

AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB BULLETIN

May, 2000

Vol. XX #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. www.ameraucana.org

President.....Mike Gilbert, Holmen, WI ameraucana@aol.com	Secretary/Treasurer...John W. Blehm, Birch Run, MI johnblehm@wknx.com
Director/central.....Ron Klemmedson, Blair, WI ambams4u@aol.com	Director/eastern.....Neil Townsend, Cochran, PA (814) 425-3313
Director/southern.....Scott Eutsler, Stuart, VA tucherth@swva.net	Director/western.....Koralyn Kibbee, Manhattan, MT (406) 284-8978

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

- Annalisa Regenfuss, 1460 Solejar, La Habra Hts, CA 90631
(562) 697-1900 regnbuss@earthlink.net
- Hilbert Kertscher, 431 Valley View, Random Lake, WI 53075
(262) 692-9128
- Angus McNair, 5792 Alpine, Brooklyn, WI 53521
(608) 455-2402
- Deborah Leslie, 2332 Swinson Farm, Wendell, NC 27591
(919) 990-1149
- Adele M. Kavanagh, 1210 Princeton, Billings, MT 59102 patriciak@etheron.net
- Sam & Cynthia Caldwell, PO Box 265, Sonora, TX 76936
(915) 387-2242 scald32843@aol.com
- Lori Anderson, RR #1, Powassan, ON Canada P0H 1Z0
(705) 724-5780 lori.anderson@sympatico.ca
- Debbie Tyner, PO Box 426, Carthage, NC 28327
(910) 295-3639 rdtyner@mindspring.com
- Wayne Steel family, RR 4, Box 133, Greensburg, PA 15601-9446
(724) 668-7718
- Philip Urrutia, 541 E. 100 S., Jerome, ID 83338-5655
(208) 324-2377 philu@magiclink.com
- Cynthia L. Dick, RR 3, Box 1670, Hedgesville, WV25427
(304) 258-3833 mommahen21@aol.com

Also welcome back to Bruce Northstein, 4448 Cedar, Walnutport, PA 18088

"Annual dues...shall be payable on January 1st for each...year".

As of 5/16/00 we have 93 paid ABC memberships. Please Let me know of any e-mail or street address changes and corrections.

CLUB NOTES

Thanks to Dick Orr for serving as Eastern District Director over the past couple years. Dick has resigned as Director and the board has voted to have Neil Townsend, of Pennsylvania, finish out the term, as District Director.



This is election year. New officers will take office on 1/1/01. Please nominate members for President, Secretary/Treasurer and District Director by August 15th and I will include ballots in the August Bulletin. Results will be in the November Bulletin. Please consider being an officer of this club.

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

Advertising in this Bulletin is FREE to all members. Some of the filler ads and photos in this Bulletin are borrowed from the Poultry Press.

We only have 3 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.

Revised - Treasurers Report
for 11/16/99 - 2/16/00

<u>Starting Balance,</u>	<u>\$769.88</u>
Income - Membership Dues & Donations,	\$489.50
Income - Handbook Sales,	\$40.00
Income - Designated for Awards,	\$5.00
Income - Designated for ABA Portrait,	\$120.00
Income - Designated for ABA Yearbook Ad,	\$72.00
<u>Subtotal,</u>	<u>\$1,496.38</u>
Expense - Postage,	\$178.00
Expense - Supplies & Printing,	\$137.11
Expense - Cash Awards for National Meet	\$100.00
Expense - ABA Portrait Fund	\$500.00
Expense - APA Web Site Link Annual Fee	\$10.00
Expense - ABA Yearbook Ads	\$72.00
<u>Balance as of 2/16/00</u>	<u>\$499.27</u>

This report includes corrections to the report in the last Bulletin. I had mistakenly omitted the income starting with the new year (it was on the next page of my accounting book).

Respectfully re-submitted. J. W. Blehm, Treasurer

Treasurers Report
2/16/00 - 5/16/00

ABC Checking Account #16980-10
Frankenmuth Credit Union, 485 N. Main, Frankenmuth, MI

<u>Starting Balance,</u>	<u>\$499.27</u>
Income - Membership Dues & Donations,	\$322.00
Income - Handbook Sales,	\$6.00
Income - Designated for Awards,	\$0.00
<u>Subtotal,</u>	<u>\$827.27</u>
Expense - Postage,	\$151.80
Expense - Supplies & Printing,	\$74.20
Expense - Cash Awards for National Meet	\$0.00
Expense - APA Web Site Link Annual Fee	\$0.00
<u>Balance as of 5/16/00</u>	<u>\$601.27</u>

Respectfully Submitted, John W. Blehm, Secretary/Treasurer

CLUB MEETS

Since ABC District Directors place State and Special Meets at the request of our members, please let your Director know of your wishes.

Our ABC 2000 National will be at The Minnesota State Poultry Assoc. show at Hutchinson, MN October 28-29. The show will be at the Fairgrounds on the south edge of town. The buildings are new, spacious & beautiful. It is definitely one of the nicer shows-runs about 2000 birds. For more information contact Mary Ann Rademacher, 9185 Co. Rd. 10E, Wacona, MN 55387. Any donations for awards at the National should be sent to me, with checks payable to the ABC.

BLUE RIDGE POULTRY CLUB - Galax, VA - Oct., 2000

FORSYTH FOWL FANCIERS CLUB - Winston/Salem, NC - 2000

PEACH STATE POULTRY FANCIERS - Commerce, GA - Jan., 2001

GREAT FALLS (MT. State Fair) State Meet, 8/4/00, with judge Bart Pals.

MONTANA STATE FAIR Special Meet, Aug 5, with judge Jim Adkins.

WISCONSIN INTERNATIONAL - Janesville, WI District Meet, 9/23-24/00

Byron and Laura Kershaw, N 5514 Dunning Road, Pardeeville, WI 53954

ILLINI - Belvidere, IL - State Meet, 9/16-17/00

Ruth Ann Van Fleet, 11099 Beloit Road, Belvidere, IL 61008

BEAVER DAM, WI - State Meet

Mike Smith, N 4960 Cty Hwy TT, Columbus, WI 53925

EASTERN IOWA - State Meet

Phil Shank, 1355 Elm Ave., Wellman, IA 52356

BLACKHAWK - Janesville, WI - Special Meet

Joan Laue, W3871 Maclean Rd., Elkhorn, WI 53121

BADGER - Richland Center, WI - Special Meet, 6/3/00

Eleanor Poole, PO Box 174, Muscoda, WI 53574-0174

SAULK TRAIL POULTRY CLUB - Hillsdale, MI - Special Meet, 9/9/00

Jack Gabbard, 6811 E. Chicago, Jonesville, MI 49250

BAY CITY POULTRY ASSOCIATION - Alma, MI - State Meet, 10/13-14/00

Dick Ross, 2180 Froede, Caro, MI 48723

2001 ABC National - The Blue Ridge Poultry Club's Fall Show in Galax, VA.

The show location is the Fairview Ruritan Hall Approx 5 miles South of Galax on highway 89. The dates

would be the last weekend in October or October 26 (early set-up), 10/27 The show and swap plus an extravaganza at Spirithaven farm in Stuart, VA that evening. Sunday is open for Tours of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Antiquing etc.. Our Family will host as many folks as would like to stay with us. Accommodations may be a bit "rustic" but all are welcome. For those who wish less of an adventure there are motels in Stuart, Hillsville and Galax and I will make certain that there are rooms available in the club's name.

The Show is about the size of Connersville attracting about 1500 to 1700 birds for the typical Fall show. It is not a Big City show but is a very friendly venue. The Swap is HUGE and has some interesting things for sale and trade. I hope that this helps to give folks an idea of what to expect. I understand that this is a long way for some people to travel. I can only say that I promise to have on hand all of the ingredients for a memorable time. We need to have all districts represented at this show (are you listening Koralyn and Jay and

*you Western-Folk ?). Please consider attending.
Thanks ! Scott Eutsler*

Get Patched in 2000

We should have our club patches in the next two to three weeks. All investors will have a patch mailed to them at that time. I went with the larger 4 inch patch as recommended by Neil and Donna Townsend, and by having the work done by a company in Maine was able to get it done for the same amount as the smaller patch.

Thanks to everyone who invested in this project.

John Blehm, Mike Gilbert, Ron Klemmedson, Rene Koch, Scott & Kay Eutsler, Neil & Donna Townsend, and Arne Schmidt.

Our yesterdays follow us; they constitute our life, and they give character and force and meaning to our present deeds.—Joseph Parker.

Wishing everyone, all the best for the upcoming show season!

Rene Koch

To get your patches and pricing information contact Rene at (608) 783-0649 or e-mail tsunami@centuryinter.net

More of Mike's Musings May 2000 President's Message

Our dining room window looks out over the two birdfeeders in our backyard, which are strategically located to provide the type of entertainment that Mary and I both enjoy. Last evening during the twenty-or-so minutes of supper, our visitors included a pair of rosebreasted grosbeaks with their loud whistles and chirps, a gorgeous indigo bunting, our friendly chipping sparrow (Mr. Chipper constantly tries to find a passage through the glass into our house), a blackcapped chickadee, nuthatches, and more. From out in the field we could hear the unmistakable call of the killdeer, and later the whippoorwills would sing us to sleep. What a bountiful supply of beauty and variety is found in nature! "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning - the sixth day." (Genesis 1:31)

Recently, the newspapers have been a little more adept at reporting what cutting-edge scientists have known for years, i.e., the biological mechanisms that life and reproduction depend upon are so complex as to be mind-boggling. For example a single strand of DNA found in each human cell, which contains the genetic code or blueprint for a unique individual, if uncurled and stretched out would reach to six feet in length! Or we could mention the symbiotic relationships of not only independent living organisms, but also of the interdependence of certain super-complex organs such as the eye. All the parts must work together in a synergistic manner in order to function at all. Products of time and chance? Some of the world's most renowned mathematicians, including Sir Fred Hoyle, have calculated the probability of even a single living cell arising spontaneously in nature, allowing for all the time and material available in the universe. They concluded over and over again it would have been an utter impossibility.

Charles Darwin had no knowledge of cellular structure, much less DNA. His was a simpler world, and his observations were based on mere observation and fallible intuition.

To his credit he recognized design and pattern, and that nature is governed by scientific laws and principles. But common sense failed to tell him the obvious: that order does not come out of chaos by chance; the intricate and the complex require a designer and a creator. Aircraft are not produced by tornadoes tearing through junkyards. And so we are reminded of Romans 1:20, "since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."

So what does all this have to do with Ameraucana bantams and chickens? Just this: it seems to me we are called into this portion of our lives as caretakers (see the foreword in our A.B.C. handbook for more detail). As such, we are responsible to the ultimate Owner, who wants us to share in the joy and satisfaction of beautiful results deriving from the diligent (and humane) application of such gifts as we are endowed. "Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does . . ." (Ephesians 6:7-8)

Yes, He definitely cares about our domestic fowl and wild birds. But, remarkably, he cares even more about us. "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father . . . So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows." (Matthew 10:29-31) H'mmm, I'll try to remember that while marveling over our feathered guests at dinner tonight.

Sure hope to see many of you fellow caretakers - as we display the fruits of our labors - at the A.B.C. national meet this coming October. This show will be at Hutchinson, Minnesota, October 28-29, 2000. Now is the time to be making plans and reservations! Until then, Mike.

CENTRAL DISTRICT REPORT

Ron Klemmedson - Director

Since my report for the previous quarterly was lost out there in cyberspace, allow me to include some "old news" in this report.

The national at Connersville, IN was fantastic, Our hard-working ABC director from the sunny south, Scott Eutsler had a great article in Poultry Press, covering the National. It was interesting to note that one exhibitor entered live birds.

The Wisconsin Cheese Heads, led by Rene Koch, did take a bit more than their fair share of wins. Rene had best in Wheaten, Golden Quail and Blue Wheaten and reserve Wheaten. Her outstanding Wheaten cockerel "Charlie" went on to Best of Breed, Best Ameraucana overall and Reserve AOCCL. Another Cheesehead, Randy Buske, had Reserve Breed on a fine white pullet. Mike

Gilbert had best Buff and best Black. Scott Eutsler had best Brown Red Bantam on a fine cockerel. These are the Bantam highlights. John Blehm and Arne Schmidt had the top wins in Large Fowl. This writer didn't win much but had a most enjoyable time seeing old friends, including Neil and Donna Townsend after about twenty-five years, from the Rabbit fancy.

One cannot help but notice that so many times the pullets and hens are the big winners. At the National, Judge Lew Cunningham chose a cockerel as Champion. In 1998 at the big Columbus, Ohio show, Scott's Brown Red cockerel was champion, Both these wins were firsts - a Brown Red at a major show and

meet and a cockerel winning a National meet. I have often discussed this with Mike Gilbert and we agree there is so much more to evaluate on a male bird. Many judges simply take the easy way out by placing females in the top spots.

In mid January, Rene and I drove to Milwaukee, WI, no blizzard, to attend the Grand National Pigeon Show. What a beautiful sight! We now have French Mondains and show Tipplers in our barn as well as the bantams and four Holland Lop rabbits. We also have 2 pair of Hungarian Short-Beakers from a breeder in New York. The pigeons are a nice compliment to the bantams and rabbits. There is cooing in one end of the barn and cackling and crowing in the other end. The pigeon show was interesting in many respects - we couldn't help but notice an air of professionalism. More than half of the exhibitors were wearing white show-coats, resplendent with club patches and medallions. We have the best breed of poultry and should dress with pride.

Another thing we noticed was the length of time taken in judging. We saw the judge take twenty minutes to sort out a class of three yearling French Mondain cocks and the entire day to judge 176 birds entered in the breed. The birds are brought to the judge by volunteer carriers and placed in show coops at the judge's eye level. He takes each bird in hand and often puts two together in a larger coop for side-by-side comparison. Behind the judge is a table where the clerks record the judge's comments on the coop cards. Behind the table are seats for the exhibitors to observe the judging. In contrast, at poultry shows, the aisles are blocked off and we are not allowed to observe the proceedings. What are they afraid of?

This past season we showed four bantams of one variety, in five shows, and had four different BV wins with only one repeat. At one show the poorest bird I had, in moult, went BV. This is more inconsistency than we can tolerate if we hope to continue to improve our fine breed.

On a brighter note, a quote from the poet Wordsworth
"The best portion of a good man's life is his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love."

BEYOND THE STANDARD

Don Cable

Both APA and ABA standards attempt to describe our birds in general as well as specific terms. They specify standard weights, shank and skin color and so on Both standards also attempt to describe breed and variety characteristics in a general manner in as much as certain traits are more open to interpretation.. Such words as rich, broad, dark, balanced and the like must be interpreted by each breeder by what is implied if beyond the written description. It is this "No man's land" between the specific and the implied that can and does cause differences of opinion based upon one's own experience and understanding, It is within this nebulous area that understanding depends heavily upon experience acquired by day to day observation.. There are no supermen (or women) breeding poultry, only inspired people who succeed by knowing where they want to go and are prepared to go the distance and achieve the ideal they carry in their mind's eye.

.Anyone can and should own and follow the written standard.. It is breeding towards an

ideal that each must create within that standard and beyond. No one can tell you what your ideal should be. It is up to you to determine and work toward. This is particularly true of newer breeds and varieties. The challenge and opportunities are endless and your goals are achieved in direct proportion to your motivation and commitment.

If your ideal is a smaller bantam than is being currently bred then you must either work within the stock you have or secure smaller birds from another source. Keep in mind that an outcross may run counter to your goal of reducing size, particularly within the first generation or so. In large fowl, if an increase in size is wanted, outcrossing may well be the answer and result in early, dramatic improvement.

If your ideal is improved color, then read what you can find on the subject and glean the information most useful. Meet with and discuss color with successful breeders both within your breed and beyond. Learn what combinations you can adapt and be prepared to select, breed and cull each year as you move toward that improved color.

Standard illustrations are provided in an attempt to show the "ideal" for each breed and/or variety. The artist however, may be working from a photograph, never in some cases, having ever seen the breed in question. The results therefore, are sometimes less than "ideal". The intent here is not to be critical of the artistic endeavor, but merely to point out that illustrations, though well-intended, can be wanting, particularly in terms of color. The color processing in the printing may well account for the differences in hue and intensity and not the results that the artist intended. As an example, compare the buff color in various breeds in the APA Standard.

Finally, if your ideal is realistic, it is achievable. You may find that the road to success is full of potholes, but if you believe in your own plan, be sure to keep that ideal securely in your mind's eye. The most valuable lessons you will learn in breeding your favorite varieties will come right there in your own back yard.

Correspondences

One of our newer club members, Adele Kavanagh, writes from Venezuela:

" We have (blue egg laying) chickens in our jungles which are raised by the Indians. I'm hoping to, at best, get a few of those eggs and hatch them out. As you know Chile has many and they're also found among Brazilian Indians, I've been told".

Jerry Segler has hatched about 30 Ameraucana eggs this Spring. Jerry gets sidetracked now and then, but always comes back to Ameraucanas.

The West Central Illinois Poultry Breeders would like us to place a meet at their show, 10/14/00, in Jacksonville, IL.

2/23/00

I have 25 chickens, mostly (I thought) Araucanas. I have, of course, since found out that they are Ameraucanas. My question: I have been told that these birds lay eggs in various shades of blue, green, pink, violet, and yellow. Mine lay only green. Every shade of green possible from sea foam to army, but all green. Do you know where I could order chicks that might lay is some other colors? Thank you

Laura Rankin

March 2000

Dear Mr. Blehm,

Hello again from Pennsylvania. My club bulletin arrived today. Thank you and anyone else involved, for putting it together for us. I really look forward to getting it. It makes me feel more a part of our club, and still being a bit of a novice, gives me a place to start looking for answers to questions I have.

I realize you get some questions from people that must seem just a little funny or down right silly to you. Well, since people around me know I'm now into chickens, I've been getting some questions too. I've been asked since the shell is blue/green, is it safe to eat Ameraucana eggs? Or, how do you know after an egg's been laid if it's one you can eat or one that's going to be a chick? Also, is an egg edible after the rooster gets done doing his part. (*As I keep a rooster with my hens, I asked the guy if the eggs I'd been giving him tasted alright!*) I've even been asked if a rooster mates with a hen by using his comb! Some of these questions fascinate me, as I don't exactly live in the middle of a city! This is an area with a few farms! Oh well, I guess there are subjects they know that I would sound silly asking questions about too.

Now I have a question of my own! How do you break up a broody hen? I keep them from nesting anywhere, but they can really be persistent! As cold as it was, I have one Ameraucana hen that has been broody twice this winter! After they get over it, it seems they're soon broody again! Help, please!

Also, It's mentioned in the bulletin that the York County Poultry Fanciers Association is having a show this October. I would like to know where in York they're having it? (address?) I'm planning on attending the show in Bloomsburg Pennsylvania this year too. Hopefully, I'll learn a bit about showing, and feel confident enough, to one day show my own birds! Here's an area where I'll be the one asking silly questions! Like, what kind of bands do you have to put on the chickens your showing? Or, what kind of vaccinations do your chickens have to have before you can show them? Oh well, I guess everyone has to start somewhere.

Thank you again,

Doreen Warner
87 Fisher Road
Pine Grove, Pa 17963

3/00

Katie Helland's mother says there were 11 Ameraucanas at Gold Coast Poultry Show & 23 at the Roseville, CA Show.

3/20/00

John, I have seen these birds and they are beautiful. Please send me more information on the breed and where I may find some. I will leave my address at the bottom of this note. I have a couple other questions for you. I would like to know how big of a coop I would need for say 5 or 6 birds? Would the coop need perches? If I had just one rooster would he keep me up all night? Are they gentle birds? Are they as tame as a buff orpington? I am planning on raising the birds for eggs and show. Are these popular as winners of shows? Are chicks difficult to raise? Should I buy birds at the local farm auctions? Since I am wanting show birds would I be better off getting them online? Is it better to buy chicks or unhatched eggs? Sorry about all the questions John but I have to learn somewhere.

Thank You Mark West

4/14/00

Hi,

I'm just getting started with a few chickens, and am interested in obtaining a few Ameraucana chicks - just 6 or 7. I was hoping you could recommend a breeder in the Ft. Wayne, IN area that might have/be willing to sell just a few or someone farther away that could ship some. I was also wondering if it is possible to sex these chicks by appearance or if they have to be vent-sexed. Thank you for your help and information.

Jill Shelby

4/17/00

Hello! I got this e-mail address from a website regarding Ameraucanas and Auracanas. My daughter and I have purchased chicks from McMurray hatchery in the midwest - 50 Ameraucanas, hatched 6 weeks ago.

Years ago, I'd raised them for general purpose farm flock. Now, I'd like to get into some more sophisticated, quality breeding of Ameraucanas. I've read web sites but haven't come up with answers for the following - would you help, please? Questions:

1. Most dependable means of telling cockerels from pullets at this point? We ordered 25 straight run and 25 female sexed, got 53 chicks.
2. About one quarter of the chicks have developed crooked toes. Impact of this deformity? Try to breed out by culling? Nutritional problem? Anything I can do to fix at this point?
3. About 15% of the flock are later feathering, all black and white mixes, all heavier looking - I suspect cockerels. Is there a connection here between these characteristics? Should this be bred out?
4. Can you offer any other suggestions for sources of quality breeding stock?
5. How old will the pullets be before we get first eggs?

6. Best websites for information/advice?

Thank you very much for any assistance you could offer. Arlene B., central Wisconsin

MIKE REPLY:

Dear Arlene B.,

John Blehm at the Ameraucana website referred your e-mail to me for response to your questions. I am Mike Gilbert, a co-founder of the Ameraucana breed and a co-founder of the Ameraucana Club. I will attempt to respond to your questions in the order they were presented. First, the most dependable means of sexing started chicks is to examine the hackle (neck) and saddle (in front of tail) feathers. The cockerel feathers in these areas will be pointed while pullet feathers will be rounded. Secondly, crooked toes in chicks may indicate a number of factors, including genetics, diet of the breeder flock, care of the chicks, etc. If you have a quarter of them with the problem, while the others are fine, put the deformed ones in the pen you are raising for slaughter. Do not breed from them. No attempt at "fixing" them is worth the effort. Third, Ameraucanas should be fast feathering. Put the slow-developing chicks in the meat pen as well. Did you read the F.A.Q. section of our website? You don't get true Ameraucanas or Araucanas from commercial hatcheries, and that includes McMurrays. They may call them anything they want, but they sell mongrels. Fourthly, my suggestion for quality breeding stock is to join the Ameraucana Breeders Club and begin to associate with breeders. I understand our next newsletter will have a listing. They are the ones to obtain quality stock from. Fifth, the age of your pullets at first lay depends on the genetics behind them and the way they are raised. My best guess is six to seven months, but that could vary in either direction. Finally, best website? You already found it. All the others are pretenders, and there is an awful lot of misinformation floating around in cyberspace. If you have any suggestions for improvement of our website we would be happy to consider them. I noticed you are from central Wisconsin. I am from Holmen, about 20 miles north of LaCrosse. Good luck with your birds and thank you for contacting us with your questions. Do you attend any poultry shows? Mike Gilbert, president, Ameraucana Breeders Club

4/18/00

Dear John,

The information arrived this Monday, thank you very much for sending it to me. I've also received some information from the Araucana people. Both breeds sound very interesting and trace back to the same roots. Just like mankind. I'm getting some chicks from a couple of the Araucana people. I hope the two clubs become more friendly with each other. I think the whites are the most beautiful in both breeds. I'll be getting a mixture of color and traits. It should be fun if not a challenge. I probably won't get any this year of the Ameraucana, but hopefully will in the future. Nothing though it sounds like from hatcheries. Is it permissible for one to join the club, even if not actually owning any of the breed? I've joined the Araucana Club, and am waiting on chicks in the next few weeks as the eggs hatch.

Thanks John, I understand you are a radio station owner, is the competition tough in that vocation?

*I'm a monk here in Idaho, I belong to a Benedictine monastery. My religious name is Br. Tobiah,
my birth name is Philip.
Until later, and thanks, phil*

4/19/00 (Yes, we still get questions about cholesterol)

Dear sir,

We are interested about this. Is it true that the eggs from auracana have low quantities of cholesterol?

Is it possible to find a scientific proof of this theory? We will be very grateful if you can help us. Best regards metamorf

4/21/00

Hatching eggs of araucanas To the araucana-Club Dear Sirs

We are breeding hatchers in Switzerland and we are looking for about 4 cases (1440) araucanas-hatching eggs. Could you give us adresses of producers? They had to sent to it the airport of Zürich-Kloten, Switzerland. If you have ather specialitys, we would like to order about 10 cases.

Thanks for your offer and our best greetings for eastern from Switzerland.

Verena Geisser

Geflügel Geisser

St.Gallerstrasse9

CH 9402 Mörschwil.

Tel: (071) 866 17 52

Fax: (071)866 17 54

4/30/00

Is their a breeder in the Fresno, CA area that sells chicks? I'm a new 4-H poultry leader, and a couple of my kids wanted to raise Araucanas, but I think the Ameraucana's would be better for them. Also, we heard that Araucana's egg are lower in cholesteral, is this true, and if it is, does this hold true for the Ameraucana's as well?

Kathy Watts

5/3/00

Dear John,

I would really like to know what breeds of poultry people used to get the Americauana. I'm assuming that they bred an Aracauna to other breed(s) and I have no idea what those breeds are. I would like to know that and what colors are accepted in show. Also, concerning the bantams, what kind of breeding took place to get a show quality bird? Would also like to know that for the standard size. There is so much misinformation concerning this breed and I want to know as much as I can. Supposedly I'm getting two this month from a hatchery but I think they will probably be "Easter Egg" chickens. Thank you for your time. Nikki

5/4/00

I have two pair of brown-red bantams available for the cost of shipping or best offer. All are 1999 hatch except one is a 1998 hen. I only consider one of the males as being show quality, but the other three are very good

breeding quality. I used them this season, but now have enough young chicks out that I need the room. Inquire by e-mail, or call (608)857-3386 weekends or most evenings.

Mike Gilbert

5/7/00

Mike,

Well, I've attended my first official poultry show (other than at fairs). There were four large fowl ameraucanas, 2 cocks and 2 hens, and two bantam ameraucanas, 2 cocks. I have to say that other than the black hen, I had difficulty deciding which variety the cocks and the 1 hen were. I decided that they must be blue/wheatens, but they didn't look anything like I think they should. The two that placed bv and bb both had a lot of black striping in the hackles and their coloring was not very distinct. The hackle feathers were such a pale orange that at first I thought they were white. Of course, I've never seen a live blue/wheaten and have no experience with the judging process. If an individual shows a bird that does not come up to standard but it is the best specimen at the show within a breed and or variety, are the judges required to give it a mark? Or did they truly feel it deserved the bv and bb?

Truly confused, Barbara Campbell

P.S. I saw a beautiful blue orpington pullet (won best of show in English class) and have decide that I must get some blue ameraucanas!

MIKE'S REPLY:

Ofentimes, when Ameraucanas are seldom shown in an area, or at least not true Ameraucanas, the judges will need to be educated. Their judging license does not mean they know a thing about this breed, unfortunately. So it is our job, when the judging is done, to pull them aside and talk to them about these birds. Ask them what they were looking for, and what they felt was important. Many judges know next to nothing about them, but once people get serious, they may go back and read the standard - and hopefully do a better job next time. Do you know who the judge(s) were in this case?

5/9/00

Howdy,

Yes, I do intend to drive back to the National Meet in Hutch. I even went out and bought a new truck in hopes it will get me there. My other truck had 185,000 hard miles on it (pulling that trailer all over the U.S. and western Canada), so I felt that I was running on borrowed time...I want to get a decent hatch...so that I will end up with two families in buff and blue wheaten. I want to have two inbred lines eventually

I hope that all is well with you and am looking to the fall in Minnesota...I will offer the following awards for Ameraucana Bantams:

\$25 for Champion Ameraucana Bantam

\$20 for Reserve Champion

\$15 for Best of Variety in Wheaten, Blue Wheaten, Buff and Golden Quail
Don Cable

5/9/00

Hi,

I am looking for quality, black ameraucana chicks for my daughters to raise and show. We belong to the Sussex County Poultry Fanciers Association in Northern, New Jersey. My daughters also belong to the ABA and APA. Do you know of anyone who is selling quality, black chicks for show? Thank you for your assistance.

**Yours in the fancy,
Barbara Duvall**

5/10/00

Looks like I will have a few L.F. whites also. These are sports out of color breedings, so they will breed true for white. I can ship started birds via express mail anytime. Some of these are not old enough to sex accurately yet, though.

Mike Gilbert

5/10/00

Hi john

I thought I would let you know what's happening with our Ameraucanas. As of now, we have hatched 9 incubators and I setting hen - 673 chicks. #10 is due May 21. Our last four hatches have been good. I do not know why the early hatches were so poor. We have some blacks & blues that hatched Dec. 20, 1999 that look great, much better than what we took to Belvidere last year.

We were hit on Jan. 24 by thieves, who stole our pair of whites from you, our black pullets from Urch and best black cockerel from you, plus 24 of the mixed Easter Egg layers. This was a big set back, but we are finally over the shock, and now all pens are locked. We are selling all the mixed Easter Egg layers, to make more room for the pure bred Ameraucanas.

After reading the last news letter, I decided to help Sandy with developing barred Ameraucanas. We bought 3 barred Rock pullets and 1 hen which are being mated to black cocks. First eggs hatched May 8 - 12 chicks - only 2 clean faced.

We are planning on going to the National at Hutchinson, MN in October. Hopefully we will see you then. We hope you are having great success with your hatches.

We showed at Ft. Worth, TX - our best blue wheaten hen from Wayne won Best of Breed. Reserve of Breed was the best black pullet from you. Al Keefer from Kansas showed some Ameraucanas also...

I bought 13 ½ dozen eggs from Wayne, hopefully we will be able to offer some trios that won't be too closely related to perform well. If someone wants some blacks, blues or silver large fowl chicks, we should have some to share. Our last hatch will be about mid June. We sent some black & blue chicks to Larry Carey...He use to be an ABC member, and would probable rejoin. Met him at the Abilene Show.

Bye for now. Paul Smith

5/12/00

Hello.


I'm new to americana. I just had my first hatch of chicks. How can you identify the sex of young chicks? Or CAN you? When I bought my first chicks last year, I paid for pullets but ended up with 60 percent cockerels. This year I let one hen sit on 8 eggs; 7 hatched. Now I need to figure out what I've got.

Any advice would be greatly appreciate.

Thanks! P.Richelle White in East Tennessee

MY REPLY:

I don't try to sex chicks. It can be done, but even experts aren't correct 100% of the time. Try the book **SEXING ALL FOWL...** by Loyl Stromberg. You can order it through Cutler's Supply (810) 657-9450. The cost is \$5.95 plus shipping. If you e-mail back your street address, I'll send some info about Ameraucanas and our club.



Presenting the 2000
Minnesota State
Poultry Association Show
Hutchinson, Minnesota
October 28-29, 2000
"Where the elite meet to tweet"

JUDGES:
Terry Britt (Oklahoma)
Jim Konecny (Illinois)
John Thomforde (Minnesota)
Junior Judge: Mark Peterson

Show Secretary
Mary Ann Rademacher
9185 County Road 10 E
Waconia, Minnesota 55387
1-612-442-4031

Entries Close October 7, 2000

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The Ten Commandments of A Chicken Fancier

1. Thou shalt obtain a Book of Standards and read it all the days of thy life.
2. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbors flock, but breed a strain of thy own and work with it.
3. Thou shalt not commit cross breeding. But keep thy strain pure at all times.
4. In the name of improving thy fancy, thou shalt make the supreme sacrifice by culling only with a sharp axe.
5. Thou shalt honor the date of the shows, by entering birds. It is better to have entered and lost, than too have never entered at all.
6. Thou shalt join a poultry club of thy choice and become actively engaged.
7. At all times, thou shalt provide fresh feed, water and a good environment for thy flock.
8. Accurate breeding records must be kept by thee at all times.
9. Thou shalt never sell imperfect birds to thy neighbor, it is better to make soup, than to wander forever in disbelief.
10. Thou shalt provide a lice and mite free coop for thy birds, that they might live out all the days of their life in peace.

By CLYDE MONTGOMERY