

# Exhibition Poultry

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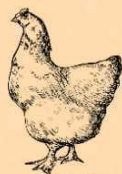
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Central Indiana Poultry Show



Left to Right: Barrett, Nellie, and Wyatt Misch.  
*Photo by Brianne Misch.*



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# Exhibition Poultry

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### **Exhibition Poultry Magazine**

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## From the Editor . . .

I think we sometimes forget how amazing our birds are. Their eyes are a wonder and although they can not see in the dark as well as we humans do, they can see in ultra-violet and also have double-cones in their eyes that sense movement. That helps them out not only when hunting bugs but also for predator detection. I would love to have that nictating membrane they have so that I could see underwater without having to wear swim goggles. As far as the UV light, I wonder what one of those blacklight rooms from the 70's full of glowing posters would have looked like to the chickens. Maybe the only light they need at night would be UVA? . . . Back to that predator thing. According to the Smithsonian we share 75% of our genes with chickens! Maybe we already have that nictating eyelid gene but it is just 'turned off' epigenetically. It's worth thinking about. Maybe one day circumstances will make it desirable to turn it back on. It would come in handy for people living with frequent dust storms.

Speaking of epigenetics, I wonder if that does more to develop a locally suited land race than people think. If you select for vigor, etc. in a closed flock, and over the years they just keep getting better—weren't the genes you needed always within your flock? Some breeders, especially gardeners, trying to create a land race suitable for their locality, will do a mass mixing of varieties assuming the genetics they need are there 'somewhere' in the mix. But what if the genes you needed to adapt to a local environment were available to ANY breed, and within that breed. Maybe the desired trait is just waiting for environmental influences to switch a gene on that had previously been switched off by RNA. It's worth pondering.

Of course, the Smithsonian also says that humans share 60% of their genetics with a banana tree. THAT one, I am having a hard time getting my head around. More to think about on hot summer nights.

Ann Charles, Editor



## Aug 2024 ABA Happenings

Hello all,

I would like to start this month's article with a wish. I wish that we enjoy some good fortune in a search for a new Standard Committee chair. Kyle Tripp from Arizona has served on this committee faithfully and wonderfully; however he is stepping down and we will need to find someone willing to fill his shoes. It is an exciting time as Kyle has done a superb job in setting the stage for a bang-up edition with the next printing. I am offering this description to those of you ABA members who might find interest in this exciting role.

**ABA Standard Committee Leader Search:** We are seeking a leading committee chair to pull together the changes needed for our next edition of the Bantam Standard and to manage all future changes, applications, and revisions. This person will take the lead of all current changes in consideration now and be the point person for all edits moving forward. This person, while working with the secretary, and the committee will hold the leading responsibility for bringing all

changes to the Executive team, Board of Directors and membership for feedback and for final decisions.

Strong computer skills and access as well as a passion for bantams are essential. To be considered. Please send your thoughts, qualifications and any questions to [bantamclub@gmail.com](mailto:bantamclub@gmail.com) and the secretary will forward to the executive committee for consideration. This position is a great opportunity for the right person to make a substantial contribution to the poultry fancy.

To submit your name for consideration, contact Bill Patterson ([Billsroost@gmail.com](mailto:Billsroost@gmail.com)) or Karen Unrath ([bantamclub@gmail.com](mailto:bantamclub@gmail.com)) We look forward to speaking with you!

The ABA is continuing to make strides in adapting to a new membership portal. Not everyone has an email address so there may be a service lag from time to time, but I am working to reduce confusion and also to recapture those who may not renewed last year in the conversion. I sent out approximately 400-500 letters to those recently lapsed and lapsed in the past year or two. The response has been overwhelming with many of you wanting to come back. This is a work in progress so please be patient.

**Starred wins:** Many of you have been enjoying the starred win files that are now on our website for you to view at any time. This list is not complete.

There are about 5,000 or so wins that still need reformatting. I am attending to those on request. The current wins are posted on our website under Starred Wins — American Bantam Association ([bantamclub.com](http://bantamclub.com)). You can look for your wins and download them anytime. If you do not see them, just send a note or email to [banmtamclub@gmail.com](mailto:banmtamclub@gmail.com) and I can search and reformat them.

**EXCITING NEWS:** the 2020 Bantam Standard will be available for a limited time in a Softcover. This is the full-size book with the color section. It is not the mini version and is a perfect addition to your collection. Currently there are only 250 in production. Each comes with a 2020 supplement which includes any revisions or additions that have been board approved since its original printing. This supplement is also available for a nominal \$5.00 for those that already have your 2020 book. We also will put this on the website as a download.

To join the ABA, please visit our website at [www.bantamclub.com](http://www.bantamclub.com). Membership is \$25 per year, \$70 for three years, or \$100 for five years. Our mailing address is PO Box 127, Augusta, NJ 07822. To learn more, send in your dues today and join us in good conversation, communication, and competition.

I wish you all the Best to you and yours.

Karen Unrath  
ABA Secretary

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Kayla Marie Tellier Kosowski:  
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# On The Cover . . .

*Editors Note: Our last photo contest brought in a number of excellent junior win photos from Brienne Misch. So many, in fact, that it was clear her three children (Wyatt, Barrett, and Nellie Misch) had garnered multiple big wins in the Junior Division of some of the largest Midwest shows in the country— including the Ohio National. They were an easy choice for this issue's cover story . . .*

## **An interview with Brienne Misch:**

*EPMag: Tell me a little about your family's involvement in poultry.*

Brienne: "We are Bucking Duck Ranch. My husband, Jesse, showed in 4H when he was younger and did well and I knew as soon as our kids were old enough to show in 4H they would show birds as well. So my oldest started 4H in 2020, my middle child started in 2022 and my youngest will start next year. They all started showing in Junior shows (APA/ABA) in 2021. In 2022, we attended the Ohio Nationals Show for the first time and they won Juniors Show Grand Champion which was beyond exciting! They have done very well at all the shows they have attended. We breed, raise, and show Pekins, Cayugas, Runners, Call Ducks, East Indies, Largefowl Cochins, Bantam Cochins, Black Copper Marans, Largefowl White Plymouth Rocks, Faverolles, Brown Chinese, American Buff Geese, and Buff and Gray Toulouse."

*EPMag: Bucking Duck ranch is a business or a hobby? I see you raise a lot of waterfowl. What breeders did you acquire your stock from in the beginning?*

Brienne: "Hobby turned business. Yes, we raise a lot of breeds and varieties. There have been several people over the years we have bought starter birds from or new blood to bring into our lines... like the Dempseys, Mr. Roebuck, Mr. Lundgren, Mr. Padgett to name a few.

*EPMag: How did your family get started with Exhibition Poultry?*

Brienne: "How we got here... Well, it all started almost 30 years ago with a sign and four words:

"Champion Waterfowl, Jesse Misch." Those words created a generational passion for showing exhibition waterfowl and poultry. We all know how those darling feathered friends seem to be the gateway to land and livestock ownership - and then the rest is history.

"Jesse was a country boy, and I was a city girl. If you had told anyone then that I would be doing all the homemaker things, i.e., wearing boots and overalls covered in dirt, slobber, feed, and poop, baking sourdough, canning garden goodies, raising animals, harvesting maple syrup, and making extracts and butter, they would laugh. But just like in the Hallmark movies, the high-maintenance city girl fell in love with the cute country boy. We built our first home in 2006, and we both realized how drawn we were to an older lifestyle of raising our own food and living off the land. So we started simply by raising chickens, growing a garden, and canning our garden goodies. While dreaming of that off-the-grid lifestyle, we fulfilled another dream: having a family. In the midst of raising our beautiful babies, God brought us new blessings, LAND in 2012 and in 2020. Finally, owning land meant that we could really pursue our dreams of a homesteading lifestyle.

"From Sunday to Sunday, rain or shine, healthy or ill, we push forward to be able to live this dream. As first-generation ranchers, we have a deep appreciation for hard work and the importance of family. Our passion has turned into a ranch that raises the finest dry aged beef, forest raised pork, and pastured raised poultry and turkey. "

*EPMag: Do your children have any favorite breeds they show? Are they active in the breeding, raising, and conditioning of their birds?*

Brienne: "Oh yes. Our kids work very hard every single day alongside us. We homeschool so they are home and have morning and evening farm chores. In our busy season on the ranch which is, March to September, it is full time. My oldest sons favorites are Cayugas, Toulouse, and white Calls. My middle son's are Pekins, all gray and blue fawn variety breeds, East Indies, Toulouse, American Buff, and Black Copper Marans. My daughters favorites are Call ducks, Cochins, and all geese. "



October 2022 Fowl Fest— won several awards and took home Best of Show in both junior shows first with a Pekin and then with a Pencil Runner.



November 2023 Ohio Nationals Junior Show Champion Medium with a Cayuga.



November 2021 Central Illinois Show.



November 2022 Ohio Nationals Junior Grand Supreme Show Winners with a Black Muscovy.



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Club Officers: President – Jeff Duguay  
Show Secretary – Shannon Lejeune  
Treasurer – Jessica Duguay

Open Show Judges: Ronnie Ledford, Nate Rynish, Mike Sayer, and Tom Roebuck. Junior Show Judge: Jimmy Sorrels.

Contact: Shannon Lejeune for more information  
Email: [redstickpoultry@outlook.com](mailto:redstickpoultry@outlook.com)  
or: [slejeune35@hotmail.com](mailto:slejeune35@hotmail.com)  
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# The Progeny Test

By Fred P Jeffrey

(Originally reprinted in the 1977  
ABA Fall Quarterly)

To be a successful breeder one must understand and practice the progeny test. This may seem a strong statement but the author believes it and will attempt, in this short article, to explain why.

## Definition

The concept of the progeny test is simple - - breeders are evaluated on the basis of the performance of their offspring. Dr F. B. Hutt (1949) puts it this way: "It rejects the notion that fine feathers make fine bird, and adopts instead the proverb, 'Handsome is as handsome does.'" Putting it another way, the pedigree is important but should not be worshipped unduly because many birds with fine pedigrees do not earn passing grades when progeny tested.

## Application

Progeny test breeding may be practiced on any trait that is heritable - - body size, correctness of any body characteristics which go to make type, temperament, reproductive soundness, general vigor, plumage color, resistance to disease and many more.

The first requirement is a system of identification so that the breeder is certain which chicks

come from which parents. Bantam breeders, for the most part, toe punch for identification and later in life put on permanent leg bands. For some reason the practice of wing banding at hatching, even though used routinely by commercial breeders of large fowls, has never become popular even though it is practically fool proof and offers a permanent identification for the life of the bird.

The second requirement is to not dispose of the breeders until sufficient time has elapsed for evaluation of the offspring. More than once I have heard the sad refrain of discovering too late the value of a pair of breeders.

When it is discovered that a pair of breeders produces superior offspring they can be mated for as long as they live and the breeder will be assured of superior offspring every year. Some breeders will admit that their whole strain, for the most part, goes back to one or two outstanding breeders. The effects of progeny testing are cumulative in that the offspring from progeny tested breeders are MORE LIKELY to be good breeders themselves when mated together or with other good birds of the line.

## SOME END RESULTS OF PROGENY TESTING

Double mating to produce superior show birds is one of the end results of a long period of careful progeny testing. Papers have been written, and more should be, on precisely how to double mate for best results with

a large variety of plumage colors.

Bantam growers who should know better are sometimes surprised that the expensive show birds that have purchased do not reproduce their kind. A little thought, and an understanding of double mating, soon clears up the subject - - they have bought only half the mating.

(\*GENETICS OF THE FOWL.  
McGraw Hill Co., New York p.  
501 1949)

## Editors Note:

The members section at the ABA website is loaded with information suitable for both beginners, intermediate, and seasoned bantam poultry breeders and exhibitors. Over 800 articles are included on everything from breeds, conditioning, breeding, and judging. Also included are historical poultry books and an ABA members directory.

Access to all of this is for current ABA members only. See page 4 of this issue for special money saving membership offers from the American Bantam Association.



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# Solanines and Chickens

(Specifically, potato and  
tomato leaves.)

By Ann Charles

According to many online sources the Solanine compounds in tomato and potato leaves are poisonous to chickens. Yet, my free range birds eat the young leaves on both, voraciously, and I have to be very careful to protect my plants from the chicken 'leaf strippers'.

Various online sources state that solanine is present in the plants stems, leaves and flowers of the nightshade family of fruits and vegetables... Apparently solanine affects the nervous system and gastrointestinal track of chickens. It can supposedly cause loss of motor function, GI distress, and in some cases death. That sounds pretty scary, but I have never seen any of this and in my mind the statement harkens back to claims like "eggs and butter will kill you". Obviously I could be wrong. Remember when we were advised to eat margarines and other trans fats for maximum health? And heaven forbid you should touch more than one egg a day—all that cholesterol! I am left wondering how much solanine a chicken would have to consume to exhibit the dire symptoms reported from various official sources? My birds are not starving. They eat the green leaves because they like them, plus they have access to plenty of

other greens they won't touch. They are not big fans of anything in the melon, or squash families. My pumpkins plants sprawl and are untouched. My young fig tree's leaves and mulberry trees are also safe. They don't like the blackberries either but they do love tomato leaves, and potato leaves.

I remember years ago reading a scientific paper on consumption of tannins by goats and how they were supposedly poisonous. Someone set out to prove the theory and put a herd of goats on nothing but dried oak leaves for approximately 90 days. Amazingly the goats came though such a tasteless diet unscathed, at least outwardly, according to the results of the scientific study. Another plant that is supposed to be poisonous to goats is Beauty Berries (you may know it as 'Polk salat' at first appearance in the Spring). The first goat I ever owned, 'Maaa', was purchased though a livestock auction and came into the sales ring bright pink along with her herd mates. That whole group of goats had apparently been grazing Beauty berries exclusively for over a month in an attempt to eradicate them from an area. The ripe berries had stained their white coats pink. As she matured the pink coloring faded and she usually produced a set of twins twice a year for the next 7 years left to her own devices. No harm no foul?

More extensive online data search's from actual poultry people state that their birds, on their own, frequently strip tomato and

potato plants of their leaves with no signs of any of the ill effects described as being probable by the 'experts'.

It is worth noting that my chickens did NOT touch the actual stems of either the young tomatoes or the young potatoes that they stripped the leaves from. Maybe the chickens are smarter than we think and know what they are doing? I also need to mention that my birds are fed free choice on a high quality layer pellet. What they choose to snack on in my garden is pretty much up to them with many options available. You should do your own research on this subject as with everything.

Would I purposefully feed tomato or potato leaves to my chickens? No - not with all the warnings. I am a cautious person. Would I jump up and down screaming that my birds have poisoned themselves by choosing to eat them on their own if given the opportunity? No - to that one also.



*Some leggy young tomato plants stripped of their leaves by my chickens. Notice the stems are untouched.*

# EPMag June 2024 Win Photo Submissions



Logan Squire-Champion of Junior Show with a Dark Brahma hen at the Buckeye Fancy Feather Club Show in Canfield, OH 6-8-24



Youth Champion of Show Finger Lakes Feather Club in Syracuse NY on June 9, 2024. Salmon Faverolle cock bred and owed by Autumn Genter. Sponsored by Nutrena.



Bantam Dark Cornish hen, Reserve Champion AOCCL (Junior Division). Finger Lakes Feather Club Annual Show, Syracuse, NY, June 9th, 2024. Judges: Rick Hare and John Beamer. Bred by John Miles. Shown by Dominic Vaino, age 7. Sponsored by Nutrena.



Arial Rose Pasioneck: Champion Bantam Duck, Finger Lakes Poultry Show NY, Sponsored by Nutrena.



Ryan Brzezicki: Tri-State Poultry Association, April 2022, Meadville PA, Reserve Champion Feather Leg. Black Cochin bantam hen.



Angela Thompspon: Green River Poultry Show, Spring 2024. Brown Chinese Drake, Champion Waterfowl.



Haylee Albert: Champion Large Fowl, Rhode Island Red at Coulee Region Poultry Club show in Galesville WI. June 1st 2024. Owned and raised by Red School Poultry. Haylee and Hanna Albert.



Scott Latta: 2024 Alabama State Champion LF Buff Orpington and Reserve English...Feb 3 2024 Heart of Dixie Spring Show in Fort Payne AL...Bred and Owned by Scott Latta/Latta Farm



Ryan Brzezicki: Best of Breed, and Reserve Champion Medium Duck with my Buff hen, Buckeye Fancy Feather Club show in Canfield, Ohio, June 8th, 2024.



Zac Duranceau: My daughter won BB with this BBR Phoenix hen at the Coulee Show June 1st.



Junior Best and Reserve Light Weight Duck. Reserve Overall Waterfowl. Aug. 17, 2023. Waushara County WI Fair. Exhibitors: Jaycie Sanchez & Jax Selke. Bred by: Reinhardt Mini Ranch



Kristin S Finney: Natalie Finney won Champion Junior at the Amarillo Yard Show in Amarillo, TX on April 27, 2024 with a BB Red Modern Cockerel.



Tyler Anderson: Best and Reserve In Show Tabletop Serama.



Robin King: 2023 State Fair of Louisiana, Mediterranean Class Reserve Champion, Blue Andalusian Hen.



Tyler Anderson: Champion Silkie male. Cajun Classic April 20, 2024.



LF Cochon Hen, Best of Breed, Best of Variety, Champion Asiatic, Champion Junior Standard Klein Poultry Extravaganza Junior Show Spring, TX 12/23 Blue Feather Farms Junior Exhibitor: Logan Terrell.



Buff Laced Polish Hen, Best of Breed, Best of Variety, Champion Continental. Klein Poultry Extravaganza Junior Show 12/23 Spring, TX, Blue Feather Farms. Junior Exhibitor: Harper Terrell.



SD State Fair 2023, open show AOCCL.  
Exhibitor: Breaw Neth



Reserve AOSB, SD State Fair 2023. Exhibitor: Brody Neth



Mike Franklin: June 2, 2024 Champion Asiatic,  
Odessa, Ontario, Canada.



Jaclyn Calin: April 12th 2023. Eustace FFA Tourquoise  
and Feathers Poultry show. Championship Asiatic and  
Overall Champion Youth.



Joanne Arnew: PPBA Show, Lodi, CA, January 2024. Reserve of Breed Rhode Island Red out of 22 birds.



David Uribe: Reserve American at the Ohio National



Brookie LaVigne: Tri-State Poultry Show, May 18, 2024, Cortland, Ohio



Keira Lappen: SCNA DIV 1 Serama TT Best Junior in show. NEBC show, Carver Ma. May 5th 2024. Bred by Blumoon Farm. Shown by Keira Lappen. Judge-Kate Myers.



Submitted by Randy Cole.



Submitted by Daniel Branche



Kellie Shupe: Junior Best of Breed (in cage). Southeastern Serama Club, January 20, 2024, Perry, Georgia. Shown by Alexis Horn.



Submitted by Wilson Lago: Jan 20, 2024 - Reserve Best of breed, Perry, Georgia.



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*Twain Lockhart*



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