

AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB BULLETIN

November, 1999

Vol.XIX #4

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
Director/central.....Ron Klemmedson, Blair, WI
 ambams4u@aol.com
Director/southern....Scott Eutsler, Stuart, VA
 tucherth@swva.net

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

- Steve Begley, Oregonia, OH
- Merle Daniels, Morrison, IL
- Jason C. Kirk (jr), Washington C.H., OH
- Milton Solberg, Lanesboro, MN
- Marla Vales, Townville, SC
- Randy A. Amy, West Lebanon, IN
- Barbara Campbell, Lake City, TN
- Steve Koltz, Utica, MN
- Tim Kennedy, Murdock, MN
- Kathryn E. King, Beaumont, TX
- John Koppe, Deer Park, WA
- Kathy Gratsch, Cincinnati, OH



**Merry CHRISTmas
& Happy 2000!**

Treasurers Report 8/18/99 - 11/16/99

ABC Checking Account #16980-10

Frankenmuth Credit Union, 485 N. Main, Frankenmuth, MI

<u>Starting Balance,</u>	<u>\$375.78</u>
Income - Membership Dues & Donations,	\$135.00
Income - Handbook Sales,	\$46.00
Income - Designated for Awards,	\$20.00
Income - Designated for ABA Portrait,	\$380.00
<u>Subtotal,</u>	<u>\$956.78</u>
Expense - Postage,	\$56.52
Expense - Supplies & Printing,	\$130.38
<u>Balance as of 11/16/99</u>	<u>\$769.88</u>

Respectfully Submitted, John W. Blehm, Secretary/Treasurer

Much of the money in the club's account is designated for awards & the ABA portrait project.

As of 11/19/99 there are 98 paid ABC memberships! PLEASE send in your **DUES** today for 2000, if you have not already. Some members pay for a year or two in advance. "Annual dues...shall be payable on January 1st for each...year".

A Look Ahead President's Message - November 1999

As 1999 winds down and we look ahead to a new millennium it seems appropriate to "wonder aloud" what lies before the Ameraucana breed and the exhibition poultry fancy in general. While none of us can or should attempt to predict what the future holds, we can certainly express certain anticipations based solidly upon past experience and the present state of affairs. For those of you puzzled as to why we should not engage in "fortune telling," I would recommend reading Proverbs 27, verse 1. At any rate, and for whatever it may be worth, here is what one person envisions for the 21st century.

First, communication will vastly improve with the aid of modern electronics. Therefore it will be incumbent upon the Ameraucana Breeders Club to ensure that correct information, supported by the facts, is available to all who seek it. Presently there exists a plethora of false and misleading information about the blue egg breeds being passed back and forth on the Internet. Somehow the myths about green and pink eggs, low cholesterol eggs, "original" araucanas, and the like - never seemed to have died. We can win these battles, but only if we are diligent to persevere. "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." (Proverbs 27:17)

Secondly, as the population continues to grow and become even more detached from our farming roots, the exhibition poultry fancy will more than hold its' own as an avocation. Poultry shows will become larger and better-organized. The better-managed ones will charge an admission fee to nonexhibitors, as is presently done in Europe. The largest will produce show catalogs detailing basic and advanced information and sell them to spectators and exhibitors. Judging will become more precise and uniform as correct breed and variety characteristics become more widely recognized. The demand for superior breeding and exhibition stock will grow, and top-of-the-line specimens will command premium prices.

Thirdly, the Ameraucana breed should become one of the most popular and sought after breeds of poultry. New varieties will be developed and admitted to the A.P.A. and the A.B.A. standards. The poultry standards will recognize not only Golden Quail, but also Birchen, Columbian, and others. What about Silver Quail? Silver Wheaten? Self Blue?

". . . whatsoever things are true . . . pure . . . lovely . . . of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." (Philippians 4, verse 8)

Again, these thoughts are offered only as speculations, not as attempts at prophesy. But if this organization and its members achieve as much progress in the next twenty years as in the preceding twenty, there is no reason why these and even better things might not be accomplished. But we should never forget, "Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain." (Psalm 127:1)
Here's wishing all of you a most blessed Christmas and a joyful new year.

Mike Gilbert

Congratulations to the following members who enjoyed success at the shows in 1999.

The Robert Walchak family took best bantam of the show at the LaCrosse County (Wisconsin) Fair in July on a White Ameraucana pullet. Larry Peterson, past president of the American Bantam Association, was the judge. In September they entered the same pullet at the Land of Blackhawk show, Janesville, Wisconsin, where she took champion AOCCL. This pullet lays eggs of a very nice shade of blue about every other day. Watch for some good ones coming out of the Walchak breeding pens in the year 2000.

Duane Urch took champion bantam cock and reserve AOCCL at the Minnesota State Fair in August on a Wheaten Ameraucana. Duane sells chicks and hatching eggs.

A picture of the wheaten cock can be seen on page 18 of the November Poultry Press.

Roger VanderPloeg, in his first year with Ameraucana bantams, took best of breed on a Wheaten Ameraucana pullet at the North Iowa Poultry show in September.

Betty Rundquist took her large fowl Ameraucanas to the Montana State Fair, where one of her white hens was awarded champion Any Other Standard Breed.

Koralyn Kibbee's wheaten bantam Ameraucana pullet was champion AOCCL at the Montana State Fair, while husband Larry took home grand champion bantam honors on a Buff Brahma pullet. Nothing like a little inter-family competition!

Daniel Burke had the champion hobby pair on Buff Ameraucana bantams at the Johnson County, Iowa, fair. A photo is posted at <www.ameraucana.org> (scrapbook).

If we missed your win we apologize. All the above was gleaned from first-hand knowledge and Poultry Press reports. Please send your winnings (and other thoughts and ideas) to John Blehm, secretary-treasurer of the Ameraucana Breeders Club.

Update on the American Bantam Association portrait fund

As of this writing (November 12, 1999) we have raised \$480 of the \$500 needed to place color portraits in the A.B.A.'s Bantam Standard. Thanks to all who have participated. To those who have pledged and not yet forward the funds to either John Blehm or Mike Gilbert (fundraising coordinator), now is the time to do so. If anyone out there intended to participate, but just didn't get "a round tuit", it's not too late! But please send your donation to John or Mike just as soon as possible so we can "call it a wrap."

American Bantam Association Yearbook Ad

Each year the A.B.A. publishes a terrific yearbook that reaches all its' members gratis and others who wish to purchase it. It contains many educational articles, and advertisements that are indexed by page as to breeds and varieties. This

makes for some very effective advertising, and the book runs well over 300 pages. A full-page Club ad would cost us \$72 and could contain six individual ads as well. This comes out to \$12 each; are any of you interested in participating? If so please e-mail John Blehm and let him know as soon as possible. This is just one more thing we can do to promote our favorite breed! All advertisers get a free yearbook, whether they are members of the A.B.A. or not. Speaking from personal experience, if you have stock or hatching eggs to share or sell, this is one avenue that does get results.

Mike Gilbert

CENTRAL DISTRICT REPORT DIRECTOR - RON KLEMMEDSON

As we near the end of the show season for this century, with 2 more meets in this district, I cannot help but feel good about the progress made by the Ameraucana breed and the A.B.C. We are seeing some nice entries with uniform quality and often finding an Ameraucana on "Champion Row"

I wish to relate some of the highlights of the 3 shows I have attended so far. On Sept. 18th the Illini Poultry Club hosted an A.B.C. district meet in Belvidere, IL. with 39 bantams and 27 large fowl in our breed. Judge Paul Monteith chose Mike Gilbert's black pullet as BB bantam and Mike's blue wheaten pullet as RB. The black pullet went on to Champion AOCCL! In large fowl, John Blehm was the big winner with a pair of blacks; the pullet BB and the cockerel RB. I have so far resisted keeping any large fowl, but I think I could have room in the barn for this pair. It was a big day for blacks.

We enjoyed a couple of hours visit with Carlton and Jan Yoder from Indiana while looking at quite a few of their nice wheaten bantams. They were not showing; just came over with their birds to get them evaluated.

We also spent some time with Paul and Angela Smith from Texas! They drove over 1800 miles round trip and showed 8 large fowl. They went home with quite a few more chickens than they came with. I hear they have been having good luck at shows "back home". These are the kinds of fanciers that make ours a great breed and a great club.

The next show, Sept. 25th, was The Wisconsin International at Janesville, WI. This state meet resulted in 26 bantams shown - no large fowl. Judge Karasek

chose Mike Gilbert's blue wheaten pullet BB and Mike's buff pullet RB. The breed winner went on to Reserve Champion AOCCL.

The state meet at Hutchinson, MN. hosted by the Minnesota State Poultry Assoc. saw 41 Ameraucana bantams on display. Mike Gilbert again had BB with his blue wheaten pullet which went on to win Reserve Champion AOCCL. Gary Rossman of Union Grove, WI. had RB with a black pullet.

Juniors had 9 birds shown with Jason Stievea taking BB and reserve champion AOCCL on a wheaten pullet as well as RB on a wheaten cockerel. At the Janesville show it was Scott Kretchmer taking the top spots with a young pair of wheaten bantams.

There are some new faces at the shows - Milton Solberg and Steve Klotz have joined the A.B.C. and attended all three of these shows as spectators. I

expect them to be showing next year. Another new member, Rene Koch from Wisconsin, has been showing a beautiful wheaten cockerel and a very handsome golden quail cockerel. You may have noticed by now that all the top wins were made by pullets, and in each case, deservedly so. I do believe, however, that many judges feel safer choosing the females - there is so much more to evaluate on the males. The same is true of the color varieties. Solid colors often win over the more difficult marked varieties.

We now have the fourth generation of the golden quail Ameraucana bantams and are gratified to see improvement of color and markings in each generation.

Jerry Schimelpfenig of Glencoe, MN. is also working on cuckoo Ameraucanas and had a pair at the Minnesota show. Two more shows to go now - Iowa City state meet in Iowa and the national at Connersville, IN.

Good luck and best wishes to all of you A.B.C. members.

Ron (Klemmedson)

CLUB NOTES

The deadline to submit articles & ads for the next bulletin is February 15th. Advertising in this Bulletin is FREE to all members. Some of the filler ads and photos in this Bulletin are borrowed from the November issue of Poultry Press. Since ABC District Directors place State and Special Meets at the request of our members, please let your Director know of your wishes.

Where would you like to have our ABC National Meet in 2000? We want your input. Please have all bids submitted to me by January 15, 2000. The Board of Directors will review the bids and vote on a site by February 15, so the information can be in the next Bulletin.

We have 5 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.

Thanks to all that have contributed cash awards for our National Meet, including Paul Smith, Earl Jones & Dick Ross and Mike Gilbert. Also, thanks to Neil & Donna Townsend for a plaque for best Ameraucana shown by a junior.

You can bring up an Internet article on The Araucana chicken, from Jacquie Jacob of the University of Florida at <http://hammock.ifas.ufl.edu/fairs/PS013>

Following are some of the many correspondences that Mike and I have received over the past few months. Some have been edited. I assume as club Secretary that if ^{you} send a correspondence to me, it is OK to share it in the Bulletin unless you let me know otherwise.

8/29/99

Dear Mr. Blehm;

...Koralyn Kibbee and I are the only ones showing Ameraucanas in the entire area. We both have tried to promote the breed...We haven't given up and will keep trying. I've shown 2 white Ameraucana hens at 4 shows winning the Best AOCCCL each time. There were no other Ameraucanas in the class...At the Fair in Gt. Falls...they had competition judging eggs and there were some

Ameraucana eggs (lg.), just beautiful. Who ever had those eggs, never showed any hens. My birds are lg. And Koralyne shows Bantams...

COCIDIOSIS TREATMENT

- 1 tsp. Amprol/Corid per gal. Water for 7 days.
SKIP 14 days
- 1 tsp. Sulquin 6-50 in gal. Water for 3 days.
SKIP 2 days (giving water only)
- Give Sulquin 6-50 1 tsp. Gal. 3 days.
SKIP 14 days
- ¼ tsp/Vitamin #E shortens the Coccidiosis Outbreak.
- WARNING: Never use Sulquin longer than recommended.

Sincerely, Betty Rundquist

**Great Show
Reserve American
Reserve Champion
Large Fowl
White Wyandotte Pullet
Champion English
Black Australorp pullet
Gary W. Rossman
1-262-878-2862**

9/4/99

Dear Mr. Blehm,

...When you sold me chicks this past May, you asked me to keep you posted...Well, they're now 4 months old, and I'm very pleased with them! I received 16 blacks, 5 white, 5 silver, and 1 blue. Unfortunately, the blue had died in transit and one silver was very weak, and later passed on too. The rest were very lively and have never seemed to have had an off day since! After giving up the extra roosters, I kept 7 hens and a rooster. Though, I told you at the time I ordered, I didn't prefer blacks, I've kept 4 black hens, and find I really like them...Though chickens are abundant in this area, Ameraucanas are basically unknown...Most people assume I mean Araucanas. It's very hard to convince them Ameraucanas are a different breed...Well, all I can say is "I'm hooked on Ameraucanas"... A fellow Ameraucana admirer, Doreen Warner, 87 Fisher, Pine Grove, PA 17963 (570) 739-4826 Doreen is interested in brown-red or wheaten LF Ameraucanas. Please contact her if you can help.

9/6/99

John-new e-mail address, effective today! Jntfrank@hotmail.com
Jeannette Frank

What a fun show with two great judges. Thanks to all! Always in support of Montana State Fair and Prairie Winds Poultry Association
**Jeannette Frank
APA Judge**

9/7/99

...The West Central Ohio Poultry Breeders...third annual "Spring Kickoff" Poultry Show March 20-21, 2000. They had 1642 birds in 1999 and request our club to place a meet with them. The deadline to place a meet is 12/6/99.

9/1/99

John,

...My meet at Great Falls was a "flop". No Ameraucanas but mine. So much for that. Billings was better, smaller show, but 4 exhibitors...In great Falls Aug. 6 & 7, I did win Champion AOCCL w/a Blue Wheaten pullet, both shows 1 7 2. Sam brush & Marilyn Novat, Judged. Larry (my husband) won Best of Show, w/a Brahma, buff p. (over 450 entries). I have some Wheaten Chicks in S. America how. Which is exciting. Can you tell me what breed of hen lays a chocolate Br. Egg - I've had inquires -...? We are sponsoring a trophy for Utah. Sincerely,
Koralyn (Kibbee)

9/3/99

Heather did well at the fair and got an "A" ribbon on her project and best of show. She also took 1st in overall showmanship with her goat, chicken and a rabbit. Thank-You for helping us out.
MaryBeth and Heather Moon

9/5/99

where can i find peepers that will lay blue, green, and pink when they are grown?
...if you can help with this problem i will greatly appreciate it. thank you. sam.

9/6/99

John,

...I have raised 26 of the 27 chicks you sent me in March. All 26 are doing fine - in fact I have one white cockerel that is outstanding...My hens are not laying as yet, but soon I think. Thank you,
Lee Rush

9/4/99

Dear Mr. Blehm -

I thought I'd let you know that my daughter, 8 year old Katie Helland, (an ABC member) is going to be on the Tonight Show with her chickens. She will definitely bring an Ameraucana egg to present to Jay Leno, and probably will bring an Ameraucana chicken. She has been working on the Silvers, but the males are all in molt, and the hens backs haven't recovered from an extended breeding season. She may bring one of her wheatens, but they aren't the best examples of wheatens - she keeps them because they were some of her first chickens, and she's fond of them. She was asked to be on the show because she was chosen to be an "Amazing Kid of the Month" on the Amazing Kids Web site...Please, Mr. Blehm, forward this to the rest of your list. I haven't had a chance to compile an ABC list. Thanks so much!

Louise

9/18/99

Sorry ABC members. We did bring an Ameraucana to LA, but she was cut from the segment. She had a nice trip to the city, though! For those of you who are interested, pictures from the Tonight Show appearance are now posted at www.amazing-kids.org. Lots of positive attention on chickens & chicken showing from the appearance! The local news & paper did segments also. Katie said "I didn't have much time on the show, but I had a GREAT time!"

Louise

9/8/99

Hey John!

Trust this note finds you and yours well. Also hope that your birds are progressing to your satisfaction. Things go fairly well here in that regard but we lost our brown red cock that went Champion Ameraucana Bantam at Columbus about two weeks ago. Looked like Mareks but he was older than would be expected to develop the disease. Ron lost his nice brown red (full brother to our

bird) to Mareks a few months ago. After the loss of our best brown red large fowl this winter we didn't need for this to happen. You know what they say about Dogs and disease being the best judge of chickens!

I wanted to let you know of some developments regarding Southern District activities. The Virginia State meet will be held at the Blue Ridge Poultry Club Fall Show Saturday, October 30, 1999 in Galax, Virginia. This was the site of last year's regional meet and is a great event with 1300 plus birds on average.

The North Carolina State meet will be held at The Forsyth Fowl Fancier's Fall Show Saturday, November 27, 1999 in Winston-Salem, NC. This is also a nice show that had several club members exhibiting. The District Meet for this year will be held at The Virginia Poultry Breeders Association 36th annual Fall Show in Richmond, Virginia. This was the site mentioned most frequently as "preferred" in responses to the questionnaire I sent to Southern District members earlier this year. Tommy Stanley Has agreed to award some cash prizes For Champion Large Fowl, Champion Bantam and Reserve Bantam. I will sponsor trophies for Champion Bantam and champion Large Fowl.

Any Members with suggestions for other sites State, Regional or District should feel free to send an E-mail tucherth@swva.net or phone (540)-694-5810. I'd personally like to invite members from other districts to "Come on Down" to show with us. As I like to say, The More, The Hairier! (or featherier!)...Thanks and Keep up the good work!! Best Wishes-
Scott (Eutsler)

9/9/99

Dear John:

My daughters and I each breed a variety of Ameraucanas. My youngest daughter has the Wheaton Bantams. We have had a lot of trouble with her breeding stock. Almost half of this years hatch had very crooked beaks, and the males always end up with streaking in their hackles. Is there a different variety that we could breed into this line that would improve our stock without messing with the Wheaton markings? If not I would like to find a suitable breeding pair of a different variety for her.

She is only 8 years old and culling as needed is a heart break for her.

Therefore, we have a mess of house cleaning to do before winter, and I would like to present her with some quality birds to console her during the culling process. Please give me your advise as well as persons to contact about other varieties. Bantam blacks and Standard blacks are our other varieties so something different would be great. Preferably a bantam type of a color that is a bit easier to achieve the standard. Thank you for your time and dedication.

Sincerely,
Kim Hoving

Dear John:

My daughters and I each breed a variety of Ameraucanas. My youngest daughter has the Wheaton Bantams. We have had a lot of trouble with her breeding stock. Almost half of this years hatch had very crooked beaks, and the males always end up with streaking in their hackles. Is there a different variety that we could breed into this line that would improve our stock without messing

with the Wheaton markings? If not I would like to find a suitable breeding pair of a different variety for her. She is only 8 years old and culling as needed is a heart break for her. Therefore, we have a mess of house cleaning to do before winter, and I would like to present her with some quality birds to console her during the culling process. Please give me your advise as well as persons to contact about other varieties. Bantam blacks and Standard blacks are our other varieties so something different would be great. Preferably a bantam type of a color that is a bit easier to achieve the standard. Thank you for your time and dedication. Sincerely,
Kim Hoving

John

I would be happy to give Kim's daughter a pair of Wheaten or Blue Wheaten bantams, if they would pay the shipping. However my birds occasionally (3-5 %) have the twisted beak and I have not been able to be totally free of the black stippling in the hackles(getting better but difficult to get out especially in males) I understand you will be at Hillsdale this weekend, I will bring some along and let you tell me if quality is adequate, my personal feeling would be, that I need to improve mine some more. I would however be happy to share my Wheaten with anyone who feels that what I have will contribute to their program. I will wait to respond directly to Kim, unless you feel response should be immediate.
Carlton Yoder

9/12/99

Hello John,

Wanted to thank you for sending the americauna web site. Have tried raising some this year with minimal success. Have set over 2 dozen eggs under various hens and we have some crazy hens that makes a mess out of the nest, ruining our hatches. Finally set some in an incubator. Had good results but with only one green egg hen laying didn't have many to set. Plan on ordering some early next spring and getting a new flock started with green and blue egg layers. Thanks again for the info.

9/14/99

Hi

I think I have a pair of ameraucanas! They were sold to me as "easter Egg chickens" and aracuanas. I'm looking for information as to just what I have. They are still young, about 4 months old or so. Can you help?

Beth

9/16/99

To: The Ameraucana Club.

...I have around 30 Ameraucana from all over the country. I have even started to hatch a few this year.

Steve Begley

9/23/99

Hi Mike,

Just a quick note to let you know the brown-reds you sent this spring are doing quite well. While not knowledgeable enough to be an expert judge of quality, they look to me like they have really developed into excellent birds. The females have started laying & we are looking forward to seeing what we can get this next hatching season. Hope things are going well for you.

Phil

9/27/99

I never hear anything (or read on the net) about roosters. Such as how many hens to rooster ratio is appropriate, how to treat aggression toward hens or people from a rooster, etc.. I have a few Ameraucanas. My flock is 6 months old and consists of 6 hens and one rooster. They are truly beautiful chickens! The hens started laying at 5 months and include one who always lays a double yoke. My problem is that the rooster of late has started getting aggressive toward me. He hasn't grown spurs yet (thank goodness), but has attacked me three times in the last week, usually when my back is turned and/or I am leaving the yard. This group of chickens in general has always been a bit shy in spite of getting them at 1 week of age and generally handling them often. Is there any hope for my beautiful rooster or is he destined for the pot? I should also mention that I have another flock of chickens in a separate yard and that there are three young roosters in that group. They can hear each other and one of these roosters is starting to mature and crow. Any suggestions you have will be appreciated.

Ann Marie

MY REPLY...If he is coming after you, I think he should go. A 6 to 1 ratio should not be a problem. I have heard that 7 to 1 is ideal, but it depends on who you ask and the type of birds. What variety are they and where did you get them? Bantams or Large Fowl? I remember, about 35 years ago, having 5 large white cocks (not Ameraucanas) that we received from cousins that got them as chicks for Easter. They would go after little neighbor kids and even fly up on them and pick their heads...

9/27/99

Thank you so much for responding so quickly. All my chickens are large fowl. These birds I got from the local Cenex last spring for free with 50 lb. of food. I know its not the best, but I wanted to start somewhere. So I have no idea really where they came from or even if they are true Ameraucana or just what they call Easter Egg Chicks. They look pretty true from all I have read and pictures I have seen. I have quite a variety of color in the hens and all but one have a lovely beard and ear tufts. The rooster reminds me of an Indian blanket and is very big. All of them have green legs and rose (type) combs. The feather pattern on individual feathers is so detailed and beautiful. (I suppose I don't have to tell you.) My other flock is sort of an eclectic group of mixed large fowl that I ordered from Murry McMurry in the form of eggs and hatched out in an incubator. They send you pot luck when you order eggs and I have identified

Rhode Island Reds, Wyandottes, Buff Orphingtons and possibly a Black Star. All of these chickens are much friendlier and sweeter than the Ameraucana chickens have been with the same or similar handling...Is it possible he is aggressive due to the other roosters? I will be making a decision about the "one" to keep and I know certain breeds are more gentle than others. I just wasn't sure about this breed. Thanks,
Ann Marie (Pember, Clinton, WA)

9/29/99

I'm not a breeder, as I live in a town which prohibits roosters. Otherwise, I'd be eager to join your organization. I think this breed has a lot going for it, but control of the breed is important. Anyway, my wife and I are interested in purchasing a pair of pullets or laying hens. Can you help us out?
Doug Weber, Westport, CT

10/1/99

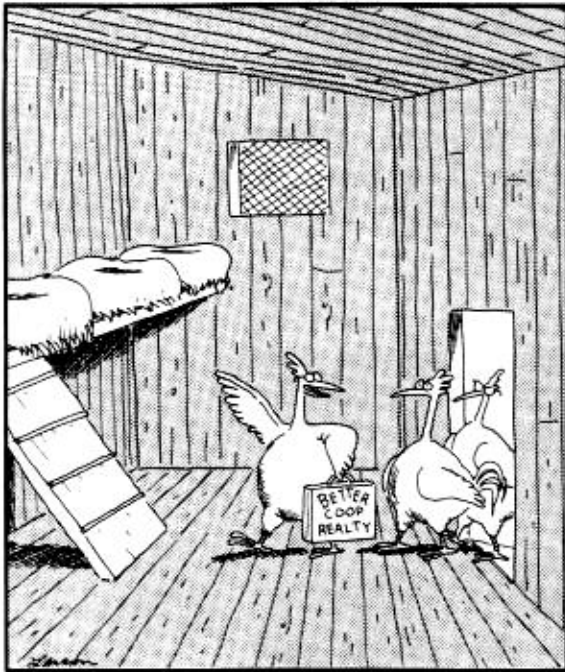
Good Morning John,
...P.S. One of our local exhibitors, Paul Smith from Gainesville, evidently went up to a show up your way recently and got a total immersion in Ameraucanas. He showed a couple of credible birds at the recent Texas National, and seems excited about moving out with some quality birds. Evidently several of the breeders up that way were most hospitable and really helped him. Thanks!
SWB (Sam Brush)

10/1/99

Hi,
I have just been viewing your website and am very interested in breeding some Araucanas, or Ameraucanas - I am writing from New Zealand and wonder if you can put me in touch with any breeders here please. Are the eggs edible? I am an organic kiwifruit orchardist so have several acres of land and already run a few regular chooks here. Thanks I would appreciate any information. Regards,
Debby Nielsen, New Zealand

10/3/99

Hi John,
I'm glad to be part of Ameraucana E-world. Arnie sent me a couple of Buff cockerels, a bit small, but nice. I'm glad you got one from him too. That Polish cross worries me, although I hear you got some great leg color! I'd like to see those birds. On the other hand, so far I've been very pleased with my first generation cross of Blue Orpington x Blue Ameraucana. Nice size, feathering and a more horizontal carriage; even some decent combs and beards! I actually plan on showing a couple later in the year.
Also, I'll be breeding a pair of Whites this year. You sent Jim Wheeler three whites (all males) in an order...He was selling them at our local club sale, and I thought they looked pretty darn good! So I had Arnie ship me a fine white pullet with the Buffs, and Jim is saving me the best male. He is brassy (from being in the sun?) but otherwise is an excellent bird- you've been doing some good breeding work!
Jay Horn



"You're in luck! This place just came on the market a few days ago. . . . The previous owners all had their heads chopped off."



AUSTRALORPS

Large

3C, 4H, 1RB-K, 1P, 3 trio

Bantams

1C, 1H, 1BB-K,

1RB-P, 1 trio

Some other good birds

Light Brahma LF 1 BB-H

SC Buff Leghorn 1RV-H

Bearded Buff Laced Polish

1BV-RB-H

Silver Ameraucana 1RV-H

Jim Fegan

Champion Michigan 49814

1-906-486-9464

A GREAT DISTRICT MEET AT ILLINI

Mike Gilbert

Ron Klemmedson

Paul and Angela Smith

Don and Leslie Jones

John W. Blehm

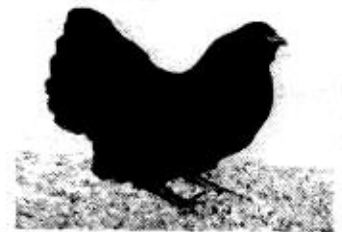
Eric Wilhelmi

Merle Daniels

Rene Koch

Arne Schmidt

Jim Fegan



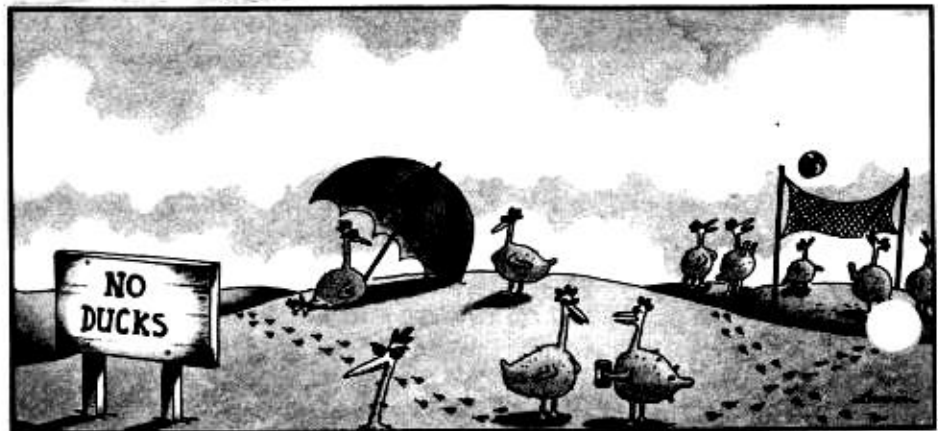
AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB



KNEELING, KORALYN AND LARRY KIBBEE AND SAM STEVENSON, MIDDLE, 3 UNIDENTIFIED JUNIORS AND STANDING, STACY SHOW SECRETARY, TONY ALBRITTON, VICKIE STEPHENSON, SUPERINTENDENT, SAM BRUSH JUDGE, MARILYN NOVAT JUDGE, TEX LEWIS AND BETTY RUNDQUIST (MONTANA STATE FAIR PHOTOS)



WISCONSIN INTERNATIONAL POULTRY CLUB - (1) RESERVE CHAMPION AOCCL, A BLUE WHEATEN AMERAUCANA PULLET BY THE MIKE GILBERT FAMILY



Chicken nudist colonies

October 3, 1999

I am tickled pink! My ameraucana wheaton hen got first place reserved champion at the state fair! She won me my first rosette and I am very proud. The ameraucana blue wheaton hen got first place best of breed and reserved variety. I just wanted to write and let you all know. I am very proud of my girls!
Sincerely, Alfred L. Owens

10/10/99

Dear John,

*...I want to set up some pens in the back room of my house to put the bantams in for the winter. I hope to get some early chicks that way. My early hatched whites have turned into three cockerels and 2 pullets, also the chicks that were hatched in Sept. have all turned out to be white, but the one black. I'm wondering if the brown red pullet laid a egg in the nest with the whites. Anyway I have 9 whites running louse with their two mothers. I've never seen two hens take care of a nest of chicks and they are doing a great job. They have only lost two chicks, one fell into the goat's water bucket and I think one got stepped on by a goat. I'm going to have way more whites than I need so if you hear of anyone wanting whites send them my way...Keep in Touch,
Jim (Tuckwood)*

10/13/99

I recently noted that Martha Stewart has this breed of chicken, I would like to know more about them. Also I want to see if there is some way to acquire some chicks.

Patti Kopf, Flagstaff, Arizona

10/16/99

*Where can I find more detailed information on the origin of the Ameraucana breed? I understand they are a result of years of crossbreeding of Araucana with other breeds, but I have not been able to find which breed(s) they were crossed with. Do you know where I can find pictures and description of each variety of Ameraucana? I have borrowed a 1993 copy of the American Standard of Perfection from the library, but it does not have pictures of each variety. Also, I am interested in finding a source in my area for "true" Ameraucana chickens. I have a few that I ordered from Ideal Poultry last spring, but from the research I've been doing, I don't think they are "true". My daughter is an FFA member and may be interested in showing chickens next year. She will be a senior. I will be submitting a membership form to your club by mail in the next day or two. Thank you so much
Barbara Campbell*

10/18/99

*... Regards my own flock, the predators (raccoons, I suppose), have reduced my flock to practically NOTHING. Of the Large Fowl that I had -- some 35 birds, all are gone except for one fine silver pullet that you had sent me in the spring. She was saved because she kept flying out of the enclosure and lived in the *woods*. I have recaptured her, and have her in a guarded coop now. They also got*

some banties, but there are about 8 banties left, including some Ameraucanas, from your original stock years ago. I have two dead raccoons to give away to someone. I am really distressed at the loss of those fine birds, some of which were special pets (cochins), and others special in other ways (my Welsummers). The ones you sent me were developing well, and I had some really fine whites, a lot of blacks, and a few silvers. The one silver that is left is super -- great beard and muffs. But it will take some time to get her calmed down -- she is used to being free in the woods, doesn't like to coop. That's what saved her from the rascals. Among the losses was my OLD Ameraucana hen, the first bird that I had in recent years. Probably not still laying, but still a *pet*. The cochin mentioned was a FINE mother hen and loved raising broods. Her last brood, that disappeared along with her, were not *planned*. One appeared to be Polish, and the other four were all Ameraucana x cochin. They were banties, and VERY cute. Two blues and two blacks. (Though mama was buff.) They had nice muffs and beards, and booties, with typical cochin configuration, which isn't much different from Ameraucana. The Polish was probably also her offspring, but took after Papa. No booties -- and typical Polish configuration. Oh well, they're all gone now -- except for the few stragglers, which are old, and the one Silver LF, which I will guard well now. I suspect that it had to be more than raccoons, because the fencing around one of the coops was pulled up and deformed in such a manner that it took a LOT of force to do that.

Hasta luego -- Dick (Orr)

PS, My wife Gloria and her mother are presently in Colombia visiting, and they were very distressed to learn of the losses, especially my mother-in-law, who made them her special pets, and her own chores.

10/24/99

Ameraucana Breeders Club

The Ohio Poultry Breeders would like an ABC meet placed at their Columbus show Nov. 11 & 12, 2000. They need to know by May 10, 2000.

They expect 3700 to 4200 birds. They would also like us to consider having our National meet there in 2002 when they will host the joint ABA & APA National Meets.

Dennis Myers, Wooster, OH

10/25/99 re: Hutchinson, MN show

John, the bid is \$50 cash plus four trophies plus club table and choice of judges. This is their standard bid for breed club national meets, nothing more or less than they would give other clubs. The real plus is the large number of people that would show birds. Also the time of year is good - later hatch birds have a chance to finish out by the fourth weekend of October, and the facilities are excellent as well. Do we have any other bids?

Mike Gilbert

10/27/99

I visited with Ron Klemmedson last night, and he has received an unsolicited bid from the ILLINI club for our national next year. I'm not sure what all is involved,

but I'll let him fill you in. I think they were impressed with the showing we had for a District meet. We both feel Hutchinson is a better site and a better time of year.
Mike Gilbert

10/30/99

Mr Blehm,

I'm sure that to someone with your knowledge and experience in poultry genetics the reasons are obvious----- why is there not a "duckwing" variety of ameraucana. To me, someone with no knowledge or experience in "chicken genetics", it seems obvious that there would be, because this variety exists in the Araucana breed. To your knowledge, has anyone ever attempted to create the duckwing variety in the Ameraucana breed? If not, why, and if so, what were the results? Also, can you recommend reading on poultry genetics that would be helpful to a beginner. Thanks for your time.

Barbara Campbell

MY REPLY... The first book that I would recommend is START WHERE YOU ARE WITH WHAT YOU HAVE by Ralph Sturgeon and then BANTAM CHICKENS by Fred P. Jeffrey. I have not studied much when it comes to genetics, but practice what some of us call "backyard genetics". I am sending a copy of this to club President Mike Gilbert in case he would like to add his input. Keep in mind that Ameraucanas and Araucanas are two different breeds with two different Standards. They have some traits in common like pea combs, but so do Cugalayes which come in a BB Red variety and Ameraucanas are not recognized in that variety either. OE Game are recognized in a multitude of color varieties that don't exist in other breeds. Ameraucanas do come in silver which is very close to silver duckwing. To the best of my knowledge, no one has breed Ameraucanas in silver duckwing and/or tried to get them as a recognized variety. That doesn't mean it won't ever happen. I know there are some that refer to silver duckwing Ameraucanas, but they are really silvers. Some members are working on a new variety called "golden Quail" and plan to have it recognized as a new bantam variety.

11/7/99

My wife KIM TRIMBLE would like to join your club. Kim has been breeding AMERAUCANAS for three years now. Kim is looking for the standard of excellence for the breed. She is also looking for any information on breeding and showing.

... Trimble, Courtenay, B.C. Canada

10/11/99

hello from Western NY> This is Barb Clarkson, Kerri my daughter is a club member, we met at Ohio last year. Well We have a breeding problem , Male tail carriage it too high. This year we bred all out wheaton female to the male with the lowest tail carriage, which seemed the normal position. Well 80 % of the new cockerels continue to carry the tail too high. Some will carry it normal at times but upset the birds or put them in smaller cages (besides our range houses) and the tails come up as far a 65% . The female are fine actually I think we got a real nice group this year. What would you advise? Is this a female problem, Should

we get new breeding males? This has really got me stumped. and I don't want to start the new breeding year making the same mistakes. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely Barb C.

REPLY

Hi Barb, this is Mike Gilbert. John asked that I reply to your questions. If the male breeder you used in 1999 had the right tail carriage, or at least was better than the rest, then breed him back to his own daughters. You then should see a marked improvement in the tail carriage of your next generation. Problems like this oftentimes don't have instant solutions. It may take two or three years to correct faults. In the meantime, don't lose sight of everything else that is "right" in your males. Sometimes we focus so much on one problem that we allow other major problems to take over. If you want different blood in the wheaten (or in blue-wheaten) then let me know early-on next year. By this time of year I'm sold out of most varieties. If you want to spend some money, you might contact Duane Urch to see if he has what you are looking for. Be very specific as to exactly what you want in a male bird. He advertises in Poultry Press. Let me know if you need a phone number or address if that is the route you choose to take. Good luck!

11/11/99 re: having a "Link" to our ABC web site on the APA site.

Mike,

...On the links to poultry clubs, the convention has been to ask for a \$10.00 fee to cover the costs a little. You can discuss this with Peter Merlin directly and see what arrangements can be made. I'll copy this e-mail to Peter so he is aware of your interest. On another front, those northern Ameraucanas are raising some eyebrows down here - Paul Smith has done very well with the ones he secured back in September, and I think he will be a good Lone Star fancier for the breed. I just wish he didn't fall in my AOSB category. That will make it more challenging for my Old English Games and Cubalayas!

Regards, Sam Brush

APA Internet Contact and
District 7 Director

11/13/99

Hi John,

...This is my e-mail address: Ambantams@aol.com...

I was struck by the fact that so many of the comments and inquiries that you receive are similar to those that I received when I was secretary a decade or so ago...I am starting from scratch (no chicken pun intended), on getting a new, but modest chicken house planned and am currently shopping for an incubator as well. Needless to say, I will be leaning on you guys for a start in Am bantams and have decided to start with just one variety- probably buff- as I have a lot of catching up to do and at 66, am definitely no "Spring Chicken." I hope all goes well for the National Meet and I am definitely planning on attending the big one for 2000. Please say "hello" to all in Indiana and best of luck with your birds.

Don Cable

11/15/99

Hi Mike,

I just thought you would like to know that Camber is taking two of the Ameraucanas to the Eastern Iowas Poultry Show at Sharpless November 25th. They are doing just fine, the hens are laying eggs and the roosters are crowing. The chickens are beautiful!! We plan on hatching a number this spring. Hope to see you at the show.

Linda, Phil & Camber Jones

11/15/99

Here is a mouse control hint from Betty Rundquist: Use clean and dry plastic gallon milk jug. Take the lid off and place mouse poison inside jug. Place jug anywhere in the chicken coop and the birds cannot eat the poison.

11/16/99

Dear John,

*We purchased chicks from you in May and I wanted to give you an update on their progress. We have in the large class, 3 whites, 4 blacks, 1 silver, 1 blue, and 1 blue wheaten. The only ones mature enough to show so far were the black pullets, and they won reserve AOSB at 2 youth shows this fall. My daughter is thrilled with them! I had a question about their plumage. One of the black pullets has a white spot on a tail feather and one on a wing feather. I was wondering if I could pull those feathers in hopes that they may come back in solid black. What have your experiences been on this subject? I also had a question about the blue wheaten. Ours is 6 months old and the gold color in his saddle and hackles is minimal. Is this something that takes more time to develop in the blue wheatens? The tails on our whites are coming along nicely. We will look forward to your reply. Our next show here in California is in 7 weeks, and we hope to take most of the Ameraucanas to it. In 9 weeks is the Pacific Poultry Breeders Show in Roseville. That is the club which we live closest to and are members of. We will be taking the Ameraucanas there too and showing in both junior and open. I will let you know the results. Until then, have a very happy holiday season! Sincerely,
Teresa Renwick*

SHOW REPORTS

BB= Best of Breed, RB= Reserve of Breed, BV= Best of Variety,
RV= Reserve of Variety, C= Cock, H= Hen, K= Cockerel & P= Pullet.

State Fair show #1, Great Falls, MT 8/6/99, judge: Sam Brush. ABC State Meet

Bantams	BB	blue wheaten C	Koralyn Kibbee
	RB	blue wheaten P	Koralyn

Montana Fair, Billings, MT 8/18-19/99, judge: Ken Cooke. ABC Special Meet
15 bantams shown by 4 exhibitors & 2 LF by 2 exhibitors.

Bantams	BB	blue wheaten C	Koralyn
	RB	blue wheaten H	Koralyn

Saulk Trail Poultry Show, Hillsdale, MI 9/11/99 ABC Special Meet
 We did not receive a show report, but 10 bantams & 3 LF were shown.

Illini Poultry Show, Belvidere, IL 9/18-19/99 ABC District Meet

judges: Jeff Halbach - bantams & Paul Monteith - LF.

39 bantams shown by 10 exhibitors & 27 LF by 8 exhibitors.

Bantams	BB	black P	Mike Gilbert, also BV black & Champion AM
	RB	wheaten P	Mike, also BV
black	RV	K	Mike
blue wheat.	BV	P	Mike
	RV	P	Mike
brown red	BV	K	Ron Klemmedson
	RV	P	Ron
buff	BV	P	Mike
	RV	P	Mike
wheaten	RV	K	Rene Koch
white	BV	H	John Blehm
Golden Quail	BV	K	Rene
	RV	P	Ron
Large Fowl	BB	black P	John Blehm, also BV & reserve Champion AM
	RB	blue H	Arne Schmidt, also BV
black	RV	K	John
Blue	RV	P	Arne
buff	BV	K	Arne
silver	BV	K	Paul Smith
	RV	H	James Fegan
white	BV	P	Arne
	RV	P	Paul

Wisconsin International Poultry Show, Janesville, WI 9/25-26/99 State Meet

judge: Don Karasek, 26 bantams were shown by 5 exhibitors.

bantams	BB	b. wheaten P	Mike Gilbert, also BV
	RB	buff P	Mike, also BV
black	BV	P	Mike
	RV	K	Mike
blue wheat.	RV	K	Eric Wilhelmi
brown red	BV	P	Mike
	RV	P	Ron Klemmedson
wheaten	BV	P	Mike
	RV	P	Rene Koch
white	BV	C	Randy Buske
Golden Quail	BV	H	Ron
	RV	P	Ron



JUDGE JEANNETTE FRANK

Bay City Poultry Show, Alma, MI 10/9-10/99 ABC State Meet

Judge: H. Halbach, 24 bantams & 19 LF were shown.

Bantam	BB	wheaten P	Jeanne Trent, also BV
	RB	buff P	John Blehm, also BV
black	BV	C	Ruth Whitney
	RV	P	John
wheaten	RV	H	Larry Donahue
blue wheat.	BV	P	John
	RV	P	John

white	BV	H	John
buff	RV	C	John
AOC	BV	H	Pat Church
Large Fowl	BB	black P	John Blehm, also BV & Reserve Champ.AOSB
	RB	black K	John, also RV
blue	BV	H	L.J. Donahue
	RV	P	Jeanne Trent
white	BV	P	John
	RV	P	John

Minnesota State Poultry Show, Hutchinson, MN 10/23-24/99 ABC State Meet

judge: Jeff Halbach. 41 bantams were shown by 13 exhibitors.

BB	blue wheat.	P	Mike Gilbert, also BV
RB	black	P	Gary Rossman, also BV
Champion trio, blue wheaten			Sandy Pasche
black	RV	P	Mike
blue wheat.	RV	K	D & J Pasche
brown red	BV	K	Ron Klemmedson
brown red	BV	P	Ron
buff	BV	P	Mike
buff	RV	K	Mike
wheaten	BV	P	D & J Pasche
wheaten	RV	K	D & J Pasche
white	BV	P	R. Walchak
golden quail	BV	P	Ron
golden quail	RV	K	Rene Koch
Juniors Show, with 9 birds shown.			
blue wheat.	BV	P & RV, K	Anne Pasche

It made for a very interesting trip. We even made some life-long friends with the people we met in Toad River because of our hitch-hiker chicken. They ended up caravanning with us for the remaining 10 weeks of our trip.

It was a memorable trip and not soon forgotten. ☺

Last year in May 1997, my husband and myself and another couple took a trip to Alaska for three months. It was a tremendous experience. Everyone should do it once.

The reason I am writing is to tell you about an experience that happened while we were there. Somewhere outside of Quesnel, B.C., we seemed to have picked up a hitch-hiker—a chicken! It was pointed out to us in Prince George as to whether it was ours. Of course, we said “no”! Who takes a chicken on vacation?

But low and behold, there it was with us in Dawson Creek. When we started up, it would jump under the motorhome in the carriage. As soon as we stopped, it would jump out, do its business and eat.

The story spread, and wherever we went, someone knew about the chicken. My friend Glenna would feed her crackers and water.

The chicken decided to go her own way somewhere around Muncho Lake. We estimated that she rode with us for almost 900 miles.

The letter below was submitted by Henry and Pat Langston, CCA members since 1997. They received an unexpected passenger during their travels...



The Hitch-Hikin' Chicken

Nov 12 1999

A little information on the poultry tour we took to Europe. There were 27 people on this tour, 15 from Minnesota-4 from Wisconsin and others from Montana, Louisiana, Ohio, No. Dakota, New Jersey and Oklahoma.

Oct. 15th

We arrived in Milano Italy, went on a city tour and seen the second largest Cathedral in Europe which is 3000 years old called Milano II Duomo it has never been completed, they are still working on it. Next stop was the Church Santa Maria dell Grazie where Leonardo da Vinci painted "The Last Supper", the church was bombed during the 2nd world war, but they had sand bagged the walls that paintings were on, so they still stand today.

Oct 16th

We drove by bus to Stresa Italy from there we took a boat to visit two islands - Isala Bella and Isala Madre, these islands were owned by royalty and they builded castles and planted tropical gardens also they had many tropical birds, including chickens.

Oct. 17th

We drove to Venice Italy went to a glass factory. We were suppose to go Bologna to visit the Aldrovandi Museum to see the original book "aldrvandi ON Chickens"- the year 1600, but didn't make it.

Oct. 18th

We left Italy and drove most of the day to Pertisau Austria - beautiful country.

Oct. 19th

We went to some poultry farms- which were really homes in towns, with chickens (Modern Game) and gardens in back of the houses, beautiful set ups. No Ameraucanas here. The rest of the day was spend driving to Munich, checking in to a hotel and out to dinner at the Hofbrauhaus- Bavarian dancers - sausage and beer - good food had a great time.

Oct. 20th

Left Munich and headed for Prague Czech Republic, we got to the Czech border about noon - we set there for 1½ hours, it seems we were not welcome, no one knew why, but they leave us into the Czech Republic. We stayed at the Hotel Kinsky Garden owned by Best Western. Prague was clean but for the most part I'd say 50 years behind times.

Oct. 21th

Morning sightseeing in Prague and afternoon we visited Czech poultry breeders. The first place had white runner ducks, pheasants, rabbits, pigeons and chickens (white wyandotte bantams) No ameraucanas.

Oct. 22th

Left Prague and headed for Germany, we again had to cross the border, but were only there for 10 minutes. The next stop was at the little town of Rodental where the famous Hummel Factory is located. Hummals are not cheap at the factory let me tell you. Next we drove to the town of Viernau this is where Germany has the Thuringer Poultry Museum. In closed is a picture of the Breaded Thuringer chickens- its the closest thing to the Ameraucana in appearance.

I did ask them if they knew of the Ameraucana, but they did not understand me We stop at a breeders place in Bad Sooden, he had mostly pheasants, he also had the original Jugle Fowl. Beautiful birds.

Oct.23th

We arrived at Hannover Germany about noon to visit the Hannover Poultry Exhibition, the poultry people on the tour all went to the show, the rest of them went sightseeing and shopping. I headed out to see if I could find some Ameraucanas or Araucanas, I soon found that the place was just too big to just look for one breed. There were 21 thousand birds not counting the displays so I started from the beginning, which were the displays, there in one of the displays were the Araucanas. All the birds were in good condition, but their standards were really different. The Araucanas were all rumpless, but they were bred or bred and tuffed, the leg color was yellow or willow, all had yellow beaks. There were about 100 Araucanas in the show in 10 different colors. Many American breeds were in the show, to name a few - Wyandottes, Rhode Island Reds, Plymouth Rocks and New Hampshire, and just by luck I ran in to the Vorwerks which were developed by Wilber Vorwerk from New Ulm, Mn. All buff colored birds were a bright color of orange, this really was pretty on birds that had some black on them, like the New Hampshire. Many of the breeders we visited had carrot grinders in their barns and fed ground carrots to their birds - maybe that accounts for the deep rich color of birds and their leg color. They had a 50 year anniversary tribute for the White Wyandotte Bantam, there were six hundred white Wyandotte bantams.

Oct.24th

Another day at the Hannover Poultry Exhibition, also some of the non-poultry on the tour went with us to the show.

Oct.25th

We left Hannover and drove to Denmark at Jutland we visited more poultry farms, seen a lot of Salmon Faverolles, and some strange looking cochins. I should add that all the poultry farmers we visited were very happy to have us, and always had refreshments - wine, beer, tea and food. One place we came to the host had lined his driveway with Danish flags.

Oct.26th

We drove to Copenhagen, where we went to Hans Christian Anderson Museum, the home of the famous Danish fairy tale writer.

Oct.27th

Took city of tour of Copenhagen which took us to the harbor where the statue of "The Little Mermaid" stands, then Amalienborg Palace residence of the Royal Family. With some shopping in the afternoon, we ended the tour with a Farewell Dinner at Hotel Kong Frederik, with special music by friends of the tour guide.

Oct.28th

We got on the bus at 4:30am, to go to air port, and found our flight was canceled. We did not leave till 9:30 A M

Was go to be back home

*Best Wishes
Anne Schmitt*