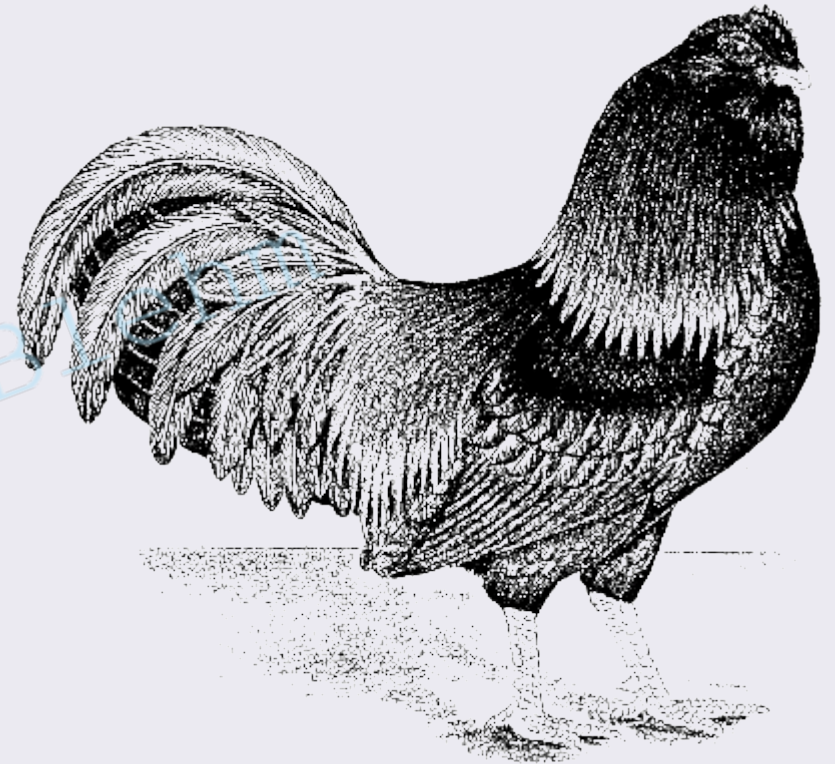


Ameraucana Breeders Club



R. HART

Handbook - 2014

Ameraucana Breeders Club Handbook

Fourth Edition - January 2014



Ameraucana.org

The ABC Logo, drawing on cover and sketches on page 8 are
by Rusty Hart, of Michigan

Ameraucana Breeders Club

All Rights Reserved. A Non-Profit Organization.

Ameraucana Bantam Handbook - 1982

Ameraucana Breeders Handbook - 1998

Ameraucana Breeders Handbook - 2005

Contents

Foreword.....	3
Constitution & Bylaws.....	4
Map of Districts.....	7
Officers.....	8
What Is A Poultry Breeder?.....	10
The Art of Cage Training.....	12
Breeding Blues or Blue Wheatens.....	14
Ameraucana Standard.....	16
Ameraucana Breeding and Selection - The Finer Points.....	18
Ameraucana Breeders Club Meet Policy.....	20
Ameraucana Breeders Club Exhibitor Point System.....	22
Show Preparation and Grooming Tips.....	24
The Case for Lavender.....	26
Ameraucana Chickens.....	28
Should I Vaccinate for Laryngotracheitis?.....	30

SUPPORTING THE AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB SINCE 1978 AMERAUCANA BANTAMS SINCE 1975 AMERAUCANA LARGE FOWL SINCE 1983



Currently Breeding Brown Red Ameraucana LF & Bantams
Wheaten, Blue Wheaten & White Bantams
Still Working on Black Gold Bantams

Mike Gilbert, Life Member
W5171 Baker Road, Holmen WI 54636
Chantecler7@gmail.com

Foreword

Yet another edition of the Ameraucana Breeders Club Handbook has been depleted. Progress – and time – marches on. Looking back over 40 years of work with the blue egg bantam that came to be known as Ameraucana, we realize that not all what was planned and hoped for was accomplished. Yet so much has come to fruition that there can be no regrets. We can look with satisfaction upon the general acceptance and worldwide recognition of that special convergence of characteristics that comprise what we today know as the Ameraucana breed of poultry - in both large fowl and bantam. History will show there was initial resistance, bitter debates, false accusations, and the like during the formative years, but that, thankfully, is all in the rear view mirror. Ameraucanas are winning major awards at some of the finer poultry shows around the continent. We are not only accepted but also welcomed within the fancy. We have arrived. But this is no time rest on our laurels; work still needs to be done.

This writer is once again reminded of those thoughts penned by a renowned Plymouth Rock breeder, the late Ralph Sturgeon, in his book Start Where You Are With What You Have – A Guide to Poultry Breeding. His introduction began with the following words. “The animal breeder is just as much an engineer or scientist as is any builder of large structures, machines, rockets, or bridges. They work with inanimate objects; a breeder works with living creatures. It is my belief that these are God's creatures, placed here on earth for the benefit of mankind. Breeders add to this benefit by improving animals, developing offspring that are better than their parents or grandparents were. As a breeder, I am grateful for the opportunity – and even feel a responsibility – to work with the Creator in this way.” He went on to say, “There are a good many exhibitors and showmen, but very few real breeders in the poultry field. Breeding is an art and like all successful artists, breeders must be dedicated.”

The Ameraucana Breeders Club has been blessed with a good number of top breeders over the years, and we have more filling the ranks with each year that passes. The future looks promising.

Still, progress in our birds would yield so much less satisfaction without the kindred spirit, encouragement, and fellowship of the ABC members we share it with. And how difficult it would be to share without a dedicated Club Secretary to produce informative, colorful newsletters, keep track of memberships and dues, communicate with members and prospects, and so very much more. With that in mind, we would like to dedicate this Handbook to a man who has always kept his priorities in the proper order. He did a tremendous job as our club secretary for years, and only resigned because of serious, time constraining health issues within his family. Michael Muenks, we salute you! Thank you for a job well done!

We also thank our members, officers, and directors without whose help and financial support this handbook would not have happened, and especially our current Secretary, John Blehm. Take a few moments to thank him for compiling and producing this booklet along with shouldering the load of the secretary position when Michael's circumstances caused him to resign.

And, like Ralph Sturgeon, we reserve our highest appreciation for the Creator-God who made it all possible and who continues to bless us. “*Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain.*” *Psalms 127:1*

Mike Gilbert, Honorary Vice President

CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB
Revised January 2011

Article I – Name

This organization shall be known as the Ameraucana Breeders Club.

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of this club is to encourage the continued improvement of Ameraucana bantams and large fowl through breeding, exhibition, and dissemination of relevant information.

Article III – Membership

Any person or organization with a sincere interest in the purpose of the Ameraucana Breeders Club may become a member upon payment of the annual dues. However, a member may be expelled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors for acts deemed harmful to the Ameraucana breed and/or this organization.

Article IV – Dues

Annual dues shall be set by the Board of Directors and shall be payable on January 1st for each calendar year.

Article V – Organization

Section 1. The officers comprising the Board of Directors shall consist of the following:

President
Secretary/Treasurer
District Directors

Section 2. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the membership to a term of two years beginning on the first day of January following election. Any officer may be a candidate for reelection.

Section 3. Open positions on the Board of Directors shall be filled by a person selected by the President and approved by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Article VI – Districts

Section 1. The United States shall be divided into districts each having a director, elected by majority vote of the membership within such district, who shall serve as an officer on the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The Board of Directors by majority vote may increase, decrease, or rearrange the number of districts as they deem necessary.

Section 3. Members residing in, or citizens of, countries other than the United States of America shall be deemed members of their district of closest geographical proximity.

BYLAWS OF THE AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB

Article I - President

The President shall assume the duties of Chairman of the Board of Directors. He shall be responsible for the execution of the Constitution and Bylaws and shall receive and process all proposals for their amendment. The President shall preside at all club meetings, call special meetings if requested by a majority of the Board, and appoint an Election Commissioner for the biennial election. He shall endeavor to see that all officers properly discharge their duties, take an active part in publicity, public relations, and other activities deemed necessary for the betterment of the club.

Article I (a) - Vice President(s)

At the discretion of the Board of Directors, no more than two persons may hold the office of honorary lifetime Vice President at any one time. Persons so nominated by the Board of Directors must be elected by majority vote of the membership at large. A Vice President shall assist the President with his or her duties and conduct club meetings in the President's absence.

Article II – Secretary/Treasurer

The Secretary/Treasurer shall conduct club correspondence, collect and receive all monies due the club, pay all bills undertaken by it, and keep a record of these transactions. The Secretary/Treasurer shall make an annual financial report to the membership via the club bulletin and interim financial reports at meetings at which a quorum of club officers are present. For this purpose a majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be custodian of all club records and be responsible for issuing a quarterly bulletin to all club members detailing current and forthcoming club activities. The Secretary/Treasurer shall distribute meet awards. The Secretary/Treasurer shall surrender all files, monies, and other club property to the new Secretary/Treasurer at the expiration of his or her term of office in a timely fashion.

Article III - District Directors

The District Directors shall be responsible for actively promoting the club and its' activities, including the placing of an annual District meet within their individual districts. They shall also represent the club, place all district, state, and special meets within their district and report the results of meets within their district in the quarterly district report submitted to the secretary/treasurer for publication in the quarterly bulletin, and carrying out details for the National meet when held within their district. Each District Director shall serve as an officer on the Board of Directors, have a vote in determining club policy, assist with coordinating club meets within their district, and take an active part in the recruitment of new members.

Article IV - Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall control the affairs of the club at all times and remove from office any officer, upon majority vote of the Board, for misconduct or failure to adequately perform the duties of his or her office.

Article V - Election Commissioner

An Election Commissioner shall be appointed by the president. The Commissioner shall receive all ballots directly from the membership, tally them, and promptly forward the results and the ballots to the Secretary/Treasurer.

Article VI - Club Meetings

An annual meeting shall take place each year in conjunction with the National meet whenever feasible.

Article VII - Election of Officers

Any paid member in good standing may send in a nomination for candidates for the various offices. All nominees must be members of the Ameraucana Breeders Club at the time of nomination. Officers shall be elected every two years by means of a mail ballot sent to each member. Such ballots shall be mailed by the Secretary/Treasurer via the club bulletin in the fall of the election year. Voting may be by mailing a marked ballot or via email within ten days after receipt directly to the Election Commissioner. When only one member accepts the nomination for any office that person will be elected by acclamation. The election shall be completed and the new officers declared by mid-December and the new officers shall assume office on January 1st.

Article VIII - Club Meets

The Ameraucana Breeders Club shall hold an annual National meet to be rotated clockwise each year among the club districts. The District Director will place the National meet by November 15th for the following year. If it is not placed, with notification to the Board, by that date the Director of the next District in rotation will have 30 days to place the National meet. Should a district be unable to host the National meet in its allotted turn the meet shall pass on to the next district in rotation. The placing of the annual District meet shall be the prerogative of the District Director, who shall assume responsibility for its planning and execution and who shall coordinate these activities with the Secretary/Treasurer. The District Director shall be responsible for a detailed report of results and awards to be sent to the Secretary/Treasurer promptly at the termination of the meet. Annual State meets and Special meets shall be placed by the District Director at the request of any member. Members requesting such meets shall assume the responsibilities as outlined for District Directors if the Director is not in attendance.

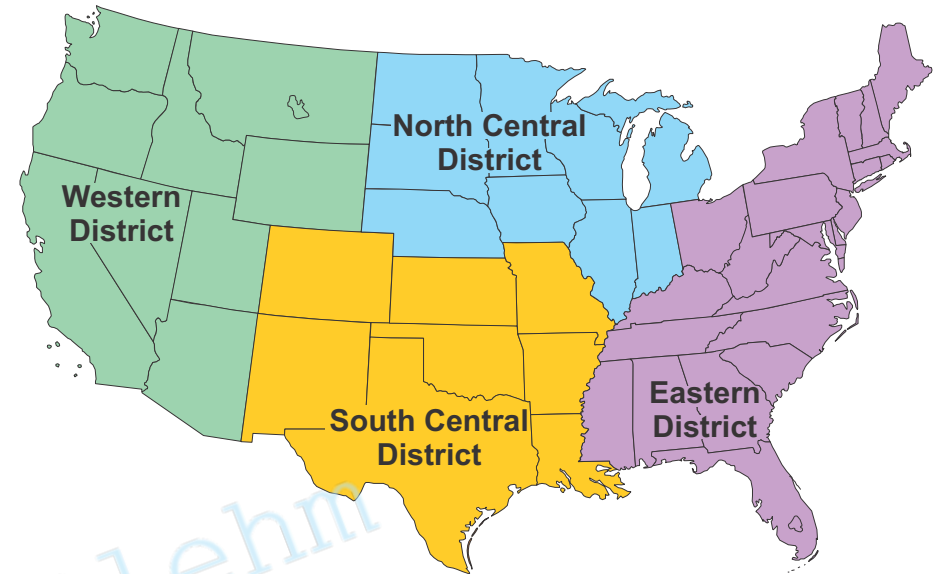
Article IX - Interpretation

In all cases of dispute arising from interpretation of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Ameraucana Breeders Club, and on all other matters not covered herein, a majority vote of the Board of Directors shall decide the issue. Such decisions shall be declared final.

Article X - Amendments

Any proposal to amend or alter the Constitution and/or Bylaws of the Ameraucana Breeders Club shall be submitted to the President in writing. He or she will in turn submit the proposal to the Board of Directors who will decide by majority vote whether to place the proposal before the membership for a vote. Proposals passed favorably by the Board of Directors shall be included on the ballot with the biennial election of officers to be voted upon by the membership at large. If adopted by a majority of voting members the amendment shall be made effective on January 1st following the election. The new amendment shall be mailed to each member as a supplement to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Club.

ABC District Map



Nest Boxes



Fowl Stuff!

Day-Old Chicks



MADE IN U.S.A.

• Promotes animal biosecurity • 100% recyclable
• Complete w/hardware in 3 1/2 or 5 gallon pail size or buy just the Cover & Perch to use on your own plastic pails

formerly Chick Hatchery

Bantam Ameraucana in buff, lavender & silver
Large Fowl Ameraucana in buff, lavender, silver & black
Large Fowl Chantecler in buff & partridge

For details and to order go to: FowlStuff.com

John W Blehm, 4599 Lange Road, Birch Run MI 48415

Honorary-Lifetime Vice-Presidents

Don Cable, Orangevale CA

Mike Gilbert, Holmen WI

Paid Lifetime Memberships

Bettina Burghardt Family, Schriesheim, Germany

Doug & Cindy Dillingham Family, Holland MA

Debra Hogan Family, Pleasant Grove CA

Daniel L Pasche Family, Glenwood MN

Brian & Bridget Riddle Family, Newman CA

Denise Baker, Joliet IL

Russell Blair, Jasper MI

John W Blehm, Birch Run MI

Vidal Chavez, Jefferson MD

Richard L Cotton, Angier NC

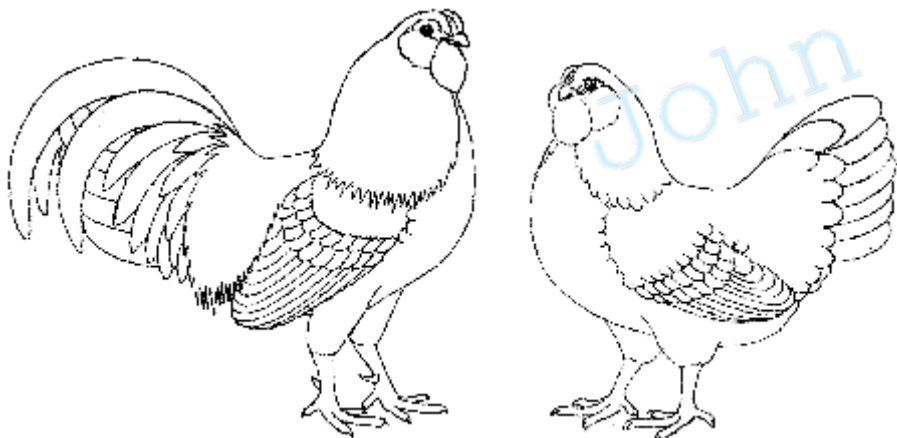
Jerry De Smidt, Pulaski WI

James Fegan, Champion MI

Raquel Lehrmann, Anchorage AK

Lyne Peterson, Brooks CA

Robert Rennolet, Menno SD



Please remember to keep your club dues current!

Membership has its privileges. If there is a lapse in your membership you will not be able to participate on the ABC Forum and your ABC Breeders Directory listing will be removed. These are just a couple reasons to always keep your ABC membership current. Remember, you may pay for up to two years in advance. For current members, dues for the following year are due by January 1st or there is a lapse in membership.

Egg Cartons



**We Have Egg Cartons
of All Colors and Sizes!**

**Printed & Blank Paper
Printed & Blank Foam
Labeled & Blank Clear Plastic**

*Clear Plastic Cartons are
Great for Showing Off
Colorful Ameraucana Eggs!*

**We have cartons for
Bantam, Quail, Duck/Turkey
& Goose Eggs too!**



Incubators

- Table Top Incubators
- Digital Incubators
- Cabinet Incubators
- Wide Variety of Accessories

EggCartons.com

Your Eggs Deserve The Very Best!

Celebrating 14 Years of Service!

**We carry everything you
need to raise chickens and
sell eggs.**

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Egg Trays | Laying Nests |
| Quail Cartons | Incubators |
| Labels | Waterers |
| Egg Washers | Feeders |
| Rubber Stamps | Poultry Doors |



**Waterers, Egg Baskets, Killing
Cones, Catchers, Signs, Treats,
Feeders & More!**

Poultry Supplies

**We have what you need to
get ready for your next
Poultry Show!!!**



www.EggCartons.com

1-888-852-5340

WHAT IS A POULTRY BREEDER?
By M.K. Gilbert (Revised January 2014)

As applied in the world of exhibition poultry, using the term Breeder seems to have mushroomed in recent years to include everyone who raises our feathered friends, especially since internet exchanges have become commonplace. Such fast and loose use of the term is unfortunate, as it tends to diminish the efforts of those who have exerted themselves to become poultry breeders in the true sense of the word. This is not to discredit the role that fanciers, showmen, and hatcherymen play in our chosen avocation, but simply stated the admiration, propagation, and exhibition of quality poultry does not qualify one to lay a legitimate claim to the title of Breeder. The following are some attributes that, in our opinion, a genuine poultry breeder might keep in his/her tool chest.

- Possesses a working knowledge of Mendelian genetics - the basic laws of heredity - as applied to the particular species or subspecies he or she is working with. That does not mean all the scientific symbols are memorized, but an awareness exists of what happens when various traits are combined.
- Knowledge of the possible genetic makeup(s) of his or her current flock through awareness of the physical and genetic attributes of their forebears. This usually requires good recordkeeping, a system of identifying individual birds, and cognizance of previous mating results.
- Has come to know and appreciate the difference between genotype & phenotype and what that means for specific matings. Realizes when the best show bird may not be the best breeder.
- Has maintained a particular family or line for enough generations to be able to predict with reasonable accuracy the end results of given matings. Not surprised when recessive traits resurface.
- Has persevered over time to overcome obstacles that could have prevented flock improvements or caused deterioration of its' gene pool. Has bred out defects/disqualifications and has overcome the challenges of common poultry diseases.
- Measures progress in terms of achieving goals related to fixation of desirable traits and elimination of undesirable traits – which is not necessarily directly related to showroom successes or numbers of awards won.
- Respects, but is not keenly impressed with various "master breeder" or "master exhibitor" designations conferred by various organizations, realizing these are contingent primarily upon competitive exhibition results. Knows that successfully hatching, rearing, conditioning, and showing a family of birds does not make one a top breeder, but a top fancier, and that it is possible to be one without being the other.

The names of some top breeders are highly recognizable, but there are others, possibly many, who will never achieve much recognition simply because they opted not to show competitively, or to sharply limit that endeavor. Perhaps, to their way of thinking, years of genetic progress was not worth the risk of potentially exposing their flocks to an array of poultry diseases. Or maybe they never caught that spirit of competition, or they may have other reasons to eschew the show circuit.

In our considered opinion, it requires many years of dedication and experience to become a top poultry breeder and there are few shortcuts. When recognition and rewards are not soon forthcoming it requires a true dedication to persevere. But most breeders will come to appreciate his or her associations within the fancy, because networking with others is of inestimable value when it comes to exchanging ideas, information, and stock. This illustrates why a breeders' club or association can be so very important to its' members; a single log doesn't burn very brightly all by itself.

Great photos of all your favorite poultry!

Both books revised and updated with helpful information about our fascinating birds.



Available online and in many feed and hardware stores.

Faith Valley WATERFOWL



Patty Pickard
(330)765-4000

FaithValleyWaterfowl.com

Ameraucana Bantams
Black • Blue • Buff • Wheaten

www.Critter-Cages.com

Critter-Cages.Com Ph. 310 832-9981 10am to 6pm Pacific

Email orderdesk@critter-cages.com



Chick-N-Barn
49" x 43" x 47" high
409.99
Free Shipping
in the lower 48



Feeders & Water
Fonts from 2.39



Welded Wire & Poultry Mesh
from 29.99 + shipping



Incubators
from 57.99



Chick-N-Nest



16 & 24" Feeders





Coops, Runs, Supplies
For
All Kinds of Critters


The Art of Cage Training


by Patty Pickard

I thought I would touch on this subject a bit - as I have been asked by several folks as to how I actually work with my Ameraucanas when I am cage training them.


 Step one - Acquire a cage similar to the ones that your Ameraucanas will be shown in at the shows. You can purchase show cages from Keipper Cooping or many other poultry supply places. You will need to set your cage in a location that is at waist level or higher as that is how the cages will be set up at the shows. You also need to select an area that will receive high traffic from your family or friends that you can convince to come and visit your birds. It is important to get the birds comfortable with strangers walking past their cage and talking. It would be good to have some younger children walk past the cages and chatter as kids do. You will also need to set up a radio by the cage, preferable tuned to a station that has talking and not so much music. The goal here is to replicate the show floor as much as possible.

 Step two - Cage training isn't an overnight thing, it takes time. When I work with my Ameraucanas, they may only spend an hour a day in the cage at first, gradually working up to where they are comfortable in the cage setting for a full day. When I start a new Ameraucana on the show schedule, I only take them to one day shows at first - two day shows can be a long time for a new bird. The idea is to make the bird as comfortable and relaxed in the cage as they can be. A relaxed bird will show better than a spastic one.

 Step three - Now that your Ameraucana is comfortable in the cage, you can start to train him. I take the bird out of the cage, head first of course, and examine him like a judge would, and then put him back head first. I do this several times each day so that he is used to being caught and looked over. The bird will realize that he is not going to get hurt and will learn to just stand there to be caught. Judges appreciate a bird that is easily caught verses one that they have to struggle to catch. If it comes down to a tie between two birds, that judge will select the cage trained bird over the wild one. Then I introduce other people into the catch and handle routine. Your Ameraucana needs to be comfortable with others handling him too.

 Step four - Impress the judge. After the bird is comfortable with this routine, you add the final touch on - the pose. Take your Ameraucana out of the cage, do your examination of him and then stand him on the palm of your hand in front of the open cage- he should hop in.

As soon as he hops in - toss in a treat, he will turn to get the treat. The goal is to get him to hop in and immediately turn to the door, puff up, and pose for his treat. Now it is very important to use a treat with a crinkly wrapper as you will be able to get him to alert and to pose just from the sound of the treat wrapper. I use Old Roy soft dog food treats. They come in little individual packets with a nice crinkly wrapper. Tender Vittles would work if they are wrapped in plastic and not a paper type wrapper. Just shop around, you will find a suitable wrapped treat. It is wise to work on the return to cage and pose when the bird is hungry as then it will mean more. When you are on the show floor, have the wrapper of the treat in your pocket. As the judge walks by your pens, you can crunch your wrapper around in your pocket that bird will turn and pose for the judge.

 Step five - Practice, keep it fun for your Ameraucana and he will work for you. In poultry shows, sometimes it is just the little things that make the difference in the judge's mind. Your goal in cage training is to make that judge take a second look at your bird. If you can get a second look, then you have a shot at taking that class. The birds that are just sitting or wild aren't showing at their best. If you can get yours to pose and show for the judge, he will be impressed with you and your bird.



Breeding Blues or Blue Wheatens

by Paul Smith

Each year we get chick orders for all blue wheatens and all blues. A poultry fancier needs to know that mating blue to blue will produce blue, black and splash chicks. 50% blue, 25% black and 25% splash on the average will be produced. A splash is actually a pure blue, carrying only blue genes. A splash is yellowish-white chick at hatching and will develop white feathers with blue and/or black speckles or spots. Presently there is an agreement with several ABC members, to help get splash a recognized variety in the Ameraucana breed.

Splash is a good source to produce some very good blues. Splash mated to splash produces only splash, because splash is pure. Splash mated to black produces only blue, because the black parent is only carrying black genes and the splash parent is only carrying blue genes. This creates an offspring with both blue and black genes, which makes a blue chick. Many of our best blues have been produced from a splash and black mating. They are not sex-linked genes, so it doesn't matter whether the male or female is splash. Our best blue cockerel from the 2005 hatch was out of a splash pullet which Matthew calls "Spotie." Some of the best blue pullets from the 2005 hatch were out of a splash cockerel. Splash mated to blue will produce 50% splash and 50% blue chicks on the average, because the blue parent is carrying both blue and black genes and the splash carrying only blue genes. When the blue parent donates a blue gene to the blue gene donated from the splash parent, a splash chick is hatched. When the blue parent donates a black gene to the blue gene donated from the splash parent a blue chick is hatched.

The most used way to produce blue chicks is from a blue to black mating which results in 50% blue and 50% black chicks on the average. We have used every combination mentioned above to produce our blues. The splash X blue mating may result in blues that are too light and lack the required black lacing.

Wheatens, blue wheatens and splash wheatens will produce the same results as blacks, blues and splash. Wheaten takes the place of blacks. Blue wheaten takes blues place and splash wheaten replaces splash. The problem with wheatens is they are all the same color at hatching. Blues, blacks and splash are easily recognizable at hatching by the different color of their down. The wheaten, blue wheaten and splash wheaten have to start developing some feathers before they can be identified by a variety. This makes it difficult to sell only blue wheaten or only wheaten chicks if the different breeding combination are used which produced more than one variety of wheatens. Presently we have wheaten to wheaten; wheaten to blue wheaten; blue wheaten to wheaten;

blue wheaten to wheaten; blue wheaten to blue wheaten; blue wheaten to splash wheaten; splash wheaten to blue wheaten and splash wheaten to wheaten combinations in our breeding pens.

A conclusion, after having bred Ameraucanas for fourteen years, is "If you want to raise good blues, then you are going to have to raise blacks also!" The same thing applies to blue wheatens and wheatens. Hope this helps those desiring to raise blue and blue wheatens.



Showinbirds

Breeding – Showing – Selling – Shipping
Black, Blue, Splash, Wheaten, Blue Wheaten & Lavender
(Chicks ~ Started Fowl ~ Adults)

Ameraucanas



Champion AOSB & Champion of Show
2013 Oklahoma State Poultry Show ~ Shawnee, OK

Other show wins include:

2013 BV- BB - Ch AOSB Fayetteville, AR
2013 RV- RB Fayetteville, AR
2012 BV- BB - Ch AOSB Shawnee, OK
2012 RV- RB Shawnee, OK
2012 ABC National Meet
BV - RB - Res AOSB Sedalia, MO

Clif & Linda Redden

6500 SE Messer Road
Columbus, KS 66725
620-389-2732
clifredden@yahoo.com

Ameraucana Standard

©American Poultry Association, Inc. (APA)

* "Permission to make quotations from the text of this book is granted solely for the purpose of dissemination of knowledge, provided proper credit is cited." The following information is comprised of excerpts from The American Standard of Perfection*, 2010, and has been edited to comply with copyright provisions. This is not a complete breed description. For a complete description of all recognized breeds and varieties of domestic poultry always refer to the American Standard of Perfection which is available through the APA.

AMERAUCANA BANTAMS

Ameraucana bantams are in the APA "All Other Combs Clean Legged" (AOCCL) class of chickens. They were developed in the 1970's in the United States and lay eggs with blue shells. Breed name: Ameraucana – approved 1984. Disqualifications include presence of ear tufts and absence of beard & muffs.

STANDARD WEIGHTS for BANTAMS

Cock.....30 oz. Hen.....26 oz.
Cockerel.....26 oz. Pullet.....24 oz.

AMERAUCANA LARGE FOWL

Ameraucana large fowl are in the APA "All Other Standard Breeds" (AOSB) class of chickens. They were admitted to the Standard in 1984. Ameraucana is a general purpose fowl and has a distinctive blue eggshell coloration. Disqualifications include presence of ear tufts and absence of beard & muffs.

STANDARD WEIGHTS for LARGE FOWL

Cock.....6½ lbs. Hen.....5½ lbs.
Cockerel.....5½ lbs. Pullet.....4½ lbs.



16

AMERAUCANA VARIETIES (large fowl & bantam)

Black, Blue, Blue Wheaten, Brown Red, Buff, Silver, Wheaten & White

AMERAUCANA SHAPE (large fowl & bantam males)

COMB: Pea. BEAK: Curved.
FACE: Nearly hidden by muffs. EYES: Expressive.
WATTLES: Small, preferably absent. EARLOBES: Small.
MUFFS AND BEARD: Full, well-rounded, medium length.
HEAD: Medium size. NECK: Well-arched. HACKLE: Full.
BACK: Medium length. SADDLE: Medium in length.
TAIL: Well spread, medium length, carried at 45° above horizontal.
WINGS: Fairly large, tips carried above the hock joint.
BREAST: Prominent.
BODY AND STERN: Body of medium length, stern well-tucked up.
LEGS AND TOES: Medium length set apart, four toes

AMERAUCANA SHAPE (large fowl & bantam females)

COMB: Pea. BEAK: Curved.
FACE: Nearly hidden by muffs. EYES: Expressive.
WATTLES: Small, preferably absent. EARLOBES: Small.
MUFFS AND BEARD: Full, well-rounded, medium length.
HEAD: Medium size. NECK: Medium length. HACKLE: Full.
BACK: Medium length. CUSHION: Moderate.
TAIL: Medium length, well spread, carried at 40° angle above horizontal.
WINGS: Fairly prominent, carried above the hock joint.
BREAST: Full.
BODY AND STERN: Full but trim, fluff well-tucked up.
LEGS AND TOES: Medium length, four toes

The Bantam blue wheaten male & female portraits, below, were used in the American Bantam Association's (ABA) Bantam Standard.



17

AMERAUCANA BREEDING AND SELECTION – THE FINER POINTS

By Mike Gilbert November 2007; Revised November 2013

Some years ago Don Cable, one of the founders of the Ameraucana breed, wrote an informative and entertaining article for the ABC newsletter dealing with proper head traits for the Ameraucana bantam. He contended that all else being equal, most poultry judges will pick the chicken with the “prettiest face.” This writer agrees.

In selecting a proper Ameraucana head, the first thing that usually comes to mind is the comb. It needs to be relatively small, straight, not twisted, consist of three distinct rows of finely serrated points, and be higher in the center than at the front or back. The best female comb for exhibition is not the best one for breeding, as the latter must be extra small to throw a proper comb in her male offspring. A female pea comb with three serrated rows and the higher-in-the-center feature will probably not be present on a good female breeder, but it does look good for exhibition. Conversely, the hen with a good exhibition comb will often throw males with combs too large and unsightly for optimal results when shown. Some of this will depend on her mate of course.

The second item is eye color. For all varieties of Ameraucana the eyes must be some shade of reddish bay. The exact shade of bay will vary depending on the variety and even the particular strain or line. For example the eyes of most buffs will be lighter in shade than the eyes of most brown reds. As responsible breeders we must avoid eyes that are pearl (very light in color) or dark brown to black. The writer has observed the pale yellowish-green eyes in wheaten bantams, and has seen very dark brown eyes in blacks, blues, white bantams, and buff large fowl. The gene responsible for dark brown eyes is recessive and is carried on the sex-link chromosome. Translated, that means a dark eyed hen or pullet will throw the unwanted gene to 100% of her male offspring. Consequently a male may have bay eyes but can be a carrier of the gene for dark brown eyes, thus will throw dark eyes to about half of his female offspring, or progeny. The writer once borrowed a beautiful brown red bantam cock that provided a perfect example of this; half his pullet progeny were dark eyed and were consequently culled. Never use a male breeder with dark eyes, as he will throw the unwanted gene to all his chicks.

Another head-point issue that may reoccur from time to time is white in the earlobes. Ameraucana lobes are to be solid red from a genetic standpoint. Positive enamel white is a disqualification, and any white at all is a serious defect. The genotype of female lobes may be quite difficult to determine as they are very often pale – approaching the color of the bird's skin – which is itself white. In fact, the Standard says: “Earlobes: Red, except female earlobes to be very pale, matching color of the skin.” It stands to reason then that selection efforts must center on the males, as they seldom if ever display the pale lobe syndrome. The recommended practice

is to cull any male showing even a trace of white in the lobes, as experience has shown those “traces” can morph into positive enamel white within just a generation or two.

Moving to the bottom of the head, we consider what is proper in Ameraucana muffs and beards. The muffs on either side of the head together with the beard should appear in the shape of three fairly distinct lobes. Too small in the muffs may mean impurity for the Mb gene or it may mean the bird is too hard or short in feather. Too large means the bird may be too soft and long of feather. We are not breeding Faverolles, we are breeding Ameraucana. Moderation is the key – somewhere in the middle.

Now we move to the other end of the bird and consider tails. The correct Ameraucana has a medium length tail that is neither pinched together nor fan shaped from the side view. A tail that resembles that of an Orpington or Wyandotte is not an Ameraucana tail; those are too short. A tail resembling that of a Leghorn is not good either; it would be too long and too spread. A good Ameraucana female tail will rise at a 40 degree angle from the horizontal and be very moderately spread both horizontally and vertically – just as the A.P.A. color standard depicts. The tail coverts will flow well up the sides of the main tail but leave enough of it showing to allow for observation of color, condition, and placement of the seven or eight feathers on each side without the need for handling the hen or pullet. For Ameraucana cocks and cockerels the proper tail transitions smoothly and not abruptly from the saddle and is held at 45 degrees above the horizontal. Tail coverts are abundant, and the two main sickle feathers extend beyond the main tail. The latter point has sometimes been overlooked breeders and judges alike. Lesser sickles should ideally cover the main tail in cocks and finished cockerels.

Back to the front of the bird. Male hackles should be full and actually touch in front of the neck. Breasts should be well rounded and full in both genders, and the male Standard description calls for “prominence.” The front of the birds should be somewhat higher than the back when standing in the natural position. The Standard says “slightly elevated at the shoulders.” That means water would flow from the hackle toward the saddle or tail on a proper Ameraucana of either gender in its' natural stance.

With regard to general appearance the Ameraucana is quite unique in the configuration of its various parts. Not real deep and soft feathered like an Orpington or Wyandotte, but not so slightly built as a Leghorn or Hamburg. Not short of body like a Cornish, nor extra long of body like a Chantecler. Feathering is quite similar to that of a Plymouth Rock. Keep in mind the Ameraucana is a breed of moderation and not one of extremes. If the breeder feels a need to aim for something extreme he or she can always try for the bluest egg shell color possible without even a trace of green. In pretty much everything else the successful breeder will strive for balance by taking a “middle of the road” approach in order to stay on the right path of producing outstanding Ameraucana.

Ameraucana Breeders Club Meet Policy

Current policy as set by the Board of Directors allows for ABC meet awards at two tiers or levels for Open Show competition at club sanctioned meets.

1. With three or more exhibitors of Ameraucana in a class (bantam or large fowl) a ribbon is earned for Best of Breed.
2. With five or more exhibitors of Ameraucana in a class (bantam or large fowl) a ribbon is also earned for Reserve of Breed.

In Junior competition, regardless of the number of exhibitors of Ameraucana in a class (bantam or large fowl), a ribbon is earned for Best of Breed.

Nonmembers may count as exhibitors, but are not eligible for club awards. If members holding a "family" membership enter a meet as individuals, they may compete against each other for purposes of club awards.

Meets will only be placed if a member requests a meet for a specific show in time for the distribution of information via the ABC quarterly Bulletin prior to the entry deadline for that show.

For planning purposes, members need to know well in advance when and where meets are placed. As a general rule of thumb, meets should only be placed where it is reasonably expected that three or more exhibitors will show Ameraucana.

In the event a member is refused placement of a meet the District Director shall provide a satisfactory explanation to the member. If the member is not satisfied, he or she then may appeal the decision in writing to the President, who shall poll the Board of Directors. The District Director will have an opportunity to defend his or her decision to the entire Board; a simple majority vote of the Board of Directors shall be final in any such dispute.

In Open Show competition we offer...

- a Best of Breed Ribbon, with 3 or more bantam exhibitors.
- a Best of Breed Ribbon, with 3 or more large fowl exhibitors.
- a Reserve of Breed Ribbon with 5 or more bantam exhibitors.
- a Reserve of Breed Ribbon with 5 or more large fowl exhibitors.

In Junior competition we offer...

- a rosette for Best of Breed bantam.
- a rosette for Best of Breed large fowl.

Additional awards are offered at the annual ABC National Meet.

The American Bantam Association

The ABA
Keeps You Connected



Come Join your Fellow
Bantam Lovers!

New Member Special JUST \$50

You'll Receive...

- ✓ 1 Year membership
- ✓ Copy of the Annual Yearbook
- ✓ 2011 Mini Bantam Standard Book
- ✓ 4 Informative newsletters per year
- ✓ ABA Member patch
- ✓ Premium awards system

Join Today at
www.bantamclub.com

or send check or money order to:
ABA
PO Box 127 • Augusta, NJ 07822
bantamclub@gmail.com



Information
Education
Recognition

We work hard at the little things in life!

Strawn Family

Ameraucana
(large fowl)
Black, Blue,
Splash,
Wheaten,
Blue Wheaten,
Splash Wheaten

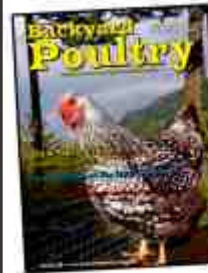


Wyandotte
(large fowl)
Blue Laced Red



Max Strawn
Princeton TX
(214)537-0334

MStrawn3@yahoo.com



Backyard Poultry
Dedicated to more and better small-flock poultry

BACKYARD POULTRY is the only publication in America that celebrates the whole chicken (and other fowl)—for their beauty, their interest, their service to humanity as well as gastronomically. BACKYARD POULTRY salutes the whole chicken in all their wondrous forms and colors. Yes, it covers breeds, housing and management—everything you'd expect to find in a professionally-produced magazine dedicated to poultry, and more!

\$21 for one year (6 issues) • \$35 for two years (12 issues)

Backyard Poultry • 145 Industrial Dr., Medford, WI 54451
www.backyardpoultrymag.com • 1-800-551-5691

**Increase your sales with the highest circulation
poultry publication in the country!**

Place your **Breeders Directory** or **Classified Ad** today!
Call Gary at 1-800-551-5691 or e-mail csyclassifieds@tds.net.

Ameraucana Breeders Club Exhibitor Point System

Supreme Grand Master Exhibitor: 10,000 points earned for all varieties added together.

Grand Master Exhibitor: 5,000 points earned for all varieties added together.

Master Exhibitor: 800 points earned for all varieties added together.

Junior Master Exhibitor: 100 points earned in all varieties added together before the youth's 18th birthday. These points are only collected on Ameraucana exhibited by juniors competing against other juniors (NOT Open Show competition).

Calculation of points:

Members must be in good standing to accumulate points. If a membership is lapsed, for more than 60 days, then the points will be forfeited. Points will be recorded per variety. The varieties will be those which have been admitted into the APA or the ABA. When new varieties are accepted into the Standard, they will then be added to the recorded information. If a variety is not listed in the Standards, then points will be recorded under Any Other Variety (AOV). Member point totals are at Ameraucana.org.

Bantam Ameraucana point calculations:

BV - 1 point for every Ameraucana exhibited within that variety.
RV - 1 point for every Ameraucana exhibited within that variety less one.
BB - 1 point for every Bantam Ameraucana exhibited.
RB - 1 point for every Bantam Ameraucana exhibited less one.

Large Fowl Ameraucana point calculations:

BV - 1 point for every Ameraucana exhibited within that variety.
RV - 1 point for every Ameraucana exhibited within that variety less one.
BB - 1 point for every LF Ameraucana exhibited.
RB - 1 point for every LF Ameraucana exhibited less one.

Bantam Ameraucana point calculations in Junior competition:

BV - 1 point for every Ameraucana exhibited within that variety.
RV - 1 point for every Ameraucana exhibited within that variety less one.
BB - 1 point for every Bantam Ameraucana exhibited.
RB - 1 point for every Bantam Ameraucana exhibited less one.

Large Fowl Ameraucana point calculations in Junior competition:

BV - 1 point for every Ameraucana exhibited within that variety.
RV - 1 point for every Ameraucana exhibited within that variety less one.
BB - 1 point for every LF Ameraucana exhibited.
RB - 1 point for every LF Ameraucana exhibited less one.

KEIPPER COOPING COMPANY

PO Box 249, Big Bend WI 53103

(262)662-2290

KeipperCooping.com

Write or Call for a Brochure



**ALL-WIRE COLLAPSIBLE COOPS
OVER 90 YEARS EXPERIENCE**

**Especially Designed Cages for
Poultry, Pigeons, Rabbits & Cavies**

Smith Ameraucana

DAY-OLD LARGE FOWL CHICKS

Ameraucana
black, blue, splash,
wheaten, blue wheaten,
splash wheaten & lavender

Rhode Island Red
Single Comb

ADULT BREEDERS IN THE FALL

Paul & Angela Smith

psmith@ntin.net - (940)768-8405
2175 CR 224, Gainesville TX 76240

Ameraucanas

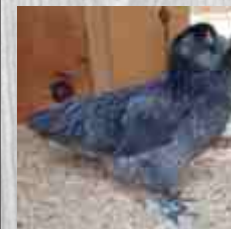
Large Fowl
Black, Blue, Splash

Bantams
Black, Blue, Splash
Wheaten
Blue Wheaten
Splash Wheaten



Selling & Shipping
Hatching eggs
Chicks
Juveniles
Adult Stock

Call for Availability



Sharon Yorks
330-416-8419
syorks4@gmail.com



Show Preparation and Grooming Tips

By Jean Ribbeck

I have had several new friends and breeders ask what I do to get a bird ready for show or how to prepare a bird for show. I have decided to write a few steps and tips down that I use to prepare my birds for show. You will want to choose a bird several weeks before the show. You need to pick a bird that you believe fits the standard for the variety of Ameraucana you are showing. Once you have picked a bird, you will want to inspect the bird more closely.

Inspect both wings and spread the tail to make sure there are no broken or missing feathers. Also check the feet and legs for feather stubs or crooked toes. You will also want to check the bird's fluff to make sure it is free from external parasites. During this inspection you will also want to make sure the bird feels of proper weight and is healthy. You can also feel the keel (breast bone) at this time and make sure that it is straight.

If the bird has broken feathers you may pull the feathers either by hand or a pair of pliers and wait for the feather to grow back. This can take 4-6 weeks for a shorter feather and up to 8 weeks for a longer tail feather, which why I inspect the bird several weeks before show.

Once I pick a bird, I will put it aside in its own pen or own cage to start cage training. I feel it is better to put the birds in separate cages. Birds can get bored in cages and start unwanted behaviors such as feather picking of other birds. The once beautiful muff and beard on your prized bird may disappear overnight.

This is a good time to remove spurs if your bird is an older cock bird. I generally just remove spurs with a pair of pliers and give them a good twist. Have blood stop powder on hand just in case you have a "bleeder".

A week to ten days before the show, I will do another inspection of the bird. At this time I will clip toe nails or trim the bird's beak if needed. You can also check again for external parasites. Two to three days before the show I will inspect the birds to see if they need to be washed. Generally speaking, darker birds do not need a full body wash. I always wash birds' legs and feet to remove any dirt or feces from their legs and toes. Some birds can get by with just a fluff wash to remove urates (white part of poo) from their fluff.

If the bird needs a full body wash I will wash them in a sink with luke-warm water using soap specifically made for chickens. You don't want to use a dish soap that can remove all the oils from the feathers. I rinse the bird and make sure it is sufficiently wet then add soap. Massage the soap in well and then rinse well, making sure all soap is removed. I like to use a whitening soap for white birds but you must be careful you do not leave it on too long and the bird turns blue.

I wrap the wet birds in a towel and place them in a kennel which

has warm blowing air so that the bird can dry. You will make sure the air is not too warm depending on your season. The bird should dry completely within 12-24 hours depending on the ambient temperature. After drying, your birds should be almost ready for show.

I usually have a five hour trip to most shows I attend, so more grooming is needed upon arrival.

One thing I recommend is having needed items ready for grooming. Many people use a fishing lure box or something similar. I have a "Homer Box" that can be picked up at Home Depot. I keep the following items on hand:

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----------------------|
| ✓ mineral oil | ✓ Vet RX | ✓ standard hair comb |
| ✓ nit comb | ✓ wipes | ✓ extra leg bands |
| ✓ nail clippers | ✓ zip ties | ✓ scissors |
| ✓ wash cloth | ✓ pink oil | ✓ disposable gloves |

The night before the show is the best time to put a bit of mineral oil or Vet Rx on your birds combs and legs. Use it sparingly as a little goes a long way. This will relieve dry skin on a comb or legs and brighten them up.

After this, I give them food and water and allow them to rest for the night. I try to be aware of how much water I give the birds as I do not want them dunking their heads in their water and getting their muffs and beards wet. Keep the water limited as a wet beard and muff can be greatly disappointing.

The next morning, before judging, I like to inspect my birds again and go over them one final time very meticulously. If I find any feathers with shafts on them I use a nit comb and can easily comb them out; a soft used toothbrush will also work very well for this job.

A regular hair comb can be pulled through the feathers to remove any dried on poo or urates in the rear fluff. If the fluff or poo is wet, do not attempt this, it only works dry.

I use "Pink Oil" to smooth any wing or tail feathers that are slightly damaged from transport.

A wet wash cloth or wipes can be used to spruce up the legs and feet should they have gotten soiled overnight.

I am sure others have ideas and tips of their own. Don't be afraid to ask another exhibitor how they do things. This is how we all learn.

[Want to talk Ameraucana?](#)

Buy & Sell, Questions & Answers, Genetics, Exhibiting, etc.
The ABC Forum is the place to go to for everything about Ameraucana chickens and the ABC. There is even a Members Only subforum where members can post items that only other members can view and reply to.

Ameraucana.org/abcforum

The Case for Lavender

by Mike Gilbert

Self blue has been around for a long time in certain breeds of bantams in the U.S., breeds like Old English Game and D'Anvers for example. In recent years this color has become very popular in other breeds such as Silkies, Orpingtons, Ameraucanas, Araucanas, Faverolles, and probably others I'm not aware of. Bantams have been used to develop self blue large fowl in some of these breeds as well. Nearly all of these project breeders are using the term "lavender" interchangeably with self blue, in fact the vast majority prefer the genetically more precise term lavender. The Silkie breeders recently applied for and were granted standard recognition for this variety, but they were told they must use the term self blue instead of lavender. They acquiesced in order to get their new variety into the Standard, but reportedly would like to have the variety name changed to lavender for their breed at some point in the future, which would of course create a dual nomenclature for the variety within the Standard.

Many have already lined up for and against the idea of two names for one variety, with strong opinions on both sides. Since the idea is controversial, the Ameraucana Breeders Club conducted an unofficial poll on their internet discussion forum. Only Ameraucana Club members were allowed to vote. The choices were, 1) Lavender only, 2) Self Blue only, 3) Lavender/Self Blue only, 4) Self Blue/Lavender only, 5) Lavender or either compromise, 6) Don't Care, or 7) Other. As of this writing date the results have been rather astonishing. Choice number 1, Lavender only, has received 27 of the 31 votes cast. Choice number 5, Lavender or a compromise using the term lavender, has received 3 votes. Only one vote has been cast for self blue only, and nobody cast a vote for "don't care" or "other." Landslide? So what are the arguments for and against?

Traditionalists have said two names for one variety is just too confusing. Show secretaries, judges, newer fanciers, and others would have to deal with yet another communication problem. Another argument in favor of retaining self blue only is that we already have a perfectly good name, so why change it? Why muddy the waters? Self blue is the name we have always used so why change anything?

On the other side of the issue, advocates for using the term lavender say they do not wish to change what is already in the standard. Nothing would change for breeds that already have a self blue variety and wish to keep that name for it. But breed clubs who develop new varieties should be able to designate their preference for terminology so long as it is reasonable. Another point: There is plenty of precedent for dual terminology in the Standard already, so what's the harm? For example, all the three major Brahma varieties are called something other

dual terminology in the Standard already, so what's the harm? For example, all the three major Brahma varieties are called something other than the recognized name for their colors. Gray Japanese are modified birchens. Black Tailed Red is described differently for at least four different breeds. It makes little sense to say we can't figure out that self blue and lavender are one and the same, especially when most novice poultry keepers, according to many internet message boards, are more familiar with the term lavender than they are with self blue already. In fact, there is probably more confusion between "blue" and "self blue" than there is between lavender and self blue. Blue and lavender/self blue are different genetically – so why is it necessary they have a confusingly similar name?

Making decisions on the basis of "that's the way we have always done it before" is neither wise nor inclusive. If we truly wish to expand membership, it is time we gave member organizations a say in what amounts to rather trivial and simple requests like this one. In this case, the request hurts no one, changes nothing important, and leaves members with the idea that they actually do have a say in the workings of the organization. And what could be wrong with that?



Commonly Used Abbreviations

C = Cock, H = Hen, K = Cockerel, P = Pullet

BB = Best of Breed, RB = Reserve of Breed

BV = Best of Variety, RV = Reserve of Variety

AOV = *Any Other Variety, LF = Large Fowl

AOCCL = Any Other Comb Clean Legged (bantams only)

AOSB = All Other Standard Breeds (large fowl only)

ABC = Ameraucana Breeders Club

ABA = American Bantam Association

APA = American Poultry Association

*Ameraucanas are not entered in shows as AOV. All chickens are always entered under their proper variety name whether recognized or not. These non-recognized varieties then compete against themselves for Best & Reserve AOV.

Ameraucana Chickens

by John W Blehm - published in Backyard Poultry magazine June 2007

To say that Ameraucana, Araucana and Easter Egg chickens are the same would be like saying Cornish, Brahma and Sex-Linked brown egg layers are the same. The chickens in the first group all possess the gene for blue shelled eggs and the birds in the second group produce brown shelled eggs. Having one or even several traits in common does not make two different breeds the same breed. Ameraucana and Araucana chickens are completely different breeds just as Cornish and Brahma chickens are different. Each breed is different from all the others and the differences are listed in the American Poultry Association's Standard of Perfection. We generally refer to it as the APA Standard and it tells what characteristics or traits are needed to classify a chicken under any of many different recognized breed descriptions. The Standard is the last word in the world of exhibition poultry in North America

An Araucana chicken has ear tufts (not the same as muffs) and is rumpless which also means it doesn't have a tail. An Ameraucana has muffs and a tail. Both breeds have pea combs and lay blue eggs, but have just as many differences as similarities or common traits according to the Standard.

What is referred to as an Easter Egg chicken or Easter Egger is not a recognized breed, but rather a mixed breed bird that possesses the gene for blue eggs. These birds can be of any physical description. As far as "Americana" chickens go there is no such breed. It is just that many commercial hatcheries can't spell Ameraucana and try to pawn off their mongrel chickens as such. When you see Araucana/Americana chicks for sale you can bet they are really Easter Eggers. Generally speaking these are fine chickens for the backyard, but would be disqualified at an APA sanctioned poultry show. Many novice poultry fanciers have fallen for the false advertising of these hatcheries and been very disappointed. Some hatcheries now have disclaimers saying their Araucana/Americana chickens are not for exhibition yet they continue to advertise them using APA breed names.

Araucana and Ameraucana chickens are both relatively new breeds. The APA accepted Araucanas as a breed in 1976 and Ameraucanas in 1984. Before Araucanas were accepted and became a standard breed the term Araucana was used interchangeable with Easter Egger to describe all chickens that possessed the blue egg gene. Today some people still mistakenly get it wrong and that is partly due to all the misinformation and outdated information on the internet and elsewhere.

While on the subject of misinformation let's try some myth busting. For many decades some commercial hatcheries promoted "Araucana" eggs as being lower in cholesterol and higher in nutritional value than

other chicken eggs. Even though those claims were proven false over 27 years ago many people still believe them to be true. Remember that Araucana, back in the day, meant any chicken with the blue egg gene. Heck, those same commercial hatcheries even claimed that "Araucana" meat had a taste similar to quail! Imagine that - chicken that doesn't taste like chicken.

Oh, and how about those pink, green, olive drab and gold colored eggs that the catalogs advertised. The reason the egg colors vary so much is because the birds are of mixed parentage. There are only two true egg shell colors, blue and white. The gene that makes blue egg shells is dominant over the gene for white eggs. Brown eggs are really white eggs with a brown tint or coating. Green eggs are really blue eggs with a brown tint or coating. Just as there are many shades of brown eggs there are many shades of green eggs. You can tell if an egg is truly white or blue when the inside egg shell color matches the outside. Blue chicken eggs are not a Robin's egg blue color. They are a light pastel blue. Getting that good true blue color is still a problem that dedicated Ameraucana breeders are trying to get right especially in some of the large fowl varieties.

Which came first the Araucana or the Ameraucana? Actually since both are now legitimate names of official APA breeds let's say the Easter Eggers came first. They came to this country as mongrel chickens and were bred to other types of chickens. Over the past several decades some breeders bred them to look the way they wanted. Some bred for tufted and rumpless characteristics, some bred for muffs and tails and others bred for whatever they wanted. Araucanas were not developed from Ameraucanas and Ameraucanas were not developed from Araucanas. They were both bred up from Easter Eggers or mixed breed chickens. The tufted and rumpless breed was officially accepted first into the Standard. They took the name Araucana. There was still a large following breeding the muffed and tailed blue egg layers, so they had to come up with a new name for their breed that they had also referred to as Araucana up to that time. They organized a breed club and chose the name Ameraucana over American Araucana by a 9 to 5 vote.

Bantam Ameraucanas and large fowl Ameraucanas actually add up to two standard breeds of Ameraucana chickens. The big difference between the two is size. Bantams are just miniature versions of large fowl chickens or maybe large fowl are a big version of bantams. Either way the APA recognizes the same eight varieties in each breed. They are: black, blue, blue wheaten, brown red, buff, silver, wheaten, and white. Some breeders are working on new varieties such as lavender.

There are photos and much more information about Ameraucana chickens on our website, Ameraucana.org.

Should I Vaccinate For Laryngotracheitis?

by Paul Smith

Laryngotracheitis (la-reen-go-tray-key-eye-tis) is also known as LT. It is a highly contagious respiratory disease of poultry caused by Herpes Virus. It usually affects chickens, but has been found in pheasants, peafowl and turkeys.

Once LT is introduced to a susceptible (unvaccinated) flock the virus spreads rapidly by contact. Birds which recover from LT may continue to shed the virus for prolonged periods of time. The virus enters a bird's respiratory system or eye area. It causes the cells in the Larynx and trachea to die and slough, which leaves blood vessels exposed and breathing difficult.

LT infected poultry exhibit a number of signs, such as coughing and gasping, watery bubbly eyes, swollen sinuses, nasal discharge, bloody secretions from the trachea, mouth or nose. The most typical sign is gasping for air as an infected bird will stretch their neck forward and upward with each breath. They may cough out blood, splattering walls and floors.

The incubation period of LT may be as little as 2 days, but is usually 6-15 days following exposure to the virus. The virus usually enters a flock by the introduction of a carrier bird, or by the movement of personnel or visitors, or contaminated equipment.

There are 2 kinds of LT vaccine. One is a Chick Embryo Origin (CEO). The CEO LT vaccine is restricted in Texas, and should not be used anywhere in a breeding show flock, because vaccinated birds will be a carrier of LT and will cause unvaccinated birds to get LT when they are exposed to each other.

The LT vaccine in Texas that Texans must use, and everyone in the fancy should use, is a modified tissue culture called LT-I-VAX. It is an eye drop administered at 4 weeks and again at 10 weeks of age. When administered properly the birds will be protected their entire life and are not a carrier of LT.

If we had known the above information and been using the LT-I-VAX, we would still have our flock of Ameraucanas. Unfortunately we weren't vaccinating for LT because I had the opinion "not to vaccinate, unless you had a problem with the disease." In other states, that opinion maybe acceptable, but in Texas, if someone gets LT in their flock, the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) will kill their birds in an attempt to keep LT out of the state, so the huge commercial poultry operations will not have to vaccinate for LT. This legislation was brought about by the Texas Poultry Federation, a small group of very large commercial poultry producers who literally bought the Texas Legislature, several years ago. I have an attorney friend who has a picture of one of the main members, caught passing out \$10,000 checks to legislature members.

Each state has their own rules dealing with LT. I have been told that in Georgia and Pennsylvania it is required that the birds be vaccinated for LT. A friend from Pennsylvania confirmed that info in a personal e-mail to us. It would be interesting to hear what other states require on the LT situation in their state.

Apparently at one of the shows that we attended this past fall, someone showed some CEO vaccinated or recently LT-I-VAX vaccinated birds and our flock became infected with the LT virus, because they had not been vaccinated. January 5, 2004, was doomsday for our flock, set by the TAHC. We butchered 158 head and the TAHC gassed 48 head of our breeder males and older hens, all at our expense; as they didn't pay anything for the birds which they condemned. It was very difficult seeing 3 BB, 1 RB and many BV at the last 4 national shows destroyed.

LT is not transmittable through the eggs if the eggs are disinfected before incubation. We used 6 ounces of Oxine and 1 gallon water for disinfecting the eggs. Presently we have over 130 chicks for our new start of Ameraucanas.

The newly hatched babies were vaccinated for Mareks. The LT-I-VAX was given to the first hatched when they were 4 weeks old. It will be given to all the others when they are 4 weeks and again at 10 weeks. This has been a devastating experience, which sometimes seems like a nightmare that came true! Having had the chickens for over 9 years, the early morning silence has been extremely hard to get use to. We miss the crowing, but it should be here again in about 5 months. The worst thing of all is that it could have been prevented if we had been using the LT-I-VAX. Hopefully, everyone who reads this will be able to learn from our experience, so they won't have to experience what we did!

When the question arises -"Should I Vaccinate for Laryngotracheitis?" I hope you will answer "YES" with LT-I-VAX! I know from the past five years of showing that there are a lot of Christian brothers and sisters involved in the fancy. No doubt, some will have the same opinion I once had, which is "Our birds belong to the Lord, we are only care takers of them, so nothing will be able to infect them." My only advice to them is read John 10:10, then vaccinate your birds for LT with the LT-IVAX.

Hopefully this info has not discouraged anyone from showing their birds. Its' entire intent is to encourage everyone to vaccinate properly with the correct vaccines, and lets go to the shows.

[Want even more information?](#)

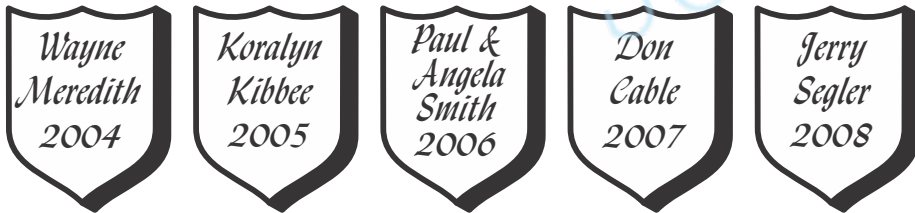
Check out Frequently Asked Questions, History, upcoming ABC sanctioned meets, photos of Ameraucana chicks and of course a lot more at on our site:

Ameraucana.org

Lifetime Achievement Award

The idea for the "Ameraucana Breeders Award" was conceived by Don Cable and instituted, in 2001, at the ABC National Meet, in Galax, VA. The club president decides on which member will receive the honor each year. Mike Gilbert was the president at the time and chose John Blehm to receive the award, but before Mike presented it he was surprisingly presented with the first ABC Breeders Award, dated 2000. The award has been renamed Lifetime Achievement Award and a member has been honored with it each year since then.

Although there is no written criteria, the recipient is generally a member that has been in the club for ten or more years. Many have been breeders that have developed and/or improved varieties of Ameraucana, have served as officers in the club, published articles promoting the breed and club, traveled extensively to ABC sanctioned meets to exhibit Ameraucanas, donated financially to the club, and the list goes on.



Jerry Segler, Don Cable and Mike Gilbert are also Charter Members of the ABC!