

*Ameraucana*

Summer 2002



*Bulletin*

Vol. XXII #2

AMERUCANA BREEDERS CLUB 6442 CHESTNUT AVE., ORANGEVALE, CA 95662



Buffy #2, a favorite of Western Director Koralyne Kibbee, of Manhattan, MT and best Ameraucana at the Boise, ID Show.



Our Ameraucana Club patch, shown in actual size and color above, is available for \$7. from your club secretary or Irene Klemmedson, N 27113, US Hwy. 53, Blair, WI 54616

Financial Report 5/1/02

Debits	Awards	\$106.50
	Poultry Press ad	65.00
	Postage	91.80
	Neil Townsend	40.00
	Total	<u>\$303.30 PAID</u>

	Color Copier	\$381.96
	Less Donations	-255.00
	Total	<u>\$126.96 PAID</u>

Credits Dues, donations	\$1,067.60
and directories	-430.26
BALANCE ON HAND 5/1/02	<u><u>\$637.34</u></u>

Respectfully submitted, Don Cable

## **FROM THE HILLS OF WESTERN WISCONSIN**

**By Mike Gilbert, April 2002**

What a spring we are having in the hills of western Wisconsin! One week we set record-high temperatures in the 90's, and the next we wake up to 20 degrees on the thermometer. I think the chickens are a little confused, and I'm not so sure about Mother Nature either. We don't know whether to break out the lawn chairs and lemonade or the snow shovels. The hatch is....well, it's going. We should be near our quota of 250 chicks by the middle of May. Both varieties of large fowl and the Wheaten and Blue Wheaten bantams are doing very well this year. But bantam chicks in some varieties, such as buff, seem to be as scarce as, well, as hen's teeth.

One thing remains constant, and that is demand for stock, eggs and chicks. We have more requests than we will be able to fill. Other breeders are reporting strong markets as well. From all indications this breed has a promising future! Some of our bantam breeders have already been sold, but there are a few birds left, so if anyone has a need and wants to raise some late chicks be sure to contact us.

This is election year for the ABC, and we will be looking to field a full slate of candidates for the six district director positions, president and secretary-treasurer.. Competition is good- it keeps us all much sharper. Don Cable is retiring as secretary-treasurer after this year, so we need a big pair of shoes to fill. If anyone is interested of running for this or any other position let me hear from you as soon as possible. Call (608) 857-3386, e-mail [ameraucana@aol.com](mailto:ameraucana@aol.com), or write W5171 Baker Rd., Holmen, Wisconsin, 54636. Thanks!

One final thought: Please support our 2002 National Meet scheduled for Columbus, Ohio, this coming November. Eastern Director Neil Townsend is handling the arrangements and the awards, so send Neil your cash or other award just as soon as possible. The Ohio National goes to press very early since it is such a big show, and they need to know what our club is offering in order to include it in their show catalog. And don't forget to support your local and district meets by offering supplementary awards. Hopefully news of upcoming district and state meets will be listed elsewhere in this newsletter. As always, thank you for your continued support. Ameraucana folks are the best in the world of exhibition poultry.

### **UPCOMING CENTRAL DISTRICT MEETS**

**June 1**

**Badger-Richland Center- Special Meet**

**Ruth Lefeber, 8648 Irish Ridge Rd., Cassville, WI 53806**

**Sept. 14-15**

**Illini Belvedere, IL- State Meet**

**Ruth Van Fleet, 18763 Grade School Rd., Caledonia, IL 61011 (815) 765-2952**

**Sept.28-29**

**Wisconsin International- Portage Special Meet**

**Byron and Laura Kershaw, N5514 Dunning Rd., Pardeeville, WI 53954 (608) 742-3267**

## REPORT FROM THE VERY COOL EASTERN DISTRICT

This report will deal with the big Ohio National, which will be the ABC National. Do you have your room in Columbus? November 8-9 are the dates for the judging.

I am putting a deadline of June 1, 2002 to get your \$\$\$ dollars and ideas to me. I want to complete a list of awards and specials. I have to get it off to Columbus so they can get it edited and get it to Poultry Press for their ad and I think they will have it on the web.

The Ohio National is donating BB & RB for both large fowl and bantams for our national meet. As members we need to cover the varieties. We need 8 large fowl and 8 bantam and Golden Quail. And possibly an AOV award in both large fowl and bantam. What about Champion overall, Reserve and best overall display + plus Best Large Fowl and Best Bantam Display?

After June 1st, we will be busy with other chores eg....vacations, fairs and children. A lot of snail mail communications are late so get it in early.

So for the month of May make it a priority to get all the chicks hatched and get a check to Neil Townsend.

The Columbus ABA/APA National is the showcase of our fancy so let's make it the biggest ever! We may know by the May newsletter who is judging our meet. Remember this is going to be the window of our fancy. So let's make it an outstanding exhibition. A show like this happens maybe once every five years. Let's make it one to remember!

Neil Townsend  
22769 Steen Hill Rd.  
Cochranton, PA 16314-9803  
(814) 425-3313

## UPCOMING SHOWS FROM THE WESTERN DISTRICT

July 17-21

Gallatin County Fair, Bozeman, MT Judge: Jim Adkins Ameraucana Youth Awards

Contact Joe Kellerman at (406) 222-6952

August 1-3

Montana State Fair, Great Falls, MT Judges: Jim Adkins and Terry Britt

Contact Vicky Stevens at (406) 866-3548

August 14-15

Montana Fair, Billings, MT Judges: Jim Adkins and Dave Owen Ameraucana Meet 2002

Contact Jamie Rensmon at (406) 256-7295

September 28-29

BIG SKY POULTRY EXHIBITION - Great Falls, MT Judges : Dave Anderson and Ken Cooke

Contact Jamie Rensmon at (406) 256-7295

# FEEDS AND FEEDING

## Part I

Generally, the price of a bag of feed pretty much depends upon the amount of protein present in the mix. This year I am trying a gamebird ration formulated by Purina and in as much as it is a breeder formula, the crude protein is guaranteed to be no less than 20%. This is the only breeder formula I am aware of and if there was a comparable feed available at a better price I would buy it. Let's examine the tag and see just what my money bought.

The tag provides a feed analysis and lists the contents present from most to least. The chief ingredient in this case is wheat middlings, the smaller portion of the grain containing the bran and the wheat germ, rich in protein, vitamins, fat and minerals. Like corn, wheat makes up the majority of poultry feeds because they are palatable, a good energy source and provide a wide variety of vitamins and a number of important minerals. The second ingredient is milo, which resembles corn in its composition, is relatively soft and palatable with the advantage of being abundant. Milo is followed in order by ground soft wheat, so that the first three ingredients are cereal grains which provide the bulk of poultry feeds at all levels of growth and development, as they are an excellent source of energy and nutrition at reasonable price which could and should be passed on to the consumer.

This particular feed formulation is in crumbles, or meal form. I prefer pellets as I believe they provide less waste even though studies indicate pellets are eaten more readily and in greater quantity than meal or crumbles. Either way, poultry eat a daily amount of food equal to about 5% of their body weight. Poultry diets tend to be low in fiber as it is not easily digested and as mentioned before, are cereal based, frequently 50 to 70% of the total ration. Cereal grains may also contribute up to 50% of the crude protein, but are deficient in essential amino acids, the building blocks of protein. To balance this deficiency and provide the essential amino acids required, animal proteins are added to supplement the feed. These may be in the form of meat or fish meal.

The fourth ingredient listed on the tag is poultry meal, a source of the needed animal protein. Just how these birds are processed and added to the mix is unknown to me, but I suspect that they are probably spent laying hens, so you have chickens eating chickens. Hopefully there is no mad chicken disease! Protein is required throughout the entire life cycle of poultry, but particularly by chicks, in their first six weeks of growth. The amount lessens as the growth curve gradually approaches the maturing bird. It is also required by breeders for fertility and hatchability and during the molt as feathers are mostly protein-some 85%-and this must be replaced in order to produce new plumage. Following poultry meal is safflower, a grain high in oil and protein so that there is a combination of both plant and animal proteins to ensure the full range of amino acids required by poultry. Safflower is followed by soybean meal, the most widely used plant protein, largely because of its high quality, availability and price. Soybeans are deficient in certain minerals, but along with the excellent protein, they provide a liberal supply of both fat and water soluble vitamins.

Calcium carbonate is the first mineral and inorganic item on the tag and an obvious choice for eggshell formation in a breeder formulation and is followed by rice bran, another of the cereal grains. The last of the major items that we'll deal with may be something of a surprise to you - hydrolyzed poultry feathers. Remember, feathers are very high in protein. I just don't enjoy paying for them. After feathers is a sizeable list of vitamin and mineral supplements. If you are bored at this point, it gets worse, so I'll not drag you further through the tag list.

As you can see the mix presented here is quite extensive and formulated to provide all of the nutrients required by breeding birds. Cereal grains for energy, plant and animal proteins for a complete balance, vitamins and minerals for a broad spectrum of physiological needs likely put together by a hardcore group of computer geeks with Phd's in poultry nutrition.

What can you add? WATER! When we think of poultry nutrition (Which is probably not often), we generally do not think of water, but it is the most important item in the poultry diet. A chicken can survive for an extended period without food, but not without water. They do not drink a large amount at one time but in frequent small quantities, so clean, fresh water should be available to them at all times. Chickens need twice the weight of food consumed each day in water. A chicken is about 65% water and a dozen eggs will contain more than a pint, so don't forget the water, especially as the hot weather approaches in the months ahead.

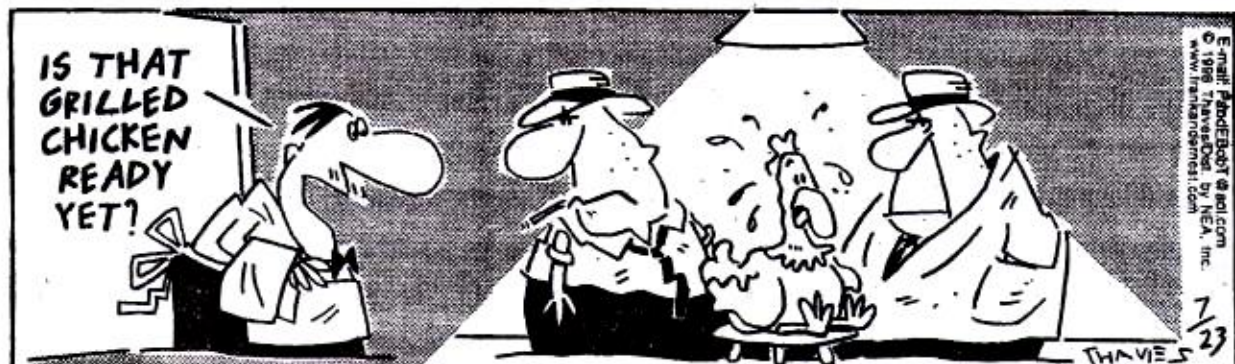
If you buy your feed locally, get to know your feed dealer well enough to find the delivery day for his feed and try to impress him that you want to be there the day it's delivered if you can. The nutritive value of mixed feed begins to diminish rather quickly in spite of added preservatives. This is especially true of certain vitamins and it is wise to never purchase much more feed than you can use up in about a month and a half. Store your feed in a cool, dry place and place it in a container to protect it from sunlight, heat, insects and rodents. Be a tag reader so you know where your money is going. After all, chicken feed ain't chicken feed any more.

Don Cable

Next quarter - Part II - Feed Additives

FRANK AND ERNEST

By Bob Thaves





Bill Wulff, editor of Poultry Press, easily the best and most comprehensive of the several periodicals available in this country that promote standard-bred poultry. Our club has had a mutually supportive association with Poultry Press for nearly twenty-five years going back to the time when Bob DeLancey was editor. It was through a photograph and news item that I made initial contact with Mike Gilbert which eventually led to the formation of this club. During this period Bob DeLancey continued to publish our news items in spite of hostility to the creation of the Ameraucana and this organization. Bill Wulff has continued to support us by carrying our club news, meet reports and monthly column as well as our ongoing club ad in the classified section. If you are not a Poultry Press subscriber, you are missing the best source of timely reporting on the fancy from coast to coast. Give the Press a try!



Above- Betty Schneider's Blue large fowl cockerel, Champion Ameraucana at the Idaho Bird Breeders Association Winter Show last November in Caldwell. This was the first time he was shown.

Below- Red Ameraucana bantams as developed by Jim Tuckwood, of Boscobel, Wisconsin. The photo is of last year's birds. Hopefully, Jim will keep us informed as to the progress he makes this year and will share photographs of his red bantams in the months ahead.







## Out West

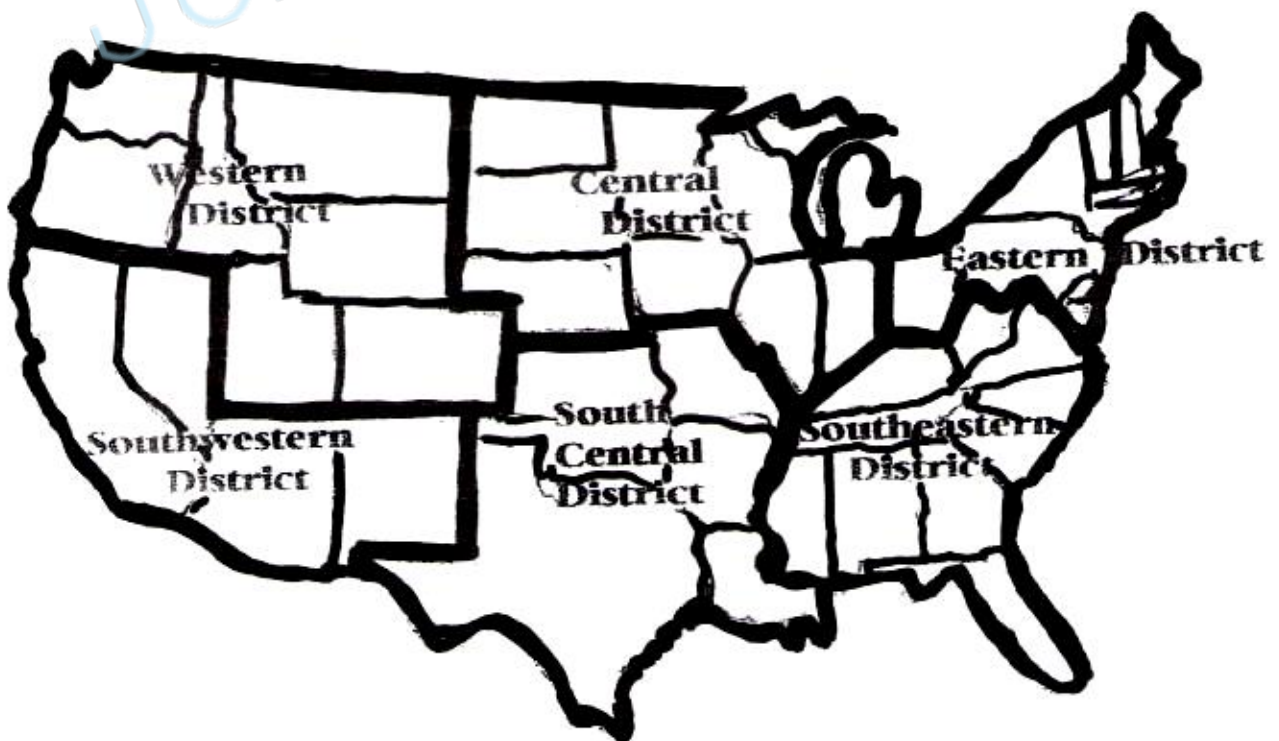
Notes from your Secretary

Please take note of Eastern Director Neil Townsend's plea for support of our upcoming national meet this November at the big ABA-APA combined meets in Columbus, Ohio. Neil will have a deadline to meet, so your prompt attention and cooperation will be needed and appreciated. Details are in his district news item. Watch Poultry Press for updates on this show.

The Avian Influenza out break is on both coasts resulting in the slaughter of many thousands of poultry in an attempt to contain it. It would be unwise to bring in birds from areas infected. Watch the news! Finally, I must remind you that this is an election year for us. There will be some turnover on the Board of Directors and if you are interested in a position, please contact President Mike Gilbert. Robbie Lindsey will step down as South Central Director and I will do likewise as your secretary. By the time I finish my present term at the end of the year, I will be just months from age 70. I no longer have the energy or patience to do the job well and as Dirty Harry said, "A man has got to know his limitations."

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The map below indicates the six districts that comprise our club. This is an update to the map found in the club handbook which shows only the four original districts created when the club was formed.



# The Mail Box

Letters and E-mail from our Members



Don,

Love the color in the newsletter! Also the article on building a Bantam House- we are always looking for ideas that we can work into our facilities.

Dawn Wozney, Blair, WI

I'm glad you're pleased with the color. The bantam house wouldn't be very practical for Wisconsin, but I hope that you were able to pick up an idea or two. How's the "Blair Bunch?"

Dear Don,

I was surprised and very pleased with the color being added to the Bulletin. I am a member of several rabbit and chicken clubs. Very few of these have color in their newsletters or bulletins. Matter of fact, very few have pictures of any sort.

Carl Eli Shepherd, Fairfield, OH

Thanks for your insights, Eli, I was really not aware of what other clubs are doing in this respect. It is my intention to put out the best bulletin possible however, and I appreciate your input.

Dear Don,

The colored pictures in the last Bulletin really added a lot to the quality of our news letter. Enclosed is a photo of "Randy Rooster" at the Idaho Bird Breeders Association Show last November in Caldwell, Idaho. We are very tired of winter and it is not over yet. (Ed. note- I have since heard from Betty and she is retiring to Yuma, Arizona.)

Betty Schneider, Idaho Falls, ID

You will find the photo you sent elsewhere in the bulletin- thank you. I am sorry that you are having to give up your birds, but I certainly understand. We wish you the very best in your retirement.

Dear Don,

I looked at the new logo- it's an art form, not realistic and very much says what we are about. I copied some birds pictures from my albums and the logo sure represents them. I vote to keep it.

Koralyn Kibbee, Manhattan, MT

Thanks for your kind words and encouragement. Thanks too, for the Montana Show list. It's not in the pretty form you sent it, but I hope you will find it acceptable. Best of luck on your BIG SKY Show!