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April 2014

In this issue: APA News • ABA News • Geese - Part 2 • 2014 APA Election Results • Sourcing Stock: Part 2 • ABA 2014 Master Exhibitors • Poultry Breed Clubs Listing • APA & ABA Judges List • Upcoming Shows, and more. . .

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Pictured is a bantam white Silkie hen exhibited by Sherri Sugarfields. She was Grand Champion of Show at the CLPC's Alexandria, Louisiana show on March 22nd. Full Alexandria, Louisiana show results in the May issue. Photo by Ann Charles

Exhibition Poultry Magazine®

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On The Cover ... Pictured is a bantam white Silkie hen exhibited by Sherri Sugarfields. She was Grand Champion of Show at the CLPC's Alexandria, Louisiana show on March 22nd.

Photo by Ann Charles

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Ann Charles Editor/Publisher

email: contact@SkyBlueEgg.com Phone: (318) 209-9802 Andrew S. Charles Technical Support email: admin@ExhibitionPoultry.net

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April 2014

April 5, 2014

El Dorado, Arkansas, Fairgrounds. South Central Regional Classic. Contact: Frankie Harper, PO Box 552, Rison, AR 71665; Phone: (870) 370-3427

April 5, 2014

Norman, Oklahoma, Canadian Valley Poultry Club spring show. Website: http:// www.poultryshowcase.com/. Contact: Richard Peters, PO Box 735, Noble, OK 73068 APAJudge1009@aol.com

April 12-13, 2014 Hutchinson, KS 2014 APA SEMI-ANNUAL MEET. Contact: Danny Wiliamson Email: brahmabrahma@hotmail.com

May 2014

May 3, 2014

Little Rock, Arkansas, Arkansas State Fair Spring Show, Arkansas State Fair grounds. Entries at: http://arkansasstatefair.com/ livestockindex/Springfair.html

September 2014

September 4-13- Tentative

Abeline, Texas, West Texas Fair and Rodeo. Contact: 325-677-4376. Website: http:// www.taylorcountyexpocenter.com/ taylorexpo_wtfr.html

September 13, 2014 - Tentative

Odessa, Texas, Permian Basin Fair & Exposition. Contact: Jerry Wiley, P O Box 212, Gardendale, Tx 79758. Phone: 432-366-3026 Website: http://permianbasinfair.com/index.html

September 20-262014- Tentative

Lubbock, Texas. Panhandle South Plains Fair. Contact: (806) 763-2833. Website: http:// www.southplainsfair.com/

September 27, 2014 - Tentative

Tulsa, Oklahoma, Tulsa State Fair. Contact: Mike Geiss, (405) 761-8339. Website: http:// www.tulsastatefair.com/filesSite/Poultry4.pdf.

October 2014

October 02, 2014

Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Southeast Arkansas District Fair. Contact: Lewis Hinkle, 870.543.0198, tootie9901@yahoo.com.

October 11, 2014 - Tentative

Dallas, Texas. State Fair of Texas, Pan-Am Poultry Show. Contact: 214-565-9931. Website: http://www.bigtex.com/sft/

October 11, 2014 - Tentative

Jackson, Mississippi. Mississippi State Fair Poultry Show. http://mspoultryshowclub.org/ poultry_exhibitions

October 16, 2014 - Tentative

Little Rock, Arkansas, Arkansas State Fair, Arkansas State Fair grounds. Entries at: http:// arkansasstatefair.com/livestockindex/ Statefair.html or contact: Dr. Keith Bramwell 479-841-6498.

October 18, 2014 (Special)

Lebanon, Indiana, Central Indiana poultry Show, Boone County 4-H fairground. Entries at: http://poultryshow.org. Call: 765-482-0750.

November 2014

November 1, 2014 - Tentative

Fayetteville, Arkansas, Heart of The Ozarks Poultry Club annual Fall Double Show. Website: http://www.hotopa.com/index.html

November 7-9, 2014

Columbus, Ohio, The Ohio National Show, 2014 ABA National Show. Website: http:// www.ohionational.org/

November 15, 2014

Haynesville, Louisiana - Pelican State Classic hosted by the North Louisiana Poultry Club -Contact: Jim Crain, jacrain@chilitech.com.

November 22, 2014

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Parker Coliseum at the LSU Ag Center. GCPFA's Gulf South Fall Classic. DOUBLE SHOW. Website: http:// www.gcpfa.com. Contact: Rhonda Silva gcpfa01@gmail.com

November 8 2014 - Tentative

Atoka, Oklahoma - 2013 OEG Bantam Bonanza hosted by The Atoka BantamClub. Contact: Randy Daniel 580-239-0504 or Greg Garison 580-889-0621.

December 2014

December 6, 2014 - Tentative

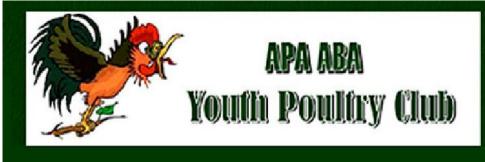
Atoka, Oklahoma - 2013 Southeast Bantam Game Show - Double Show - hosted by The Atoka BantamClub. Contact: Randy Daniel 580-239-0504 or Greg Garison 580-889-0621.

December 6-7, 2014

Knoxville, Tennessee, the 2014 APA National Show, hosted by Tennessee Valley Poultry Club. Website: http://tnvpoultryclub.com

December 13, 2014 - Tentative

Shawnee, Oklahoma. Oklahoma State Poultry Federation 97th Annual Show. Website: http:/ /www.okspf.com/ One day show.



The club promotes opportunities to practice showmanship, cooperation and fellowship and to be involved with their home community and with the poultry fancy in general.

For more info go to: http://www.apa-abayouthpoultryclub.org or contact: Doris Robinson, National Director, 810 Sweetwater Rd., Philadelphia, TN 37846 ~ Phone: 865-717-6270 ~ Email: nanamamabrahma@att.net

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Jerry McCarty 513 McKinley St. , Haughton, LA 71037 318/949-0027.

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Robert D. Murray 920 S.E. 21st Street , Oklahoma City, OK 73129 405/632-7085.

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APA NEWS April 2014

I don't usually comment on the weather, but it has been bad for so long all over the country, I hope everyone is finally getting a break. It's hard to get those birds to lay when they are cold, but here in PA we seem to be getting to spring, hope everyone is having the same luck.

When you read this, the 2014 election will be over. I would like to thank everyone who took the time to vote. Your new slate of officers will be attending their first board meeting at the APA semi-annual in Hutchinson, KS in just a few weeks.

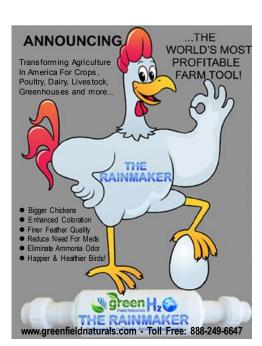
The next News & Views will be out this month. It will include the minutes from the APAAnnual in January at Springfield, MA; and the description for the White Marans which were accepted at the January meeting. It will also have the financial report for December 2013. Because the News & Views goes to the printer before the end of the quarter it is not possible for me to have the first quarter report done.

The yearbook committee has started to work on this year's edition. They are always on the lookout for new and informative articles to include. Take a few minutes of your time, put pen to paper and share your experience and knowledge about poultry with everyone. If you would like to place an ad in this year, just contact the APA office before the end of April and I will help you out.

The APA Semi-annual meeting in Hutchinson, KS is coming this month. The committee has done a great job and has included a banquet Saturday evening for everyone to enjoy. For more information contact: Danny Williamson at brahmabrahmma@ hotmail.com or Wade Hilker at whilker@frontiernet.net.

I will be bringing merchandise, so if you would like to preorder something, I will be happy to bring it to Hutchinson and save the shipping cost. Show reports and orders still wait on my desk, so I will let you enjoy the rest of this issue while I get back to my paperwork. Hope to see you somewhere down the road.

Pat Horstman





National Call Breeders of America A club formed for the promotion of breeding and exhibition of Call Ducks, offering National, District and Special Meets. Quarterly newsletters and annual yearbook.

Memberships: Junior (under 16) \$8/year; hdividual \$15/year or \$29/2 years; Family \$17/year or \$33/2 years; Lifetime membership \$200. Visit our website at www.callducks.org to join online or purchase club merchandise, such as t-shirts, pins, patches, posters, etc.

For more information contact secretary Dennis Fuller, 1729 Otterville Blvd., Independence, Iowa 50644; 319-334-3497, wapsiwaterfowl@aol.com (12-14)

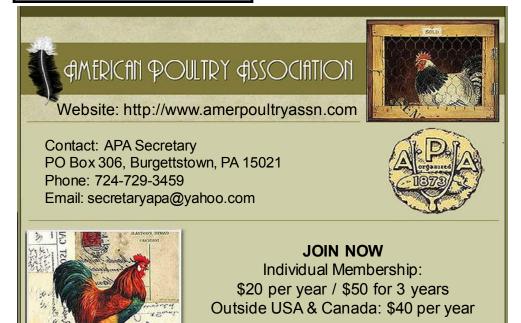
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American Sumatra Association, http:// sumatraassociation.org/ \$18/2yrs; \$25/3yrs. Doug Akers, 300 S. 400 W., Lebanon, IN 46052, email: dakers@purdue.edu (12-13)

Modern Game Bantam Club of America, Dues: \$20/year. Mailing address is 4134 NY Highway 43, Wynantskill, NY 12198; Lee A. Traver, Sec./Treasurer. Email: traverfarm@wildblue.net; Website is www.mgbca.org. (12-14)

National Call Breeders of America: http:// www.callducks.org, Secretary: Dennis Fuller, email: wapsiwaterfowl@aol.com, 319-334-3497, Mail Memberships to: NCBA c/o Steve Jones, 9677 Butler Lane, Poetry, TX 75160 (12-14)



Junior Membership: \$15 per year / \$40 for 3 years



ABA HAPPENINGS April 2014

Hello all –

April means no more frozen waterers for those who have weathered this difficult winter. Welcome Spring! If you are new to the bantam world, we hope you visit our website at <u>www.bantamclub.com</u>.

The 100th anniversary pins and patches are here now. Pins \$3.00 Patches \$4.00 ea. Available now on the website. They are a big hit and are going well. Order yours today.

On another note – our yearbook is starting to come together. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you all to consider placing an ad in the book this year. These can be Birds available for Sale ads and even Birds Wanted Ads. An ABA ad can really help you sell or find the birds you want to.

May 1st is the deadline for submission of articles and ads for the yearbook which will celebrate our 100th Anniversary and will be a special edition with your help.

Here are the rates: Full page (black and white) \$95; (color) \$175 Half page (black and white) \$75; (color) \$125 1/4 page (black and white) \$40; (color) \$75 1/8 page (black and white) \$25; (color) \$50 Judges ad (black and white only) \$35.00

CLUB Full page (black and white) \$120; (color) \$200. A club page is made up of 6 individual squares (or three double squares). The top ¹/₄ Page is dedicated to the hosting club. This is a great way to advertise your show and its hard working members who dedicate their time to setting up cages, and donating their time and resources to your show. This a great spot for everyone to show some support for their show! I am working very hard in the office this month wrapping up the details for Master Exhibitor and Master Breeder announcements. These will be calculated and shared next month. The updated listing of starred wins will be put on the ABA website soon, If you would like a hardcopy printout of your wins, send in a SASE to ABA, PO Box 127, Augusta, NJ 07822 and we will get them out to you soon.

Lets talk a bit about what 100 years is. Lots of changes have occurred over 100 years,

however, the ABA's core values have remain unchanged and these values tie us to those breeders and exhibitors, who 100 years ago, were breeding and perfecting the same birds that we enjoy today. We have introduced lots of award programs since then and we have accepted many more varieties into our Bantam Standard. These changes will likely continue on into the future and perhaps in another 100 years of so, the future fanciers will be honoring us.



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APA 2014 Election Results

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Steinbacher Geese

Bernd and Marie-Anne Krebs have been the moving force in bringing Steinbacher Geese to the U.S. and recognition by the American Poultry Association. They imported two pairs of gray and two pairs of blue Steinbachers from Germany in 2003 and began breeding them. By working with other breeders, they led the effort to achieve recognition in 2011.

"We can't keep up with the demand," Mari Krebs said. "Our goal is to have them spread all over and empower breeders so they will have offspring quickly."

They have strong personalities and that fighting temperament can be a challenge to manage. They form likes and dislikes among the flock that can flare into fights during breeding season. The Krebs isolate breeding pairs during the season, from October or November through the spring.

"They are fighting birds and you have to take that into account," she said. "Give them the accommodations so they can breed successfully in spite of their nature."

Size and those black lipstick markings are breeding concerns. Because they develop gradually, the Krebs raise them for five or six months to avoid passing on any birds that aren't true to the breed standards. The Krebs don't breed small or inadequately marked individuals, butchering them for the table instead.

With people, Steinbachers are confident but naturally tame and sociable. Mrs. Krebs describes

them as "endearing."

"They like talking to people," she said. "They are so tame, they sit right in my lap. Their character is so different from other geese.

The Krebs

have worked goosse shows his type and with other color from his Michigan home. breeders to Photo courtesy Bernd and start flocks Marie-Anne Krebs.

of Steinbachers. They remain rare now, but are being seen at poultry shows. Several have made their way to Champion Row. You may see one at the next show you attend.

Christine Heinrichs

This Blue Steinbacher

Geese A Three-Part Series By Christine Heinrichs

Part 2: Medium Geese

This second part of this three-part series on geese looks at medium geese, as classified by the American Poultry Association. The five recognized breeds range from 13 to 17 pounds in weight, but many unrecognized breeds are raised by devotees of these birds, so deeply entwined in our history and hearts.

All geese are related to the wild geese that still migrate across the globe. Knobbed Chinese and African Geese are descended from the wild Asian Swan Goose. American Buff, Pomeranian, Sebastopol, Embden and Toulouse are descended from European Graylag Goose. All show some influence of the wild Bean Goose. Among medium geese, Pilgrim Geese are a modern composite developed from traditional Gray Geese and the old West of England Geese. The traditional American Gray Goose, a larger domesticated version of the Western Graylag, has never been formally recognized but was the dominant breed raised in America since Colonial days.

Many unrecognized goose breeds are attractive and useful. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization has identified 96 breeds or genetic groups of geese worldwide.

Lyn Irvine says, in her 1961 book, *Field with Geese*, "No other creature so rapidly turns grass into flesh – the commonest weed into the most coveted food." They can be turned out in fields after harvest to glean and clean. They are vegetarians and may look with disdain, as only a dignified goose can, on the relish with which ducks devour insects and snails.

Medium geese are the most popular being kept today, according to waterfowl breeder and judge James Konecny, president of the International Waterfowl Breeders Association.

"The vigor is up, they are easier to manage, there are more sources to purchase them and the availability of day-olds makes them popular farm birds," he said.

Medium geese grow and mature faster than heavy breeds. In one full year, goslings can hatch in the spring and grow to experience a complete breeding cycle by the following spring.

"You don't need to be as patient as you need to be with heavy geese," he said. "You can get there and see what you've got in the first year."

Geese are sociable and usually enjoy going to shows. Judges enjoy them and they often do well, going to Champion Row. The best success is with geese kept on the farm for their whole lives, though. The stress of changing environmental conditions, the dangers of hot weather and exposure to disease increase the risks even for the hardiest birds.

Goose Breeds

Recognized traditional medium goose breeds are Sebastopol, Pilgrim, American Buff, Pomeranian and Steinbacher. The Steinbacher is the most recent addition to the Standard of Perfection, being recognized in 2011. John Metzer of Metzer Farms in California finds geese very variable in personality. No single bred stands out as most calm and personable in his experience, because individuals vary so much from calm to aggressive.

"There's no one breed that is always the best," he said.

Sebastopol geese look as if someone curled their feathers. Their soft, flowing ruffles give them the appearance of fantastic dream birds. Their feathers are as much as four times as long as normal feathers, with flexible shafts that spiral, draping down to the ground. Traditionally white, their fanciers are experimenting with breeding them in buff, blue, gray, and saddleback color varieties. Konecny calls them "the Silkies of the goose



Sebastopols are as hardy as other geese. "A good windbreak with the area well bedded down, so they are on snow or bedding but not bare frozen ground, is all they seem to need," said breeder Dave Kozakiewicz. " I would consider that kind of shelter appropriate for any waterfowl." Photos by Dave Kozakiewicz, Hindsight Farms, Michigan

world."

Despite their decorative appearance, they are an ancient utility breed, hardy and respectable egg layers of 25-35 eggs a year. The breed is associated with Eastern Europe, around the Danube River and the Black Sea.

Sebastopols' unusual appearance attracts owners who are inclined to keep them as ornamental birds and as companion birds. Keep docile Sebastopols away from aggressive birds. They enjoy bathing those lovely feathers in clean water. They aren't good flyers, with those long, soft feathers. Their loose feathers make them appreciate protection when it's especially cold, wet and windy.

Those long feathers may interfere with successful breeding. Feathers around the vent can be clipped to improve nature's chances.

Their popularity sometimes pressures breeders to misrepresent less desirable birds. Unscrupulous exhibitors may pull straight feathers, an exhibition defect, from their birds.

American Buff Geese have the colorful plumage that reflects their name. Their light feathers make them easy to dress out without dark pinfeathers. They were developed from the traditional Gray farm goose and buff geese from Germany. They are the largest of the medium geese, topping out at 18 pounds. A double paunch is required for showing.

The buff feathers are not as strong as white or gray feathers, prone to sunlight oxidation, according to English breeder Chris Ashton.



American Buff Geese, like Sarah and Alvin, are excellent parents. Alvin was Reserve Champion of both shows at the double Heart of the Ozarks show in Fayetteville, AR in Nov 2011. These birds are the largest of the medium-sized geese. They were accepted into the American Poultry Association's Standard of Excellence in 1947. Hootie took Reserve Waterfowl at the Oklahoma State Poultry Federation Show in Shawnee, OK, Dec 2011. Photos by Kathy Hopkins, Silver Spring Waterfowl, Texas

"The buff feathers lose their sheen and fade badly," she writes "They become brittle, lose their Velcro-like adhesion and become less weather-proof."



A solid brown Pomeranian gander. Pomeranian photo by Terence Spencer, Nebraska.



A female Lavender Saddleback Pomeranian. Photo by Terence Spencer, Nebraska.

Pomeranian Geese are a historic German breed, associated with the Pomorze region of eastern Germany between the rivers Oder and Vistula. Although only Gray Saddleback and Buff Saddleback varieties are recognized, they are also raised in Gray, White and Buff varieties. In Germany, the Buff Pomeranian is known as Cellar Goose.

True Pomeranians are distinguished by their pink bills and pink legs and feet. They have a single lobe. Orange bills and feet or a double lobe disqualify a bird as a Pomeranian.

Steinbacher geese are a German breed of fighting goose. They have a long, graceful neck and a short head and bill, giving them what waterfowl breeder Lou Horton calls "a powerful appearance." Its distinctive orange bill is edged with black 'lipstick' markings. They have no keel or dewlap. In the U.S., only the blue variety is currently raised and recognized, although gray, buff, and cream varieties are raised in Europe. Blue and gray colors breed true. Despite their reputation as fighting geese, only the males fight each other, and then only during the breeding season to establish the flock hierarchy. They are mild-mannered with people but protective of their nests.

This hardy breed thrives on a lean diet of grass on pasture. They cannot tolerate a rich diet and can die from overfeeding.

Autosexing geese

Females and males of most breeds are so similar to each other that it's difficult to tell them apart. More than one breeder has been



A pair of Brown Saddleback Pomeranians with a Lavender gander in the forefront. Photo by Terence Spencer, Nebraska.

disappointed in breeding pens, only to find out that the birds in them were of only one sex. Autosexing breeds solve that: the sexes have different plumage. Ganders are white and hens are solid color or saddlebacked. Saddleback means that the shoulders, back and flanks are colored, in contrast to the white body. Autosexing dates back 1,000 years or more in England and France, longer in Scandinavia. These breeds probably originated in Scandinavia and are indigenous to areas where Vikings set their anchors.

Pilgrim Geese were developed in the 1930s by Oscar Grow. They are a modern composite of American Gray and the autosexing Old English or West of England geese. Pilgrims have orange bills and legs, which distinguishes them from the Old English. They are the only autosexing breed recognized by the APA for exhibition.

Housing

A total pen area of 2,500 square feet should be adequate for a small flock of less than ten geese. If it can include a pond of 500 square feet of water, so much the better. Geese enjoy splashing in water and swimming, although they can manage without it. They stay cleaner and have fewer parasites if they have access to water. It's easier for the geese to walk to the water than for you to bring the water to them.

Their water must be kept clean, despite their defecating in it and splashing mud around. Cement-lined artificial ponds or children's plastic pools are easy to clean and don't turn into mud holes, but small wetlands can be constructed and managed to enhance habitat for domestic geese as well as wildlife. Natural running water such as a stream on your property can provide the regular fresh water geese need.

Geese can be territorial and aggressive in the breeding season, so plan to separate them in pens. Like all domestic fowl, geese are vulnerable to predators. Fence them from predators with four-foot poultry wire fencing. In mild climates, security from predators is all the protection they need.

"I have yet to see a goose get under shelter to get out of the rain!" says experienced breeder Dr. Tom T. Walker of Texas.

In cold climates, simple structures are adequate to protect them from the weather. Stacked hay bales with a plywood roof facing south or a semicircular windbreak of straw bales keep them out of the wind and snow. Provide plenty of dry litter for them, wood shavings or straw. Replace it as it gets wet. As long as geese are well fed and have clean bedding, their natural insulation can take almost anything winter throws at them. In a winter storm, they may be out looking around while other fowl are sheltered indoors.

James Konecny, president of the International Waterfowl Breeders Association, keeps his geese in a mixed flock with his ducks during the winter. The geese help keep the ducks warm.

"The runner ducks especially need the geese to survive the cold weather," he said from his Royal Oaks Farm in Illinois, experiencing a freeze in January.

A house to lock geese up overnight should provide about 10 square feet of space for each goose. Geese confined for longer periods of time should have 20 square feet per bird. A low shelter open on all sides can offer shade and protect food.

Domestic geese do not fly much. If flying becomes an issue, trimming four inches off the leading four or five primaries of one wing will prevent them from successfully flying away. Feathers will need to be trimmed again after each molt. Pinioning removes the entire first joint of the wing, cutting it off. It can only be done on goslings in the first day or two after hatching. It makes it impossible for the bird ever to fly.

Breeding

Select strong birds without defects for breeding. Wing problems, such as angel wing, may be environmental, but it's wiser to avoid breeding birds that have them. Weak legs are another reason to keep birds out of the breeding pen. Size is less important than type in selecting breeding birds. It is easier to breed for larger size than to correct defects in type.

They will make their own nests on the ground. Walker provides a small structure like a dog house for geese in nesting pens, but finds they often prefer to nest outside the house. The dampness is important in incubating the eggs. "The goose will even take the hay out of the house and mix it with sticks, leaves and other things she finds to build a nest outside the nice house that I have built," he says. They will line their nests with their own down.

Watch them carefully until you are sure the goose will be broody and the pair can manage their nest. Ms. Irvine attributes to the 18th century French scientist Georges-Louis Leclerc, Comte de Buffon the observation that "the condition of a sitting hen, however insipid it may appear to us, is perhaps not a tedious situation but a state of continual joy." Broody chicken hens or artificial incubators can be used. Many goose eggs are successfully hatched under hens. A hen can manage from four to six goose eggs, and can foster the goslings. Goose eggs benefit from moisture, as they would receive from their mother on her daily ablutions. Ms. Irvine dunked her hen's lower regions in water as she returned to the nest each day.

A typical clutch is 10 to 15 eggs. If the eggs are removed, many geese will continue to lay, as if for a second clutch. A clutch of 13 or 14 is exceptional, more than some geese will be able to cover for incubation. If those eggs are removed, leaving an artificial egg to encourage her, the goose may continue laying. Others will not lay any more, even if they end up setting on the false egg alone.

Eggs can be stored as long as seven days if they are to be incubated in an artificial incu-

bator, up to four weeks if they are to be incubated by a hen. Candle eggs between eight and 14 days of incubation. Infertile eggs are clear. Developing embryos show a half-moon air sac at the round end of the egg. Goose eggs hatch in 29 to 31 days, but they may vary from as early as 27 days to as long as 33.

Goslings will start eating grass right away and can be supplemented with crumble. If hatched by a hen, she may attempt to feed them as she would chicks, but they will ignore her. Don't feed goslings medicated chick starter. They may consume more than the recommended dose and it can make them sick.

The floor should be covered with some kind of rough material that gives the goslings' feet something to grip. Otherwise, they may develop leg problems.

Like all geese, medium geese mate for the duration, which may well be for life. They love

raising a family and, especially Sebastopols, will happily adopt youngsters of other species. Give them a place to nest and you will have years of happy families. Geese are long lived in good circumstance, living more than 20 years.

Pilgrim, Sebastopol and Buff geese are all struggling with fertility. John Metzer is embarking on artificially inseminating his flocks this year, in an attempt to improve fertility. His flocks – 160 Sebastopols, 160 Pilgrims



Blue Steinbacher goose. Photos courtesy Bernd and Marie-Anne Krebs.

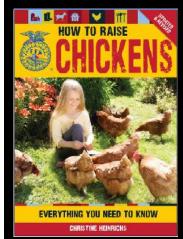
and 200 Buff females – are reproducing at only 35 to 40 percent fertility. Combined with 70 percent hatch rate and the average clutch of 15 eggs per female, each female produces only three or four goslings.

"It's hard even to save breeders from that number," he said. In January, he had already pre-sold his supply of Sebastopols and Pilgrims for 2013.

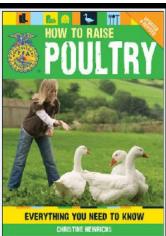
Goose Products

The primary product is the table-ready bird

How To Raise CHICKENS



Everything you need to know about breed selection, care, feeding, facilities and showing. By Christine Heinrichs. Updated & Revised.



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The club promotes opportunities to practice showmanship, cooperation and fellowship and to be involved with their home community and with the poultry fancy in general.

For more info go to: http://www.apa-abayouthpoultryclub.org or contact: Doris Robinson, National Director, 810 Sweetwater Rd., Philadelphia, TN 37846 ~ Phone: 865-717-6270 ~ Email: nanamamabrahma@att.net

for roasting. Medium geese are good meat birds. Table birds are usually butchered before they reach six months of age. The gizzard, heart and liver are all desirable meats. Goose liver is the prime ingredient in pate de foie gras. Geese do not need to be forcefully fattened to produce delicious liver. Birds can be processed on the farm or at local processing facilities. Some local governments offer mobile processing facilities built on trailers that can be rented for home use.

To avoid pinfeathers in the carcass, butcher goslings before they molt their juvenile feath-

ers for adult plumage, at nine to 12 weeks. Part the feathers and check to see whether pinfeathers are forming. If they are, delay butchering until the birds have their full adult plumage, six to ten weeks. Geese, like ducks, can also be skinned. Poultry wax can be used to clean carcasses. Feathers can be saved after plucking, washed and used or sold.

Check state laws on selling birds. Every state allows a small number of geese to be sold within the state, but crossing state lines requires USDA certified processing.

Goose feathers and down are the original insulating materials for warm clothing and bedding. No man-made product is as good as goose down and feathers. Geese stay warm in the harshest winter weather.

Goose eggs have the reputation of being superior for baking. The white, or albumen, is thicker than that of chicken eggs and may be disappointing for whipping uses. It is not light enough to whip up well.





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Sourcing Stock: Commercial Hatcheries

Part 2 By Brian Reeder

When you begin learning about various breeds and gaining experience with chickens in general, a mixed flock can be enjoyable and a great way to experience many different breeds. Attending shows can also be a good way to learn about different breeds and often see some of the best examples in person. By doing this, you can often gauge the temperament of breeds by observing them in the exhibition cages as well. The Internet, with its many message boards and photo sites, as well as sites for breed clubs and umbrella associations such as APA and ABA, is another source of information though much should be taken with a grain of salt. There is a great deal of opinion with little to back it up to be found online, but the photos can be very educational and there is good information to be had if you can filter out the static.

Once you have decided on a variety or varieties of a breed or breeds to actively work with, then obtaining stock is not terribly difficult if one begins with hatchery stock. Most hatcheries will require a minimum order of 25 chicks during the colder months and as few as 15 in the warmer months. While some people may be restricted in how many birds they can keep and may not want even fifteen birds, for anyone planning to breed in most any way, fifteen will be the minimum number of chicks to start with. It must be remembered that if you order fifteen, you may not raise them all to maturity and even if you do, you probably won't select all fifteen as potential breeding stock.

In my experience, an order of 25 chicks will give you enough material to begin breeding. In better breeds or varieties, from 25 chicks, you may get 10 or even 15 potential breeders. With less consistent breeds or varieties, you may only get a really usable pair or trio, maybe two pairs, from 25 chicks. If you know something about the general quality of hatchery lines of the breed or variety you have chosen, you may be able to make a better assessment of how many chicks to order, but in general, plan on 25 for each variety or breed you plan to seriously work with as a general rule. This is equally applicable to beginners and hobbyists of any experience level.

In breeds that are offered for sale by sex, it is worth the extra money to order each sex,

rather than ordering straight run chicks. When

ordering potential breeding stock, if pullets and cockerels are offered, order 15 - 20 pullets and 5-10 cockerels in an order of 25 chicks. I personally prefer to order 15 pullets and 10 cockerels as it is just as important to pick through a good number of males to ensure a good example as it is to pick through a good number of females. Unless you want a laying flock, from 15 females vou should find one or two

very usable birds to breed from if not more, and will still have sufficient breeding stock. If you need more hens for laying than for breeding, then order a greater number than 25 chicks in order to select through many males, find a few good examples of breeding females and still have plentiful hens for egg production.

When the chicks are only offered as straight run, you have no choice but to take what you get, though with 25 chicks, there will almost always be some of both sexes. If vou must order fewer than 25 chicks, you may have to work with less range to select from and perhaps quite skewed sex ratios, but I know of instances where success has been had with fewer than 25 chicks. The most reliable outcome with fewer chicks is had with very well established and consistent breeds such as Rhode Island Red. Even then, I would estimate that an absolute minimum of ten chicks would be required to have a pair or two for breeding purposes.

Remember that with the wide range of heterozygous segregations seen in many hatchery lines that there are both good and bad genes at play, so you might get some few birds that are real duds: hens that don't lay, birds without fertility, those which lack resistance or are even strongly susceptible to pathogens. As the old adage goes, "Don't count your chicks before they hatch." In this instance I would change that a bit to, "Don't count your breeders based on the number of chicks you order." It is wise to always order as many chicks as you can maintain in order to select through larger numbers. This gives you the best chance of getting a few very good individuals that have many good traits

combined.

does happen."

Many hatcheries offer vaccinations for

various pathogens, notably Marek's Virus. I personally never get my chicks vacci-"... While there may nated, because I want to know be instances where a how much resistance the line show bird may derive has for Marek's (and other from hatchery stock, this pathogens) and I also want to is an exception and may eliminate those that are susceptible from potential breedrequire large numbers of ing use. Doing this and repeatbirds to obtain such an ining it every generation can dividual, but it can and select for resistance to many pathogens for within your flock. It is an effective method. There may be situa-

> tions where you would require vaccination, but if your goal is to develop a strong, genetically resistant and viable flock, vaccination will not help you. Certainly, if you do get your chicks vaccinated, at least do not continue to vaccinate in subsequent generations and make selection toward genetic resistance.

> While rearing your chicks, cull where necessary. When disease appears it is often best to cull the effected. For simple diseases like coccidiosis, treatment is sensible and simple. For more complex diseases, such as Marek's virus or lymphatic leukosis, culling the effected is recommended as treatments have low efficacy and resistance through culling and selection are well-established in the literature and in practice. During rearing, also cull for serious defects and other problems. Twisted toes, wry tails (lying to one side or the other), muscular diminution ("razor keel") and crossed beaks are serious defects and should be culled. However, there are many traits the average exhibition breeder will cull for that you are advised to tolerate during the early generations of your hatchery stock.

> While exhibition breeders will advise you to cull out a host of minor type flaws, these are not true congenital defects or deformities, but rather gene expressions outside the accepted range of the standard. Excellent examples include oversized combs, extra points on single combs, rose comb leaders either too high or too low, tail angles above or below the standard angle, fluff lesser or greater than desired for exhibition, color or pattern deviations, leg color deviations, weight de

viation, etc. Yet when starting a flock from hatchery stock, much allowance must be made for variations in the initial stock with the best, whatever that might be in any given example, being accepted and worked from, especially at the beginning of the project.

While there may be instances where a show bird may derive from hatchery stock, this is an exception and may require large numbers of birds to obtain such an individual, but it can and does happen. However, in most instances, as the lines are not selected strictly for exhibition qualities, the majority of birds will have a phenotype defect or two, perhaps even a disqualification that would knock it out of competition, but that does not mean it can not be used in breeding to select better birds. We have all used an inferior bird at some point and made strides with its descendants as many of these phenotype issues can be bred out through careful selection and proper pairing.

What you shouldn't tolerate is susceptibility to disease, low fertility, stereotypic behaviors such as egg-eating or feather picking/ cannibalism, poor production, low viability of chicks or congenital defects and deformities such as those I listed above. Phenotype flaws are not congenital deformities, nor do they suppress or inhibit the viability of a line and they can be corrected through effort: raising a good number of offspring and practicing selection and culling. If a trait seems to be 'locked-in' to your line, then an outcross can be made to a line with alternate expression of the trait and with numbers and selection. the trait can then be altered in the line. Don't despair if an undesirable trait seems to be set in your line. By bringing in alternate material on down the road you can correct that point, so don't be too hasty to eliminate individual birds in the early phases for minor phenotype flaws, especially if such a bird shows excellent temperament, high fertility, production and/or high resistance to pathogens.

Once you have raised your birds to breeding age, then you must develop a strategy for mating them. There are many approaches one can take. You may even choose to use more than one approach if you ended up with a good number of potential breeders from the chicks you ordered. If you only ended up with a pair or two, then your choices will be more limited and simple pair mating will be the only real choice. If you did indeed obtain two pairs or three pairs, then you might pursue a slightly more complicated pair-mating scheme where the males are switched between the females so that each female is mated to each male for a round of hatching.

Let's now look at some of the mating strategies that can be used. First I will list the common strategies and then I will discuss them.

1. Pair Mating

2. One Male with Multiple Females (Male Pedigree)

3. Multiple Males moved over One Female in Rotation (Female Pedigree)

4. Multiple Males with Multiple Females (Group Mating, Random Mating or Population Selection)

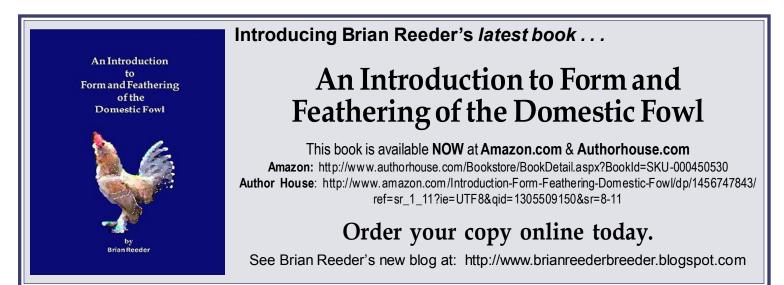
The first method, Pair Mating, is a common mating style used in order to combine specific individuals and is both easy to accomplish and to pedigree the chicks of such matings. Pair Mating can be done with only one pair or with multiple pairs. It can be as simple as mating one pair together, where one usually selects the best pair and works to create their line from them, or there can be much more complicated approaches to pair mating involving multiple pairs.

When pair mating from one selected pair,

more control can be exerted as parentage is known and is not easily mixed up. This is the least complicated method of breeding, but one drawback is that it can lead to a fast bottleneck, especially if one them continues to pair mate each generation from the best pair of siblings derived in each generations. When pair mating is done in this way, it is best to have some related birds not deriving directly from the original pair that can be brought in after a generation or two.

When pair mating from more than one pair, it is common to select pairs based on "opposite strengths/weaknesses". For example, a hen with a very small, refined comb but a low tail angle maybe mated to a male with an oversized comb and a high tail angle. The goal of this type of selection of pairs is to balance the weak points of each bird by combining them with their extreme opposite. This can work, but doesn't in all cases. However, it can still be a useful practice, for while it might not correct the poor trait in the F1 offspring of such a pair, it does set up gene segregation that can allow selection toward the desired traits in later generations beyond the F1.

Many other more advanced versions of Pair Mating can be employed, such as multiple pairs, multiple pairs where the males are rotated for different hatches, perhaps even going so far as to mate each male to each female and making a pedigree of the young so that their exact parents are all known. This is often done to find the pair the 'nick' best the pair producing the best offspring - so that particular pairing can then be fully exploited. You can get as detailed with this as you desire or are able. Much will depend on your time and energy and how many usable pairs you end up with from the chicks you ordered. I will say this though - while the best pair to



pair mate is the very best pair, I would still try to pair mate at least one or two more pairs if possible, just to ensure some small amount of genetic variation.

If you only have one good male, but more good females, you can rotate him over them all and pedigree from each hen, knowing the only possible father of them all, but if you have more than one good male and more than one good female, then I would try to breed as many of the males to as may of the females as possible, within reason, and I would try to pedigree from each pair. In this way, you have the widest distribution of gene recombinations and the best chance of getting the combinations you most want. The important part about pedigrees for each pair is that if one pair throws some very good combinations, then you can select that pair to focus on and use them and their offspring together for F1 x F1 full sibling crosses, for backcrosses and to take over some of the other original birds to keep a bit more openness to the gene-lines and to attempt to avoid a fast and severe genetic bottleneck.

As an extension to something I mentioned above, if you only have one really good male, but multiple good females, you may choose to mate him across all the good females. This can be approached by keeping each female separately and rotating him across each, perhaps moving him once every day or two to a different hen so that each hen has a day or two with him every seven to fourteen days or so, or you can simply house him with all the females and focus the pedigree on him. This is Male Pedigree selection. While male pedigree selection does not offer as much information as pair mating, it can be a useful method to select within a group and may result in a slightly more open gene pool, and is especially useful where you happen to have an exceptional male. This is a useful method if you don't have time for a lot of record keeping or if your space is limited, making housing multiple females individually difficult. This option offers slightly less control, but is a useful and commonly used method of mating and improvement.

Once a group of F1s are raised from such a grouping, one common technique is to then take one or more of the best sons back to the original group of females and put the original male over a group of his best daughters. Both are forms of inbreeding known a backcrossing, with the former being less tight in terms of inbreeding as all hens will not be mothers of all young males and the later being tighter inbreeding and a true filial backcross, as the male will be the father of all the young females. In some cases, you may end up with only one good female but several good males. This situation can be more complicated, as you can't house her with multiple males without risking her health and the males fighting. I such a case, the best approach is to mate her in pair matings, starting with the best male and then changing males out for subsequent hatches. While all offspring will be from her, this will give you some diversity by having

"...Many hatcheries offer

vaccinations for various

pathogens, notably Marek's

Virus. I personally never get

my chicks vaccinated, be-

cause I want to know how

much resistance the line has

for Marek's (and other patho-

gens) and I also want to

eliminate those that are sus-

ceptible from potential breed-

ing use."

multiple fathers. In this way, it is easy to pedigree each batch based on the rooster, as the female pedigree can't get mixed up.

One may then wish to breed the best son or two back to the mother and use daughters bred back to males that are not their father from the original group. In this way, you are backcrossing to the founder generation, but without backcrossing directly to the father of each female. This will require

a bit of record keeping, but is worth it if you can possibly do it. The goal, while also matching good traits and trying to balance flaws, is to not immediately bottleneck the line too intensely and create a fairly open gene pool for further selection. In this system (and any of these mating systems for that matter), in addition to any backcrossing, mating the best of the F1 offspring together (in any of these described methods of mating) is strongly advised. While backcrosses help to set the best traits, interse' matings are very important for recombining traits (hopefully to get homozygotes for the desired traits) and moving forward with refining your lines.

Finally, we come to group mating. This is the method that the hatcheries use - several males on a large group of females. Many people will tell you this system cannot work for improvement or to produce nice birds and that this is the reason the hatchery birds are "bad", but that is not quite true. The truth is that if you have selected down to the best birds, a group mating can still be used to make improvements. The main reason many hatcheries may not get improvement through group matings is that there is not enough focused selection at work in some cases.

To make progress with group matings, you need to select for the best traits possible. In cases where your chosen breed or variety is not very uniform, group matings of this nature will be less useful, as you will need to focus on the few very best birds, but in instances where there are a fairly good number of usable birds, this system is more suitable. However, I would not recommend group mating as your only system over many generations.

With group mating, it is also a good idea to supplement your breeding by perhaps pulling out the best pair to pair mate, or to pair mate one year, then select the best few birds

from the F1 you produce and then mate them in a more controlled system (any of the other discussed methods) and then again group mate the next year. Alternating between group mating and more controlled means can be a useful way to do both controlled matings and random matings in such a way that you can apply selection while also not getting too bottlenecked in the process.

Now, I want to stress that there is no reason to think you should only use one method or that you have to method. Must the Tax differ

stick with one method. Mix it up. Try different methods. Find what works best for you and your particular birds. Experiment. No one method is the "right" method for all flocks or all situations. Much will depend on the actual birds you have on hand, your time and space allowances and how much record keeping you want to engage in, as well as how fast you feel you need to reach a certain goal. All of these factors will influence what method you use in any given situation or any given year. Don't get locked into one thing and think it is the only thing you can do. For each method of breeding, there is a time and a place.

In closing, I want to stress that no matter what method(s) of breeding you choose, the most important thing you can do is to apply selection and cull. Breeding is all about selection. No matter what culling is for you, whether it is actually killing or just giving away the extras, or whatever else, culling is the most important tool of selection. If poor birds aren't on hand, they can't be bred from! The whole art of breeding is all about narrowing the phenotype into very specific combinations. All the breeding techniques are aimed at recombining genes to allow you to remove unwanted genes and to intensify those that are desired.

Next time we will look at outcrossing.

2013 ABA Winners

Announced: Certificate of Merit, Master Exhibitor, and Master Breeder programs.

Congratulations to all these hard working exhibitors does not seem like it is enough. These milestones are big wins and require years of hard work and commitment. Hats off to all the winners past and present.

Certificate of Merit winners 2013 -

These ABA members have accumulated at least five starred wins in a single breed and variety.

Brown Red Modern Game – Teresia Renwick, CA

Black Old English Game – Tony & Margaret Hussey, NC; James Slayer, Sr, VA

BB Red Old English Game – Carl Beard, NC; Burkhart Bantams, TX; D&M Jonas, TX

Blue Wheaten Old English Game - Frank Reid, AL

Brown Red Old English Game – C & L Bantams, GA; Eddie Hudson, SC

Lemon Blue Old English Game – C & L Bantams, GA

Red Pyle Old English Game – Samantha Wulff-Frank, IN

Silver Duckwing Old English Game – Circle C Bantams, TN

Wheaten Old English Game – Robert Downing, KY

White Old English Game – Fred McGehee Family, OK

Black Dutch – Carl Beck, Jr. AL

New Hampshire – Ron & Barb Yochum, PA

SC Rhode Island Red – Jacob Bates, AR; Sammy Collins NC; Dennis Myers, OH; Trevor Simmons, MO

Quail d'Anver – Lazy Kay Acre, CA

Silver Spangled Hamburg – John Pierce, NY

RC White Leghorn - Tommy Short, NC

Golden Sebright – Jason Glass, OK; Roger Meyer, IA

Black Wyandotte – English River Poultry, Quebec; Mark & Teresa McCoy, IL; Adam Ray, MN

Black Cochin - Trevor Simmons, MO

Mille Fleur d'Uccle – Dr. William Patterson, MI

Black Langshan - Bacon & McCarty, PA

Bearded White Silkie – Marty McGuire, AL

White Chantecler - Paul Wieser, WA

White Crested Black Polish – Rob & Cynthia Smith, WA

Gray Call Duck – Rock Hill Poultry, OK

2013 Master Exhibitors – These ABA members have accumulated 20 starred wins.

24 Wins - Norman & Carol Hipps, NC23 Wins - Christopher T. Tamayo, CA22 Wins - Shari & Mason McCollough, IN

21 Wins - Chris Hawes, MS

21 Wins - David Laatsch, WI

20 Wins - Tom Durgin, WA

20 Wins - Terry Easter, GA

20 Wins - Mack E. Henley, Sr., AL 20 Wins - Gemara Leska, IL 20 Wins - Tom Roebuck, Jr., VA 20 Wins - Jennifer Wulff-Frank, IN **2013 Master Breeders** – These ABA members have accumulated 20 starred wins in one breed and variety over a period of not less than five years.

Carl Beck, Jr. AL - Light Brown Dutch - 22 wins

The Bennett Family, KY - Silver Sebright - 20 wins

C & Z Bantams, UT - BB Red OE Game - 26 wins

Carey Bantams, FL - Golden Sebright - 21 wins

Tom & Linda Chandler, IN - Black Japanese - 20 wins

Chickedee Farm, CA - Bearded White Silkie -20 wins

Jack Ferguson, TN - Bearded White Silkie - 23 wins

Fields and Proctor, TN - Silver Duckwing OEG - 22 wins

Art Lundgren, NY - Black Wyandotte - 20 wins

Adam Ray, MN - White Wyandotte - 20 wins

William Sandoe, DE - Silver Sebright - 20 wins

Kasey Smith Family, AL - Spangled OE Game - 21 wins

Johnny Sprouse, FL - Light Brown Dutch - 21 wins

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Stough, OH - White Wyandotte - 20 wins

James Treadway, TN - Brown Red Modern - 20 wins

Keith Wagoner, AL - White Japanese - 21 wins

Walker Bantams, OK - Brown Red Modern - 24 wins

Wapsipinicon Waterfowl, IA - Gray Call Duck - 22 wins & White Call Duck - 28 wins Check box above for this size ad.

1 column by 3 inches. No extra charge for small color picture. Price: **\$20**



Check box above for this size ad.

1 column by 4 inches. No extra charge for color picture.

Price: **\$25**

Checkbox for this size ad.

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