

Exhibition Poultry

The #1 Internet Source For Information On Showing & Breeding Exhibition Poultry

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APA



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Exhibition Poultry

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On The Cover The Oklahoma State Poultry Federation has been in existence for well over 100 years and Jan Geis' artwork celebrating this achievement graces our cover this month. OSPF's Annual Fall Show is December 14, 2019.

Exhibition Poultry Magazine®

Ad deadline is the 15th of the month preceding issue date.

Advertising & Subscription

To subscribe, or submit display ads, classified ads, club, show, and judges go to: <https://www.ExhibitionPoultry.net>

Exhibition Poultry Magazine

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From the Editor . . .

It's that slow time of year where heat makes poultry shows (and show results) few and far between. In this issue our focus is primarily on informative articles and we have a number of authors contributing. Thank you to everyone who took the time to send us an article with photos, and for sharing your knowledge on such a variety of topics.

I have noticed that I tend to look backwards and forwards when I compose my bimonthly message to you all. But this month I thought I would do something a bit different. We all know of the poultry related events that angered and alarmed us over the last few months whether it involved disease, social media, or was postal related. Plus, we have Fall shows starting soon as we struggle to condition and grow our birds through the summer heat. But, in a way, this is the best time of year for our purebred fowl. The truth is that the 'now', our current now, this day in fact, may be when we are the happiest with our birds.

This is the time when we still have a number of excellent prospects for the Fall shows. In most cases nothing has gone wrong yet. Disappointments are few. They are still juvenile and full of promise, growing fast, vigorous, and we enjoy just watching them. Our birds are like kids, young and fresh, and not yet exhibiting many of the flaws that may crop up as they mature into adults. So, please, enjoy the results of your Spring labors now - today. Take a second look at your young birds and appreciate this stage in their development. Take some photos. Just, remember that the disappointment of a twisted comb, or an off colored feather, or heaven forbid 'leakage' . . . Or even a judges opinion, are all best left to the future. You can deal with flaws when, and if, they occur. But not today.

Let's all enjoy the 'now'.

Ann Charles,
Editor

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Oklahoma State Poultry Federation

Greetings to everyone from the Oklahoma State Poultry Federation's Board of Directors! It's been an extremely busy time of the year for all of us here. First and foremost I would like to welcome our new board members, Britt Coppenbarger, Terry Harrison and Bo Garrett. We are excited and blessed to have them on the board. These gentlemen have been involved with the OSPF for many, many years as exhibitors and supporters and we are already seeing benefits from their addition to the board.

The Oklahoma State Poultry Federation has been in existence for more than 100 years and has grown to be one of the premiere shows in the nation. Over the past 103 years there have been a lot of officers who served on the board to help make the show a huge success.

The main force to get the club started was Clifford Jackson. He was the United States District Attorney for Indian Territory, 1893-94, and created the Jackson Poultry Law, which kicked off the poultry industry in Oklahoma with great success. Jackson was the state organizer for the APA in Oklahoma. On September 26, following the

national meeting in Chicago, Clarence G. Dalton, President of the State Branch, and Clifford L. Jackson, President of the O.S.P.F., called meetings of the executive boards of each at the State Fair. The meetings resulted in the amalgamation of the organizations and the selection of officers from both organizations. In doing this, it was agreed that the name of the state organization should be The Oklahoma State Poultry Federation. Other officers who served the club, were men such as Dr. L. H. Ritzhaupt who was an officer for 32 years. Shows with numbers as high as 5000 - 6000 birds were organized and pulled off without the technology we have today. This brief overview of our club's history gives you a bit of insight as to how long the OSPF has been around and how successful it has been in the past and will continue to be in the future.

NEWS: We are excited to announce that we have added a new spring double show to our schedule: The March Extravaganza will be held at the Shawnee Expo Center, March 21, 2020. Also, we now have new club T-shirts and hoodies available at the shows or order at:

OSPF's Annual Show will be held December 14, 2019 at the Heart of Oklahoma Exposition Center, 1700 W. Independence, Shawnee, Ok 74802. For show entries go to our website at: <https://www.ospfshows.com> or email us at: oklahomastatepoultryfederation@gmail.com

www.OSPFSHOWS.com.

At future OSPF shows, you will be able to enter online but we will also still be accepting mail-in entries. Plus, we've added a jackpot payback! The details are posted in the show catalog and on our website. Also, Oklahoma State Poultry Federation has been added to the rotation for the ABA National and we will be hosting this event in 2023. It means a great deal to the club to have been deemed deserving of such an honor and be included with these other historical and prestigious venues.

The OSPF would like to welcome a new major sponsor this year in ADM Nutrition. They will be at our show with a booth and will be on hand to answer any questions that you may have. If you have an interest in being a show sponsor please contact us for more info.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped support our show over the years. As the new president of the Oklahoma State Poultry Federation, I would like to invite everyone to our show. EVERYONE, and I mean everyone, is welcome to attend this show, whether as an exhibitor or a spectator. We want this show to be something that exhibitors continue to look forward to each and every year.

Your efforts in support of our show have not gone unnoticed and we look forward to seeing you all this fall.

Wade Walker
OSPF President

The Elusive Quality of Showmanship

By Cindy Smith

One of the most exciting wins I ever had was at a show I didn't attend. That year there were 2 shows here in the Pacific Northwest that happened to be spaced a week apart. Now, I know that for those of you back East or in the Midwest, shows a week apart are commonplace, but here in sparsely chickened Starbucks Country, we have them a lot less frequently. So I was exhausted from the effort of taking 20 some birds to the previous show. (Where they hadn't won anything noteworthy.) Additionally, I was leaving on a trip the following Monday and had all the loose ends to tie up that always come with leaving a farm of animals with a temporary caretaker. So, I decided to skip the second show. My dear, now departed, friend Sheryl Butler, bless her, insisted that she help me by taking a few birds along with her. I'd had a good pullet year that year (haven't had one of those for a while) so I went to the young birds pen and pulled out 3 nice WC Black pullets, each as like as 3 peas in a pod. I bathed and prepped them and sent them off with Sheryl, expecting very little.

I was therefore astonished that when Sheryl made the obligatory phone call Saturday night to report results, she handed the phone to judge Brian Decker, who proceeded to tell me that my bird had just won Best Of Show! Indeed, so flabbergasted was I by this news that I actually dropped the phone and inadvertently hung up on the judge. In keeping with my tradition, I named that bird after said judge and "Brianna" began her illustrious career. The biggest winner I ever bred, Brianna had EIGHT best or reserve of show wins, the last only last summer at the age of 5. Brianna is a nice bird, no doubt about it- on the small side, with a moderate crest and minimal white tipping even today at



'Brianna', Cindy's winning White Crested Black Polish hen.

age 6. But I could show you a dozen birds as good any day in my barn. So why her? The answer is that elusive something that makes a champion in any species. Whether you're showing a dog, horse, or chicken, there is always that quality that separates the brilliant from the merely good.

I watched a judge at a dog show trying to choose best of breed from an exceptional group of collies. All were "specials," dogs or bitches that had already achieved the rank of champion. All were lovely. As he pondered his choice, a sable in the middle of the line up alerted on something in the distance. His ears came up a little higher, neck arched, body tensed, suddenly he became a picture, an archetype of what a collie should be. The judge gazed at him, then immediately awarded the breed to him.

Brianna shows like that dog showed. In unfamiliar surroundings, with compromised vision already, it is

the tendency of most Polish to crouch. When Brianna is in a new place, she spreads that tail, arches her neck, and acts like a game bird ready to take on the world. I didn't train her to do it-though goodness knows I've tried with other good Polish, and she hasn't necessarily passed it on to her offspring. It's just her. It's hard to win with Polish because of this very characteristic.

A silkie also has limited vision but she just has to sit there to look good. Our Polish have to put their tails up and SHOW. Consequently, this can be a frustrating breed. It's hard to watch them passed over again and again on Champion Row as they sit there passively in their cage. Meanwhile you know what they look like at home and wish they'd look like that here. But keep washing them and prepping them, and dragging them to shows because, when a Polish really decides she wants to look good, it's hard to pass her by.



We Have A Winner!

Susan Buchanan is our first winner of the Nutrena Competition. There will be others.

"I raise Belgian d'Uccle, the Mille Fleur variety, from Rich and Rod Vaughn. Rich has helped me and has been a mentor for me while I strive to raise these sweet-hearts to the SOP! The girl I'm holding, won Reserve Champion Feather Leg at our last show! She beat 42 total Silkies, other d'Uccle, and Cochins, which is nearly impossible in the south!!"

See Susan's Facebook page, Buchanan Belgians, here: <https://www.facebook.com/Buchanan-Belgians-293935541313220/>

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IMPORTANT: The advertising deadline for our next issue is September 15th. This issue will cover the months of October and November, and will showcase upcoming Fall poultry shows nationwide! *You don't want to miss it.*



About ALFA: Any APA recognized Class, Breed and/or Variety shall be eligible to compete for ALFA Awards. American Game Large Fowl are eligible for ALFA competition and awards. Any Breed or Variety which has submitted a "standard" to the APA and is requesting inclusion into the APA Standard shall be eligible for ALFA awards.

ALFA competition begins with the birds which are entered in the regular show. Placings from the base show will be

used in picking the top finalists for ALFA Awards.

Final numbers and amounts of ALFA awards at each show will be determined by the membership numbers 30 days before the show or by the entry deadline date for the district show. Any ALFA member, regardless of which District they live in are eligible to show and win awards in any ALFA show. No one will be allowed to compete in any ALFA event if their membership isn't paid by entry deadline date of the show in question. Membership can be obtained at any time during the year. ALFA membership is good from Jan. 1st through Dec. 31st each year.

It is estimated that 30% of all

ALFA membership fee's will be awarded at the ALFA Nationals each November. Amounts of premiums will be based entirely on the number of ALFA memberships sold during the year less any special events ALFA may sponsor. District Shows will be awarding 50% of their District's membership fees for their own District Show. Of the remaining 50% of card fees, 30% will go to the ALFA National Jackpot Fund and the remaining 20% will be used for administrative costs for trophies, awards, PayPal, etc.

For more information on ALFA please visit our web site at <http://poultryshowcase.com/alfa-basic-rules/>



Membership is only \$15 per year

<http://poultryshowcase.com/alfa-american-large-fowl-association-3/>

ALFA© is the acronym for "American Large Fowl Association." ALFA© is a new organization formed for the advancement, growth, increased knowledge and numbers of all Large Poultry Fowl, Standard and Non-Standard. All non-standard LF must be in the final stages of acceptance into the APA Standard which means they must have a written and approved "Standard Description" of their new variety/breed. 50% of ALFA© membership fees in a district will be given back to each District for their Annual District Show

JOIN ALFA TODAY

and add an extra level of competition with your large fowl at APA sanctioned shows.

CASH AWARDS!!

DISTRICT SHOWS
plus

2019 ALFA National
Norman, Oklahoma
November 2nd, 2019



APA News August 2019

Well, summer has finally arrived. Here in Southern Ohio the weather has been very hot and humid. We continue to get more rain than we probably need, but some hay has finally been cut and baled without getting wet. So far, my farming partner and I have rolled up fifty-six large round bales and only about half of it was rained on. I still have about five acres to cut and hopefully will manage to get that finished in the next few days. It is very late to be putting up first cutting hay but getting a few dry days in a row has been a challenge this year!

The APA continues to do well financially, mainly due to the sales of the Standard of Perfection. We are maintaining a fairly constant membership total of 3,000 members. This is better than it was for some time and so thank you for those who join and renew at the appropriate time. As a reminder, Member Planet will send you email reminders as your expiration date approaches. If you do not use email, the first line of your address on the newsletters should be your expiration date. Before any member is removed a final

notice postcard is mailed to give one last opportunity to renew.

Summer fairs here are well underway and so many kids get their start in Poultry through 4-H or FFA. Many start out with meat birds, but find showmanship is easier with bantams and will get a few purebred birds to show as well. If you talk to adults involved in exhibition poultry you may find out they got started because of the involvement of their kids. My point is we should do all we can to encourage our young exhibitors as these are the fanciers of tomorrow.

Time to close and get this off to the various publications that run these monthly columns. If you have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call or email the office. Have a great summer!

David Adkins,
APA Secretary



The American Bantam Association has been in existence for over 100 years and has been shared and enjoyed by many generations of members. In an effort to recognize and lend financial assistance to our mem-

bers that are currently attending or plan on attending a higher learning institution (post High School), we are proud to offer the ABA Educational Scholarship Program. Last year the ABA awarded the very first ABA Educational Scholarship in the amount of \$500. We are excited to once again be able to recognize our younger members who will play a very important role in the future health and growth of the ABA either as an active member, judge, mentor or in a specific leadership role.

1) Applicant must be an ABA member.

2) Applicant must be planning to attend or is currently attending a post high school accredited college, trade, or other institution of higher learning.

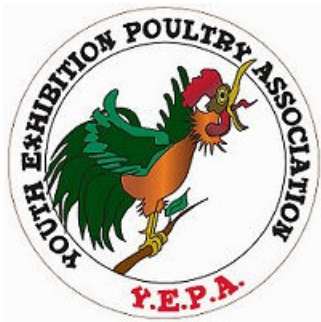
3) Applications must be mailed or emailed to: American Bantam Association, PO Box 127, Augusta, NJ 07822 - Attn: ABA Scholarship Email: Bantamclub@gmail.com

4) Deadline for submission – July 15, 2019 (postmark).

5) The winners will be notified individually by the ABA, and the payment will be sent directly to their school and applied to the student's account.

If you would like more information, please contact Kevin Unrath, Publicity Committee Chair, via email at kevinunrath1@gmail.com, click the red link above, or visit our website at www.bantamclub.com to download an application today!

Karen Unrath,
ABA Secretary



YEPA Disbanded

It is with the deepest regret that we must inform everyone that the Youth Exhibition Poultry Association (YEPA) is being dissolved/disbanded by a unanimous vote of the YEPA board of directors. As you know, I have planned to retire for some time. Unfortunately, we have not had anyone that is interested in taking over as the coordinator/director of this great association geared to educating our youth in the exhibition poultry hobby.

Closing date will be August 1, 2019. At that time, we will close the YEPA website and any Facebook pages. We are hoping that someone still might come forward and keep YEPA active, therefore the later closing date we have chosen.

At this time, we are no longer accepting new members. It is the board's decision to reimburse any members that have signed up during the month of May or renewed their membership. Reimbursement will be done by August 1st.

We are still working out details regarding closing this program. More information will be posted as things develop.

Sincerely,
Doris Robinson
Coordinator/Director
nanamamabrahma@att.net
423-465-0111

Word Origins

keel (n.)

"lowest and principal timber of a ship or boat," mid-14c., probably from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Norse kjölr "keel," Danish kjøl, Swedish köl)." <https://www.etymonline.com/word/keel>

Keel: In chickens and turkeys (breast bone) . . . that portion of the middle sternum that resembles the keel of a boat, both as to shape and position." *Source: American Standard of Perfection (44th Edition, page 9-10).*

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Predators: **Thieves in the Night**

*By Joe Berry,
Oklahoma State University*

Playing Detective

In many instances predators leave clues to their identity when they have visited a poultry house. From these clues the poultry producer may be able to identify the culprit and take the necessary steps to prevent a reoccurrence.

Dogs: A dog usually kills chickens for the sport. Several dead birds with much mauling of the carcasses is usually evidence of a dog. Dogs usually visit the chicken pen during daylight hours rather than at night.

Mink-Weasel: Birds usually show signs of attack on the sides of the head if a mink or weasel has visited the poultry house. With these predators,

several birds will probably be killed and piled neatly together. The back of the head and neck are frequently the only parts of the carcass consumed.

Raccoon: If a predator visits only once each 5 to 7 days and eats the head and the crop of the dead birds, a raccoon is probably responsible. Sometimes more than one bird will be killed at each visit.

Opossum: The opossum generally attacks only one bird at each visit. Usually, the bird's abdomen has been eaten. Eggs may also be the object of the opossum's raid on the chicken house.

Owl: The only likely culprit here is the great horned owl, which does sometimes attack poultry. One or two birds are usually killed, with the talons being used to pierce the brain. The owl will usually eat only the head and neck. Feathers found on a fence-post near the chick-

en house or pen may provide an additional clue.

Fox-Coyote: The old sayings about the sly fox were not by accident. The fox and the coyote are very smart and difficult to catch in the act of raiding the flock. Since birds are frequently carried away with little evidence left behind, the only way of determining losses may be a head count. Visits from these predators will usually be very early in the morning. Keeping birds in a secure pen or poultry house until late morning is good insurance against losses from a fox or coyote.

Skunks: Skunks do not usually attack adult birds. They may kill a few chicks and eat the abdomen. Eggs may also be the targets. If skunks have been in the poultry house the odor is usually a clue.

Humans: Unfortunately, there can be problems from people as well as animals. If

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birds are missing with very little evidence, particularly from a predator proof pen or house, the possibility of humans being involved should not be overlooked.

Preventing Repeat Visits:

Determining the identity of

the predator is essential in preventing repeat visits. Once identification has been made, appropriate steps can be taken. Eliminating the point of entry is the first deterrent and eliminating the source of the problem by trapping or other means

is the second. Trapping should be done properly to minimize the chances of catching an innocent animal. Again, prevention is the best solution to the predator problem.

+++

A poster for the 13th Annual Central Indiana Poultry Show. The title is written in large, red, cursive font across the top. Below the title is a green silhouette of a rooster. In the center of the rooster is a yellow map of Indiana. Overlaid on the map is a 3D block with a red top, blue sides, and a white star on the red top, with the word "Lebanon" in white text on the red top. In the top left corner, "13th Annual" is written in black. In the top right corner, a red starburst contains the text "Indiana's Largest Annual Poultry Show!". Below the rooster, the date "October 19th, 2019" is written in large red font. Below the date, the location "Boone County 4-H Fairgrounds, Lebanon, Indiana" and "Located along I-65 at exit 138" are written in black. Below the location, contact information for Tim Curts and Doug Akers is provided. Below the contact information, a Facebook link is given. At the bottom, a black banner contains the text "Produced in cooperation with the Boone County Convention & Visitors Bureau" in white, and the Boone County Convention & Visitors Bureau logo on the right.

13th Annual

Central Indiana Poultry Show

Indiana's Largest Annual Poultry Show!

Judges:
Terry Britt
Rick Hare
Keith Lutz
James Konecny

Jr. Show Judges:
Amanda Heitzman
Jerry Powell
Nicholas Pues
Nate Rynish

Lebanon

October 19th, 2019

Boone County 4-H Fairgrounds, Lebanon, Indiana
Located along I-65 at exit 138

Information - Tim Curts - tcurts@speedwayschools.net
Doug Akers - dakers@purdue.edu

For more information, Go to Facebook: Central Indiana Poultry Show

*Produced in cooperation with the
Boone County Convention & Visitors Bureau*

BOONE COUNTY
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Windgate Farms Waterfowl

Cindy Rusk

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Brian Decker, PO Box 282, Port Deposit, MD 21904. Phone: 360-520-4550, email: deckerbrian@outlook.com. APA & ABA Licensed.

Robert Gilbert, 2009 S Vine St., Urbana, IL 61801. Phone: 217-417-0112, email: theporkstork@yahoo.com. APA Licensed.

Heather Hayes, 5019 Landsdowne Rd, Armstrong BC, Canada V0E 1B4. Phone: 250-546-4969, email: tripleh@telus.net, APA & ABA Licensed.

William Hopkins, 4236 CR 1301, Rusk, TX 75785. Phone: 903-422-0329, email: bhopkins222@aol.com. APA & ABA Licensed.

Rod Clow, 2097 Route 112, Bedeque, Prince Edward Island C0B1C0, Canada. Phone: 1-902-439-1623, email: rod@willowcreekpoultry.ca. APA General Licensed Judge

Richard Peters, P.O. Box 735, Noble, OK, 73068; email: apa-judge1009@aol.com, (405) 527-8513, (405) 706-0484. APA Licensed. (8.3)

Michael Schmidt, 1170 NE Town Terrace, Jensen Beach, FL 34957. Phone: 772-260-6120, email: michael-jschmidt@bellsouth.net. APA General License.

Rick Sebastianelli, Box 178, Bon Accord, AB Canada T0A 0K0. Phone: 780-921-2119, cell phone: 780-721-1283, email: ricoseb@shaw.ca, APA Licensed.

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National Breed Clubs

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Club - <http://www.abec.us/>
"Breed Improvement Through Exhibition"
Secretary: Cathy Hill,
Email: Fivehillfarm@gmail.com

FREE RANGING YOUR FLOCK & TRYING TO EXHIBIT TOO

*Photos and Article
By Chris McCary*

My better half and I keep and maintain a free-ranging flock of Black Turkeys, large fowl La Fleche, large fowl Buckeyes and bantam Buckeyes.

At night, most of the flock disperses to six pens, three large coops, the rafters of an open barn, the trees, tops of barns, an open roost outside, or anywhere else they want to sleep. I sometimes close up the pens, but many of the birds are outside exposed to the elements 24/7. Three livestock guardian dogs, Great Pyrenees, protect them from the many predators that inhabit the National Forest where my home, barns and pasture are located. I actually prefer to leave the pens open at night because the large white dogs have access to enter the pens to remove any predator that gets by them and into a pen.

I like to exhibit our birds too, and being outside is not exactly the best conditioning environment. I hatch four to five groups of birds each spring from March to May. Each hatch will have a mixture of poults and chicks. These hatches are usually separated by two or three weeks apart.

Conditioning for exhibition



An older Chris McCary bred LaFleche cock.

begins the moment the chick or poult hatches. Chicks and poults are brooder raised first in my basement in GQF brooders / wire bottomed for 4 weeks. I then move them outside in pens or in the barn with heat lamps and bulbs depending on time of year. Young birds are usually released to free range at about 8-10 weeks old.

As most of you know who exhibit birds, there is a certain age the birds tend to look their best and be in the best feather condition for exhibition – depending on your breed of course. Beginning at about sixteen weeks old for chickens and about 22 weeks old for turkeys, we seriously evaluate each bird. We weigh it, hands on evaluate



Buckeyes, one of the two breeds of chickens that Chris McCary breeds and raises.

it and look for faults, disqualifications, etc. At this time, we identify our most promising birds. We band each bird at whether it shows great promise, is questionable or a cull.

Cull males go into a large pen all to themselves, bantams in one and large fowl in another. We process our culls as meat birds for the freezer. Most cull females are sold as laying hens locally where there is always a demand. Questionable birds live a little longer to see how they turn out. Promising males may get their own pen or may be allowed to continue free rang-

ing, and they are specially banded as early as they are noticed. Penning allows them to eat in peace, grow and develop without being chased, avoiding fights or being harassed. Most of the turkeys continue to free range except old toms which get placed in a spacious pen all to themselves. Pullets and hens free range all the time.

At all times, I provide clean water in many locations. In winter, I like to put a tablespoon of vinegar per gallon of water; in summer, I use a tablespoon of a 10% bleach in water solution per gallon of water and for tur-

key poults, .6 cc per gallon of oregano oil with piperine, the later to prevent blackhead in young poults (I also try and worm my flock a couple of time each year but that is another article.) The vinegar or bleach helps keep the algae growth to a minimum.

I never let them run out of feed. Feed is dispensed in range feeders, hanging feeders and trough feeders in the coops, outside in the field and so forth. My feed contains animal as well a plant protein, and I do not buy cheap feed if it can be avoided. I use a mash feed and a small pel-



Chris McCary exhibited a Black Turkey at the at the 2017 and 2018 Ohio National Poultry Shows that won Champion Turkey.

let feed both. I like my birds to get a variety of feed composition so that they get accustomed to eating whatever I put out. Also, I give a whole multi-grain mix with added BOSS, whole or rolled oats every other day and mixed with either (alternately) Red Cell, Cod Liver Oil, Wheat germ Oil or Flax seed oil. This is given in quantities the birds can eat in 5-10 minutes.

In an average exhibition year, I attend three to five shows beginning in November and going through February. Three or four weeks prior to any given show, I look around on the barnyard

and pasture to see what may be showable. I catch and look at any bird that looks like it has decent feather condition and body. Most birds not culled will have good body but usually are not in the best feather condition because they have been outside running around day in and day out.

Each chick or poult is toe punched out of the incubator as to its clan. Each hatch is designated by a specific color leg band. I look at the oldest birds first. As the show season progresses and ends, I am of course going to my later hatch or two.

Birds selected for the next show go to a show cage to get accustomed to being confined. I like to give them at least a week to ten days to get used to a show cage. Through all of this, I check the birds for external parasites, especially those red mites. I also have a misting bottle for males' tails. I try and mist the tails each night using filtered water especially through the dryer times of the year and for birds not exposed to frequent rain.

Five to seven days before a show, I bathe the chickens. I use one bucket. It will have 2:1 mixture in water of plain Listerine



Black Turkey poults.



La Fleche and Buckeye hens. McCary keeps feed in front of his birds at all times.

and witch hazel. I bathe a bird just this one time no matter how many times I show it. This is really all I do.

It is also worth mentioning what I do not do. I do not confine birds in the dark and force molt nor any other ridiculous thing like that. If I had to do those shenanigans to exhibit, then I simply would not. I also do not go to any trouble to confine females for long lengths of time for show conditioning. Chicken males are confined only to prevent them from fighting each other and from constantly chasing and breeding pullets

and hens. It depends on the breed as to the age this happens. I leave outside some males just because they seem to be thriving in the free range environment but not too many that my females are run to death. It is worth me mentioning for those who do not know, La Fleche are black and Buckeyes are red. My Black Turkeys black is a metallic black while my La Fleche black is that with a green sheen, both which are in adherence to the Standard of Perfection.

I know my free ranging ways are not the way most of you do

it nor can you do it that way. I am able to do it only because I utilize livestock guardian dogs.

I am always learning and evolving. If I find a better and more conducive way to do something, then I change and do it the new way.

Lastly, I am not claiming my way is the only way. I am not saying I am doing it the best way. Circumstances and your situation will dictate much of how you operate. I am not advocating that you change your ways. This is to only share the way I raise and condition my birds.

Some Insights On Culling Campines

Article and photos courtesy of Kerby Jackson

Pictured to the right are a couple of three month-old Silver Campine cockerels. They are full brothers from the same hatch. One is properly hen-feathered, the other is already showing a tendency toward improper (male or full) feather.

Despite not being mature yet, you can already see that one is faulty and is not suited for breeding use. In the top photo, you will see them both together from overhead. Note that the bird on top shows a sort of brassy-graying in the back and shoulders, while the one at bottom is clear in color and markings.

Even from a distance, the top bird looks like his plumage is fouled or stained due to the difference in color. This is a big give away. Even out on range,



The top Silver cockerel looks "fouled" or brassy-gray, which is indicative of 'male' or full feathering, while the bottom displays clear markings and is 'hen' feathered.

you can spot this fault. His faulty male/full plumage should be, if at all possible, an immediate disqualifying factor in selecting him as future breeding stock. The full feathering is a recessive trait to the proper Campine hen feathering and



Correct Campine feathering. This cockerel has a black base color three times as wide as the white transverse lines.

such a bird cannot carry the proper hen-feathering gene. He will only produce hen-feathered sons if he is bred to a hen that is genetically hen-feathered (which is only determined by breeding tests). It would be a grave breeding error to feel tempted to use such a bird in a breeding program unless he was so outstanding in some way that it would over-ride such a serious basic fault.

In the photo at the top right the Silver Campine cockerel shows correct Campine feathering. He has a black base color three times as wide as the white transverse lines, showing no brassy-gray.

From a distance, the markings will look clear, not like his plumage is fouled or stained.



Silver and Golden Campines from a painting by Franklin L Sewell. Circa 1913

NEWS FROM OUR READERS . . .

Dear Ann,

Attached is a photo of Kyle Coffey, one of our more active exhibitors at our Kentucky County fairs. This one is of the Bourbon County fair, (named for the drink that was developed here,) and Kyle won Grand Champion of the show with a BB Red OEG bantam cockerel.

Our local Madison County Poultry Pals 4-H show will be held in July 27th, so you can bet I'll be sending photos of that! We have a licensed judge, (Ben Porter,) and try to run our show as a simplified APA-ABA sanctioned show, although it isn't. We've obtained our

own show cages, and put on what's probably the best county



fair show in our state. We've got the regular classes, (modified,) for the purebred and utility classes for meat birds, layers, and dual place birds.

However, my favorite class is the costume class- our kids dress their birds and sometimes themselves up. It's like Comic-con with feathers! Ha ha!

Last year, Sam's little bantam Brahma hen won first class as a hula girl! She wore a grass skirt, and a coconut shell bra! She was so cute, I cracked up!

Anyway, I'm sending Kyle's latest win, just to brag. At least, I admit it!

Yours in the Fancy,
Sandy Kavanaugh

Simple Quiche Recipe

By Ann Charles

Are you through hatching for the year? Are you overrun with excess eggs? Try this solution. It tastes even richer made with bantam eggs.

Ingredients:

- 6 large or 9 bantam eggs
- 1 cup whole milk
- 8 oz shredded cheddar cheese
- 2 oz shredded parmesan cheese
- 1 Pillsbury pie crust (or whole wheat as shown)



Instructions:

- 1) Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.
- 2) Unroll pie crust and press into a 9" deep dish pie plate, prick the crust with a fork on bottoms and sides.
- 3) In a large bowl, whisk together eggs, milk, and then add salt and pepper (to taste).
- 4) Sprinkle cheddar cheese, and any other optional ingredients* into the pie crust and pour the egg mixture over top.
- 5) Sprinkle remaining parmesan cheese on top of egg mixture.
- 6) Bake for 35-40 minutes until the center is completely set. Let it cool for 5-10 minutes before slicing and serving. This is also good served cold.

*Optional ingredients: Sliced mushrooms, roasted bell peppers, turkey pepperoni, sausage, tomato slices, spinach, bacon or any extra veggies or pre-cooked meats you like.

Fantailed Chickens

*Photos and article courtesy of
Brian Reeder*

This article looks at a few fantailed birds, some from well-known breeds, some from more obscure breeds and others are birds that I have had or produced.

Seen to the left (photo 1) is a full fantail on a Serama rooster from the back view. You can see that all the changes from wild type associated with the fantail phenotype are present such as high tail angle, left and right tail segment orientation shifted to open and flattened, feather orientation readjusted to run with the plane of the tail and permanently spread (fanned) tail segments. This was not a pose. His tail was like this all the time.

Next is a fantailed Langshan showing an extreme fanned tail (photo 2). This type of tail is considered 'non-standard' to Langshan breeders, but they occur in most lines, indicating recessive genes at work that are carried by birds showing the standard tail.

However, it must be pointed out that the standard Langshan tail still shows several of the fantailed traits - High tail angle, tail segments opened at the base and individual feather orientation modifications. It is only a step or two from the standard Langshan tail to the fully fantailed form, mainly a further shift in individual feather orientation and further flattening (opening) of the two individual tail segments. The standard Langshan tail form can be called a vase-shaped tail, while



Photo 1—Serama



Photo 2—Langshan



Photo 3—Cochin

the bird in photo 2 shows a fan-shaped tail. The latter is simply a more extreme (further modified) version of the former.

The male Cochin tail is a fan-shaped tail over a large amount of fluff positioned below the fan-shaped tail (photo 3). I was lucky enough to get a pair of these to work with from 5 Partridge chicks I received. The male, by chance, showed several of the fantail traits, as do many of the Asiatics such as Cochins, Brahmas, Langshan and Silkie. Exhibition Cochins Bantams showing the wide spread, laterally flattened tail form over the large amount of under fluff common to exhibition lines (photo 3). These fanned tails are at a lower angle than those seen in Serama or Langshan, because the breed standard for Cochins calls for a somewhat lower tail angle.

The fanned tail seems to be fairly common in a number of exhibition breeds where partial expression of some of the traits involved, making fuller, rounder tails. Chabo (Japanese bantam), Cochins, Serama, Brahma, Langshan, Cubalaya, as well as within descendants from the Asiatics such as Rhode Island Red, New Hampshire, Rock and Wyandotte breeds. Even modern commercial sex-links can show some of the traits associated with fantails when they have descent from Rock and New Hampshire or Rhode Island Red. I have even seen partial fantail traits in Cornish/Rock cross commercial meat birds, again, due to their descent from Rocks, which in turn descend

from the old fashioned Cochinchina fowl of the 1840s, as do so many of the other breeds I have mentioned above.

A Barred Plymouth Rock bantam hen (photo 4) shows a fanned tail where each side of the tail is spread, but the orientation of the two tail segments is only open at the base, and not completely spread out into the visually flattened tail when viewed from behind. Tails like this are much more common than the full fan tails, and such birds are usefully in a breeding program for the full fantails.

In photo 5 and 6, the pictures represent a bird from my own breeding program. This line is from later-generation blends of multiple family groups and breeds including, Serama, Cochinchina, Dark Brahma, Phoenix, Silkie and several other bantam components such as New Hampshire and Buff Rock bantams. There are other breeds in the ancestry as well from large fowl breeds, such as Golden Wyandotte and red/white sexlinks. Interestingly, these lines shown do not include any Langshan ancestry.

In photo 5 you see a view of one of my males from behind showing the visual effect of the



Photo 4—Bantam Rock



Photo 5

fully fanned tail. This tail form is static in this type. It does not close. This is the way the tail looks all the time. Even when the bird is perching on a branch, the tail may close a bit in balancing, but never closes beyond about 60 degrees in openness.

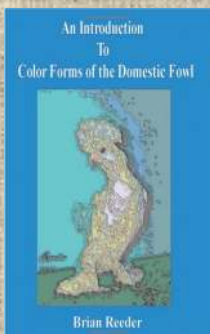
In the picture at the beginning of this article (photos 1), the Serama male is shown perched on a bamboo pole. Even perching there, where the tail is used as part of the ballast to create balance for the bird on the perch, the tail doesn't really close very much at all.

Photo 5 is the same bird as in photos 4 again, this time as a mature bird.

To read more on this subject, including the genetics involved, see my 7 part blog on Fantails in chickens at: <https://brianreederbreer.blogspot>

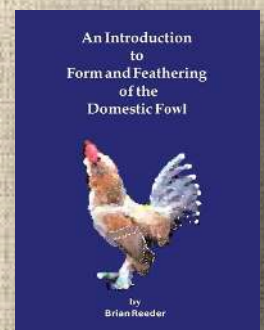


Photo 6



Books by Brian Reeder

'Color Forms of the Domestic Fowl' & 'Form and Feathering of the Domestic Fowl'
Order them at - <https://www.authorhouse.com>
or any major bookstore.



Thermal images monitor poultry heat issues

By Ms. Bonnie A. Coblentz
MSU Extension Service

STARKVILLE, Miss. -- In a state where temperatures exceed 90 degrees more than 100 days a year, heat control in poultry houses is a very important consideration for Mississippi's biggest agricultural industry.

"Feed conversion in chickens is determined in large part by how well you regulate the temperature inside the poultry house," said Tom Tabler, poultry specialist with the Mississippi State University Extension Service.

In the winter, poultry houses have to be kept warm enough to ensure that growing chickens efficiently use their feed energy for growth, not to maintain body temperature. In the summer, chickens that are too warm eat less and grow slowly.

"Feed energy used for anything other than growth is detrimental to feed efficiency and flock performance," he said.

Tom Tabler, a poultry specialist with the Mississippi State University Extension Service, uses thermal imaging technology to help poultry producers efficiently manage temperatures inside their facilities.

He uses a thermal-imaging camera to look for hot or cold spots that indicate problem are-

as in temperature management.

"A thermal camera's image indicates clearly where there is a difference in temperature," Tabler said. "In the summer, we look for leaks where heat is coming into the poultry houses. In the winter, we look for areas where heated air may be lost to the outside and driving up fuel costs."

Thermal images indicate where insulation is needed. When a poultry house is properly insulated and sealed, growers can precisely and efficiently manage inside temperature and fresh air intake.

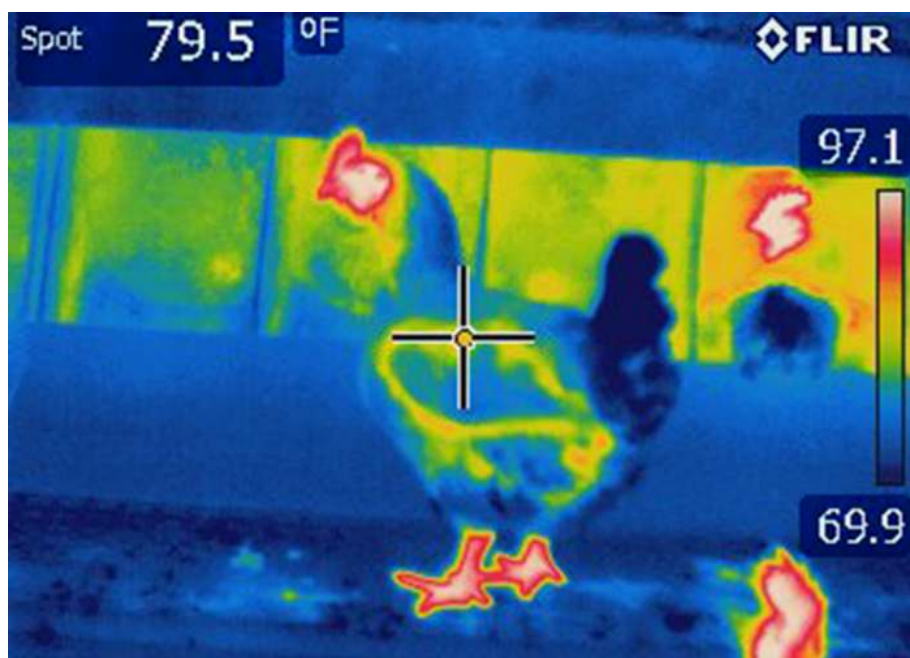
"One-day-old chickens need to be kept at 90 to 92 degrees, because that's the temperature the mother hen would have kept them at. As they get older, they need less heat."

Mary Beck, head of the MSU

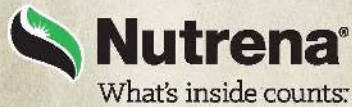
Department of Poultry Science, said Mississippi State offers this thermal-imaging service at no charge as part of its support of the state's poultry industry.



A thermal imaging camera is used to detect hot spots in commercial poultry houses. (Photo by MSU Extension Service/Kevin Hudson) (Editor's Note: Pic-



Since there are no feathers providing insulation, the head and feet of a chicken show up hot, or red and white, on this thermal image. The cool tail, composed of just feathers, is dark blue and the rest of the body, insulated by feathers, is somewhere in between. (Photo by MSU Extension Service/Tom Tabler)



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Serama Grande MEGA Championships

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