjoy these chickens and perhaps, in the future might increase my flock. My husband and I have raised and shown rabbits for over 10 years. We belong to different clubs and I might be interested in joining your club. I would appreciate any suggestions you and your club could offer. Thanking you in advance, Sincerely, Palma Day, H.C.R.1, Box 126, Kreig Rd. Cairo, NY 12413 P.S. we are very involved with the 4-H program too.

I do not include every correspondence in the bulletins. The above is one that represents requests I receive in the regular mail and from e-mail. I respond with information about the Ameraucana breed, our club and a membership form.

March 1999

Notes from Northern Michigan.

...lots of news here. I've been getting large Fowl eggs since January. Not a few but a lot of eggs. I decided to incubate them...I don't have lights or heat in my large AM building. I've 22 or so hens and they have been laying like crazy. I've been getting a dozen plus daily. Two weeks ago 58 of 74 hatched. That's an 80% hatch. Healthy great chicks. I've 80 or so eggs in my incubator due to hatch Wed. plus a hen setting on 12 eggs. I won't need to set many more eggs. I'll be out of space for the birds. Of course what you really need you don't get. I've only a dozen or so wheatears total and not an egg from them. It's early and hopefully the 8 hens will soon begin laying...Mission accomplished. Took 2 1/2 years but I finally got birds to Daniel in Nova Scotia...I drove to Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario last Friday night with 25 of the 58 chicks...spent the balance of the night in a motel, put the chicks on the plane 7am to arrive in Sydney at 3pm...they had to transfer planes at Toronto and Halifax. The chicks missed the Toronto to Halifax connection...Anyway it got done. 25 of the great Ameraucanas are in Canada...Needless to say Daniel is really happy...The big show at Columbus was great. Ameraucana Central was busy. I would have sold every bird I took at least twice. Mike & John did twist my arm to sell a few to help new members. I dearly love to share but I never take extras to a show, so I'm selling my best. Now I'll take extras to a show especially wheaten bantams. They are in demand. We had a great seminar meeting at the big show in Columbus. Jim Fegan and Mike Gilbert talked and showed what the perfect AM should be. Attended by 30 or so people. It was really good. I was really happy one of my wheaten girls got Reserve of Breed. Really nice bird. She best get to laying eggs! I met Scott Eutsler, really great guy and loves Ameraucanas. Also met Ron Klemmedson a yet again wonderful person loves Ameraucanas. Also Jay Horn from California. No Ams there, he took many with him. It was really good. Taken us years to get recognized and be considered a real breed of chickens. We are on the brink and it's so exciting. Used to be only me and John at Michigan shows, stuck way back in the corner. Not anymore. Go to shows, show only the best. No "OOPS" yellow legs, single combs, no beards, weird colors. That's the way it was No More. At Alma and Columbus it was great to see a long row of good Ams

shown. No OOPS. On that note I best do chores...If you don't have a new handbook yet you must get one. Very informative, color photos of members and birds, as unique a handbook as we are a club. Oh yes, many breed clubs are envious of our club and the camaraderie we share. I've been told many times at the shows. Happy Hatching to y'all. You may call or write if you'd like help, birds (large only at the moment) or whatever from me.

Sincerely, Jeanne Trent

April 1999

Hi John

...We have been working on buff Cornish for about 2 yrs and still a long way to go. Those buff Ameraucana sound interesting. We'll have batches of Cornish and Giants around all summer the way it looks. I have about 100 green eggs that could hatch about on the 25th. I candled them last night and everything that I couldn't see that was clear went back in. Boy those green eggs are really hard to see through...PS Here is that recipe for egg layers...

Thanks Bob (Rennolet)

OFFICERS HAPPENINGS

PRESIDENT

Dear Giant Friends.

Hope everyone is having a good hatching season. I had an early hatch of 22 chicks the first of year during our little blizzard. 22 chicks - 19 inches of snow and cold, but nice since. With the first of March coming we will have more chicks and nice weather hopefully. This year I am trying something new that seems to work. I use 3 gallons of egg laying mash and 1 cup of colvetet from the TSC store horse department, 1 cup oyster shell, about 3 ounces of wheat germ oil. Chicks hatch like popcorn and hens lay good even in the cold and snow and dampness. Don't forget to let us help you by asking for help. Go to the shows and show the Best Birds in the world, and let's get the youth involved. For now hatch those giants and good luck.

Your President
Tim Johnson

South Dakota State Fair 1998

Exhibitors: Rennolet Family and Art Rieber

Giants shown - 5 Black Giants, 3 Blue Giants, and 3 splash Giants for a total of 9 Giants

Blacks(3)

Hen(1)

1. Rieber

Cockerel(1)

1. Rennolet(BB)

Pullet(1)

1. Rennolet(RB)

Blue(3)

Cockerel(1)

1. Rennolet

Pullet(2)

1. Rennolet

2. Rennolet

Splach(3)

Cockerel(1)

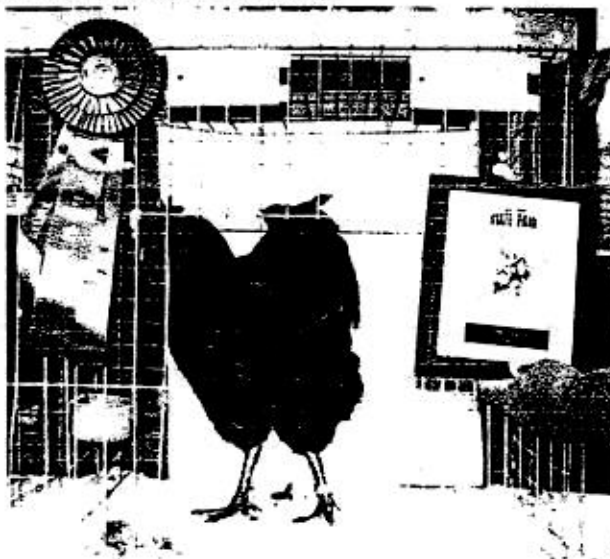
1. Rennolet

Pullet(2)

1. Rennolet

2. Rennolet

BB Black cockerel by the Rennolet Family went on to be **Champion Large Fowl** (400+ birds). See picture →



May 1999

May 1 set 94+ eggs in new incubator, and two clutches from "Pearl" and "Wheaten" blue eggers under broodies. My birds likely will never have their own website as do the longhaired Whippets...but you might like to check our new (incomplete) LWA Inc. website, <http://home.ica.net/~westwood/>

4 "50th's" in this decade, including survival of WWII combat (Battle of The Bulge, liberation of Austria)...Birds have been a pastime since grade school - and after High School egg route...WW (Walter A. Wheeler, Jr.)

note: Walter's interests include canine genetics, horticulture, music (Cello), & art. He received his A.B. from Harvard in 1948 and a M.A. in 1950.

Dear Mike,

We have come across the term **DOUBLE MATED** in the 'Standard of Perfection' when talking about penciled Hamburgs but have also read references to this in other books. The problem is that we have no idea what this means and we have never seen it explained. In connection with double mated, the terms **COCKEREL BRED MALE**, and **PULLET BRED FEMALE** are also used. What do these terms mean?

We recently obtained a White Bantam Ameraucana hen but have nothing to mate her to. We are interested in a male of whatever age, or several white chicks. Do you know anyone who could help me?

Our hatching is progressing but with poorer results than expected. We hope to take in the swap meet in Brown County April 17.

Serving Jesus,
Dan Pasche

Dear John,

...By the way, we have some Brown Red and Golden Quail Bantams to share if you hear of anyone with an interest. Let me know if you have birds or need any assistance.

Best Wishes, Scott (Eutsler)

(FYI, an e-mail from Mike Gilbert)

John, here is the e-mail address of the Araucana club in Great Britain.

K Simpkin@netgates.co.uk (Kath Simpkin)

And here is the e-mail address of the Australian Club

pattinson@fastlink.com.au (Bruce Pattinson)

3/13/99

Dear John,

I hope your hatches are doing well. We have already hatched two incubators. The first 181 and then 171. They are the mixed Easter Egg Layers. I'm anxious to get the true to variety chicks...

Thanks, Paul Smith

The American Bantam Association's directors have approved that its' Standard Committee solicit sponsors for color pictures for the Bantam Standard. These new pictures will be introduced as a color supplement to the loose leaf version of the Bantam Standard. In its' letter to ABA members, it stated in part, "the committee was fortunate to find an artist with real talent and a willingness to cooperate with the Standard Committee as well as representatives named by the various breed clubs." It turns out that this artist with "real talent" is our own Rusty Hart of Michigan; Rusty has been doing illustrations for the Ameraucana Club for years. He designed our logo, and one of his drawings is depicted on the cover of our newest handbook. So our congratulations go to Rusty Hart, ABC member.

The Ameraucana Club will sponsor the color picture for Ameraucana bantams. There will be one male and one female, and the cost of each is \$250. We already have pledges to defray a part of the cost, but need the participation of many more to make this project a reality. Mike Gilbert has been designated the liaison person between the A.B.A. and this club, so please contact him with your pledge amount.

Phone (608)857-3386, mail W5171 Baker Rd., Holmen, WI 54636, or e-mail to Ameraucana@aol.com as soon as possible. While it has not officially been decided, we will probably hold a drawing to see who among the participating sponsors ends up with the color copies we will receive from the A.B.A.

Here are some of the e-mail messages I've received...

Hi. I am the mother of a 4-Her who got 1 stray Ameraucana chick with her Silver-grey Dorkings. Can you briefly tell us about the standard of a brown/red ameraucana cockerel? He has a pea comb, muffs & a beard, & is turning gorgeous shades of red along with some brown penciling. Thank you for any help you can offer.

Mary

Hello there, I am looking for a pair of Araucana chickens to raise. If you have any information on where I can get just a pair, either live chicks or eggs, please email me back. Thank you for your time. Terri Whipkey Holler

Dear Mr. John Blehm,

We are looking into purchasing Ameraucana chickens and we were told by someone that the eggs are lower in cholesterol than other eggs. We cannot find this in print anywhere! Do you know if this is true? Any information you have about this would help. Thank you for your time.
Stacey Caffery

Hi, How can I get some fertile Ameraucana eggs for hatching? I can't seem to find them anywhere.

Thanks, Jane Sanderson

Aloha from Maui,

I would like to know how I can obtain a few Ameraucana chicks. Are there any breeders in Hawaii? Can breeders in the mainland ship to

Hawaii? Can you send me a list of breeders I could get information from?

Thank you, Patti Hess

Chuck Hess - Hess Custom Woodwork
446 Polulani Drive Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793
shop (808)877-5682 Fax (808)242-2707

Am wondering if you know of any sources for Araucana chicks!
Thanks, Jill

interested in obtaining araucanas chicks or mix. please notify price and availability. are they suitable for the midsouth?
ya'll have a nice day

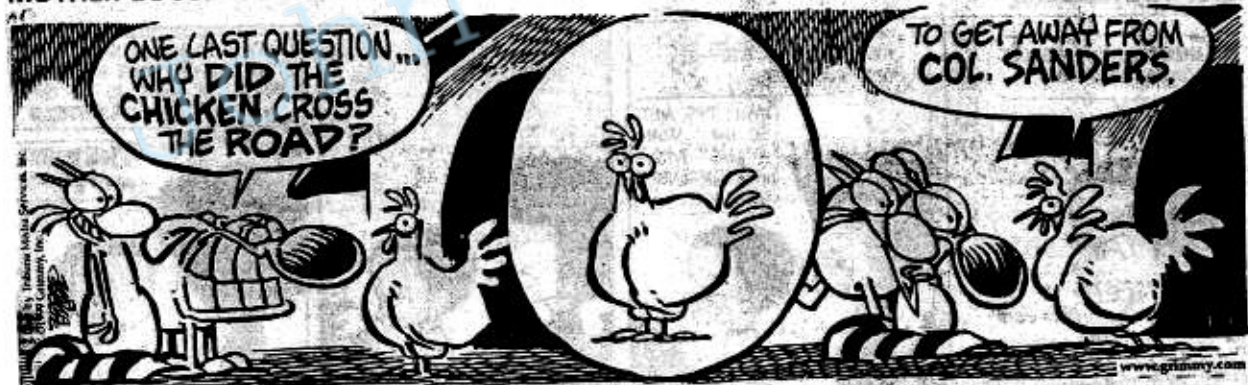
Hello,

I would like to know where I can buy some of these interesting chickens. I will be moving to a 22 acre farm and would like to try raising some of these. Would you please be able to give me an address of someone in western Pennsylvania who might be able to help me?
Thank you, Lynn Brunetto

I would like some info on your club please.

Priscilla Craven
1230 Griffith Acres, Cottageville, SC 29435
Thank You!

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



Here is an up-to-date ABC Membership list...

Jack D. Berta (99)
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Teresa Doerr (f-99)
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Larry & L.J. Donahue (f-00)
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Jim & Jeanne Eutsler (f-99)
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shouck@dmcom.net

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Traverse City, MI 49684

Richard Howard (99)
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Alexandria, IN 46001
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Don & Leslie Jones (f-99)
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Broken Arrow, OK 74011

Earl Jones (f-99)
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Caro, MI 49723

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Ken Knittle (99)
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(360) 793-2244

Rene Koch (99)
581 Court
Onalaska, WI 54650-8505

Bob Kretschmer (99)
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