

Exhibition Poultry

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

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Photo Contest, and more.

**Sierra Walsh's
Sebastopol goose.**

Exhibition Poultry

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Exhibition Poultry Magazine®

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Exhibition Poultry Magazine

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From the Editor . . .

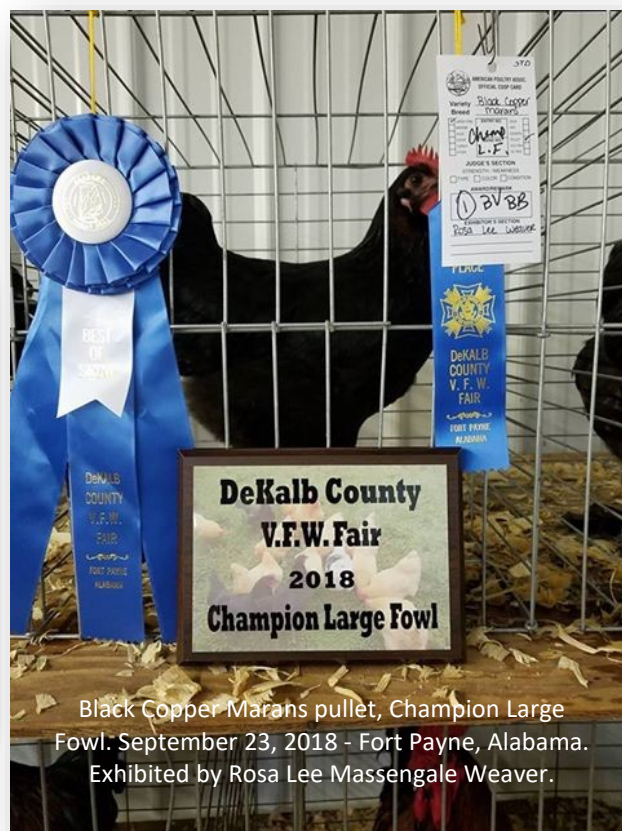
First, I would like to thank everyone who participated in our recent photo contest. If you are following our Facebook page you know all about the contest and may be one of the many people who submitted an entry. Although we had a respectable turnout in the Open division, the largest group of submissions came in the Juniors category. It was VERY hard to pick a winner. There were so many quality photos submitted that we dedicated another page just to the 'Honorable Mention' entries. Thank you again to everyone who participated in our *Summer Fair Photo Contest*.

In the next issue of Exhibition Poultry we hope to have extensive show results from the Nationals and from some major Fall shows which will be taking place over the next couple of months. This is the time of year we all work so hard toward, and I wish all of you the best of luck in what ever part of the country you will be exhibiting your birds.

Also, be sure to send us good quality photos of your wins. We will use them individually as we have room. See our first individual win photo submission below. Congratulations to Rosa Weaver!

You could be famous too.

Ann Charles, Editor



Black Copper Marans pullet, Champion Large Fowl. September 23, 2018 - Fort Payne, Alabama. Exhibited by Rosa Lee Massengale Weaver.

Last Call for the APA National !

By Paul Monteith

The American Poultry Association's 145th Annual Meet and Convention will soon be upon us. The host club, the North American Poultry Breeders have been working hard to bring you a top notch show in Shawnee, OK, November 17- 18, 2018. Our show will be held at the Heart of Oklahoma Exposition Center.

We have a great line up of judges from across the continent ready to pass judgement on your birds. They include Dave Anderson CA, Tom Carey FL, Lewis Cunningham OH, Mike Dooms OR, Rick Hare NY, Jeff Halbach AZ, Tracy Hill TX, Troy Laroche Canada, Bill Patterson MI, Jonathan Patterson IN, Amanda Smallman CA.

We have 11 breed club Nationals as well as many regional, district and state meets. Saturday night we will have a banquet followed by the APA General membership meeting. The highlight of the night will be long time APA members being honored for their years of service to the exhibition poultry world.

For further information regarding the show please check out our webpage. northamericanpoultrybreeders.com or check us out on our FaceBook page. Our email is northamericanpoultrybreeders@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing you and your birds in Shawnee, OK.

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APA News October 2018

Time for another month's article and I feel like I am running out of things to say! Summer is ending and fall seems to be in the air. The fairs are winding down and the fall show season is getting underway. The months of October and November are busy times in the exhibition poultry world with many of the larger shows occurring during these months. Everyone has all of those young birds to be shown for the first time to see if their breeding programs have been successful. I hope everyone has managed to raise a champion.

The APA is pleased to be offering for sale three books by Christine Heinrichs. The titles of these books are The Backyard Field Guide to Chickens, How to Raise Chickens, and How to Raise Poultry. At the time of this writing the cost of these publications has not been determined but will be available on the website. All three books contain a wealth of information, especially for the beginner.

Our Annual Meet in Shawnee, Oklahoma is fast approaching and I know the show management is looking forward to a

large show. I hope everyone can get to the Annual and enjoy a relaxing weekend of fun and fellowship with our fellow fanciers.

The Yearbook has been a success and Dave Anderson and his Committee are to be congratulated for a lot of hard and time-consuming work. So far, I have had to send second copies to about twenty people who did not get theirs with the first mailing. Most of these have been address problems but for some there is no known explanation for what happened. I very much appreciate everyone's patience and by the time you read this every member should have received their copy. If you did not, please give

me a call at 740-876-4845 and we will get one to you.

I will close for now and get this off to the presses. Good luck and, as always, let me know if there is anything you need from the APA Office.

David Adkins,
APA Secretary

2018 ABA NATIONAL MEET & Ohio National Update

We want to let everyone know that the Ohio National Catalogues are in the mail and also on the website at ohio-national.org.

Remember: Entry deadline is October 7th. The Scholarship entry deadline is also October 7 (scholarship application is on

**RUTH LEE
CARON**

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our website. The hotels are filling fast - you can book a room at one of two hotels. Be sure to tell them you are with the Ohio National Poultry Show to get a better rate. Fairfield Inn & Suites - 614-568-0770 or Comfort Inn - 614-791-9700.

Set-up is Sat & Sun, Nov 3 & 4, 9am-4pm Lunch is provided—all are welcome.

We hope to see all of you at the show on November 10-11. If you have any questions email me at tejpoultry@gmail.com.



I hope everyone has been working on keeping their chicks and grow outs in condition. It's almost too late if you wait until the last minute when there are too many damaged feathers or maybe the lice or mites decided to chew on some of those feathers. The term "conditioning" seems to be a confusing term to many people. They confuse it with the term "grooming". There is really a huge difference to me.

To me conditioning mean keeping the chicks and especially the grow outs in prime condition. This could be just watching for those little dudes that want to argue, pick on their brothers or sisters by picking at their feathers or when they get older starting to think about breeding, so they are always

trying to hop on the pullets back therefore shredding feathers, or as some of the young cockerels like to do, show their dominance in the pen by arguing with every male in sight. Of course, there are a few females like that too. Then you toss in keeping a good quality food available that helps them develop those bodies and new feathers and clean fresh water available 24/7. When they start to mature we have to be prepared and take time to check them out daily and if need be separate them into different pens or even put them in a cage to settle them down. It's up to us to check them often or just take time to treat them for lice and mites. Even if they don't seem to have them, if you either dust or spray, on somewhat of a regular basis you can prevent them from getting these nasty little bugs. I swear raising and showing poultry is not for the lazy or weak of heart.

Grooming is a whole other aspect of raising and showing poultry of any type. If you have

kept your birds in condition, grooming can be quite easy (time consuming but easy overall). Grooming is the big preparation before heading out to a show. This includes bathing, trimming beaks & toenails, either removing or trimming those with spurs so they don't tear up the judge's hands or arms, cleaning the dirt and poo off the feathers, especially round the vent. This is done at home of course but there is also the last minute "touch up grooming" once you get to the showroom. Shining up the legs, comb & wattles, making sure

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the vent feathers are as clean as possible.

Think of these two terms when it comes to yourself. You keep yourself in condition when you take a shower and wash your hair but then you start that special grooming, you trim your nails, blow dry your hair and style it, brush your teeth, if you're a girl you might put on make-up or lipstick, you guys gel your hair or comb it to the style you like, shave, put on after shave, etc.

All of us look at these terms a little differently but this is my take on them.

There is a very good video by Frederick Fick on our Official YEPA Facebook page where he has shared his conditioning cages/pens.

Best regards,
Doris Robinson

Licensed Judges

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*Sometimes when we
Just sit still
Beauty finds us*
– Mary Davis



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Prize Birds and Prize Judges & DO FOWLS THINK?

By Ellen Jacque

A visitor to the Oakland show remarked that she could not understand why people were so cast down when they failed to win a prize, because the judging was only one man's opinion and the next judge might award the prize very differently. I have just read where an Eastern judge gave 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes to three hens, A, B, and C, which belonged to the same man. A week later, the same judge gave the same hens prizes like this: C 1st, A 2nd, and B 3rd. So, to those who were disappointed this year, I would say, your birds are just as good as they were last year, when they won. Get to work and beat the other fellow next time - not in a spirit of spite or envy, but with the same feeling you have for your antagonist in a game of chess.

Do birds understand what is said to them or in their hearing? I think so. Listen to this: I sold a Bantam cockerel at the Oakland show and the purchaser and I stood before the coop while he panned the bird's future. Half an hour afterwards, he came to me saying the cockerel was sick and sure enough, the little rascal stood humped up in one corner with every symptom of being in the last stages of some-

thing or other. I brought him home with me that night and he was as frisky as a kitten. The next day at the show, his malady returned and I brought him home and put him in the yard. Within 5 minutes he had whipped an 8 pound Orpington and was looking for more worlds to conquer and not once since has he shown any signs of

illness. This is my diagnosis. He didn't want to be sold away from his mates, he didn't want to go to the Petaluma show, and when he found he was to do so many things he was opposed to, he had a nervous collapse.

Reprinted from: The Pacific Fanciers Monthly, February 1910.



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Getting Started With:

BANTAM AUSTRALORPS

by Marguerite Lindemann

I fell in love with bantam Australorps in 2010 after getting my first trio. They then became my passion. I had always liked the looks and disposition of the large fowl Australorps, with their gentleness, and beautiful beetle green sheened black feathers.

When I first decided to exhibit poultry 12 years ago, I knew that I was physically unable to lift, carry, or wash a large fowl. So I decided to show bantam Australorps. After all, they were in the Standard. Little did I know how hard they would be to find. There wasn't an Australorp club then, and neither the APA or the ABA could suggest anyone who might have them. I finally saw a show page ad in the Poultry Press with a picture of a bantam Australorp, and a name! I contacted Jim Fegan, in Michigan. He didn't have any left for sale that year, but gave me Gary Rossman's phone number in Wisconsin. I was able to buy a trio from him and had them shipped to Arkansas. I was so excited when the post office called, for me to pick them up. I was all ready to have a big flock of bantam Australorps running around the yard.

From the first day, those birds charmed me. The pullets chattered to each other all day,



and the cockerel stood guard over them. The two pullets matured at different times. One matured at 5 months and the other one didn't mature until she was over 8 months old. Then they looked alike. I was fortunate to be able to get quality birds. The type was good. I've only had to cull for color, white tips, 3 times in all the years I've had them. The beetle green sheen was excellent.

After the second show I took them to, my cockerel got real sick, and had a high fever. I found a vet and he was diagnosed with West Nile Virus. The vet told me that the cockerel might not make it. I gave supportive care and antibiotics, to prevent a secondary bacterial infection. For the next 10 days I spent most of my time in a recliner with him on my lap. He was fed Pediasure with an eyedropper. Then I made little balls of rescue feed and Pedi-

asure. After 10 days he started eating on his own, but the dish had to be held right under his beak. It turned out he had neurological damage. He could only stand with his head between his legs and then would walk a few steps backwards, and then fall down and could not get up. It was 2 years before the neurons in his brain regrew themselves. The 2 pullets would talk to him, and seemed to miss him.

After the vet said I could, I put him back in with the pullets for a few hours a day. This stimulation was good for him and it helped with the neuron regrowth. The pullets actually would help him get up when he would fall down. Surprisingly, at the end of 2 years, he was back to being fertile. In the meantime I contacted Mr. Rossman to see if I could buy a cock or cockerel but wasn't able to. I contacted Mr. Fegan and he sold me the very same cock that

I had first seen in the Poultry Press. I was thrilled.

I had been hatching out chicks under some mixed breed hens - - the determined kind that will sit on a half round rock for 3 months trying to hatch it! A few years ago my husband won an incubator as a door prize and gave it to me. I'm not good at using the incubator. I have much better hatches using broody hens. However, the bantam Australorps don't go broody. I would like to try and breed the broodiness back into them. I don't know if it is possible, but no one has told me it's not.

I have been working on getting the offspring of the two strains I started with to look alike, consistently. I've been able to get the tail set higher on the females. Plus, most of the females now have the cushion eliminated. I've been trying to get the backs of the males a bit longer, but not too long. I want a better sweep to the top line of the backs. I still have to work on their combs, as they all have thumbprints. So as they get older the back of the combs curve to the side a bit. I've made my mistakes over the years. The biggest one was in not reading the SOP correctly. I studied the breed description until I knew it by heart. But, I didn't study the front of the book well enough. The part about disqualifying, and defect points, and details about colors. I missed the one about black toenails and lost most of them (black toenails).

So I'm working on getting that back while keeping the bottom of the feet white. All remains a work in process.

I have had some success at the shows. My best win was a show near Tupelo, Mississippi where one of my pullets got reserve champion. She sure strutted her stuff for the judges that day!

I have also had my share of predator problems. The worse being hawks. They always seem to kill the best birds. I did get a Great Pyrenees, a year and a half ago, and I haven't had an attack since. Now if I can just get rid of the rat snake problem. I lose quite a few juveniles to these snakes. The birds are too big for them to eat, but they still kill them and try to swallow them. I had a mouse problem and finally had to use the Just-One-Bite poison to get rid of them. The mice kept biting the wing and tail feathers on my birds. For 2 seasons my birds feather condition was horrible. However, I did lose 3 birds that ate some of the mice that had eaten the poison.

About 6 years ago Jim Crain bought a trio, and a pair of my Bantam Australorps from me. Since then, we have both been working on improving the breed. His insight on breeding poultry has been very helpful to me. I had just started breeding poultry in 2009, and didn't know that much about it yet. I still have a lot to learn. Jim and I do get birds from each other from time to time. We are both

trying to get more people interested in raising them.

This year has been the worst hatch since that first year. The weather was crazy here in Arkansas. My broody hens didn't go broody, so I had to use the incubator. While using the incubator we had several power outages, then I got sick. I only had 7 chicks hatch and 6 of them had the back part of the comb inverted. Most of the eggs had developed chicks in them, but they died before peeping. I have only seen inverted combs before in Rosecombs, and never in single comb birds. I think I will set some more eggs this fall and raise the chicks inside in my sewing room this winter. Or—there is always next year.

My great grandson has started showing poultry. He will be 4 in November. I let him pick out a bantam Australorp pullet last April. He picked out a very nice one, and is learning how to handle her with mixed results. His hands are still very small. Hopefully he will want to continue my bantam Australorp project when he is older. I know I will be having additional breeds here as he decides he wants to have different and more breeds, as all kids do.

If anyone wants more information on the bantam Australorps or the project feel free to contact me at magmi-chon@suddenlink.net or 870-268-1590 (landline) or write to: 168 county Road 347, Bono, Arkansas, 72416.

Creating the . . .



NATIONAL SEBASTOPOL GEESE ASSOCIATION

By Laura Huey, Co-founder

Let me start by introducing myself . . . My name is Laura Huey and I live in Michigan. I have raised Sebastopols for the past 5 years with my mother. As her health has declined I became more involved with her geese, eventually pretty much handling the flock full time (the flock is technically a 'gaggle'). Mom is still referred to as the head honcho, but for the most

part I currently do all the decision making.

In 2016 I attended our first show - walking in to that show I was winging it. I had so many questions on the preparation of showing geese. I had shown chickens in 4-H for years but hadn't shown a goose before. Fortunately, people at the show were very friendly and willing to answer my questions, and I

thank them for that. I walked away from that show hooked; I also walked away from the show with many more questions.

There were just a handful of Sebastopol Geese at the show, actually the number of chickens was much greater than waterfowl. This got me questioning: What I could do to increase participation? So many



NSGA District Meet, Twin Tier Poultry Club, September 8, 2018 Bath, NY. Best Medium Goose and Best of Breed (Hen). Owner: Becky Weaver, Lebanon, PA

thoughts began to run through my head, and then came the thought of; is there a club for Sebastopol Geese? I began to research and came up empty handed. That is when I reached out to a few friends who were also Sebastopol Geese breeders. After months of group chats, phone calls, and reaching out to more people, The National Sebastopol Geese Association went live in the spring of 2017.

The main focus of the National Sebastopol Geese Association is to not only bring awareness and promotion of the breed, but also to teach about the raising of the breed, improving the breed, and increase the participation at shows.

The hardest part of building a club was forming a constitution and bylaws. Numerous drafts were written, and submitted to the other founders of the club. Even to this day we are amending the by-laws. There are also many days that we considered giving up. If we had, there wouldn't be the progress that has been made thus far.

The National Sebastopol Geese Association is an associate member of the APA and as of this date has held state meets and district meets. The club also has an active website, Facebook page, and Facebook group. The club is working towards a national meet in the year of 2019. The club also has apparel available for purchase online.

Running a club isn't easy; it's

a third full time job. The first job is the actual job we hold; the second is our farms/flocks. Third is the club, and with that comes the struggle of keeping it up to date. It seems that the hardest part of keeping it active is keeping active members, but as long as people have a passion for putting on meets, talking about the club, promoting the club and breed, then the club will hopefully continue growing.

SOME TIPS:

Selecting your gosling or adult bird - - There are plenty of places to find your gosling. There is a area on the National Sebastopol Geese Association webpage that has a list of breeders, there is also a Face Book page, Sebastopol for sale and wanted.

When selecting your gosling, there are many things to look for such as rounded head, and body. Looking at the parent stock will also help. One key factor to learn is to look at the body structure not just the feathering. The amount of feathering can be deceiving as to good body structure. Learning to look past the feathering and picture your bird "naked" comes with experience and talking with others.

There are also several different colors of Sebastopols, such as grey, buff, blue, lavender, saddlebacks, and splashes. At this time the white is the only color that is recognized by the American Poultry Association. Hopefully that will change in



Bath, NY Meet—Champion Junior Goose—Sierra Walsh, Wantage, NY.

years to come.

Showing this breed is pretty easy. Everyone has their own practice of preparation, but the biggest is conditioning, same as many do for other breeds of poultry. The word conditioning can be misconstrued as just grooming from my experience, and talking with others.

Conditioning really means hours of work put into choosing good genetics, housing, feed, etc. The biggest thing to remember when conditioning your goose is it starts from the day they hatch.

Feed is a tricky one with Sebastopol's and many find it a

hard to source as many poultry feeds are higher protein. It's recommended to feed 16% *or less* protein, as the Sebastopol goose is disposed to twisted wing tips. It has been found that feeding 16% protein or less, and selecting for good genetics will help to eliminate this issue. Many of the breeders cut their feed with oats, usually 50/50. Some use rolled oats while other prefer steamed oats. They also need lots of grass available. They can have treats such as Romain lettuce, grapes, carrots, watermelon, and pumpkin. Recommended is Romain lettuce as iceberg offers little nutritional value, such as niacin, which is very important. Your geese can basically have anything that's low in iron and non-citrus. It's also very important for goslings to get a good start. They can start on regular non-medicated chick starter, but about week 1-2 you want to switch to adult low protein diet. We also add steamed oats or even oatmeal to the chick starter to cut the protein level down.

One of the biggest questions we run into is **housing** for the Sebastopol Goose, as many worry how they handle the colder weather. Most breeders recommend (because the Sebastopol cannot fly) that they have predator proof housing at night, and as long as they are able to acclimate themselves to the weather, and have shelter they tolerate the colder weather just fine. They can even do well

in Alaska!

As with other animals, fresh **water** is necessary for the Sebastopol. With waterfowl you should make sure that the water source is deep enough for them to dunk their head all the way down. Keeping the water area clean and dry is a daunting task in itself. Most people use plastic kiddie pools. A pond is not necessary. The Sebastopols tend to "play" in their water rather than swim.

How do you keep a white goose clean for a show? This is easier than most people think. Many that show their white Sebastopols don't **bath** them like you would a chicken, they just provide clean water and usually a week or two of daily changes to the pool water works just fine to get them ready to show. If the white goose is extremely dirty, you can bath a few days before the show and provide clean and dry bedding within the coop. The question of "do you comb them" was just recently asked. I explained - do a finger comb. The long curly feathers tend to break and or knot up easily. Finger combing the bird will allow for any broken feathers or "knotted feathers" to be dealt with as each person sees fit.

Transporting: Recommended are the plastic airline dog carriers, or show boxes, as wire cages can break the feathers easily.

At the show, upon cooping in there isn't much to do. As most are white it's recommended to



NSGA District Meet, Twin Tier Poultry Club, September 8, 2018 Bath, NY. Reserve Best Medium Goose, Reserve Best of Breed (cock). Karen Walsh, Wantage, New York.

keep plenty of fresh bedding in the coop, keeping it clean and dry. Also, provide clean fresh water daily, and feed.

Most importantly at the show, socialize, make new friends, ask questions, and enjoy yourself. Also, I recommend bringing a lawn chair, drinks, and snacks as it can make for a long day.

For further information, The National Sebastopol Geese Association can be found not only on Face Book but also at: www.nationalsebastopol.com



This Chicken Vaccine Makes It's Virus More Dangerous

By Nsikan Akpan

*Reprinted from 'Science'
Jul 27, 2015 3:01 PM EDT*

The deadliest strains of viruses often take care of themselves — they flare up and then die out. This is because they are so good at destroying cells and causing illness that they ultimately kill their host before they have time to spread.

But a chicken virus that represents one of the deadliest germs in history breaks from this conventional wisdom, thanks to an inadvertent effect from a vaccine. Chickens vaccinated against Marek's disease rarely get sick. But the vaccine does not prevent them from spreading Marek's to unvaccinated birds.

"With the hottest strains, every unvaccinated bird dies within 10 days. There is no human virus that is that hot. Ebola, for example, doesn't kill everything in 10 days."

In fact, rather than stop fowl from spreading the virus, the vaccine allows the disease to spread faster and longer than it normally would, a new study finds. The scientists now believe that this vaccine has helped this chicken virus become uniquely



virulent. (Note: it only harms fowl). The study was published on Monday in the journal *PLOS Biology*.

This is the first time that this virus-boosting phenomenon, known as the imperfect vaccine hypothesis, has been observed experimentally.

The reason this is a problem for Marek's disease is because the vaccine is "leaky." A leaky vaccine is one that keeps a microbe from doing serious harm to its host, but doesn't stop the disease from replicating and spreading to another individual. On the other hand, a "perfect" vaccine is one that sets up life-long immunity that never wanes and blocks both infection and transmission.

It's important to note childhood vaccines for polio, measles, mumps, rubella and smallpox aren't leaky; they are considered "perfect" vaccines. As such, they are in no way in danger of falling prey to this phenomenon.

But the results do raise the questions for some human vaccines that are leaky — such as malaria, and other agricultural vaccines, such as the one being used against avian influenza, or bird flu.

Marek's disease has plagued the chicken industry, it causes \$2 billion in losses annually for fowl farmers across the globe. The virus attacks the brain, spawns tumors in the birds and comes in different varieties or "strains", which are classified as "hot" or "cold" based on their brutality.

Andrew Read, who co-led the study, had heard about the severe effects of the hottest Marek's strains before his lab started studying the disease about a decade ago, but even he was surprised when he finally saw the virus in action.

"With the hottest strains, every unvaccinated bird dies within 10 days. There is no human virus that is that hot. Ebola, for example, doesn't kill everything in 10 days," said Read, who is an evolutionary biologist at Penn State University.

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/science/tthis-chicken-vaccine-makes-virus-dangerous>

The History Of Poultry

Four thousand years is a fair old time for chickens to have been domesticated. They originate from the Red Jungle Fowl (*Gallus gallus*, a small pheasant of Asia) and have provided us with eggs, fresh meat and feathers plus some truly horrible traditional medicines. Domestic ducks are all descended from the lascivious ubiquitous mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and domestic geese from the tame and confiding greylag (*Anser anser*) which in return for a little corn would have provided meat, eggs and excellent fletching for arrow flights from the moulted wing feathers when the bow was a common weapon. Turkeys originated in Central and North America and the various pretty colours come from the different subspecies ranging from Mexico up to New England.

Chicken provides 20% of the world's animal protein at a reasonable price – what a huge debt the human race owes the humble domestic fowl. But don't you want to know where your eggs and poultry meat have come from? Wouldn't you like the thrill of producing and eating your own free-range fresh eggs? The taste and texture is something everyone should be able to experience. Truly fresh equals less than 24 hours old and a new-laid egg is



obvious when you find you have difficulty in cleanly peeling off the shell from a hardboiled egg – the white sticks to it. And what fun to have different coloured or sized eggs for different members of the family. If you are concerned about how industrial poultry is grown, you can even grow your own poultry meat: You know what it has been fed on, you know it has had a very good life and there is no stress at slaughter as the bird is in familiar surroundings. And the taste is magnificent – what need then for those spicy sauces which are promoted to give supermarket chicken some sort of taste?

The popularity of poultry continues to increase, and even the newest and smallest farm parks and tourist attractions have a few fowl for added interest. When these are pure

breeds, suitably labelled, it fuels the enthusiasm for others to take up the hobby. Not only is feeding made easier, there are many firms supplying suitable housing and equipment designed for the best welfare of the birds, and advances in veterinary research ensure that healthy stock is normal. Legislation concerning poultry tends to change with epidemics or scares and may apply both to commercial and backyard flocks. Records of poultry keeping go back centuries, but it is only since Victorian times that Standards have been written down for specific breeds. Survival of the fittest was definitely the main criterion in the past and breeds like the Old English Game fowl would have been bred true to type for hundreds of years. Five-toed fowls were mentioned in AD 50 and those with crests ap-

peared in paintings and writings from the fourteenth century onwards.

After cock-fighting was outlawed in England in 1849 the idea of exhibitions took root as a way of continuing the competition, but in a modified form. The first Standards were produced in 1865 for just a handful of breeds to try to maintain uniformity; it was not until the turn of the century and the importation of breeds from the continent and America that a volume of any size appeared. The Poultry Club has always been the guardian of the Standards, but the Standards themselves are delineated by the specialist Breed Clubs. None of the Standards have changed radically over the years, but slow changes have been introduced when necessary, following approval by the Council. It should not be easy to alter the Standards, because it is a human failing to tend towards the biggest or most exaggerated feature at the expense of the true type of a bird in order to win. This 'fashion' can sometimes be instigated by judges and followed slavishly by those wanting to win at all costs. It would behoove some judges to re-read the Standards occasionally.

It is more difficult and takes a longer time to become a judge now, quite rightly. An aspiring judge may take only one judging test per year (written and practical examinations) and it then takes seven years to complete the various sections. Even then,

a judge is expected to have kept and bred, as that is the true source of experience, as many breeds as possible if he or she wishes to attain the highest level of Panel A. The Breed Club shows are good training grounds, as there are always those around whose level of experience is higher and much can be learnt.

The Poultry Club, a registered charity, has a voluntary Council of 16 elected members, a Chairman elected from the Council and an elected President.

*Reprinted with permission:
Kate Dickinson, General Secretary for the Poultry Club of Great Britain.*



Poultry Show History

By 'WIKIPEDIA'

"The first poultry show in the United Kingdom was in 1845 in London. The exhibition of poultry was promoted as an alternative to cock fighting in the United Kingdom following the banning of such activities in 1849. The first poultry standard in the world was produced in 1865, the British Poultry Standard.

The height of the poultry showing in the United Kingdom was during the late 19th and early 20th century, when The Crystal Palace Poultry Show were held at The Crystal Palace, the largest attracting 10,533 filled cages, the actual number of birds unknown as many were pairs. Charles Darwin regularly attended and showed pigeons at these from 1857, and Queen Victoria exhibited her Cochins in 1846 at the Royal Dublin Show. The Crystal Palace Great Poultry Shows continued to run with great success until the Crystal Palace burnt down.

The first poultry show in North America was held on 15-16 November, 1849, in Quincy Market, Boston, surpassing expectations to receive over 1400 entries however it proved a debacle as no poultry standard existed and judging was cancelled as there was no way to decide what was a purebred. A poultry association was organized afterwards and another show attempted the next year, which attracted 12,000 birds. Overcrowding led to judging being cancelled again.

In 1854 P. T. Barnum staged a National Poultry Show at his Barnum's American Museum, which the guidelines of are unknown. It wasn't until 1874 that the American Standard of Perfection was adopted by the recently formed American Poultry Association, creating the first poultry standard in North America.

Coop/Barn Idea

By Doris Robinson

There have been several interesting discussions and pictures of people building their dream chicken coops and conditioning pens. I thought I would share a few pictures of a friend's ideas and dreams coming into being.

Construction photos are of a new chicken barn/coop being built by the Deese family in Florida. They have five children, all involved in raising and showing poultry and even a few rabbits. They have started out with a metal carport that is 20' x 20'. Another 30' is being added on as building progresses.

Glenda says that this is something that dad (Scott) has been wanting to do for a long time. When it's finished it will have 16 chicken pens, a feed room, conditioning pens, a wash room and 3 small pens to house some rabbits.

Living in Florida the whole building doesn't need to be totally enclosed but it will be enclosed and secured from predators. They are putting tin along the bottom section, buried about 18 inches in the ground and they are using 2" x 4" welded wire another 4'.

Bottom picture on the right page is a picture of a finished project that Scott and Glenda have used for the idea to build their own "chicken palace".

I noticed on this picture that the builder added on each side of the open paneled area's a roll of tarp that can be unrolled to cover the sides of the building during inclement weather. That's a very good idea in Florida where there is normally a good amount of rain and windy weather. It may even work in some of the northern states to help keep cold winds off the birds. Up north it would take much more consideration if building something like this. The possibilities are endless.





For this barn the builder has added a tarp that can be unrolled to cover the sides of the building during inclement weather.



It's MEGA SHOW Time Again!

The 2018 3rd Annual MEGA SUPERBOWL Poultry Show is rapidly approaching and will kick off on Saturday, November 3rd in Norman, Oklahoma, at the rapidly expanding and improving Cleveland County Fairgrounds. The show is sponsored by and conducted by the Canadian Valley Poultry Club and the Canadian Valley Junior Poultry Club in Norman, Oklahoma. Entry Deadline is a postmark of no later than October 17th, 2018, or until we run out of our 5,500 coops.

When we created this show we didn't want to become just another chicken show. We worked diligently all year long

to make the MEGA SHOW something unique and ultimately different! We are working to make our poultry shows much like they were in the early Madison Square Gardens days, i.e.- fun, exciting. The MEGA Show is an Event!

This year's show is much like our past events plus we have added several seminars dealing with various poultry related subjects. The complete list of seminars and events will be posted on our web site soon at www.poultryshowcase.com and on our Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/OklahomaPoultryShows/>

The main event in the MEGA SHOW is the crowning of our Over-All Super Grand Champion of the Show. Unique about the MEGA Show is that all Junior Champions along with all Open Champions are pitted against each other to win this prestigious crown, MEGA SHOW SUPER GRAND CHAMPION!

These are some of the highlights of the MEGA:

- * Crowning of the 2018 MEGA Super Grand Bird
- * Free Meet and Greet for

our exhibitors on Friday night. 6 pm-8 pm or until the food runs out.

- * Various poultry related seminars (see our web site for more details)

- * Awarding over \$17,000.00 in Premiums and Awards

- * Outstanding National Shows featuring Seramas, Langshans, Marans, Phoenix, Barred Rocks and several more breeds.

- * 1st Annual ALFA National Championships. ALFA (American Large Fowl Association) is a breed club designed entirely to promote the preservation and promotion of Large Fowl. This year's inaugural event will award \$1,000.00 in additional premiums for ALFA members only. These awards are in addition to the spectacular prizes in the regular MEGA Show. In other words a show within a show.

- * New and Egg-citing Egg Show

- * HUGE and unprecedented MEGA Raffle and MEGA \$2,600.00 6'x12' Trailer Raffle.

- * Free Junior Showmanship with Championship Buckles and Awards

- * Outstanding Bird Sales Area. And much more...

Our MEGA Host Hotel and Show Headquarters this year is the newly remodeled La Quinta Inn located on Ed Noble Parkway in Norman.

See our web site for more details and our MEGA Poultry Show room discount rates. www.poultryshowcase.com or email: apajudge1009@aol.com





ALFA Basics

- 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 may show in any ALFA show as long as their membership is done properly.
- Absolutely 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. Member-

ship can be obtained at anytime during the year but only those members who are current at the show’s deadline date may be eligible to compete for that particular show.

- ALFA membership is good from Jan. 1st through Dec. 31st each year and ALFA members can compete at any and all ALFA shows during that year as long as they meet the deadline rules for each show.

- 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 that are sold during the year less any special events ALFA may sponsor. District Shows will be awarding 50% of their District’s Membership Fee’s 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.

ALFA Rules of Competition

All ALFA member’s birds will receive a sticker for their coop tags at check-in indicating the breeders birds are entered by an ALFA member.

All Top 10 ALFA Finalists will be placed on the ALFA Champion Row.

If any ALFA bird is also selected as a Class Champion for the

regular show they will remain on the regular show’s Champion Row until the regular show judging is complete. At that time they shall be moved to the ALFA Champion Row for Final ALFA judging by the committee.

ALFA Finals will be judged by committee. The committee should consist of 1 APA Judge and 2-3 experienced and seasoned Breeders of Large Fowl. No Member of this ALFA Judging Committee may have any birds entered in a particular ALFA event when they are on the Judging Committee. The top five -ten winning birds will be determined by the final votes cast by this committee. All other lower placings will be determined by the ALFA committee. In Larger ALFA Shows the finals may consist of up to the Top 25-40 ALFA birds. The Top Ten should always be moved to the ALFA Champion Row for final judging. Placings of 11th and lower will be determined by the ALFA Committee or a portion of this committee.

These rules may be modified and/or amended during the year as the organization grows, learns, improves and advances.

For more information contact Richard Peters at our website:
www.poultryshowcase.com

ALFA Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/alfapoultry/>

Email:
apajudge1009@aol.com



Summer Fair Photo Contest



JUNIOR

1st place winner

Exhibitor: **Kade Sallee**, 9 years-old.

August 2, 2018: Young Riders 4-H Club,
Show Phelps County Fair, Phelps County
Fair Grounds in Rolla, Missouri.

Barred Plymouth Rock Pullet - Grand
Champion Pullet, and overall Grand
Champion of Show.



HONORABLE MENTION JUNIORS



SENIOR

1st place winner

Exhibitor: **Julie Couch**

August 9, 2018: Clark County Fair,
Ridgefield, Washington

Nankin Cockerel, Reserve SCCL .





Westen & Colten Schabler
Indianapolis, Indiana



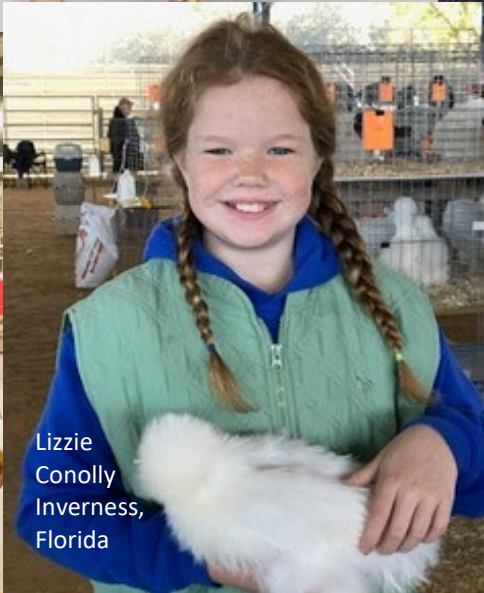
Morgan Bettencourt
Newman, California



Vanessa Fransen
Minot, North Dakota



Elizabeth Reinke
Wheatland,
Wyoming



Lizzie Conolly
Inverness,
Florida



Alina Goldie
Nevada, Iowa

JUST SOME RAMBLING

By Brian Reeder

I am not terribly excited about my chickens right now, or chickens in general. I work with them, feed them, and water them. In the past, I would have been heading into hatching season at this time. Now, I don't do any artificial hatching. I only hatch under hens and I don't want chicks now, so I am gathering all the eggs and discouraging setting. When I decide I want chicks, I'll start to leave eggs and let the hens do their thing.

I have found for the last few years that I just don't have the energy to bother with artificial hatching. If a given hen won't set and raise her own eggs, I won't hatch her eggs or perpetuate her genetics. By doing this for years, all of my hens are really good setters, having come from generations of hens that could set and raise their own broods. Of course, I no longer hatch in any large quantity. I am not doing any type of research that would require large numbers of birds, nor do I any longer have breeding aims that require large numbers of birds to make selection of a small number of birds with a given set of traits. My birds are fairly set for the traits I want them to have and so there is just no need to produce large numbers anymore.

Over the years, I have selected my lines for high disease resistance, vigor, calm disposition and the ability to thrive on mostly green food, except in the coldest weather, so my birds are very easy to care for. They are now much more a nice hobby, rather than an out of control obsession. I don't miss the days of the out of control obsession that fed my research with poultry. For many years, I honestly felt like a chicken slave. Now I have some chickens, and I don't give them a lot of thought, to be honest.

For instance, this month, about the only thing I can say about my own chickens is that I have fed them. That's about the extent of my excitement where they are concerned. I suppose my years of research and working with thousands of birds has made me a bit jaded. I suffer from the "been there, done that" syndrome. Some months, a particular theme will excite me, other months about all I can say is that I fed my chickens. I think any of us who have worked with chickens for a long time find themselves in this frame of mind from time to time. I call it "chicken jaundice".

I have been working with

poultry for nearly forty years now. I hope those of you who still burn with excitement can forgive us long-term breeders when we don't seem very excited. A lot of the time, we really aren't.

My grandparents worked with chickens nearly their whole lives. I remember my

grandmother, in her final years when she didn't any longer have chickens, once saying that you couldn't run fast enough to give her a chicken. I couldn't sympathize with that thought then, but now I can understand it. I

"I think point of reference is one of the things most lacking for most poultry breeders.

"They got this or that breed and don't even realize what garbage the breed is because they have never had a really good chicken . . ."

don't want rid of the chickens I have, but I surely don't want any more.

A few months ago someone contacted me offering some very rare Japanese chickens. There was a time I would have done most anything to get them, but when that offer was made, the person was horrified that I had absolutely no interest in them. Then the person asked why I didn't want them and I believe he was angry when I said I didn't want to ruin my own lines with poorly selected stock. I didn't mean to offend. I was grateful for the offer, but what I said was true. You see, I have spent two decades developing lines of birds that don't

have any major problems, birds that can be kept easily and don't have any major issues that require extreme measures of care, housing, reproduction or medication. To then bring in birds that have not been selected in that way, I would set my own lines back and have to go back to breeding large numbers of birds to get the tiny number or re-segregants that would match my own lines.

I am not a preservationist. I think it is fine for people who are, but I'm not. I have very specific parameters of what I want in a chicken.

When I need to outcross, I know what lines to go to in order to get the results I want without ruining my lines in the process. My magic bullet is the Rhode Island Red for large fowl and Partridge Wyandotte Bantams for bantam outcrosses. Not every line will be of equal value, but I have found none that were just terrible. With the RIR, I prefer the commercial lines available through the hatcheries. I know there are a few good lines of exhibition RIR out there, but it is so much easier to order 25 pullets as day-old chicks and then select out two to four of the best ones and use them for an outcross. The RIR are a unique breed that was developed through outcrossing and back breeding, and all the many years of both showing and commercial breeding hasn't managed to ruin them. Now that is a good breed!

I am not sure why the Par-

tridge Wyandotte Bantams are so good, but they are. Perhaps the breeders of that breed in the past just wouldn't tolerate poor-quality birds? That is enough to keep a breed good, but from the condition of the vast majority of breeds, you can see that few breeders have been so intolerant! With that said though, there are many breeds that I love, I just couldn't tolerate the problems they have and didn't want to spend the decade or more it would have taken to fix them. They could be fixed, mind you, but it would require a real effort and a real intolerance of poor chicken traits, so I suspect it will never happen and in a hundred years, many of the currently popular breeds will be but a memory. That's ok too, I suppose, as things change and the only thing you can count on is change.

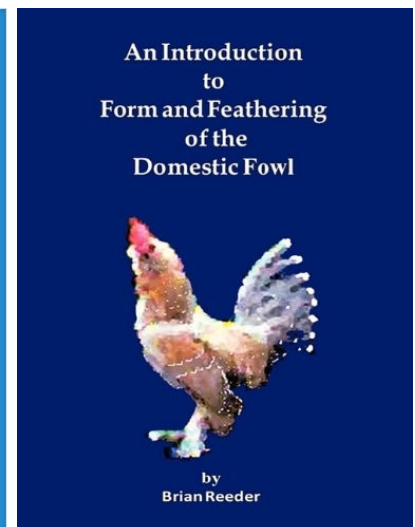
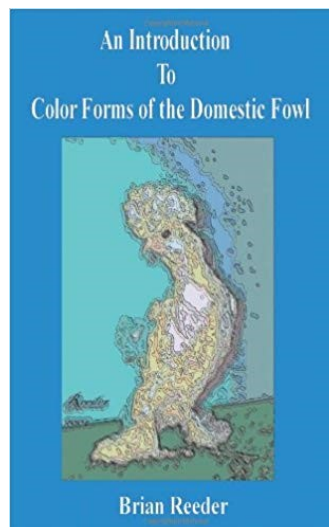
If you had asked me a few decades ago if the RIR was going to end up one of my favorite breeds, I would definitely have answered, "No, something so common?

Not a chance!" But then the folly of youth is often based in ignorance, and the lack of a real point of reference. I now have much less

youthful folly and much more experience from which to have a point of reference. I think point of reference is one of the things most lacking for most poultry breeders. They got this or that breed and don't even realize what garbage the breed is because they have never had a really good chicken . . . I would recommend to all beginners to get some Rhode Island Red large fowl (preferably from one of the catalogs) and/or some Partridge Wyandotte Bantams in order to gain experience of good quality, easily raised and bred birds that have strong fertility, production and disease resistance. I would caution though, you probably won't enjoy many other breeds after gaining that experience.

(Condensed and reprinted from Exhibition Poultry Magazine April 2012.)

Brian Reeder's books on poultry genetics can be ordered at major bookstores including Barnes & Noble and Amazon.com



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