

Ameraucana Newsletter

Spring 2024 - Volume 11, Issue 1

A warm welcome to our new members!

Simone Bergmann from Geldern, Germany	Aaron L Decker from Bee Spring, KY	Maegan Holland from Harrodsburg, KY
Lindsay Blades from Navarre, FL	Benjamin Eddy from Council Bluffs, IA	Nichole Holyfield from McCaysville, GA
Jenny Bury from Lester Prairie, MN	Ashlea Etheridge from Knoxville, TN	Jessica Loree from Green, KS
Sara Church from Blair, NE	Dee Jones from Harrisville, MS	Megan B Polk from Angleton, TX
Michael Cohrs from China, MI	KristaRee Johnson from Durham, NC	Dorathy Salo from Highlands, TX
Sierra Cyr from Franklin, ME	Sarah Hamilton from Stafford, VA	Hailie Scroggins from Blair, NE
		Crystal Woods from Newport, TN

President – Russell Blair



Greetings everyone, as I write I find myself collecting eggs for the setter in hopes of hatching some fall champions. I would also like to discuss our 2023 National meet that was hosted by the Tennessee Valley Poultry Club at their annual Dixie Classic show in Knoxville, Tennessee the weekend of December 2&3. Although the postal service caused a few hiccups with a couple entries Harry House and the entire TVPC team were very hospitable and understanding. Although it was impossible to have all of our Ameraucana lined up in order and in the same rows they did all get cooped in and for that I want to give them a big Thank You.

They were also very gracious in the amount of room and tables that they provided for our annual silent auction. We had 4 dozen bantam hatching eggs, 6 pairs (consisting of Black, Blue, Lavender/Self Blue, and even 2 ermines with a black breeding pair) a trio of brown reds, and a quad of whites all up for grabs in the bantam class which were graciously donated by Michael Muenks, Max Strawn, John Blehm and myself. In the large fowl class, we had 2 trios of spectacular Blues and a fabulous trio of splash graciously donated by Stan Alder, Max Strawn and Stacy Melton respectfully. Not only did we have this

wonderful display of Ameraucana, which drew a lot of people to our club table, Jim Laatsch (who is not even a member) donated a 3-hole bantam carrier he made and we also had an anonymous donation of a 150th APA commemorative Standard of Perfection donated that we sold raffle tickets for. Which I am proud to announce raised a total of \$1,163 of revenue for our Alliance. Thank you to all the members and nonmembers who graciously donated items or livestock to make this such a great success. Also let me give a special thank you to Stan Alder for volunteering to head this up, along with the many others who also helped answer questions and set this all up making it a huge success.

I was a little surprised we only had 5 entries of eggs, should have been 6 but I misplaced my entry somewhere in the show hall, but the quality of the entries was phenomenal. It really made Janie's, who graciously volunteered to judge them, job extremely difficult. In the end Stacy Melton was awarded Best and Reserve in the large fowl class with her pullet and hen entry, in respective order. Michael Muenks and Robert Rennolet took the Best and Reserve respectfully in the bantam class both with pullet entries.



We had a great turn out in the open show with 138 Bantam entries by 13 exhibitors and 69 large fowl entries by 14 exhibitors. We had 6 displays of bantam (2-blue, 1-black, 2-wheaten, and 1-white) and 1 display of large fowl black by 4 different exhibitors. Our bantam class was judged by Rick Hare and the large fowl were judged by Brian Knox, with both of them choosing our champion overall and res champion overall Ameraucana champions. In the Bantam Class a nonmember took Best of Breed with a black cockerel out of 30 entries from 7 exhibitors, with Rebecca Howie respectfully taking Reserve of Breed with her Blue Wheaten Hen out of 21 entries from 6 different exhibitors. In the large fowl class Best of Breed went to myself, Russ Blair, with my Splash Hen out of 7 entries from 4 exhibitors (which went on to reserve AOSB) and Reserve of Breed respectfully went to Max Strawn with his Blue Pullet out of 22 entries from 4 exhibitors. The overall Champion Ameraucana award went to the nonmember Black Bantam cockerel with my large fowl Splash hen taking the Reserve Overall Champion Ameraucana award. Champion display was awarded to myself, Russ Blair, with my

bantam blue display with Michael Muenks Black Bantam display respectfully taking the reserve champion display award. Jerry DeSmidt was awarded the Champion Bantam Trio award with his whites and Michael Muenks took home the Res Bantam Trio award with his Blacks. We only had one large fowl trio entry, so Jerry DeSmidt respectfully was awarded the champion large fowl trio, which went on to win Champion Large Fowl Trio of the Show.

In the junior show we had 4 Bantam entries from 1 exhibitor, judged by Jeff Halbach, and in the large fowl class we had 7 entries from 2 different exhibitors judged by Jacob Bates. Gavin Bailey took the Best of Breed award with his Blue Wheaten Pullet out of 2 entries and again took the Reserve of Breed award with his Wheaten Pullet out of 2 entries in the Bantam class. In the Large Fowl Class new member Turner Holland respectfully won the Best of Breed award (which went on to win Ch AOSB in the junior division) with his Black cockerel out of 4 entries from 2 exhibitors, with Brandi Hills respectfully taking the Reserve of Breed award (Which went on to win Res AOSB in the junior division). Congratulations to these fine young men and women, they truly are an asset to our poultry hobby and I look forward to seeing them for years to come. Not only did we have a great showing of Ameraucana we also had a great turn out of Ameraucana Alliance members. With several members like Johnny Parks and his wife, Barb Campbell and her husband, Jeff and Sherry Vance, and Don Cash all showing up just for the fellowshiping and comradery. After the show on Saturday a bunch of us went to Shoney's to eat and conduct our annual meeting. There were 18 Ameraucana Alliance members in attendance, with their spouses/families, at this year's annual meeting. There we discussed old business, like Becky Pelton and the many others' efforts with the Ermine Ameraucana, and new business like our Facebook presence and how we can improve it and make it friendlier moving forward, along with splash and self-blue bantam recognition.

All in all, I think our National Meet kept the long-standing tradition of being a truly epic event alive and well. I believe everyone had a blast sitting around the club table and enjoying one another's company while sharing jokes, breeding practices, and fundamental good husbandry concerning our poultry hobby as a whole. Before I go, I just want to remind you that with this new year it is also an election year



for all our elected positions. So, we will be needing volunteers with the interest to participate in club affairs for the upcoming elections next fall. If any of our dues paying members are interested, please go to our website at Ameraucana.org to see all the requirements, expectations and such that is written in our By-Laws. While you are there feel free to go to our forum as well for a full report of the results of our 2023 National Meet along with some pictures.

Speaking about the forum, some of you may have noticed the announcement I made in the members only section pertaining to the former Ameraucana Alliance Open Group on Facebook. Due to no policy or by laws dictating how we govern that group, hold administrators accountable if/when members file complaints. I decided to cut all ties to it to

protect our members, directors and most of all our Alliance from any backlash from disciplinary actions administrators take upon the members of that group. The Facebook group is still operating, with dues paying members agreeing to help administrate it, under the new name "The unofficial Ameraucana Alliance" Facebook group. I truly think this will protect not only the current board of directors but also future board of directors from the turmoil that the Facebook platform causes.

Before I go there is also one more thing I would like to discuss. It appears we are getting low on our 2018 Handbooks. This means we will be needing to publish a new one in the upcoming months. In years past we have offered ads to our members and vendors, for a fee, to help cover the cost. We will be looking to print 500 handbooks which is rather costly, so please check in to our forum for updates and ad opportunities. The board is just now discussing this matter so unfortunately, I do not have much more information right now but if any of our members have graphic design experience/programs and would be willing to help out please get ahold of me at slicktree@hotmail.com

Thank you for not only reading this but also for allowing me to serve as your president. I truly hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May your upcoming breeding season be the best one you have ever had and yield you plenty of Ameraucana for next year's National hosted By the Wisconsin International Poultry Club at the Wisconsin International show September 28-29th in Portage, Wisconsin, along with the National being hosted by the Heart of The Ozarks Poultry Association November 2-3rd in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Take care and God Bless

Director - Becky Howie



Hi there, I am Rebecca G Howie (Becky). I take care of your Membership (new and renewals) when you join the Ameraucana Alliance. With only a few exceptions I am your first point of contact when I answer questions you may have as a new Member or when I simply send out your welcome email and login information on the Forum. I also update the Breeders Directory for you, adding or changing available stock as needed.

I currently live in Arkansas to be near my grandchildren but lived in the Sunshine State for many years before that. I have Wheaten/Blue Wheaten bantams and am also working on the Ermine bantam project. Soon you will be seeing me with these little beauties along with the W/BW at more and more shows, along with the LF Ermines that are in the hands of a number of people now.

I did a thing this year!! I originally joined the Ameraucana Alliance in 2016. I was elected to the Board of Directors in 2019 and have served the Membership since. In the past I have renewed every year or every 3 years, but this year I made the plunge and became a Lifetime Member of the Ameraucana Alliance!! I have committed myself to a Lifetime of serving the Ameraucana Alliance and the beautiful breed of poultry we have come to love so much - Ameraucanas.

Being a Board Member has been very satisfying and allowed me to help the Alliance in a number of ways. In 2020, I Chaired a team of members that planned the Southern National Ameraucana Meet. It was the year of Covid and many shows were cancelled. We decided to hold a members only private meet at a member's farm that year. There was a great turnout and a terrific show, displaying all varieties in both LF and bantam in spite of the dark cloud of illness that hovered over everyone that year.

This year, I will again Chair a Show Committee with Michael Muenks, as Co-Chair, to plan a National Meet. Since it will take place in Fayetteville, Arkansas and Arkansas is the home of the "razorback" pig we have named that show "**Hog Wild for Ameraucanas.**" Doesn't that sound like a fun theme to work with? It will take place November 2-3, 2024. Mark your calendar and start hatching those potential champions so you will be ready.



Often our members want to help but do not know what to do for the club. This is a great opportunity to pitch in and get your feet wet serving the Membership. There are many facets to planning a successful show of this importance. We need volunteers! There will be a couple of get togethers to plan, a Club table to man, an Egg show to judge and a Silent Auction to manage in addition to others activities that will come to mind later as planning advances.

This is also an Election year. We need additional Board of Directors on our team. The Board of Directors manage the everyday business of the Ameraucana Alliance on behalf of the Membership, et. all. That can be everything from managing the finances, editing the Newsletters, deciding to back a new variety on its journey to acceptance with the ABA or APA, updating the website, Membership and Directory records, placing Meets, recording meet report results and points, sending out ribbons to exhibitors.

Election time is an especially important time to be active in the Club and your votes count. Consider running for a Board position. Write in votes are important, too. If you know someone who might be willing to contribute some time and energy to the Ameraucana Alliance, this is a great time to nominate.

You can contact me at rebeccah@mac.com if there are any questions, suggestions, or willingness to volunteer in any capacity.

Bye ya'all. Wishing you great spring hatches.

Director - Jeff Sonsalla



Hello Ameraucana members. We have had an interesting winter here in Wisconsin. A couple of pretty cold weeks first at the end of October and again in early January. It has been a very mild winter for us other than those few weeks. I do not remember a winter with so much mud.

We have had some cases of Avian Influenza in Wisconsin in 2023. Trempealeau County which I live in had a couple of positive flocks right around Thanksgiving. My flock was in the quarantine area so no birds were allowed to move off the premise until after Christmas. Hopefully we won't have any more positives found before our local spring poultry show.

Our Coulee Region Poultry Show is scheduled for June 1, 2024 here in Galesville, Wisconsin. We usually have 800 or more poultry entered. With Mike Gilbert and myself as members it is always an Ameraucana sanctioned show. Numerous Ameraucana Alliance members have showed at the CRPC show over the years including John Blehm, Bob Walchak, Jim Fegan, Bob Rennolet, Russ Blair and Michael Muenks.

So, I encourage Ameraucana members to join us in Galesville, Wisconsin on June 1st at a quality spring poultry show where you can meet with other Ameraucana members and enjoy seeing some beautiful Ameraucana chickens.

The Alliance balance is doing well. We have had many members renew and new members join. The treasurer's report is in the later pages of this newsletter.

I hope everyone's hatching season is going well. I have cut back to only a few varieties (Large fowl Wheaten/Blue Wheaten, Bantam Wheaten/Blue Wheaten and Bantam Brown Red).

Wishing everyone the best this Spring and hope to see you at our Nationals this fall.



Director - Michael Muenks



Greetings from the Ameraucana Alliance! I am proud of all the club members who hit the road to go to shows in 2023. I am especially pleased with the number of Ameraucana making it to the champion row in both open shows and junior shows. Those raising and showing both large fowl and bantam Ameraucana should be proud of your collective work as breeders and exhibitors of Ameraucana.

The year is moving so fast that I feel like I am late for the breeding season. For those that are planning hatches for the club national meets, there will be two national celebrations of Ameraucana sponsored by the Ameraucana Alliance this year. The first will be "Celebrating Ameraucana in Dairyland" at the Wisconsin International Poultry Show in Portage, Wisconsin September 28-29, 2024, and the second "Hog Wild for Ameraucanas" will be at Heart of the Ozarks Poultry Club Fall Show in Fayetteville, Arkansas November 2-3, 2024.

Celebrating Ameraucana in Dairyland

I will be serving as the chair of the "Celebrating Ameraucana in Dairyland" at the Wisconsin International Poultry Show in Portage, Wisconsin September 28-29, 2024, meet committee. Jeff Sonsalla is part of the committee along with president Russell Blair as an advisor. I am looking for a few additional committee member volunteers to help with organizing and running the meet. Help is needed for filling out the meet report, calculating trios and displays, taking pictures of the best of breed and reserve of breed for all varieties bantam and large fowl, taking action shots at the meet, staffing the club table, organizing a silent auction and or raffle, club meal, organizing the egg show, and judging the egg show. Other items/events that can be considered for the meet include a Question/Answer session, livestream, egg decorating contest, coloring contest using the Ameraucana coloring sheets, Ameraucana art contest, seminar sessions and any other suggestions members produce. Watch the forum and the newsletters for more details.

With both splash and self blue large fowl Ameraucana having been admitted to the American Poultry Association's standard of perfection, there are groups of people interested in working to have splash and self blue bantam Ameraucana admitted to the American Poultry Association's standard of perfection. Both varieties are already part of the American Bantam Association's standard. Speaking of new varieties of Ameraucana and having them admitted to the standards, Becky Pelton has a group organized to start the process of having the ermine large fowl variety of Ameraucana begin the process of standard admittance. Watch the Ameraucana Forum and the various social media sites dedicated to Ameraucana for more information about the recognition process for splash bantam, self blue bantam, and ermine large fowl/bantam Ameraucana.

Meet Requests

Thank you to everyone who sent in meet requests for the spring, summer, and fall. The earlier meet requests are made, the better the chance of getting the club information into the show catalog to advertise the club's meet. Please only send one meet request per email. Many clubs need the meets over six months in advance if one hopes to get the club logo and information into the show catalog. Remember that our club meet policy requires that the meets be placed so that they may be published in the newsletter before the entry close date of the meet and the last entry date is before the publication of the newsletter.

Meet Reports

Meet reports are becoming a struggle to collect with the return of shows post Covid-19. If you have requested a meet, please go to the club website and download a meet report or contact me at Michael_Muenks@yahoo.com and I will send you one. You can be a huge help to both the show club and the Ameraucana Alliance if you complete an official meet report, have the show superintendent sign it, and submit it if allowed. I **must** have all the information on the official meet report for the Exhibitor Points calculations to be made. I will not report the results of a poultry show in the

newsletter until have an official meet report. The publication of the results of a poultry show in the newsletter is what triggers the delivery of awards by Jeff Sonsalla and the addition of the results to the Exhibitor Points by Mindy Waters.

Best wishes with your spring hatches. May your chicks be better than their parents and may you have 25% cockerels and 75% pullets! As always, do not forget to provide your chicks and chickens with teeth . . . feed grit! It will save on your feed bill and your birds will be healthier.

Director - Mindy Waters



Hello again from Eastern Washington!

We have a few Washington club meets coming up this spring. The first one will be the Cascade Spring (double) Show put on by Emmett Wild on March 16th, in Monroe. The next one is the CRPE Spring Invitational in Stevenson on April 20th. I plan to attend both and would love to see you and your Ameraucanas!

Besides watching and evaluating my grow outs in preparation for these shows and my upcoming breeding season, I have been anxiously awaiting spring. I have big plans for my 2,500 sq ft garden expansion, most specifically the many more dahlias I'll be able to grow!

Back to birds. Lately, I've been seeing several folks ask questions about their Ameraucana laying white or tan eggs, so I thought it may be helpful to share my reasons for choosing to have my flock's DNA tested for the blue egg gene through IQ Bird Genetics in Florida and to share a little bit about the process.

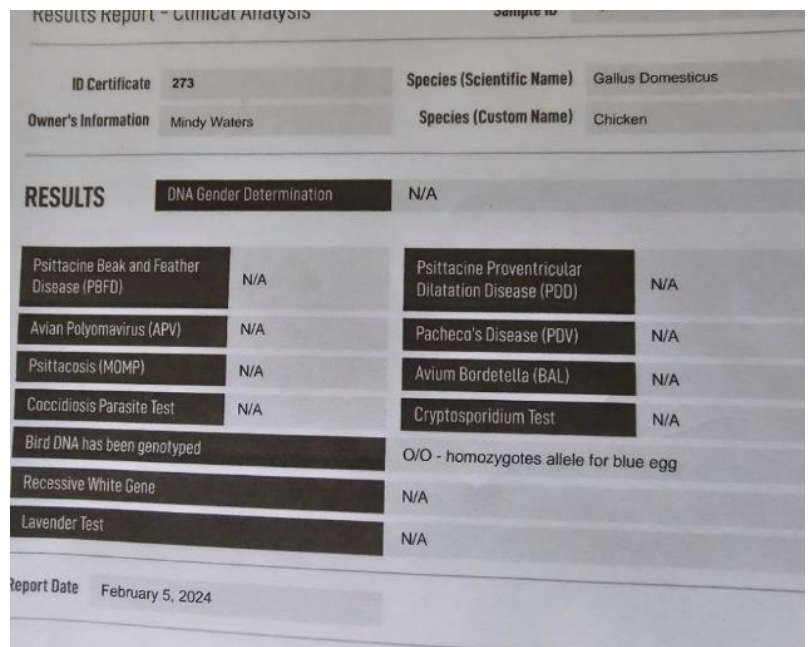
While I am primarily breeding towards the SOP, egg color is also important to me. I don't want a white or tan egg layer to pop up in my Ameraucana flock years down the road. I know some of you may have even heard stories about Ameraucana laying white, tan, olive, or even brown eggs in their show cages at sanctioned shows. These birds look the part as show quality Ameraucana (phenotypically) but lay the wrong egg color. It's disappointing, right?

My line had been outcrossed to a non-blue egg laying breed many generations before I got my starter birds. However, they had never been tested to ensure they are homozygous for the blue egg gene. Like many, I had just made the assumption.

Well, assumptions are not in line with my personal goals for my flock. Testing my breeding stock has been less expensive in the long run than test-breeding each bird and growing out enough of their offspring until point of lay to statistically rule out any possibility of blue egg gene heterozygosity.

Here are some fun facts about blue egg color-

A bird will lay eggs with blue shells whether or not she has one or two copies of the blue egg mutation. This blue pigment goes all the way through the shell and is visible inside the egg as well. You may need to peel back the inner membranes to see the blue inside. Sometimes the shade of blue is very pale.



RESULTS	
Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease (PBFD)	N/A
Avian Polyomavirus (APV)	N/A
Psittacosis (MOMP)	N/A
Coccidiosis Parasite Test	N/A
Bird DNA has been genotyped	O/O - homozygotes allele for blue egg
Recessive White Gene	N/A
Lavender Test	N/A

Report Date: February 5, 2024



Blue shells are dominant to white shells. Hatching only from blue eggs is not enough to ensure your flock will always lay blue eggs. Be aware that it only takes pairing two heterozygous birds to produce offspring that do not inherit the blue egg gene at all. About 25% of them, give or take. Another half will only be heterozygous like their parents, and although they will lay blue shelled eggs, they will not pass the trait on to all of their offspring either! Can you see how this can become problematic?

I decided not to take any chances with my flock. I wanted to be 100% sure of what genetics my birds have and will pass on. It is important for both my Standard-bred Ameraucanas and also for the olive egger crosses I make with them. I have now tested all of my breeding birds and it has given me a peace of mind that was worth the cost, in my opinion.

IQ Bird Genetics in Florida will test a chicken's DNA for their blue egg gene status. You can send in feathers or a blood sample. I opted for feathers, but it's just as easy to clip a toenail a bit short and collect a few drops of blood from your bird onto their paper forms. The cost per bird is \$20-\$25. Once they receive samples, they email your results in as little as a couple of days. It's very quick and easy.

I feel this testing opportunity is important for those working on project varieties, especially those that have been outcrossed to another breed.

If you have any questions about egg color inheritance or breeding for colored eggs, I'm always available to talk chickens and genetics.

I hope you have a great season!

Mindy

Upcoming Meets

March 2, 2024

North Carolina

Club Meet, requested by Anna Babst

Unifour All Breeds Show - Spring 2024 Show, Salisbury, NC

Contact: Neil Mahaffey, bluebantam4@yahoo.com, (336) 403-8640,

www.facebook.com/groups/301059453881380/

March 2, 2024

Tennessee

Club Meet, requested by Ashlea Etheridge

Spring in Dixie Poultry Show, Jacobs Building - Chilhowee Park, 3301 E. Magnolia Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37914

Contact: Harry House, <https://tvpoultryclub.com>, (865) 898-7706, hhouse30@hotmail.com

March 9, 2024

Arkansas

Club meet, requested by Laurie Ashley

Backwoods Benefit Poultry Show, Cleveland County Fairgrounds, Rison, AR

Contact: Frankie Harper, (870) 461-0396, frankieharper657@gmail.com

March 16, 2024

Washington

Club Meet, requested by Mindy Waters

Cascade Spring Show 1, Evergreen State Fairgrounds, 14405 179th Ave SE, Monroe, WA 98272

Contact: Emmett Wild, magpie.wild@yahoo.com

March 16, 2024

Washington

Club Meet, requested by Mindy Waters

Cascade Spring Show 2, Evergreen State Fairgrounds, 14405 179th Ave SE, Monroe, WA 98272

Contact: Emmett Wild, magpie.wild@yahoo.com

March 30, 2024

North Carolina

Club Meet, requested by Anna Babst

Forsythe Fowl Fanciers Spring Show, Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, Winston-Salem, NC

Contact: James Eaton, Jr., jfeatonjrkw@aol.com, (336) 279-6167,

www.facebook.com/groups/222892614570457

April 20, 2024

Kentucky

Club Meet, requested by Aaron Decker

Green River Poultry Club 2024 Spring Show, Edmonson County Fairground, Lions Lane, Brownsville, Ky 42210

Contact: Randy Graham, GreenRiverPoultry@gmail.com,

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/116319091849263/>

April 20, 2024

Missouri

Club Meet, requested by Michael Muenks

Missouri State Poultry Spring Show and Swap #1, Missouri State Fairgrounds, Sedalia, MO

Contact: Bernita Miller, 300 N. Franklin, Windsor, MO 65360,

bmiller@iland.net, (660) 647-2427

April 20, 2024

Missouri

Club Meet, requested by Michael Muenks

Missouri State Poultry Spring Show and Swap #2, Missouri State Fairgrounds, Sedalia, MO

Contact: Bernita Miller, 300 N. Franklin, Windsor, MO 65360,

bmiller@iland.net, (660) 647-2427

April 20, 2024

Washington

Club Meet, requested by Mindy Waters

CRPE Spring Invitational, Skamania County Fairgrounds, 720 SW Rock Creek Drive, Stevenson, WA

Contact: Barb Tuss, barbtuss@gmail.com

April 27-28, 2024

Ohio

Club Meet, requested by Russell Blair

Dayton Fancy Feathers Club Spring Show 1, Darke County Fairgrounds, Greenville, OH

Contact: Amanda Heitzman, amanda.heizman@hotmail.com, (937) 681-6002

April 27-28, 2024

Ohio

Club Meet, requested by Russell Blair

Dayton Fancy Feathers Club Spring Show 2, Darke County Fairgrounds, Greenville, OH

Contact: Amanda Heitzman, amanda.heizman@hotmail.com, (937) 681-6002

May 25-26, 2024

Michigan

Club Meet, requested by Russell Blair

Saulk Trail Poultry Club Show #1, Hillsdale County Fairgrounds, Hillsdale, MI

Contact: Amy and Lucas Gabbard, (517) 212-0824, Saulktrailpoultry@gmail.com

May 25-26, 2024

Michigan

Club Meet, requested by Russell Blair

Saulk Trail Poultry Club Show #2, Hillsdale County Fairgrounds, Hillsdale, MI

Contact: Amy and Lucas Gabbard, (517) 212-0824, Saulktrailpoultry@gmail.com

June 1, 2024

Wisconsin

Club Meet, requested by Laurie Ashley

Coulee Region Poultry Club, Inc., Trempealeau County Fairgrounds, Galesville, WI

Contact: Jim Laatsch, JimSparky2000@yahoo.com (253) 241-9981

September 14, 2024

Wisconsin

Club Meet, requested by Jerry DeSmidt

Northwoods Poultry Fanciers Club Show #1, Dairy Barn, Memorial Park 209 Mueller Street, Athens, WI 54411

Contact: (715) 921-4399, northwoodspoultryfanciersclub@gmail.com

September 14, 2024

Wisconsin

Club Meet, requested by Jerry DeSmidt

Northwoods Poultry Fanciers Club Show #2, Dairy Barn, Memorial Park 209 Mueller Street, Athens, WI 54411

Contact: (715) 921-4399, northwoodspoultryfanciersclub@gmail.com

Please see the website for the remaining meets scheduled for September 2024 – January 2025.

Treasurer's Report 02-15-2024

Checking Account at Waumandee State Bank, Arcadia, WI

Previous Balances as of 11-15-2024	
Checking	\$3,062.92
PayPal	\$250.26
Total Balances	\$3,313.18
Income	\$1,133.00 (membership plus \$100 from silent auction) \$70.00 sales of handbooks and patches, \$335.00 Memberships \$25.00 donation \$1163.00 Income from national meet silent auction Total \$2,726.00
Expenses	\$29.50 Lifetime Achievement Award \$180.20 Winter Newsletter \$22.50 Winter newsletter postage expense \$72.77 Postage and Mailing Supplies \$133.40 Fall newsletter and printing and postage expense \$25.00 APA Newsletter \$13.00 NSF deposited check and funds \$83.35 Name Badges 0.00 - \$300.00 Becky Pelton for Ermine Variety Standard \$180.00 Poultry Press full page add \$100.00 of silent Auction money already in paypal. Total \$839.72
Balances as of 02-15-2024	
Checking	\$5,199.46
PayPal	\$0.00
Total Balances	\$5,199.46

Note: Checks still need to be written for Ameraucana Alliance Western National.

Respectfully submitted, Jeff Sonsalla – Treasurer

Newsletter/ Meet Deadlines

Newsletter Deadline

Have something to share in the Ameraucana Alliance Newsletter? Great! Email your ads, articles, opinions, stories, photos, etc. to JanieVila@hotmail.com by May 15, 2024. Please send ads, articles, opinions, and or stories in Word or Rich text.

Breeders Directory Listing

This is a great time to update your Breeder Directory Listings. Contact me if you need to update Contact information, Varieties available or no longer available, NPIP/AI, or shipping information. rebecca@mac.com (Becky)

Club Patches



New Ameraucana Alliance sew on patches are available now. They are 3-inch round patches with the new Wheaten cock logo and a blue background. They will be \$8.00 shipping included. You can order them online or send a check to the following address made out to the Ameraucana Alliance for \$8.00.

Additionally if you pick them up at a show they are only \$5.00 per patch!

Rebecca G Howie
19699 Jewell Dr.
Gravette, AR 72736

Meet Request Deadline

If you have a meet request, with an entry deadline before June 1, 2024, email it to Michael_Muenks@yahoo.com by May 15, 2024.

Please request meets as early as possible. If there are multiple shows at the event such as a double show, please make a meet request for each show at the event.

Director Janie Vilá



I hope that everyone is doing well. I wanted to start off by talking about how nice the National was in Tennessee. It was great to see new faces and meet new people that have been brought into the fold, as well as seeing other friends and fanciers. Rebecca Howie had an incredible little bantam wheaten hen. What a big moment for the splash large fowl as well. Now that they are recognized everyone can truly put your best efforts out there for the public eye to see and set the bar high for quality.

Speaking of quality, there were some incredible birds entered. There were some great brown red, which have come a long way. As well as Blues, Whites, Buff, Silver, Black, Wheaten and Blue Wheaten, Splash and Ermine. All of these varieties were in Large Fowl

as well as Bantams!

There were also a lot of folks around the breed table. We had a GREAT silent auction with birds and eggs donated by many. Thank you everyone that donated and Welcome to everyone that picked up birds and joined the club. Also thank you to the donor of the special edition of the Standard of Perfection that was gifted as a silent auction prize as well as the Bantam show box. We had an incredible turn out for all of these silent auction items. Congratulations to all the winners and I hope to see you all next year at the shows.

I also wanted to talk about what makes a breeder. Is it the person's name that makes them a breeder, the advertising that they do, or just the sheer quality of the birds they breed and show? In MY opinion, quality begets quality. Or at least it does 85-95 percent of the time. That also might be a bit of a high percentage in chickens. Know and understand your breed, and its standard of perfection. Know that once you take another breeder's birds and put them together, that line is no longer theirs. It is yours. You are the one that makes or breaks the breeds standard every time you put a pen together. Keep reading and educating yourself. Knowledge is power Keep excellent records of your hatches and spend your time learning from the archives on the Ameraucana Alliance forum. There is some incredible information there.

As I close out my tidbits of insight, I will say that I am enjoying seeing all of the juniors that are showing as well as all of the new chick pictures. I have a group of about 12 blacks and 1 beautifully laced blue girl that are about 3 months old. I am looking forward to them finishing out and moving forward in the breed and in the show room.

Remember to always BE KIND, BE HONEST, and to not get discouraged when others try to criticize you for the decisions you make in your breeding pens. Surround yourself with people that make you smile and offer honest feedback on how to move forward. Until summer, keep posting chick pictures and have a very happy spring.

Meet Reports

National Meet, Dixie Classic, Knoxville, TN – December 2-3, 2024

138 bantams, judged by Rick Hare

BB, BV black cockerel by Black Coffee Farm, out of 30 – Champion Ameraucana Overall

RV black pullet by Black Coffee Farm

BV blue hen by Russ Blair, out of 19

RV blue cockerel by Max Strawn

RB, BV blue wheaten hen by Becky Howie, out of 21

RV blue wheaten pullet by Russell Blair

BV brown red cockerel by Russell Blair, out of 3

RV brown red pullet by Russell Blair

BV buff pullet by Jerry DeSmidt, out of 9

RV buff cockerel by Russell Blair

BV self blue hen by Sherri Charles, out of 7

RV self blue cockerel by Sherri Charles

BV silver cockerel by Russell Blair, out of 4

RV silver pullet by Russell Blair
BV splash pullet by Robert Rennolet, out of 4
RV splash pullet by Russell Blair
BV wheaten pullet by Becky Howie, out of 20
RV wheaten pullet by Becky Howie
BV white cockerel by Laurie Ashley, out of 13
RV white hen by Jerry DeSmidt
BV AOV ermine pullet by Becky Pelton, out of 2 – Best AOV Ameraucana bantam
RV AOV ermine pullet by Becky Howie – Reserve AOV Ameraucana bantam

69 large fowl, judged by Brian Knox

BV black pullet by Jerry DeSmidt, out of 16
RV black hen by Jerry DeSmidt
RB, BV blue pullet by Max Strawn, out of 22
RV blue cockerel by Max Strawn
BV brown red cock by Stacy Melton, out of 4
RV brown red cock by Stacy Melton
BV self blue hen by Stacy Melton, out of 3
RV self blue hen by Stacy Melton
BV silver pullet by Michael Muenks, out of 2
RV silver pullet by Michael Muenks
BB, BV splash hen by Russell Blair, out of 7 – Reserve Champion Ameraucana Overall, Reserve AOSB
RV splash hen by Bruno Menarim
BV white cockerel by Jerry DeSmidt, out of 5
RV white cockerel by Jerry DeSmidt
BV AOV ermine hen by Leigh Edwards, out of 10 – Best AOV Ameraucana large fowl
RV AOV ermine cockerel by Brian Baily – Reserve AOV Ameraucana large fowl

Champion Display Overall – young trio blue bantams by Russ Blair
Reserve Champion Display Overall – black bantams by Michael Muenks
Champion Bantam Trio – young trio white bantams by Jerry DeSmidt
Reserve Champion Bantam Trio – young trio black bantams by Michael Muenks
Champion Large Fowl Trio – young trio black large fowl by Jerry DeSmidt

National Meet Junior Show, Dixie Classic, Knoxville, TN – December 2-3, 2024

4 bantams, judged by Jeff Halbach

BB, BV blue wheaten pullet by Gavin Bailey, out of 2
RV blue wheaten cockerel by Gavin Bailey
RB, BV wheaten pullet by Gavin Bailey, out of 2
RV wheaten cockerel by Gavin Bailey

4 bantams, judged by Jacob Bates

BB, BV black cockerel by Turner Holland, out of 4
RV black pullet by Turner Holland
RB, BV blue hen by Brandi Hills, out of 3
RV blue cock by Brandi Hills



Oklahoma State Poultry Federation, December 9-10, 2024 - ABA National Meet

50 bantams by 6 exhibitors, judged by Jackie Koedatich

RB, BV black cock by Laurie Ashley, out of 16
RV black pullet by Brad Stonebarger
BB, BV blue wheaten hen by Becky Howie, out of 8
RV blue wheaten hen by Becky Howie
BV buff cockerel by Michael Muenks, out of 3
RV buff pullet by Michael Muenks
BV silver pullet by Michael Muenks, out of 2
RV silver hen by Michael Muenks
BV wheaten hen by Becky Howie, out of 6
RV wheaten pullet by Becky Howie
BV white cockerel by Laurie Ashley, out of 4
RV white pullet by Laurie Ashley
BV AOV ermine pullet by Laurie Ashley, out of 2
RV AOV ermine pullet, by Becky Howie

24 large fowl, judged by Michael Sayre

BB, BV black cock by Brad Stonebarger, out of 19 – Reserve Champion AOSB
RB, RV black hen by Brad Stonebarger
BV brown red cock by Michael Muenks, out of 1
BV silver pullet by Michael Muenks, out of 2
RV silver pullet by Michael Muenks
BV AOV ermine cock by Michael Muenks, out of 2
RV AOV ermine cockerel by Michael Muenks

Oklahoma State Poultry Federation Junior Show, December 9-10, 2024

6 bantams by 1 exhibitor, judged by Jackie Koedatich

BB, BV black cockerel out of 6, by Gracie Stonebarger – Champion AOCCL
RB, RV black pullet by Gracie Stonebarger

6 large fowl

BB, BV black cockerel out of 14, by Gracie Stonebarger – Champion AOCCL
RB, RV black pullet, by Gracie Stonebarger – Reserve Champion AOCCL

**Congratulations to the
2023 Ameraucana
Lifetime Achievement
Award Winner**



Stan Alder

2023 Annual Meeting Minutes – Saturday December 2, 2023

After dinner at Shoney's Member Introductions: Brian and Gavin Bailey, Jeff and Sherry Vance, Don Cash, Janie Vila, Russell and Nicole Blair, David Blair, Bruno Menarim, Johnny and Valerie, Parks, Stan Alder, Becky Pelton, Stacey Melton, Rebecca Howie, Max and Tawnya Strawn, Michael Muenks, Bob Rennolet and daughter Rhonda, Laurie Ashley, Ben Eddie and Jerry DeSmidt

President, Russ Blair, read treasurers report from the winter newsletter. Laurie Ashley makes motion to accept and Jerry seconds it.

Old Business: Becky Pelton discussed where she was pertaining to the APA petition on getting the Ermine variety recognized. Brief discussion on large fowl splash recognition at the Ohio National in Columbus, and





a discussion on the bantam self-blue APA recognition process currently taking place by a small group of Ameraucana Fanciers. Jerry motions to accept old news, Bob seconds it.

New Business: Becky Pelton and Rebecca Howie discussed the Ermine variety and concerns the APA will attempt to call them Paint. Russ announced there was a sub-committee formed to go over the Ameraucana Alliance Open Group on Facebook due to various complaints from members about comments and post being deleted. Rebecca Howie, the chairperson of committee, explained they are attempting to clarify the current rules. Russ stated there are no governing by laws or policy in place to govern that group and feels the board needs to address this with creating one, and the only official means of communicating to our member are the quarterly newsletter and our forum per article 4 of our current by-laws. Michael Muenks brought up the possibility of allowing farm names, with a brief discussion following. Concerns

of how to track points were brought up by Russ and Jerry, with possibly not allowing farm names to accumulate points being an option? Stan Alder mentioned Lisa Helms asked if we could hold zoom meeting at future annual meetings with a brief discussion. Laurie Ashley motions to accept old business and Jerry seconds it.

Russ runs down a quick summary of the winners and their awards. Jerry DeSmidt puts a motion to adjourn and Jeff Vance seconded it.

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Join us on the Ameraucana Forum at

<http://ameraucanaalliance.org/forum/>