

Ameraucana Newsletter

Ameraucana Alliance ~ AmeraucanaAlliance.org
Summer 2015 ~ Volume 1, Issue 2



Since The Beginning

Welcome Members...

Laurie Ashley, LA
Gregory Anderson, TX
Renee Baker, NC
and Nicoletta & Mason
Robert E Burns, NC
Barbara Campbell, TN
John M Carbine, NJ
Temple DaSilva, CT
Barbara Dodington, ON
Holly Frosch, IA

Catherine Honaker, AR
Patti Jordan, AZ
Sandy Kavanaugh, KY
Ronnie Lopes, Bermuda
Rhonda E Marsden, MI
Mary Lou Phelps, MO
Cathy Soldan, TN
Nina Turner, ID
Robert S Walchak, WI
Michele Warner Anderson, CO
Tiffany Yoder, MO
and Woody Springer

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"Depending on the time of year it varies quite a bit and the gauges just don't seem to be really accurate. I have found that air cell size is about the best guide."

[read more on page 2](#)

"After several years of successful hatches with Brown Reds, I have only a couple chicks. I set several dozen eggs over a period of about six weeks..."

[read more on page 4](#)



Gus Malcolm placed 1st in showmanship with his Ameraucana bantam partner Sparkle, at the Colorado Poultry Association Spring Show.

Michael J. Muenks ~ President



Greetings from steamy, wet, and hot Missouri!
Hatching has been a bit of a challenge due to the amount of humidity in the air. Humidity is good early in the incubation process, but it becomes a challenge mid to late in the incubation process. We had many sticky chicks in the last hatch. Hatch rates have been acceptable, but nothing to brag about. I have always found the chart to the right to be helpful when judging how close the humidity is in the incubator.

<http://neochickspoultry.com/blog/how-to-do-eggs-candling/>

Over the years I have found humidity to be a challenge to control here in Missouri. Depending on the time of year it varies quite a bit and the gauges just don't seem to be really accurate. I have found that air cell size is about the best guide.

On a personal note, we are getting closer to having my parent's estate settled. The house is cleaned out and the auction as in mid-June. Going through all the stuff that my parents accumulated over the years makes me look at all the things I have in a very different way. I feel the need to down size! The house will soon be up for sale and then I will just need to focus on my father and keeping him healthy and in good spirits.

I hope all you are having a wonderful summer and have at least a few nice chicks. Be cautious with all of the bird flu and check travel and transport rules if you are venturing out to shows.

As always, I want to extend a giant thank you to our wonderful board members and club members!

An amazing amount of work is being done and you are all fantastic people.



Size of air cell on 7th, 14th
and 18th day of incubation

Jeanne Trent

July 10, 1944 – May 16, 2015

I don't really know where to start to talk about Jeanne

She was one of a kind

If you were her friend you were a friend for life.

Her loyalty to those that knew her was unshakable

Jeanne and I became friends in the 1980's

Letters from her were classic volumes

She certainly kept the paper companies in business.

When Jeanne got into a project she went into it wholeheartedly.

Her passions were her animals, her family and her friends.

When Jeanne and I were officers of ABC we kept the phone and postal service busy. We would talk for hours about what we wanted to put in the newsletters and she would write her volumes and mail them to me so I could get the newsletter ready and mail it, very seldom did I change any of her writings and if I did it was with her permission.

We did not meet face to face until the national ABC show at Hutchinson, MN in 1986. It was a meeting of so many for the first time. And so relaxed and easy.

Jeanne was a great talker. She kept me awake for hours at one show when I was working for my APA judging license. It is a wonder I made it to the showroom on time for my test the next morning.

Jeanne was one of the best and I will miss her.

Jeannette Frank

Beth Curran ~ Director of Club Meets

Greeting from the land of heat and humidity! Summer has hit full force, and both humans and critters are fighting to stay cool. We have had a pretty decent hatching season, and I am really pleased with how my buffs are coming along. So far they are showing pretty even color while still retaining nice slate legs. I also have some nice looking F2s from my buff/black project. I am anxious to see the egg color, which has always been a challenge in buffs. I think it was John who made the observation that it is possible to get good body color, good leg color, and good egg color in buffs, just not in the same bird - I have found this to be maddeningly true. But I've had a couple come pretty close, and I love a challenge!



I brought in some new lavenders last year, and have some chicks growing out from those lines, as well as my own and some that I crossed. Wish I could have gotten more of the crosses but the season was winding down by the time the new ones started laying, so once cool weather gets here I'll set the pens back up. I am anxious to see how the crosses I have finish out.

Unfortunately with summer heat and rain comes the inevitable coccidia. This is the second season I've vaccinated for it and the vaccine sure makes a dent, but I'm still losing chicks, even raising them on wire. My silver bantams have taken the hardest hit. Hope others are faring better against this scourge!

Of course, the disease on everyone's mind right now is not coccidia. Avian Influenza has taken hold in the US and as a result many states, including my own, have canceled shows, sales and swap meets. This has already affected several of our meets and threatens our nationals, and many other meets are up in the air. I am still accepting meet requests in states that remain open. Keep checking the forum for updated information on changes and cancellations. Meanwhile, some members have ask about doing on-line shows, and if there is enough interest we may pursue this. Please let me know what you think.

Hope you all have a safe & fun summer, try to stay cool, and fingers crossed that we get to do some showing this fall!

Beth

John W Blehm ~ Secretary/Treasurer



Our daughter, Sherrie, and the grandkids came over on Father's Day and brought PaPa John's Pizza...delicious! They even give me a Stetson. It was another perfect day in mid-Michigan.

After 17 weeks of hatching I shut down the incubators the day after Memorial Day. I started a couple weeks earlier than I had planned and shouldn't have. That was too many weeks of hatching and I ended up with over 3,000 chicks. More than half were used to fill orders, some were sold locally out of the brooders and some sold after growing them out for a while. As the remaining ones mature I'll keep sorting thru them about once a month, keeping the best and selling the rejects. By Fall I should be down to just the best of the best...the ones that I'll feed thru the winter and use as breeders next year. Seldom do I keep old breeders, so most breeders are year old birds. I'm going to concentrate more on buff varieties of both bantam and large fowl Ameraucanas and large fowl Chanteclers while still breeding the other varieties I have on a smaller scale. Several years ago I also bred bantam Vorwerks and Lakenvelders. I dropped them, but after a couple weak moments I ended up back into them.

On the agenda this year is to repaint the chicken barn. It is difficult because I have pens built up next to the barn on three sides. Some I'll paint around. On the east side I'll tear down the pens and rebuild a smaller one after painting. I've mentioned on the Ameraucana Forum that I plan to cover all my outside pens with roofing. Experience has shown that when young birds especially get wet and cold they get sick. The plan is to use steel panels, for roofing, with some translucent polycarbonate panels here and there to let the sunshine thru so there will be both sun and shade available. This will mean fewer mud puddles and even dryer straw inside the coops. The yellow sand in the pens gets worked up with a small rototiller from time to time with a little lime added.

Jim Fegan ~ Director

The last of the young birds made their way to the outdoor grow out pens this past week. Some are actually pretty nice chicks but very few Ameraucanas, particularly Brown Red Ameraucanas. After several years of successful hatches with Brown Reds, I have only a couple chicks. I set several dozen eggs over a period of about six weeks, but not much in the way of results. The incubator was putting out good results for other breeds but not Ameraucanas.



Ameraucana fertility was excellent just no hatching. I have gotten in-bred, maybe that's the problem. Next year there will be a new daddy in the Brown Red pen. Hopefully many chicks to go to grow out pens.

If there was to be a year with small numbers to show this is the one. I had plans to show in six shows within a few hundred miles of home and they are all canceled. Just think of the savings on gasoline and motel rooms. I may have saved enough to buy a really great Brown Red cockerel.

Hoping for better in 2016 when I will see many of you at the shows. *Jim*



Club Ribbons

Best of Breed and Reserve of Breed ribbons have arrived. They were sent directly to Beth, since she'll be the one to send them out to the winners. They are 3" wide and about 10" long, so they will fit in a #12 size envelope and only require a 1st class stamp for postage in the states...a little more for Canada. After Beth receives Meet Reports she'll include the results in an upcoming Newsletter, update Exhibitor Points and mail out ribbons.

Now if the states will lift the quarantines and bans on exhibiting we can get back to having even more fun!

Originators of different varieties of Ameraucana

The history of the breed and club is important to some and generally of interest to most. Over the past several months I've taken the time to document some things, like past officers, locations of our National Meets and recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award. Questions sometimes come up on the forum about the origins of the different varieties of Ameraucana. Some people get hung up on the idea that Ameraucanas were created from so many different breeds and mongrel chickens. This time instead of starting out with what was done to create each variety I've tried to list the breeders that created them first. If you know of errors or additions to the list, please let me know. Basically if you created a variety, in either bantam or large fowl, to the point that it wouldn't be disqualified as an Ameraucana when judged at a show (no longer an Easter Egger) and it wasn't just an improvement by using another strain already created you are counted as a creator of that variety. Using a LF to develop bantams or bantams to develop LF is still a new variety, since bantams and LF are two breeds in two different APA classes. Some of these were created independently by more than one breeder.

Bantam

Black – Jerry Segler
Blue – Jerry Segler, Mike Gilbert
Blue Wheaten – Mike Gilbert
Brown Red – Jerry Segler, Mike Gilbert
Buff – Gilbert/Blehm
Silver – Ralph Brazleton
Wheaten – Mike Gilbert
White – Ralph Brazleton
Lavender – Blehm/Muenks
Splash – a byproduct of blue
Lavender Silver – John Blehm

Large Fowl

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
Splash – a byproduct of blue
Blue Silver – Mike Gilbert

Mike Gilbert ~ Director of Recruitment & Promotion



Greetings and salutations from the coulee country of western Wisconsin. For those not familiar with the term "coulee", it is a long, narrow valley surrounded on three sides by steep hills that are usually heavily forested. More often than not a stream meanders its way from the higher ground on one end, winds downward to the open end, is fed by multiple springs along its serpentine course, and eventually drains into a larger body of water. The deeper streams often hold Brook, Brown and/or Rainbow trout. It would be an idyllic setting to raise poultry except for the continuous battle with predators and also insects in the summer months. But as the old Country/Western ballad says, its' "close enough to perfect for me." While we have snow and ice issues most winters, we don't have to deal with hurricanes, earthquakes, forest fires, poisonous snakes, chiggers and a host of other aggravations. Even high winds and floods are rare. Right where we live there are no floods. I am more than thankful the Creator chose to place me in this time and this place.

On a sad note, longtime friend and Ameraucana Alliance member Jeanne Trent of Michigan has gone home to meet her maker. She was visiting friends in Indiana when she fell and struck her head and later died from the injury. Jeanne was there at the Ohio National in 1983 when we qualified Ameraucana bantams for the Standards. We sent some wheaten bantams home with her from that show, and she never let us forget it. She later served as secretary of the Ameraucana club for a time, and was always enthusiastic about Ameraucanas, the only breed she kept. She was 71. Our sympathy goes out to Rex, Rusty, and all her family and other close friends. There was never a more loyal member of the club; her phone calls and letters, always on yellow legal paper, will be missed by her chicken buddies. She was still raising the wheaten bantams and large fowl blacks until the end.



Jeanne with Carl Frosbrink discussing the finer points...long ago

On a personal note, I have a nice group of large fowl brown

reds to raise this year and it looks like many of the young birds will be better than their parents. The breast lacing has been especially inconsistent in the past, as there is sometimes very little of it, and other times way too much with a lot of shafting. Many of the young birds are showing nice lacing so far with little or no shafting. But again, they need time to finish out. The nice thing is that whenever I cull there is a ready and waiting market from a couple of local Hmong gentlemen. It is refreshing to know folks who are still not afraid to butcher chickens, as they seem to be more and more of a rare commodity.

I also hatched and am raising some nice Ameraucana bantams in white, wheaten, blue wheaten, and brown red, though each variety is less in number than the large brown reds. I had abysmal results from my pair mating of buff bantams this year, and have come to a dead end with them. It goes to show once again that to be serious about breeding a variety one needs to keep larger populations. With all the show cancellations and state moratoriums we will probably not be able to hold an Ameraucana Alliance national meet this year, so few less birds is not necessarily a bad thing. But stay tuned.



Happy 50th Anniversary to Mary & Mike Gilbert, June 25th

Ameraucana Merchandise

Please go to <http://AmeraucanaAlliance.org/ClubMerchandise> to order
or contact the Secretary. (actual sizes shown)

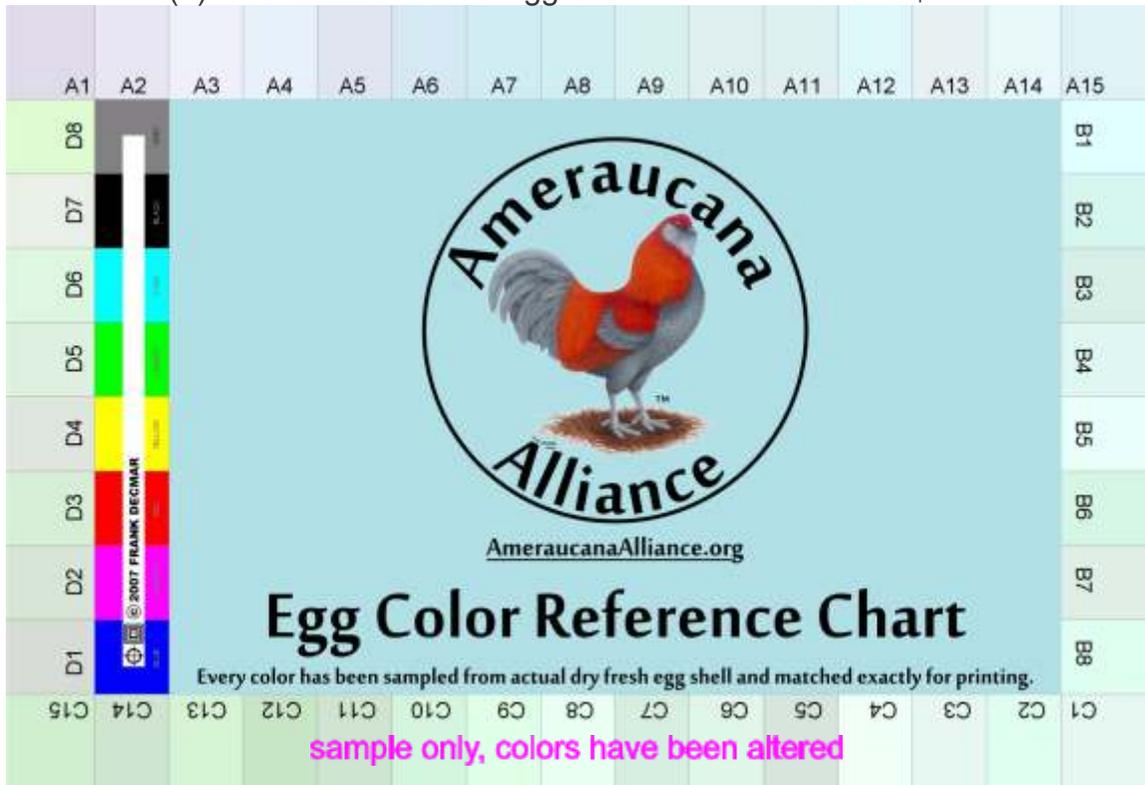


- (1) 4" Ameraucana Alliance Patch \$5
- (2) 4" Ameraucana Alliance Patches \$8



- (1) 2" x 3" Name Badge with logo \$10
- Please place your order badges by July 31st.

(2) 4" x 6" Ameraucana Egg Color Reference Charts \$3.00



[Ameraucana Forum...some topics you may have missed](#)

Breeding » E-locus > reply 4

"One of the main genes is the *E* locus with several different alleles, including (in order of dominance):

*E*E*, extended black;

*E*R*, birchen;

*E*WH*, dominant wheaten;

*E*N*, wild type;

*E*B*, brown;

*E*BC*, buttercup; and

*E*Y*, recessive wheaten (yellowish-white; Smyth, 1990; Crittenden et al., 1996).

These alleles affect the distribution of the 2 melanin pigments (eumelanin and pheomelanin) in feathers, and are important for accurate down color sexing."

Exhibiting, Promoting & Club Notes » Colorado Poultry Association Spring Show

The Malcolm Boys attended the CPA summer show yesterday and the Ameraucanas were a hit! Steve Jones (TX) judged the poultry. Walter and Gus both placed 1st in showmanship with their Ameraucana bantam partners. Best AOCCL in the Junior Show and Reserve AOCCL in the Open Show with a white cockerel they hatched last year. Their LF black cock (now 2 1/2 years old and received as a day old chick from John Blehm) continued his awesome streak with Best AOSB in both shows and Best Large Fowl in both shows.

The show was noticeably smaller but very competitive. The AI scare has many folks staying home. Because the show was small the Junior birds competed against each other and the Open birds.

The Ameraucanas generated much interest and people were excited to see the bantams.

Exhibiting, Promoting & Club Notes » Photos on Facebook Page

We have been posting photos of good examples of Ameraucana bantams on our Facebook Page.

<https://facebook.com/ameraucanaalliance>



Housing, Health & Hatching » Avian Influenza Update > reply 17

Here is the latest and greatest on Bird Flu. It may already be somewhat dated, but it does answer many important questions.

Breeding » Wing Carriage in Bantams

Is an example of proper wing carriage on bantams shown on the clubs photo album under the "white male bantam" and "wheaten female bantam"? In all other photos the wing carriage seems to point down. Or is the wing carriage ok in the other varieties?

Breeding » Crossbeak

I've had two out of 20+ lavender/split chicks with crossbeak. Shows up around 2 weeks old.

Does this mean both the cock and hen should not be bred? Or would it just be carried by one of them? Or is it something like Down syndrome, where it is a random genetic anomaly, and I just got unlucky?

Breeding » Breeding Lavender split?

Since all the pullets will be the same as their sire at the *s*-locus (either silver or gold), due to the sex linkage, when making any outcross with different Ameraucana varieties I try to use the cock of the variety that I'm working to improve. Now if the cock isn't pure for silver or gold it can be a problem, but I'm assuming he is pure for which ever one he should be. The next year you would only use the pullets from the outcross, so when breeding lavender to lavender/black splits/crosses always use a lavender male over the split pullets and cull all split cockerels.

This is basically the same procedure I follow when outcrossing LF blacks to another variety to improve that variety...buff cock over black hens, silver cock over black hens, etc. Use only the F2 pullets the next year with males of the varieties they are split/crossed with.

Club Notes ~ John W Blehm

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

Beth is working on getting the Exhibitor Points up to date and Mike is working on the breed and club History. Both will be added to our

AmeraucanaAlliance.org site when they are ready. Ameraucana.club will also get you to our site!

Treasurer's Report

Checking account at Credit Union Plus, Birch Run, MI	
Previous Total Balance as of 4/13/2015 =	\$1,772.19
Previous Checking Balance as of 4/13/2015 =	\$1,489.35
Income =	\$375.00
E x p e n s e s	=
	\$186.50
Checking Balance as of 6/30/2015 =	\$1,677.85
PayPal Balance as of 6/30/2015 =	\$190.03

Ameraucana National Meet ~ 2015 ~ cancelled

The state of Michigan has banned poultry exhibitions till further notice, so the Fowl Fest and our meet there are cancelled. We looked at a few other options, but more bans and cancellations came quickly and we are already into summer so let's look forward to a big get together in 2016.



Colorado Poultry Association Spring Show

*Large fowl black Ameraucana cock takes
Champion LF and Champion AOSB
in both Open and Junior shows,
by Walter & Gus Malcomb.*

Upcoming Ameraucana Meets - Go to AmeraucanaAlliance.org for updates

July 10-26, 2015

California Meet, requested by Debbie Hogan
California State Fair, Fur & Feathers, Sacramento CA
Contact: ? (916)263-3247 info@CalExpo.com

September 8-10, 2015

California Meet, requested by Debbie Hogan
The National Heirloom Exposition, Santa Rosa CA
Contact: Elyn Mavalwalla (530)743-7939
info@TheHeirloomExpo.com

October 3, 2015 (originally scheduled for June 13)

Illinois Meet, requested by Denise Baker
[Central Illinois Poultry Club](http://CentralIllinoisPoultryClub), Bloomington IL
Contact: Dianne Weer (309)303-7409

"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."

Ameraucana Alliance Board of Directors

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