

# Exhibition Poultry®

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

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Conditioning Show Birds - Purebred,  
Production, or Commercial? - Breeding  
and Raising Call Ducks, and more



2018  
Delmarva Poultry Fanciers Club  
Supreme Show Champion

Photo By Jim Zook



# Exhibition Poultry®

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**On The Cover . . .** *That's something to crow about! Jim Zook's Black Breasted Red Cubalaya cockerel won Supreme Show Champion at the Delmarva Poultry Fanciers 2018 Spring Show, held March 24th and 25th in Harrington, Delaware. Photo by Jim Zook.*

## Exhibition Poultry Magazine®

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Exhibition Poultry Magazine®

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## From The Editor:

Exhibition Poultry Magazine used to be regional and cover shows and topics primarily from the south central United States. With this issue we have gone nationwide, and welcome input from coast to coast, including our Canadian neighbors to the north. Pretty much, if the region is covered by the APA or the ABA, we'll be there.

Andrew and I had a great trip to the APA National in September 2017 – our first trip to New York - and I had a great show with Best and Reserve of Breed in both large fowl and bantam Araucana. I am very much looking forward to this year's APA National Show in Shawnee and a trip to the ABA National the week before may even be a possibility. I love photographing poultry and the best place to see those top birds is at one of our Nationals.

Andrew is my much-loved husband of almost 20 years and he handles all our IT work, leaving me free to focus on the actual magazine and the advertisers. We would both like to thank everyone who 'liked' our Facebook page during March. During that month we reached over 8000 people just on Facebook, and the magazine website is averaging over 1500-page views per month.

Since announcing the return of Exhibition Poultry Magazine, I have heard nothing but 100% positive comments about the restart of this publication. Thank you to everyone for that! Each issue will still be free to download, and this time around we are offering hard copies in full color – mailed First Class, to paid subscribers.

Happy Easter to everyone. I hope you enjoy this issue. It's nice to be back.

Ann Charles  
Editor/Publisher



April 2018

## APA News

By David Adkins, APA Secretary  
<http://www.amerpoultryassn.com/>

Greetings from the little town of Lucasville, Ohio. Things here in the APA Office are getting more and more busy as spring approaches. I hope all of you have your breeding pens set up by now and are beginning to hatch those future champions we will see at the shows this fall.

It has been a surprise to me to find out the amount of merchandise the APA sells through mail orders and the website. Especially interesting is the number of the Standard of Perfections that are sold and shipped. My brother and I went to Dick and Pat Horstman's this past weekend (March 2 & 3) and picked up the remaining merchandise, shipping materials, office supplies, etc. that were there so I could begin dealing with the orders. It took me until Monday evening to finish unloading the trailer, so I did not process any orders until Tuesday. I am writing this on Thursday of the same week and have shipped three cases of Standards. If you have not already done so, I would encourage each of you to go to the APA's website

and check out the items that are available. The small trinket boxes are very nice and would make an excellent gift for a birthday, anniversary, etc., especially if you put a little cash in the box! We also have a large variety of shirts and hats as well as the popular APA keychains. If you see anything you like, they may be ordered through PayPal on the website or you can print off the order and mail it to me using the address on the site. My goal is to ship orders twice a week so as to get your merchandise to you as quickly as possible.

I have also had some involvement with the Yearbook as several individuals have sent in their payments. Dave Anderson and his committee are working hard to put out a quality product for the membership. Consider taking out an ad to promote your breed, sell those extra birds, or even to tell another member how much you appreciate the support they may have given you with breeding advice, as a traveling companion, or just to say hello if you don't see them very often.

The Semi-Annual is rapidly approaching and I know the Dayton Fancy Feather Club is working hard to put on a top-notch show. If you have never been to Greenville, it is a quaint little town and the facilities they have to offer for the show are excellent. Take time to stop by the APA table and introduce yourself. I have been involved in showing poultry for a long time and in a lot of different capacities, but still don't know everyone.

I know I discussed this in last month's article, but please keep the office updated if you move,

change your email address, etc. Even if you update your profile in Member Planet, an email to me will help to make sure we have your contact information correct.

I know as I learn this job I will make many mistakes, but rest assured I will do my best to correct them when you bring them to my attention. Just remember, I can't fix it if I don't know it is broken. I hope all of you have a great spring show season!



April 2018

## ABA Happenings

By Karen Unrath, ABA Secretary  
<http://www.bantamclub.com/>

Greetings, I am sending congratulations to all our 2017 Master Exhibitors and Master Breeders. Master Exhibitor awards are awarded to ABA members completing 20 starred wins (defined as a win in a class of 100 or more birds)

Congratulations to: #487 Sherydan Walker, #488 Craig Hansen, #489 Dodge Cowart, #489 Matt Martin, #489 Garry Wells, #492 Dog River Bantams, Lisa Clark & Mark Podgwaite, #492 Steve Ledford, #494 Craig Fields, #494 Tyler Messer, #494 Kate Morreale, #494 Dennis Myers, #498 Kenneth & Kenley Byess, #498 Wesley L. Fail, Fail's Farm, #498 Phillip G. Harriman, #498 Michael Spencer.



Master Breeder awards are awarded to those ABA members, who over a period of not less than five years, accumulate 20 starred wins (wins in a class of 100 or more) in a single breed and variety. The 2017 winners are: P & G Silkies, Shorty Polston & Judy Gantt, SC/NC - Bearded White Silkie; Tom Roebuck, Jr., VA – Black Cochin; Craig Hansen, IA – Black Cochin; Dwayne & Melody Jonas, TX – White Old English Game; Dwayne & Melody Jonas, TX – Black Breasted Red Old English Game; Dennis Myers, OH – SC Rhode Island Red; Dwayne & Melody Jonas, TX – Silver Sebright; Kane's Feathered Friends, Tom & Briget Kane, VA - Red Pyle Modern Game; Kathy Troxell, OH – White Crested Black Polish; Jacob Bates, AR – SC Rhode Island Red; Douglas & King, AL – Blue Red Old English Game; English River Poultry, Stephane Laliberte, Quebec – Black Wyandotte; Jamie Parker, GA – New Hampshire; Richard & Margaret Andree, MN – Buff Orpington; Jennifer Wulff, IN – Wheaten Old English Game.

Reminder: 2018 ABA Yearbook Ads – Deadline for submission is June 1st, 2018. Available in both black and white and color.

To join the ABA, please visit our website at [www.bantamclub.com](http://www.bantamclub.com). Membership is \$25 per year, \$70 for three years, or \$100 for five years. Our mailing address is PO Box 127, Augusta, NJ 07822. Our members rave about our service and commitment to our membership. To learn more, send in your dues today and join the others in comradery and fun. The American Bantam Association has been servicing our membership since 1914!

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## National Breed Clubs



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[powerofperks41@gmail.com](mailto:powerofperks41@gmail.com)

# Oklahoma State Poultry Federation

## Shawnee, Oklahoma – December 9, 2017

### SHOW RESULTS



#### Open Show Report

##### Bantam Class Champions

Modern: Sherydan Walker, Reserve: Danny Glass. Game: Andy Barnes (BB Red OE), Reserve: Texoma Bantams (Spangled OE). SCCL: Burkhart Bantams (RIR), Reserve: Marty Abrahamsen (White Jap). RCCL: Jerry McCarty (White Wyandotte), Reserve: Gadberry's Bantam (White Wyandotte). Feather Leg: Wade & Kasey Collins (White Cochin), Reserve: Wade & Kasey Collins (Buff Brahma). AOCCL: Will Bryles (Dark Cornish), Reserve: Will Bryles (Dark Cornish).

##### Large Fowl Class Champions

American: M & J Farm (White Rock), Reserve: M & J Farm (White Rock). Asiatic: Jim Patty Zimmerman (Black Cochin), Reserve: Paul Bucella (Black Langshan). English: Fred Farthing (Buff Orpington), Reserve: Mary Muller (Dark Cornish). Mediterranean: Christian Diaz (White Leghorn), Reserve: Larry Dye (SC Black Minorca). Continental: Dodge Cowart (Bearded White Polish), Reserve: Jim & Connie Gilbert (Black Copper Marans). AOSB: M & J

Farm (Black Americana), Reserve: Ed Haworth (White Naked Neck). Champion Turkey: Moore Farms (Bronze Turkey), Reserve: Moore Farms (Bronze Turkey). Champion Guinea: Lewis Bacher (Pearl), Reserve: Lewis Bacher (Lavender)

##### Waterfowl Champions

Heavy Duck: Jacob Bates (Blue Muscovy), Reserve: Larry Dye (White Pekin). Medium Duck: Nicholas Pues (Black Cayuga), Reserve: Wade & Kasey Collins (Black Cayuga). Light Duck: Jacob Bates (White Runner), Reserve: Jacob Bates (White Runner). Bantam Duck: Todd & Emma Gates (White Call), Reserve: Monks Poultry (White Call). Heavy Goose: Jacob Bates (Brown African), Reserve: Larry Dye (White Embden). Medium Goose: Silver Spring Waterfowl (American Buff), Reserve: Silver Spring Waterfowl (American Buff). Light Goose: Jacob Bates (Brown Egyptian), Reserve: Nate Rynish (White Tufted Roman).

##### OVERALL CHAMPIONS

Champion Bantam: Andy Barnes (BB Red OE), Reserve: Burkhart Bantams (RIR). Champion Large Fowl: Fred Farthing (Buff Orpington), Reserve: M & J Farm (White Rock). Champion Waterfowl: Todd & Emma Gates (White Call), Reserve: Jacob Bates (Blue Muscovy). Show Champion: Fred Farthing (Buff Orpington), Reserve: Barnes Bantams (BB Red OEG).



Show Champion and Champion Large Fowl – Buff Orpington.



Reserve Show Champion and Champion Bantam – BB Red OEG.



Champion Turkey – Bronze Turkey.





YEPA Showmanship Winners at the Oklahoma State Poultry Federations December 9, 2017 Show – Shawnee, OK

## Junior Show Report

### Bantam Class Champions

Modern: Michael Shick (Birchen Pullet), Reserve: C-4 Farms Tatum Carter (Brown Red Pullet). OE Game: Kash Glass (Black Old English Pullet), Reserve: Carson Hobbs (Black Wyandotte Cockerel). SCCL: Michael Shick (White Leghorn Pullet), Reserve: Annie Ray Anthony (RIR Cockerel). RCCL: Kannon Merit (Black Rosecomb Pullet), Reserve: Michael Shick (White Leghorn Pullet). Feather Leg: Braiden Wade (White Cochin Pullet), Reserve: Garrett Boone (Buff Brahma Cockerel). AOCCL: Blake Bell (White Laced Red Cornish), Reserve: Braden Wade (White Cochin Pullet). American: Rance McEntire (SC RIR Cockerel), Reserve: Calvin Johnson (White Plymouth Rock).

### Large Fowl Class Champions

Asiatic: Hannah Feverborn (Black Langshan Pullet), Reserve: Hannah Feverborn (Black Langshan Pullet). English: Rance

McEntire (Buff Orpington Cockerel), Reserve: Savannah Lee (Black Orpington Pullet). Mediterranean: Hannah Feverborn (SC Black Minorca Hen), Reserve: Carson Harrison (SC Black Minorca Hen). Continental: Eric Waterman (Welsummer Pullet), Reserve: Paige Balesky (Black Copper Marans). AOSB: Carson Harrison (Black Sumatra Hen), Reserve: Serra Chavez (Wheaton Shamo Pullet).

### Water Fowl Champions

Heavy Duck: Jackson Moore (Gray Rouen Old Duck), Reserve: Jackson Moore (White Pekin Old Drake). Medium Duck: Cassidy Clagg (White Crested Old Drake), Reserve: Jackson Moore (Black Cayuga Old Duck). Light Duck: Kash Glass (White Runner Young Duck), Reserve: Kash Glass (Gray Runner Young Duck). Bantam Duck: Payton Stuart (Gray Call Old Duck), Reserve: Payton Stuart (White Call Old Duck). Heavy Goose: Jackson Moore (White Embden Old Gander), Reserve: Teagen Hames (Brown African Old

Goose).  
Medium Goose:  
Addison Bryles  
(American Buff  
Old Gander),  
Reserve:  
Addison Buff  
(American Buff  
Young Gander).  
Light Goose:  
Calvin Johnson  
(Brown  
Egyptian Old  
Gander),  
Reserve: Calvin  
Johnson (Brown  
Egyptian Old  
Gander.  
Champion

Waterfowl: Cassidy Clagg (White Crested Old Duck), Reserve: Payton Stuart (Grey Call Old Drake).

Champion Large Fowl: Carson Harrison (Black Sumatra Hen). Reserve: Rance McEntire (Buff Orpington).

Champion Bantam: Michael Shick (Birchen Modern Game); Reserve: Michael Shick (White Leghorn).

Champion Turkey: Jackson Moore (Bronze Old Tom). Reserve: Jackson Moore (Bronze Young Hen).

Junior Show Champion: Michael Shick (Birchen Modern Game) Carson Harrison (Black Sumatra Hen)

*(Show results and photos courtesy of Jan Geis.)*







## Exhibition Turkeys

### A Dying Breed

*By Ruth Caron*

The steady decline of turkeys on the show floor is happening at an alarming rate. We must ask ourselves why? I am writing this because people will sometimes try to say that turkeys give their chickens diseases, mainly Blackhead, which IS NOT TRUE. It is the other way around.

MOST turkeys die from bad feed, filthy pens and not being wormed twice a year with Safeguard or a wormer that kills all worms. Turkeys can and may beat your chickens to a pulp. I have had that happen sometimes if they mess with them when they are eating. Some turkey hens are mean and will single out a bird and may harm it.

Some people don't like turkeys cause they're big and eat a lot, require more space, and in some

places, there are ordinances against them. I feel some of these reasons are why turkeys are slowly disappearing off farms and rarely seen in shows anymore. Growing poults (the term for young turkeys) are fragile birds that need clean water always and nutritious feed. Old timers say turkeys keep away Marek's disease.

#### **Part 1 of 4 - The Beginning:**

Choose poults from stock that are bred for vigor, and are free of

defects such as crooked spines or toes. Strong poults will often survive an infection that would kill weaker ones. No amount of care in the world can change an inherited defect in a bird. If you buy eggs or poults, find a breeder who has high standards in the selection of his breeders - one whose stock has a good history for being strong and sound. If you hatch your own eggs, it will pay you to select your breeding flock from your best birds, ones that are





free of all defects. Leg band prospective breeders at about 4 to 6 months; and select enough to allow for culling later. When you finally pick your breeding flock, examine everyone for defects, and discard any that are abnormal in any way. Smaller birds and birds that are picked on by the flock need to be culled. I have found that turkeys know when a bird is ill and will pick on it.

Build up your birds' natural defenses by providing a safe and clean environment and proper feed. I raise my poults in large wire bottomed brooders for the first several months.

Feed and water poults as soon they hatch. Watch to see that poults begin to eat and drink. If some don't, teach them by dipping their beaks in the feed or water. Avoid crowding. The shy ones get shoved around and don't get a chance to eat or drink. Crowding may also result in injuries. Keep proper brooder and room temperatures

Keep your poults comfortable. Give poults needed ventilation. Plenty of fresh air can help to keep them healthy. Provide shade in hot weather wherever they are. I have found that trees give the best shade. If you don't have them, provide artificial shade. You can use aluminum or wood panels on 4X4s. Give enough shade to avoid crowding and keep feed and water close by. Handle turkeys gently. Don't toss birds around or handle them roughly.

Always use clean, dry litter - I use pine shavings. Don't let it mold while in use or during storage. Select and store feed to avoid mold. Feed a BALANCED ration I feed my turkeys

medicated game bird. I plant grass seeds every year for the turkeys to eat. They love green grass. Turkeys need lots of water. Feed and water poults as soon they hatch. Watch to see that poults begin to eat and drink. If some don't, teach them by dipping their beaks in the feed or water. Avoid crowding. The shy ones get shoved around and don't get a chance to eat or drink.

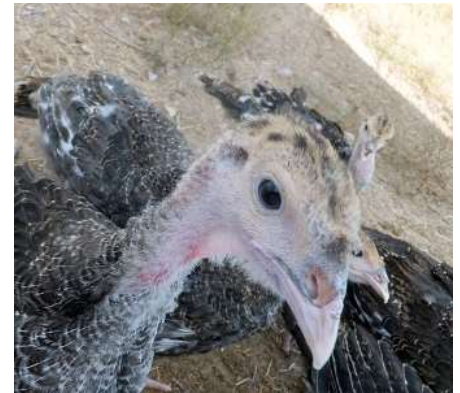
Try to keep it cool during hot weather.

Don't use any drugs unless you must. I never use them, except for wormers, I use Safeguard.

Next issue: Part 2 of 4

Photos by Ruth Caron.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/carondesign>



## THE NAPB PRESENTS

### 2018 MEETS

#### NATIONAL MEETS



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# A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO EXHIBITING POULTRY

By Susan Mouw

It's early Fall; the leaves are drifting down from the trees and the air has that crisp, but not yet cold, feel. You have just finished your "chicken chores" for the morning and decide to take a break and just sit and watch the youngest members of your flock squabbling over who gets to the treats you left first. These, the youngest of your flock, are chicks that you ordered last Spring from a reputable breeder and you've enjoyed the last 6-8 months of sitting and watching them grow up. Now comes the big decision – to show or not to show?

That same breeder that sent you those chicks in the Spring told you about this great online site, [poultryshowcentral.com](http://poultryshowcentral.com), to learn about upcoming shows. You checked it out and learned there is a show next month right near you and you're seriously contemplating sending that entry in. But, where to start? What do you need to do between now and show day? How in the heck do you figure out that entry form?

For those of us who didn't grow up at the poultry shows, this is a familiar refrain. "I want to go, but I don't want to look like a total newbie" "I think my birds are nice enough, but I'm just not sure." Or "I've heard about horrible things the

chickens at shows can give my chickens. How do I protect my birds?" We've all been there.

Let's start at the beginning. You've already got a head start, because you chose to get your chicks this past Spring from a reputable breeder, and not a commercial hatchery. You did your research and asked around. You may even have joined the Breeders Club for your breed. There is a good to excellent chance that at least some of those cute youngsters in your grow out pen is show worthy. But, how do you choose?

First, if you haven't already done so, invest in the American Poultry Association or the American Bantam Association Standard of Perfection. If you are going to show your birds, this is just about the best investment you can make. If you're going to breed those birds, it is a must have. Read the Standard for your breed, get familiar with the

pictures posted of what is correct and what is not correct for your breed and your variety. Don't forget those first 40 something pages of general information! We all start with some general ideas about what our birds are supposed to look like, but until you've studied that Standard, and seen the birds that most closely adhere to it, you haven't yet trained your eye to "see" the imperfections - or the good things - that are there. Trust me, they are there – even the top winning birds are not perfect. We're not going to get into how to choose your best birds in this article, because every breed, and even within a breed, each variety can be different. The best way to learn how to choose your best birds – for showing and/or for breeding – is to find a mentor in your breed that can help you along. Barring that, study the Standard. Look at the birds that win when you go to that first show. Ask the judge when judging is complete what he/she liked or didn't like about the birds you brought. You'd be surprised at how much you can learn in just a few minutes spent with the judge that has handled your birds and knows your breed. You might also be surprised at how many judges are willing to take that time; most will, and it never hurts to ask.

Now you've selected the best birds from that grow out pen, with some help from a seasoned exhibitor or breeder, and you're wondering, "What's next?" Conditioning really starts at hatch, but we'll assume that you've been feeding your birds a good feed and they are all healthy. You've been giving them treats, so they



The ABA Bantam Standard and the APA Standard of Perfection



know you and don't go crazy every time you walk into their pen. The next step is getting them used to being handled and to get them to "pose" for you. You can have the best bird at the show, but if the judge can't get it out of the pen, or it's fluttering around like a wild thing, it's not going to place as well as it could have.

For this next step, you're going to want a separate cage set-up, where you can individually keep a bird, talk to it, handle it, give it treats. If you're starting well enough in advance of the show, you can do this individually with each bird, but ideally, you'll want several individual cages. First, you not only want those birds to get used to you, you want to get them used to having other birds next to them, too. Some people even leave a radio on in the area where those cages are, so the birds get used to "noise".

Since you've already got your birds used to treats, now you want to restrict those treats to only what they will take out of your hand. Just tossing them in the cage won't train them. If you just toss in the treat, they'll be facing you, or towards the front, and the best view you can give a judge is a profile (side) view. So, put your hand in the cage, show the bird the treat, but make them come forward and turn to the side to get that treat. Learn about breed specifics before you start this, too. Some breeds, like my Ameraucanas, should have a slightly elevated shoulder; so, when I'm giving them their treats by hand, I don't want to bring my hand down where they are crouching or leaning too far forward to get it. I want a little bit

of reach, but not much. Different breeds have different requirements, so remember about studying that Standard of Perfection you've already purchased.



Nice side profile of black Ameraucana cockerel. This bird was Champion AOSB and Reserve Champion Large Fowl at a recent North Carolina

Once they are used to the treats, start handling them. When you reach in to get a bird, don't reach over their head! Chickens are prey animals and many of their predators come from above; so, anything coming at them from above will make them skittish. Reach in and put your hand underneath them. I'll just add a side note here. When I first start cage training a bird, I'll go out there in the evening, after they're on their roost and just reach under their breast and scratch them. I've had wild eyed cockerels nearly fall asleep in my hand after just a few nights of this, so when I reach in during the day to take them out, they just think they're getting another scratch. Maneuver their legs so each leg is between separate fingers. Reach in with the other hand along their side and

place your hand on their back, then lift them up and out of the cage. You can use that hand across their back to help hold their wings down, so you don't get battered and they don't break a wing feather. Remember the first rule of taking a bird out of a cage – head first, always! Head first when you're bringing them out, and head first when you're putting them back.

For the first few times, just take them out, put them back in, and give them a treat. Of course, make them take that treat from your hand and make sure your hand is to the side. This will get them used to turning sideways immediately after the judge has put them back in the pen – in effect, posing for the judge. As they get more and more used to the handling, you can add spreading the wings, running your hand along the keel, even holding their head to look at comb, eyes, wattles, or in my breeds' case, beard and muffs.

At some point, you're going to want to get those entries in. Download them, or ask the show secretary to mail you, a copy of the show catalog. The catalog has all the necessary information about that show: Location, show times, when entries will be accepted and when entries "close" (or will no longer be accepted), who the judges are, when you can check in, what are the test requirements (more on that later), what the fees for entering are, and much more.

Next issue: Part 2 - How To Fill Out Show Entries.



# THE FOUNDATION OF CONDITIONING SHOW BIRDS

By Rip Stalvey

Whether it's a building structure or a football program I think we can all agree they won't last long without a strong, solid foundation. Have you ever given any thought to what the foundation of conditioning show birds might be? The best conditioning programs are built on a foundation of good husbandry practices and it makes all the difference in the world.

If you go to poultry shows you've probably seen exhibitors who regularly have well-conditioned birds on champion row. You may have even wondered what's their secret. Well, it's really no secret but rather those exhibitors have learned that sound husbandry practices can give them a bit of an edge in the showroom. Long before the coop training, washing and primping begins, good exhibitors have been practicing good husbandry to get their birds in top shape for the showroom.

Conditioning begins before the chicks are even hatched. It begins with the breeders that produce the eggs. To hatch strong healthy chicks, you have to have strong healthy breeders. This means healthy breeders that are free of internal and external parasites and are fed a well-balanced diet. Breeders must have plenty of room and access to fresh water at all times.

Good incubation husbandry is important too. You can't produce strong chicks in a dirty incubator. Regular cleaning and sanitizing of

your incubator helps get chicks off to a good start.

Brooding is another critical step to well-conditioned show birds. Brooders must be kept clean at all times. The importance of feeding a well-balanced, high quality feed and constant access to fresh water goes with saying. Overcrowded brooders never give good results so making sure the chicks have plenty of room is critical; it can also help prevent feather picking.

Rearing high quality young birds requires sound husbandry practices as well. Providing young

birds with plenty of room to grow in quarters that are clean and dry is critical. Regular checks for parasites and diseases will give you strong vigorous birds. The removal of young birds that show disqualifications or serious flaws provides more room for the rest of the birds. As does ruthless culling of inferior birds that won't move a breeder's program forward.

Once birds have matured it's then time to select the very best for coop training and conditioning before the show season. Exhibitors that regularly win at

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shows know the importance of handling their birds, so they become accustomed to the process. They also know it greatly ups their chances to teach their birds to pose in their cage, so the bird shows well.

If you want to up your show wins, consider upping your husbandry practices. It will make a difference.

**Authors Note:**

Here are links to two videos on good husbandry practices that I highly recommend you watch. They were done by my friend Mike Omeg, a breeder of high quality New Hampshire large fowl. They are the best videos of their kind that I've seen. It will take a little over an hour to watch both of them, but they will help you learn how to up your husbandry practices.

Incubation, Hatching & Brooding:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbLRMk\\_hkRD0&t=403s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbLRMk_hkRD0&t=403s)

Growing Out

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rft\\_xTQaBBw&t=2192s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rft_xTQaBBw&t=2192s)

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# *PUREBRED EXHIBITION OR PRODUCTION/COMMERCIAL?* **CLEARING UP THE CONFUSION**

"Why was my bird disqualified for being a commercial?", "What's the difference between a commercial and a purebred?" "The sign at the feed store said purebred." "But, my chicken is so pretty..." These are just a few of the questions that need to be answered for the beginning poultry exhibitor.

Purebred exhibition birds, commercial layers and commercial meat birds all have their place in the many county and state fairs across this country. These fairs are where most birds are exhibited by 4-H, FFA youth and poultry enthusiasts and thus are enjoyed by all. Without poultry exhibitors, some in the public would never see a live chicken, duck, goose, turkey or guinea. Because the general public is not "poultry savvy", it is our duty as exhibitors to be correct when we enter our birds. Nothing is more confusing to the public than to see a coop card that has "DQ" written on it.

Usually one will first realize that there is a problem when filling out the show or fair entry form. "Is my bird a purebred exhibition, a commercial layer, or a commercial meat bird?" To answer this often-asked question, let's take a look at

these very different areas and how to enter them properly.

## **PUREBRED EXHIBITION:**

These are birds that are bred especially for the sake of being pure in their lineage and are held to certain standards that are outlined in great detail by the two North American organizations: The American Poultry Association and The Bantam Association. These two organizations have created the standards for each pure breed of bird and have published them in their guide books. They continue to make careful decisions when new breeds or varieties apply for acceptance. The American Poultry Association, (APA) was organized in Buffalo, New York in 1873, making it the oldest animal association in the US. Through the years they have published a book called "American Standard of Perfection". This book details through pictures and written words what each breed and variety of chicken, duck, goose, turkey and guinea should look like. It lists all of the defects and disqualifications for each breed. This book is what Judges use to determine the best bird in a show, breeders use it to know breed types, buyers use it to know which

bird they should purchase, and showmanship participants use it to learn everything they can about their particular breed. If one owns, breeds or shows poultry of any type, this book is a must.

In 1917 a group of bantam poultry breeders met and formed the American Bantam Association, (ABA). This group has dedicated its membership to bantam enthusiasts and publishes a detailed guide book called, "Bantam Standard". This book is the ultimate guide for anyone choosing to show bantam chickens or ducks as it is the one that judges use when determining the winner of a show. It tells what the breeds should look like and lists all of the defects and disqualification of each one. Breeders, buyers, and showmanship participants use it as a guide for all these activities. If you do any of these, this book is a must-have. The APA Standard includes large fowl and bantam chickens, waterfowl, turkeys and guineas. The ABA standard describes only bantam chickens and ducks. They also include some breeds and varieties of bantams that have not been approved by the APA. While all of this sounds confusing, it really is not in the showroom as the judges will handle all of that. These books are like the bible for poultry and like the Bible, they will do you no good if left unread.

When purchasing a purebred bird to show for the first time, the surest way to buy quality and not get "duped" is to attend an open poultry show of some size, say over 300 birds, look at all of the birds on display, decide on a breed you like, get the show list, find the



exhibitor and talk. Exhibitors are usually thrilled to see someone express an interest in their birds and will be a great resource to you; even better, talk to several.

Do not be afraid to ask about defects, disqualifications and how the exhibitor places at shows. HINT: First time buyers should never buy from the feed store, order from a hatchery catalog, buy on-line or buy from an auction until you are much more familiar with the breeds and the standards. The safest way to make your first purchase of a purebred bird should be from a reputable breeder in a face to face meeting.

Taking the time to study the breed standards and becoming familiar with common diseases and parasites are such important steps for any exhibitor. They cannot be emphasized too much, yet are often overlooked.

When showing a purebred bird at any show, make sure it matches either standard as closely as possible. Most chicks purchased from a farm store or catalogs do not meet the "standard" for purebred poultry. Go point by point and compare your bird to the standards...feather pattern, feather color, eye color, comb type, slope of back, tail set, etc. When you are satisfied that your bird does match and that it has nothing that would disqualify it from being shown, then enter it as a purebred in the show.

Remember, the bird with the fewest defects will be the winner of the show....and yes, judges do know the standards. These birds can be large fowl, bantams, waterfowl, turkeys, or guineas and should be at least 5 months old. Some breeds mature later and are not ready for showing until they are much older. The breeder you purchased them from can help answer this question. Yes, they lay eggs, but they are not commercial egg layers and yes, you can eat them but, they are not as tasty or as tender as you would expect. On a fair entry form, these birds are should be listed in the purebred area, never in the commercial section. If you enter them correctly, the show staff will have your cage ready and in the proper area when you arrive.

#### **COMMERCIAL EGG LAYERS:**

Egg production birds are ones that have been bred to lay heavily in any condition. They are used by the commercial industry as well as home flocks for laying large eggs. The most common breed of commercial layer is the white Leghorn. Because this breed is sold in feed stores and hatcheries across the country and is listed in the APA American Standard of Perfection as a purebred, a great deal of confusion exists. But the purebred type and the commercial type are worlds apart. The

purebred birds have been selectively bred for many years to conform to certain standards.... commercial birds, although the same breed, have been selectively bred for production. Therefore, the body types of these two are very different. The exhibition Leghorns are large and long, full breasted, and possess wider and deeper bodies. The commercial leghorns have been bred over the years to have smaller bodies yet have large abdominal cavities well suited for heavy egg production. They have the ability to lay 300+ large white eggs a year on minimal amounts of feed; regular laying machines.

Commercial brown egg layers are generally specialized cross-bred birds that go by any number of names: red sexlink, black sex-link, sil-go-link, red star, comet, Rhode Island Red, etc. Many of these names have been chosen by companies to distinguish their own personal breed of brown egg layers from other companies' birds. Most of the confusion for exhibitors and from the public comes from the Rhode Island Red breed. Remember that purebred exhibition birds have been selectively bred for many years for exhibition and they possess the qualities that are listed in the standards while the commercial strains have been selectively bred for heavy egg production and do not possess the qualities



Single Comb White Leghorns.  
Commercial-hatchery type on left.  
Exhibition Purebred type on right.  
*Photo compliments of Cindy Kinard.*

that would allow them to be shown in a purebred class. Many feed stores sell, and hatchery catalogs carry “purebred Rhode Island Reds” when in fact they are the commercial strain and not exhibition birds at all. The commercial types are shorter bodied, rounder, are orange to red orange feathering and many times have black or white flecks on their feathers. The purebred exhibition Rhode Island Reds are long, rectangular, and have a very deep mahogany coloring with black tails. The commercial types are very heavy layers of the beautiful and much coveted large to jumbo brown eggs. Because these birds eat more, and require more space to keep, their eggs cost more. It is simply a matter of economics.

All commercial type layers should be entered in the commercial section of the show and never entered as an exhibition purebred. They should also be in production (laying) at the time of showing.... remember this is a commercial class and their commercial value is egg production. The judge is judging these birds on abdominal capacity for production...so they should be young, laying, healthy, alert, clean disease free and parasite free, and have a large abdominal cavity. The judge will not be using either

standard to judge these birds; production is the name of the game here. Although some fairs will allow male entries of some commercial breeds, it is the female that is the real competitor. These birds are large fowl only as bantams lay smaller eggs and have no commercial value.

There are many other breeds of chickens that are popular with backyard poultry lovers that want some pretty layers running in the yard. They are pretty chickens but remember, they usually are not show birds, if you get them from other places other than an exhibition purebred poultry breeder. Some of the most popular are Dominiques (sometimes called ‘Dominiquers’). They have a rose comb, which is completely different from a Plymouth Rock although they look alike to the untrained eye. Barred Plymouth Rocks (sometimes called just Barred Rocks due to the stripes on the feathers) have a single straight comb. Orpingtons (a pretty buff color), Brahmas (a pretty black & white). Then there are the “funky” looking chickens such as Polish (they have a funky hat or crest on the top of their head), Langshans that have feathers on their feet, Faverolles (they have 5 toes, ear muffs & a beard, feathers on their feet & a

multitude of colors in their feathers), Speckled Sussex (they have white spots all over their mahogany colored feathers). Don’t get confused. These are beautiful birds but unless you get them from an exhibition purebred breeder they MIGHT NOT be show birds that meet the “standard” of the American Poultry Association and, they are not a commercial breed that is used on layer farms to put eggs in the grocery store, so many fairs won’t allow them to be shown in the commercial production class.

### COMMERCIAL MEAT PENS

Some shows allow exhibitors to show poultry meat pens. These are crossbred birds that have been bred for extremely fast growth on minimal amounts of feed. Historically they were bred from the white Cornish and the white Plymouth Rock breeds but have long since have become a much different type of bird. They are white feathered because of the pigment that can be left on the carcass after slaughter. Dark feathers leave dark spots where each feather was plucked whereas white feathers leave no markings on the carcass. The actual breeding lines of the commercial hatcheries that deal with these birds are closely guarded. These



Large fowl Jersey Giants. Hatchery type on left, Exhibition Purebred on right. *Photo compliments of Sher Jennings.*

Here's an example of the difference between a Jersey Giant HEN that was purchased as a chick from the feed store, and a Jersey Giant PULLET purchased as a chick from a good breeder. Both birds had been raised in optimal facilities, and received the best care and feed. This picture was taken at a show and the youth gave us permission to share it. The story has a happy ending. He was picked up by a breeder who agreed to sponsor him with birds and mentorship. This youth has had birds on Champion Row at every show he's entered ever since.



birds provide the world with so many ready and reasonably priced products: Cornish game hens, fryers, lunch meat, chicken strips, ground products, parts and pieces and roasters. Fast food vendors rely heavily on these products. All of this comes from the same birds; we just harvest them at different ages. The Cornish game hens are only 4-week-old at harvest, while the oldest bird is only 12 weeks old when they are harvested for the large oven roasters. All the other poultry products that we consume are harvested between these ages. These birds cannot be allowed to get older because of their body weight. They can grow so large that their legs cannot support their body and they can no longer stand.

These birds are sold as meat birds at feed stores and from hatcheries all of the time and make an excellent food source for anyone desiring to raise their own meat and fill their freezers. Ideal harvest time is between 5 and 7 weeks when a dressed bird will weigh 2½ to 3 lbs. When a fair allows a showing of meat pens they generally will provide all of the exhibitors with 10 or so day old chicks 6-7 weeks before the fair. The exhibitor is responsible for all areas of raising these birds and then will return to the fair with 3 to 5 birds to enter in a “meat pen”. While these birds must be clean and healthy, they are basically judged on the amount of meat that can be harvested from each one.

When entering this type of show, use your widest and meatiest birds and try to match them so that they all look alike. It is not usually advised to mix

pullets with cockerels in the same show pen because of size differences. Again, make sure that these birds are healthy, clean and alert. The largest, meatiest, clean and most well-matched entry will be the winner. These birds are to be entered in a meat exhibit only...never in a purebred exhibition or a commercial egg production class. Remember, they

are only 12 weeks old at the final harvest, so they never lay eggs. Properly entering your birds not only proves that you are knowledgeable, but also that the general public is educated about poultry. This is a win-win situation.

*(Article courtesy of the Youth Exhibition Poultry Association (Y.E.P.A).)*

<http://www.youthexhibitionpoultry.org>



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## Ten Governors Classic

March 24, 2018

Blackville, South Carolina

Judge: Jim Adkins (NC)

### SHOW RESULTS

#### Bantam Class Champions

Modern: Splash Modern Game Hen - Tania Kalisek; Reserve: Splash Modern Game Cock - Tania Kalisek. OE Game: Blue Wheaten Old English Game Pullet - Fields & Proctor; Reserve: White Old English Game Cockerel - Fields & Proctor. RCCL: Black Rosecomb Pullet - Jacob Fipps; Reserve: White Wyandotte Cockerel - Rick Cobb. SCCL: White Plymouth Rock Cockerel Rick Cobb; Reserve: White Leghorn - Single Comb Pullet - Rick Cobb. AOCCL: Buckeye Cockerel - John Womack; Reserve AOCCL: Dark Cornish Cock - Jack Boyd FL: Black Cochin Cockerel - Jacob Fipps Reserve FL: Buff Silkie (Bearded) Pullet Hannah LeBlanc. Bantam Duck: Black East Indie Cockerel - Jacob Fipps; Reserve: Gray Call Hen - Jacob Fipps. Champion Bantam:

Buckeye K - John Womack;  
Reserve Champion Bantam: Blue Wheaten Old English Game P - Fields & Proctor

#### Large Fowl Champions

American: New Hampshire Hen - Rick Cobb; Reserve: Dominique Cock - John Womack. Asiatic: Black Langshan Cock - Jacob Fipps; Reserve: Dark Brahma Cock - Wanda Simmons. English: Buff Orpington Cockerel - The Hen House; Reserve: Black Orpington Cock - Jack Boyd. Mediteranean: NONE. AOSB: Black Ameraucana Cock - Susan Mouw; Reserve: Black Ameraucana Pullet - Susan Mouw.

#### Champion Large Fowl:

Black Langshan Cock - Jacob Fipps; Reserve Champion Large Fowl: Black Ameraucana Cock - Susan Mouw.

#### Champion Waterfowl:

Black East Indie K - Jacob Fipps;  
Reserve CHAMPION Waterfowl: Gray Call H - Jacob Fipps



Show Champion: Langshan Cock  
exhibited by Jacob Fipps.

#### Show Champion:

LF Langshan Black Cock - Jacob Fipps. Reserve Show Champion: Bantam Buckeye Cockerel - John Womack

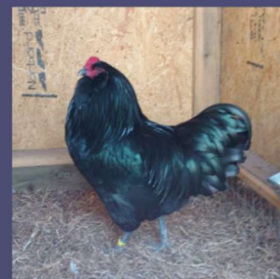
#### Junior Show Champion:

LF Rhode Island Red Single Comb Cockerel - Luke Ruffin.  
Reserve JR Show Champion: Bantam Wyandotte White Cockerel - Paul Smith.

(Show results courtesy of Susan Mouw  
Champion Photo courtesy of Cindy Phipps).



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# Breeding and Raising Call Ducks

*Article & photos by Will Bryles*

Call Ducks - Such small, dainty creatures and yet they are exhibition powerhouses at waterfowl shows. At first glance one might think that the Call Duck is the perfect waterfowl due to it being small, easy conditioning, it's likeness to remain showable for most of their lifespan and popularity with breeders, but more importantly judges. On the contrary, Call Ducks are a complete nightmare to raise; a Trojan Horse some might say. I still say this with a very strong love for the breed, and an utmost respect for them and their breeders as I raised and showed them for ten years with success even though that experience pales in comparison to many.

There are many reasons as to why Call Ducks are so hard to breed, it takes a highly skilled showman to breed and raise show quality Call Ducks and for me the largest problem was getting them to hatch. Many of the problems with hatching can be seen by the



eye. Many years ago, my good friend Pat Malone told my ten-year-old self that an ideal Call Duck has a small, slightly heart-shaped body, short legs, a very short bill, and attached to that bill is a "golf ball with eyes" (and he meant a golf ball from the front, back, and sides of the head); and as I grew old enough to read and understand the SOP the more sense his words made to me.

Anatomically those features make it incredibly hard for the ducklings to hatch. The short bill is the most destructive feature of all, hindering the duckling's ability to successfully pip. Combining the short bill with the short legs, globular skull, and heart-shaped body is like the perfect storm.

As many heavily linebred breeds are, there comes a fragility to the newly hatched bird and / or the embryos that cause a decrease in hatch rates significantly, on top of being waterfowl which require more attention than chickens when hatching in the incubator.

Call Ducks take 28 days of incubation (that's an extra week for something to go wrong) and much more humidity to survive. I was told by a very successful breeder that the best way to hatch them (unless the duck actually sits on them herself, which is rare, but

then you limit how many eggs you get) was either under a Muscovy or in a styrofoam incubator, with a bowl of water in (while still using the water tray). Also, they should be incubated on their sides, turned by hand 2-3 times a day, sprayed with water once a day, all the while using



distilled water. Once I started using these methods there was a significant increase in hatch rates.



Another useful skill to have on hand is to be able to help the duckling physically hatch, I practiced assisting chicks to hatch with breeds that had less importance than the Call Ducks. In my experience it wasn't uncommon for the ducklings to grow tired (they must work harder because of their anatomy) during hatching and give up all together, being able to assist in the process helped greatly to increase hatch rates.

The next largest problem I had with Call Ducks occurred before the whole incubating / hatching process and that is actually getting them to lay. I once had a beautiful duck that won numerous shows with, through the entirety of her life she laid two eggs... one was fertile and never hatched. The same thing happened later when I had a superb drake that had no drive to breed. This quickly taught me the rule that you must have

breeders, and show birds, and that they do not overlap nearly as much as they do in other breeds/species.

The “breeders” typically are larger birds in every perspective than the “show birds”, but still carry the correct traits as recessive genes. Many of the good show Calls I had laid very small amounts of eggs per season if any, and the drakes sometimes can’t physically breed due to their body traits if they even have the drive. One way around this is to artificially inseminate which I have always done with my Cornish and Cochins but never waterfowl. You can also try a spike of vitamins, minerals, and protein. To do so I would add in floating catfish food and Red Cell into my feeds during the breeding season and immediately saw an improvement in vitality.

Like many other breeds of waterfowl, having a water source large enough for them to swim in increases the likelihood for the males to properly breed, as certain body types can make it difficult. Another reason to have a big enough pool, other than to keep them clean and watered, is to ensure the safety of the drake. After copulation, the drake’s genitalia can sometimes take a while to retract back inside them, in the water, it can safely do so and does so quickly due to the temperature of the water. If it does not retract in time it can become infected or become encased in a wad of feces and/or dirt and not be able to fully retract until cleaned off, which can lead to a multitude of infection problems. The ideal setup is a lifted, well shaded, wire-bottom cage (wide enough to prevent

feces build up) with a large enough pool and solid-bottomed nesting area.

So, you have gone through the rigorous trials of breeding, incubating, and hatching Call Ducks; now you must worry about all the different things that hinder the quality of them. There could be an array of DQs like a missing or impassable bean (which comes from breeding for the short bill), scoop bill, angel wing, leg problems, and/or color DQs. Luckily angel wing can usually be avoided by avoiding high protein until after sexual maturity, ducklings and goslings alike were always fed a sixteen percent non-medicated chick starter at my house. With all this going on, then you must also worry about the quality of your bird’s type and color. Due to using a variety of breeding combinations used to improve hatchability and fertility, can be a large variation in type and therefore quality. Some colors can be extremely hard to get right while others are much easier. I personally only ever had greys, whites, blue fawns, and chocolates and quickly learned how hard some of them are.

Obviously, whites were the easiest since you mostly have to worry about black on the bill and cleanliness. Of the colored birds, greys were the most consistent but did have many more factors to worry about than the Blue Fawns and Chocolates. As I graduated on to the open shows, I decided to leave my Call Ducks, as well as many other projects behind to focus my

resources on my Cochins, Cornish, and Wyandottes. Many of my old projects were inherited by my younger sister who very much wanted to have, and show, a bantam duck. Since she is so young and taking on a large number of breeds at once, we decided to find her a breed that is much more self-sufficient and Mallards was the answer to that dilemma.

I hope that this article does not discourage anyone from getting into Call Ducks, instead, I hope like myself it only makes you want them even more. If you can breed, raise, and show Calls successfully then you are more than prepared for whatever else in the Fancier’s industry. Not to mention that all that hard work can be greatly rewarded with a beautiful exhibition specimen. I would love to see more people raising and showing Call Ducks, and especially some of the lesser represented varieties. Thank you for your time, I hope I could peak someone’s interest about this awesome breed, and help out those who are already raising Call Ducks with this article. I wish you all the best of luck in your future endeavors!







## What is YEPA?

YEPA, Youth Exhibition Poultry Association is a club for youth, ages 5-18 years of age. This is an education club whose focus is helping to educate youth that are interested in the exhibition poultry hobby. YEPA is sponsored by the American Poultry Association and supported by many other groups, individuals and clubs.

YEPA is a continuing educational program no matter what age a youth is when they become interested in poultry. We do not give points for showing your birds, but we do acknowledge the work and skills you put into learning more about the hobby, your favorite breed and more.

The most important part of YEPA is the A.C.E. program. When you participate in A.C.E (poultry Activities, show Competition and poultry Education) you are recognized for each level of achievement. There are 4 books affiliated within this program. Pre-Junior (geared to 5-7-year-old members), Book #1: Coop Tender (the beginning book geared to all

members no matter the age), Book #2, Flock Tender, Book #3 Flock Master. The final step in the program is called the Poultry Master.

Once you complete each level you will be awarded a certificate of achievement, an achievement plaque

and a patch for your show coat.

The second program affiliated with the A.C.E. Program is the Pre-Apprentice Judges program. If your goal is to one day become a licensed poultry judge, this is the head start program for you. To enter this program, you must have completed the level record books listed above. In this part of the program you will be assigned a certain number of clerking assignments at shows that are judged by a licensed poultry judge. This program is supported by the American Poultry Association and the American Bantam Club. The rules and guidelines are basically the same as both associations.

Once you enter this program and are successful you can apply to the APA or the ABA to begin your role as a judge's apprentice and you are given benefits not available through any other program or group.

We share study sheets with our members only that helps you prepare for showmanship competitions. YEPA sanctions some showmanship competitions. If you participate in these, you are eligible to win points and pins for your show coat. Eventually when you win enough points and if you participate in the A.C.E. program you can apply to become a certified showmanship judge.

This is a wonderful program for the serious-minded youth individual. For more information please visit our website or contact us for more information:

<http://www.youthexhibitionpoultry.org/>

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