

Ameraucana Newsletter

Ameraucana Alliance ~ AmeraucanaAlliance.org
Fall 2015 ~ Volume 1, Issue 3



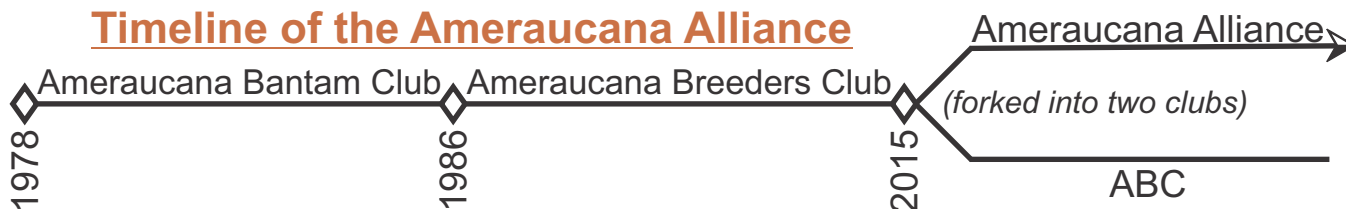
Welcome Members...

Jinger Wason, OK

Ed Brockman, MN

Since The Beginning

Timeline of the Ameraucana Alliance



Walter Malcolm and Coral (bantam silver hen) Champion Intermediate Poultry Showman at the Adams County Fair (Colorado), August 5-9.

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“...our 2015 Ameraucana National Meet is back on!”
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“It is our hope you are planning to attend the big show at Lebanon. We are looking forward to meeting some of you for the very first time.”

[read more on page 4](#)

Michael J. Muenks ~ President



Greetings from Missouri! Harvest time is upon us as we move into another season of change. The “dog days of summer” have been pleasant in Missouri. There was a lot of rain in Missouri early in the growing season, so for many, the crops have not been good even though everything is green. For many the vegetable gardens were a bust and folks are looking toward fall gardens to make up some of the difference in produce production. For us at Bantam Hill, the hatching season was much the same, too much moisture to have good hatches. Years ago I struggled to figure out what the issue was with my hatches, it wasn't until I learned about how the air sac should grow during incubation that I figured out my problem was moisture. Some years there is just too much, and this year was one of those years.

As you are reading this you will be in full show prep mode with your chickens. A bit of cage training will go a long way in the show room. I encourage you to do what you can. Also, a bit of grooming attention now will last long into the show season. Getting feathers into outstanding condition takes a bit of time and bit of extra meat and oils now will really differentiate your chickens from those of others in the show room.

The National Meet will be in Lebanon, IN this year. The ban on poultry shows has been lifted and I cannot wait to see everyone there on October 17, 2015. I will probably be driving in late and leaving early on Sunday. Donations for awards are still welcome and John has a fantastic set of awards assembled.

I will have just started a new job working for the University of Kansas and will not have any leave accumulated. My trip will be a bit more rushed than I would like, but it will be a lot of fun to see everyone again. Luckily, this job does not require a move of the family. Yes, I will be joining the ranks of those that work mostly from home.

I want to publically thank the leadership of the Ameraucana Alliance for all the hours of work that have been put into getting the Club up and going. I stand in awe of what has been accomplished.

Best wishes and blessing from Missouri!

John W Blehm ~ Secretary/Treasurer



I've got the chicken barn repainted and rebuilt all the pens attached to it. They all are now covered 100% with roofing as planned. I've posted photos on the Ameraucana Forum. Sharing our projects and ideas on the forum is a great way to help each other and we can all learn from the experiences, including the mistakes of others.

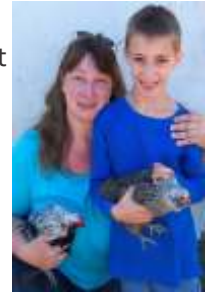
The really big news is our 2015 Ameraucana National Meet is back on! It was originally placed at the Fowl Fest, but was canceled due to the ban on poultry shows in Michigan. Indiana also had a ban in place, but lifted it in time for us to place the meet with the Central Indiana Poultry Show, put on by the Boone County 4-H Poultry Club, at the Boone County 4-H Fairgrounds, in Lebanon. It's just about a 30 minute drive northwest of Indianapolis. This is a one-day show, October 17th, but some of us will treat it like a two-day show. We generally coop-in Friday late afternoon/evening, check in to the hotel and get together with others that are available for dinner. Some of us have reservations at the Comfort Inn, but there are other hotels available in the area. We'll get together again for dinner on Saturday (time and place will be announced in advance). We'll coop-out early Sunday and head home, but some will chose to coop out Saturday. Paul Monteith, from Ontario, will judge our meet. We'll also have our Ameraucana egg judging contest Saturday morning. Our club meeting will be after the judging in the afternoon and awards will be handed out, including the Lifetime Achievement Award. The list of awards is included in this Newsletter. The show club is offering our breed club \$200 if 100 or more Ameraucanas are exhibited and \$300 if we have 200 or more! So bring all you can. The entry fee is \$3/bird and entries must be postmarked by October 5th. The Show Catalog and Entry Forms are available on-line on the show club's Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Central-Indiana-Poultry-Show/848489541886674?ref=ts>

Contact Doug Akers (765)482-7182 dakers@purdue.edu for more information about the show and entry forms.

Beth Curran ~ Director of Club Meets

Greetings, friends! It has been a whirlwind summer, seems like school just let out and Fuzz went back last week. Growing up I laughed when the adults said time goes faster each year but I'm not laughing anymore. A friend once said "Remember when we were kids and Christmas came every ten years, and now it comes every three months??" So very true!



It has been a pretty good season for large fowl and I will have some buffs and lavenders available for sale this fall. Unfortunately, my bantams were not as accommodating, with the handful of whites and silvers I ended up with being mostly male. But for the second year in a row we've managed to dodge the triple digit temps most of the summer, and I have birds laying, so I may try for some fall hatches.

I have been very pleased with the F2 buff black crosses, with many that could pass for buff at first glance. Can't wait to see what they produce next season!

Just a reminder that I am still placing meets in the states that are open, so if you would like to call a meet, just let me know in time to get it into the next bulletin. Meanwhile, the North Carolina poultry ban went into affect a few weeks ago and will run through mid January, so it looks like our nationals will be the only show for our family this fall. I am so excited about seeing everyone, and Walker can't wait to hang out and talk chicken with the other juniors! If any other tarheels would like to carpool let me know!

Jim Fegan ~ Director

Greetings from Michigan. With most of the shows that I planned to attend being cancelled, there is not much to report.



The two Brown Red chicks that I mentioned in the last letter have grown up to be cockerels. They are pretty birds but a bit small and I don't need any more small Brown Red cockerels. I do have a couple decent Silver pullets and one good Black pullet. It has not been a good year for Ameraucanas and me.

With recently being called out of retirement and appointed to pastor two United Methodist churches through June of 2016 I will be working with very limited hatches this coming hatching season.

The recent warm weather has just about eliminated egg production and has initiated early molting for many of the birds. With the early molt and the forecast for another cold winter in our area I may have a few older birds in really good feather for the spring shows.

I do plan to exhibit next year with the best of what I have, so hope to see you all at the shows.

Jim



Once again the Ameraucanas made an impression at the Adams County Fair.

Gus Malcolm's LF black cock - Champion AOSB, Champion LF & Reserve Champion of Open show

Walter Malcolm's bantam silver hen "Coral". (also see cover photo)



Mike Gilbert ~ Director of Recruitment & Promotion



Mary and I are looking forward to the National Meet in Lebanon, Indiana, on October 17th. We expect to arrive Friday afternoon and plan to leave Sunday morning, and will be staying at the Comfort Inn. It sounds like Bob and Sandy Rennolet will swing through on their way from South Dakota, so we will probably travel together if Bob brings his trailer to tow behind his pickup. I have a few orders of bantams to deliver to the show, whites and brown reds, so hope they are finished out and ready to enter by that time. Right now it looks like they should be, but one never knows until those final feathers come in. We may show a few large fowl brown reds as well. If anyone is interested, I have a surplus of White Chantecler bantams this year, and they are looking pretty good so far.

It sounds like we have a real nice lineup of awards for the show, and don't forget the egg contest. An egg entry consists of six eggs in one of four classes: large fowl hen, large fowl pullet, bantam hen, and bantam pullet. They are judged on interior, exterior, shell, and color qualities. Egg color only makes up a possible 30 out of a 100 possible points. There is no entry fee for the egg contest, and each exhibitor may enter as many times as they wish.

In case anyone did not know it, Ameraucana Alliance has an active Facebook presence. Just search for Ameraucana Alliance on Facebook. We have lots of information and photos to look at there.



If anyone has them, I would like to purchase a nice pair of black bantams. I have not had these for a number of years, and would like to raise a few next year. Let me know if you will have some to spare. My phone and email should be listed under the Directors' info, or check out the breeders directory on the website.

It is our hope you are planning to attend the big show at Lebanon. We are looking forward to meeting some of you for the very first time. Bring your best birds and be ready to have a really nice time at our first Ameraucana Alliance national meet.

Originators of different varieties of Ameraucana

In the last newsletter I listed the Ameraucana varieties that are recognized along with a few newer ones that would meet the standard. Before there were Ameraucana chickens there were what we call today "Easter Eggers" and back then generally called Araucanas. A gentleman from Axtel, Kansas named J. Ralph Brazleton bred bantam Easter Eggers and Jerry Segler bought white and silver bantams from him. Jerry said "The ones I got from Ralph all had willow legs. So I was the one who changed them to slate to meet the standard". There is an article by Jerry, on page 20 of the AMERAUCANA BANTAM HANDBOOK, from 1982, entitled White and Silver Ameraucana Bantams that tells much of the story. Jerry also told me he "also developed a line of buff using whites and bantam buff Orpington". I wasn't aware of that and I've updated the lists, below, to reflect these corrections. There were others that worked on bantam buffs, but to the best of my knowledge they didn't get past creating black-tailed buff. Between the four of us, Mike, Jerry, Wayne and myself, all 16 recognized varieties were originally created to the point that they wouldn't be disqualified as an Ameraucana when judged at a show and they weren't just improvements by using another strain already created by someone else. Some of these were created independently by more than one of us, so since I don't know for sure which was first both are listed.

Bantam Ameraucana

Black – Jerry Segler
Blue – Jerry Segler, Mike Gilbert
Blue Wheaten – Mike Gilbert
Brown Red – Jerry Segler, Mike Gilbert
Buff – Gilbert/Blehm, Jerry Segler
Silver – Jerry Segler
Wheaten – Mike Gilbert
White – Jerry Segler
Lavender – Blehm/Muenks

Large Fowl Ameraucana

Black – John Blehm
Blue – John Blehm
Blue Wheaten – Wayne Meredith
Brown Red – Mike Gilbert, John Blehm
Buff – John Blehm
Silver – Mike Gilbert, John Blehm
Wheaten – Wayne Meredith
White – John Blehm
Lavender – John Blehm, Harry Shaffer

Ameraucana Alliance Points

Member	White		Black		Blue		Blue Wheaten		Wheaten		Silver		Brown Red		Buff		AOV		Un-Categorized		Total	
	LF	BF	LF	BF	LF	BF	LF	BF	LF	BF	LF	BF	LF	BF	LF	BF	LF	BF	Jr	Open		
Blair, Russ				21		2												1		106		130
Blehm, John			33								10	21			24	39	13	32		39		211
Curran, Walker																				10	10	
Davis, Kaitlin																				1	1	
Fegan, James						2							11							9		20
Gilbert, Mike					5			43					66	39		5				3		158
Hogan, Debra	11						1										1					18
Ivins, Keesha																				25	25	
Kitsch, Will			31		49									24						88	70	122
Knapp, Harold			39																		39	
Malcom, Gus																				34	19	15
Malcom, Walter			43																	29	21	51
Muenks, Michael							26		4											31		61
Pierson, Jensen			79		16												23			8	8	118
Rennolet, Robert	9																1	10		22		42
Schroeder, Duane					3		5													15		23
Segler, Jerry												3					2	11		18		35
Sonsalla, Jacob			16		18															4		38
Sonsalla, Jeff					3																	3
Sonsalla, Natalie																1				1	1	1
Townsend, Neil & Donna				3																		81
Trent, Jeanne									13											9		22
Van Blaricome, Royce							6															18
Walchak, Bob				116				3							22					162		447

Above is the Exhibitor Points list Beth put together. Please contact her with any corrections you are aware of. I've also updated our Alliance website to include this information. It will be updated as meet reports come in and points are cumulated by our members. The guidelines for our point system are also on the site's "Exhibitor Points" page.

Awards list for Ameraucana National Meet

Lebanon, IN ~ October, 17th, 2015

Open Show Competition:

Champion Ameraucana Over-All.....Coaster, \$20 by Royce Van Blaricome, \$30 by Russ Blair
 Reserve Champion Ameraucana Over-All.....Coaster, \$20 by Mike Gilbert, \$10 by Russ Blair
 Best of Breed Bantam.....Rosette by Ken Olsen, \$25 by Jim Fegan
 Reserve of Breed Bantam.....Rosette by Ken Olsen, \$25 by Jim Fegan
 Best of Breed Large Fowl.....Rosette by Ken Olsen, \$25 by Jim Fegan
 Reserve of Breed Large Fowl.....Rosette by Ken Olsen, \$25 by Jim Fegan
 Best of Variety Bantam (recognized & Best AOV).....Ribbon & \$10, a Fowl Stuff Nest Box,
 BV Bantam.....\$13 by Neil & Donna Townsend, Harold Knapp, Beth Curran & Mike Gilbert
 BV & RV bantam wheaten.....Jeanne Trent memorial coaster by John Blehm
 Reserve of Variety Bantam (recognized & Best AOV).....Ribbon & \$10, a Fowl Stuff Nest Box
 Best of Variety Large Fowl (recognized & Best AOV).....Ribbon & \$10, a Fowl Stuff Nest Box
 BV Large Fowl Wheaten & Blue Wheaten.....\$25 by Royce Van Blaricome
 Reserve of Variety Large Fowl (recognized & Best AOV).....Ribbon & \$10, a Fowl Stuff Nest Box
 RV Large Fowl Wheaten & Blue Wheaten.....\$10 by Royce Van Blaricome

Junior Competition:

BB Bantam.....Rosette by Mike Gilbert, \$20 by Russ Blair
 RB Bantam.....Rosette by Mike Gilbert, \$10 by Russ Blair
 BB Large Fowl.....Rosette by Mike Gilbert, \$20 by Russ Blair
 RB Large Fowl.....Rosette by Mike Gilbert, \$10 by Russ Blair
 BV Bantam and Large Fowl (recognized & Best AOV).....Ameraucana Alliance Patch
 BV Large Fowl Wheaten & Blue Wheaten.....\$20 by Royce Van Blaricome
 RV Bantam and Large Fowl (recognized & Best AOV).....Ameraucana Alliance Patch
 RV Large Fowl Wheaten & Blue Wheaten.....\$10 by Royce Van Blaricome

Egg Competition:

Best Bantam Hen Eggs.....Coaster by Beth Curran, 12 Ceramic Nest Eggs by John Blehm
 Best Bantam Pullet Eggs.....Coaster by Harold Knapp, 12 Ceramic Nest Eggs by John Blehm
 Best LF Hen Eggs.....Coaster by Beth Curran, 12 Ceramic Nest Eggs by John Blehm
 Best LF Pullet Eggs.....Coaster by Harold Knapp, 12 Ceramic Nest Eggs by John Blehm

Only Ameraucana Alliance Members are eligible for these awards from the club & it's members. Members donating special awards are responsible for the distribution of those awards. Eggs entered into the egg judging contest become the property of the Ameraucana Alliance.

The commemorative and memorial 4" diameter Corian coasters will look similar to this, which is not to scale.



Ameraucana Egg Contest Information

Two classes are provided: Large Fowl and Bantam.

Ameraucana eggs only.

No entry fee.

Awards will be given for the “Best” and “Reserve” Large Fowl and Bantam eggs.

Entries will consist of six eggs presented in a suitable container of the entrant's choice.

Exhibitors may enter the same class more than once only if each entry represents a different Ameraucana variety and/or under hen or pullet status. Entries from pens or flocks of commingled varieties shall be limited to one per class and shall be designated “Various” on the entry form.

No unsolicited remarks by any exhibitor may be made within hearing of the judge during the judging process. Violations will result in automatic disqualification of all entries of the violator(s).

All entries become the property of the Ameraucana Alliance at the time of entry.

Two out of each entry of six eggs will be opened by the judge or the clerk to facilitate the judging of interior qualities and coloring.

Each class will be judged to third place.

Recommended equipment to be supplied by the Ameraucana Ameraucana:

Egg Scale, magnifying glass, pencil or marking pen, butter knife for opening eggs, a container for broken shells, paper saucers, and judging cards for each entry with room for judges comments.

Judging categories are:

Shell Texture, 10 points possible

- non-porous • uniformly smooth throughout

Shell Quality, 10 points possible

- not thin • resistant to breakage • free of hair-line cracks • without bumps or spots

Shell Shape, 10 points possible

- uniform • oval • smaller ends quite evident

Size, 10 points possible

- top priority is six eggs of uniform size • tending to large size for class of entry

Cleanliness, 10 possible

- exteriors free of stains or evidence of sand-papering

Shell Color, 30 points possible

• blue without evidence of brown pigment • inside same shade as outside – allowing for dampness

Freshness, 10 points possible

- yolks “stand up” • whites are not “runny”

Interior Qualities, 10 points possible

- free of foreign spots or other impurities • yolk size proportionate to size of eggs

Club Notes ~ John W Blehm

Deadline for the next Ameraucana Newsletter is November 15th. Please have reports, articles, photos, ads, etc. to me by then.

That is also the date to request meets be placed by for any shows that have an entry deadline before March 1st...the date the Spring Newsletter is due by. Of course it is best to request meets as early as possible.

Treasurer's Report

Checking account at Credit Union Plus, Birch Run, MI

Previous Total Balance as of 6/30/2015 =	\$1,867.88
Previous Checking Balance as of 6/30/2015 =	\$1,677.85
Income =	\$0.00
Expenses =	\$0.00
Checking Balance as of 8/31/2015 =	\$1,677.85
PayPal Balance as of 8/31/2015 =	\$561.69
Ending Total Balance as of 8/31/2015 =	\$2,239.54

2015 North American Poultry Census

The Livestock Conservancy is asking breeders to fill out their census/survey looking for breeding flock information from breeders of landrace & large fowl standard bred poultry. The Alliance does not endorse or oppose this project, although "the APA supports this project". The information is just being presented as requested.

Here is a direct link to the census: <http://123contactform.com/form-1517654/2015-Poultry-Census>

Contact: Ches Stewart, Poultry Census Associate, The Livestock Conservancy

(919)542-5704 ext 111 cstewart@LivestockConservancy.org LivestockConservancy.org

Upcoming Ameraucana Meets - Go to AmeraucanaAlliance.org for updates

September 8-10, 2015

California Meet, requested by Debbie Hogan

[The National Heirloom Exposition](#), Santa Rosa CA

Contact: Ellyn Mavalwalla (530)743-7939

info@TheHeirloomExpo.com

October 3, 2015

Montana Meet, requested by Royce Van Blaricome

RMPF – Big Sky Poultry Exposition, Great Falls MT

Contact: Karen Beatty (406)788-6495

kbeattyca@yahoo.com

October 3, 2015 (originally scheduled for June 13)

Illinois Meet, requested by Denise Baker

[Central Illinois Poultry Club](#), Spring Show, Bloomington IL

IL

Contact: Dianne Weer (309)303-7409

Note: "Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) animal health officials announced...that out-of-state birds will not be allowed to compete in Illinois exhibitions until further notice due to the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak affecting several states."

October 17, 2015

Ameraucana National Meet

[Central Indiana Poultry Show](#), Lebanon IN

Contact: Doug Akers dakers@purdue.edu

(765)482-7182

November 21, 2015

Washington Meet, requested by Royce Van Blaricome

[Washington Feather Fanciers](#) - Fall/Winter Brisk,

Chehalis WA

Contact: Amy Arsenault aja19919@gmail.com

Ameraucana Alliance Board of Directors

President, Michael Muenks

33878 Hwy 87, California MO 65018-3911 michael_muenks@yahoo.com (573)796-3999,

Secretary/Treasurer, John Blehm

4599 Lange Road, Birch Run MI 48415-8137 John@FowlStuff.com (989)777-1234

Director of Club Meets - Beth Curran

136 Twin Oak Road, Maysville NC 28555 bncarey@hotmail.com (910)743-8311

Director - Jim Fegan

278 County Road CNA, Champion MI 49814 lorpman@aol.com (906)486-9464

Director of Recruitment & Promotion - Mike Gilbert

W5171 Baker Road, Holmen WI 54636 chanteclery@gmail.com (608)857-3386

