

AMERAUCANA BANTAM BULLETIN

Ameraucana Bantam Club - 6442 Chestnut Ave., Orangevale, CA 95662

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President's Message

Another summer, another hatching and rearing season has come and gone. Now is the time when most fanciers place their results on the line- in the showroom. Exhibition, the judging of poultry by licensed judges under controlled conditions, provides a means to gauge one's progress and efforts with regard to breeding programs, established goals, etc. Competition also provides an opportunity to compare one's own birds with those owned and reared by fellow breeders. All in all, the whole process can be very useful- if approached in the proper perspective.

Especially in the lesser known and shown breeds (and Ameraucanas do still fall into that category) it should be kept in mind that judges' placings do not and can not provide the last word, the ultimate judgement concerning the desirability of specific bantams for retention as breeders. Why should this not be true?

First, most judges do not own and raise the less popular breeds, and in many cases never have and never intend to. But there is no substitute for experience. It is left to the breeders, therefore, (the folks who raise these breeds because of their self-worth, their intrinsic values, rather than the hope of intensive competition and the glory of achieving higher awards in the showroom) to become the real experts on their chosen breeds.

Secondly, otherwise good birds can and do show poorly on any given day. They may be out of feather condition, going into a moult, off their feed, or any of a number of other things may be wrong on that all important day. Hence, the owner stands in a far better position to ascertain the value of his bird than anyone who only sees it for but a few moments in a wire cage on a certain day.

Third, judges are not superhuman. They cannot pretend to determine on the basis of a brief examination such characteristics as production, livability, reproductive qualities, and invisible genetic factors. Again, the owner/breeder should know his or her birds better than anyone.

Please bear in mind that, while this may discount the value of judges' placings, it does not at all advocate the withholding of birds from competition. The ultimate success can be and sometimes is achieved when the breeder, competitors, and the judge all agree upon the validity of that number one placing. Good luck!

Mike Gilbert

AMERAUCANA HANDBOOK UPDATE

We have reached our financial goal of \$500. in order to finance the Ameraucana Bantam Handbook and it should be ready to distribute to all with membership for 1983. It was a tight squeeze to get \$500. in pledges, but Jim Tuckwood, of Boscobel, Wisconsin, put us exactly at our goal with his ad this summer. Our thanks also to the following who supported us in this important project:

Jane Brooksher
Don Cable
Ken Carpenter
Harry Cook
C.L. Donaho
John Fugate
Frank L. Gary
Jack L. Gard
Mike Gilbert
Ken Huffstutter

Jaime Ikeda
Bernard Kellogg
D. L. Keeney
Marie Rayher
Dorian Roxburgh
Jerry Segler
American Bantam Association
American Poultry Association
Hen House Herald
Poultry Press

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LOOKING AHEAD IN '83

In as much as it is late in the year and with the financial drain on resources for the upcoming Ameraucana Handbook, your Board of Directors has decided to wait until next year to stage our National Meet. We have decided to place our most important meet with the Ohio National Poultry Show in Columbus next November, which will also be the combined ABA-APA National Meets. Most of our Board of Directors plan to attend and exhibit and it will provide the opportunity for our first Board of Directors meeting.

The 1983 ABA National Meet will also be an appropriate time to attempt to qualify some of the newer varieties of Ameraucanas that various members have been perfecting. We are at present coordinating this qualifying meet with ABA Standard Committee Chairman Frank L. Gary and welcome input from any interested member in the determination of which varieties we choose to qualify and specific recommendations for each of these varieties. The following page will include the six varieties which are at present most highly developed and are being bred and exhibited by various members of our association and we welcome your suggestions in finalizing the descriptions for each of these varieties.

Since the Ohio National Show will also be the National Meet for the American Poultry Association it would seem no better time than to request a qualifying meet for the Ameraucana bantam for acceptance by the APA. President Mike Gilbert has been working with John Skinner on this for some time and perhaps we can finally reach this goal at Columbus, Ohio, next year.

Color of Male and Female by Variety

Black Ameraucana Bantam

COMB, FACE, WATTLES AND EAR LOBES: Red
BEAK: Black
EYES: Reddish bay
SHANKS AND TOES: Black with pinkish white on bottoms of feet
PLUMAGE: Refer to black color description
MUFFS AND BEARD: Male-black Female-black

Blue Ameraucana Bantam

COMB; FACE, WATTLES AND EAR LOBES: Red
BEAK: Dark horn
EYES: Reddish bay
SHANKS AND TOES: Dark slate with pinkish white on bottoms of feet
PLUMAGE: Refer to blue color description
MUFFS AND BEARD: Male-blue Female-blue

Blue-wheaten Ameraucana Bantam

COMB, FACE, WATTLES AND EAR LOBES: Red
BEAK: Horn
EYES: Reddish bay
SHANKS AND TOES: Slate with pinkish white on bottoms of feet
PLUMAGE: Refer to Blue-wheaten color description
MUFFS AND BEARD: Male-blue Female- creamy wheaten

Brown Red Ameraucana Bantam

COMB, FACE, WATTLES AND EAR LOBES: Red
BEAK: Dark horn
EYES: Reddish bay
SHANKS AND TOES: Dark slate with pinkish white on bottoms of feet
PLUMAGE: Refer to Brown Red color description
MUFFS AND BEARD: Male-black Female-Black

Buff Ameraucana Bantam

COMB, FACE, WATTLES AND EAR LOBES: Red
BEAK: Light horn
EYES: Reddish bay
SHANKS AND TOES: Slate with pinkish white on bottoms of feet
PLUMAGE: Refer to buff color description
MUFFS AND BEARD: Male-Buff Female-Buff

Silver Ameraucana Bantam

COMB, FACE, WATTLES AND EAR LOBES: Red
BEAK: Dark horn
EYES: Reddish bay
SHANKS AND TOES: Dark slate with pinkish white on bottoms of feet
PLUMAGE: Refer to Silver color description
MUFFS AND BEARD: Male-Black Female-Black

Preparing Bantams For Table

By Jerry Segler

In the course of the year most of us have old breeders and culls to dispose of. It has always been a problem to fix them for the table, as any bantam is usually full grown before he is considered worth the trouble to butcher. By that time he is no longer tender. In addition to the usual pressure cooking for chicken salad or cooking in the crock pot, I have one more method that can make even the oldest and toughest rooster tender and tasty.

I start by skinning the chicken, which may be a shock to most of you. It is however, the quickest method for the use I will later describe. After killing the bird, remove the feet as usual and then split the breast skin with a sharp knife along the keel. Pull the skin and feathers aside to expose the breast. Then take and work the skin down and at the same time push up on the leg to expose the knee. Hold onto the knee with one hand and pull off the skin with the other hand. Do the other leg the same. Then cut leg and thigh from the body and set aside.

I then take a sharp knife and remove the breast filets by cutting along the breast bone and along the wishbone, thereby removing each half of the breast in one piece. I then lay the leg, with thigh still attached, flat on the table with the inside of the leg facing up. I then make a cut the entire length and work the meat off the bone, cutting as necessary. The meat now off the bone, I now remove the heart, liver and gizzard. This can be done without removing the intestines by just lifting up the breast bone.

I now grind the meat and the resulting hamburger can be used in chili, spaghetti, meat loaf or hamburger patties. For meat loaf and hamburger, mix in some raw oatmeal as it will retain some of the moisture. Otherwise the meat will be dry and crumbly as chicken does not have the fat that pork or beef does. I find that there are no leftovers when used this way, as even the kids like it. I find that I can do ten bantams in one and a half hours this way. This is only nine minutes per bird and includes cleaning up the grinder and burying the rest.

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Show Calendar

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| <u>California State Meet</u> | Golden Gate Bantam Club Annual Fall Show, on November 13-14 at the Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. Contact Marie Rayher, Show Secretary, 19822 Grant Line Rd., Tracy, CA 95376. |
| <u>Western District Meet</u> | Arizona State Poultry Association, Feb. 12-13 in Phoenix. ABA National Meet. Contact Evelyn Oltersdorf, 9615-B Brown St., Peoria, AZ 85345. |
| <u>ABC National Meet</u> | Ohio Poultry Breeders Association, Ohio National ABA-APA National in November, 1983. Plan now! |

Under the Mulberry Tree

Those members of the ABA may have read that the next edition of Bantam Standard will in fact be two volumes. One will contain the breeds most commonly exhibited around the country and the other will be made up of rare and foreign breeds. We have been assured by both ABA Secretary Fred Jeffrey and Standard Committee Chairman Frank L. Gary that the Ameraucana bantam will remain as a part of Bantam Standard for those breeds commonly found and exhibited throughout the country.

They say that if you want a job done well, give it to a busy person. Such is the case of many of our members- Western District Director Marie Rayher has taken on the job of Show Secretary for the Golden Gate Bantam Club, as well as Secretary, while her sidekick, Jane Brooksher is now treasurer. Jaime Ikeda is Secretary of the Ancona Breeders Club and Eastern District Director Ken Carpenter is Secretary of the new Yorktown Poultry Club in New York. Bernard Kellogg, Bill Holland and Mike Gilbert are all involved in local club work as well.

This summer there appeared in Poultry Press a very nice article by Cathy Brunson, of Fredericksburg, VA, in which she called for cooperation and mutual understanding among breeders of blue egg fowl. I wrote her a congratulatory letter and in response received a warm reply with an invitation to our members to attend the November 20-21 show in Richmond, which will have a meet of the Araucana Club of America.

Charter member Harry Cook, of Eatontown, New Jersey, writes that he is now working with a new variety of Ameraucana- barred, and I wish him well as this would be an attractive variety when perfected. Down Texas way, C.L. Donaho, of Fort Worth, hit the jackpot on the light phase of wheaten, getting two light phase chicks out of seven hatched; hopefully, these two fellows will keep us posted on their progress when they start hatching those young Ameraucanas next spring. Incidentally, C.L. has offered free hatching eggs next year to any interested member- that's the kind of members that make up this club!

Those of you that subscribe to Backyard Poultry no doubt noticed the fine article by Southern District Director Jack Fugate on the Marans breed. As mentioned in the Summer Bulletin, Jack is the Secretary of the new breed club for French breeds that is now being formed. Also down South, charter member D.L. Keeney, Jr., of Dallas, was recently honored by the Dallas Bantam Club. Congratulations, D.L.!

A big welcome to new member Jeanette Frank, P.O. Box 824, Great Falls, Montana 59403. Jeanette received her start in Ameraucanas from Jack Fugate, and she has wheatens. She is our first member from the state of Montana and the third from the Rocky Mountain states.

In a letter from Evelyn Oltersdorf, of the Arizona State Poultry Association is information regarding Show Headquarters for the ABA National in Phoenix this coming February. It seems that the Granada Royale Homotel will offer rates of \$43. per day with free shuttle service to the fairgrounds. When making reservations, mention that you are with the ABA to receive these preferred rates. For more details, contact Evelyn at the address listed under the show calendar on the preceding page.

Best wishes to each of you for the Fall and Winter Show Season.