

# Exhibition Poultry<sup>®</sup>

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

Volume 5, Number 3 • <http://www.ExhibitionPoultry.net> • March 2014

In this issue: APA News • ABA News • Geese - Part 1 • The Brown Leghorn • Sourcing Stock • Rison, Arkansas Show Results • Pryor, Oklahoma Show Results • Poultry Breed Clubs Listing • APA & ABA Judges List • Upcoming Shows, and more. . .



Pictured is a bantam white Wyandotte cockerel exhibited by Jerry Carter. He was Champion RCCL at the Rison, Arkansas show on March 2nd.

*Photo by Julie Graves*

# Exhibition Poultry Magazine<sup>®</sup>

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**On The Cover . . .** Abantam white Wyandotte cockerel exhibited by Jerry Carter. He was Champion RCCL at the Rison, Arkansas show on March 2nd. Photo by Julie Graves

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Exhibition Poultry Magazine<sup>®</sup> publishes upcoming show listings and show results from the South Central states (TX, AR, LA, MS, OK) plus those results supplied by our paid advertisers. \*We reserve the right to refuse any advertisement or article that is deemed to be of inappropriate content by the Managing Editor of this Publication.

# Upcoming APA & ABA Shows

LA - AR - OK - TX - MS

## March 2014

**March 1, 2014**

**Pryor, Oklahoma**, Mayes County Fairgrounds. NorthEast Oklahoma Poultry Show, ABA sanctioned - bantam only. Contact: Kenneth Kvittum (918) 476-5613.

**March 1, 2014**

**Rison, Arkansas**, Cleveland County Fairgrounds. Contact: Frankie Harper, PO Box 552, Rison, AR 71665; Phone: (870) 370-3427

**March 1, 2014 - Tentative**

**Lagrange, TX**, South Texas Classic, Fayette County Fairgrounds. Contact: Danny Hughes, P.O. Box 251, Garwood, TX 77442; Phone: 979-758-3471

**March 15, 2014**

**Dripping Springs, Texas**, Dripping Springs Ranch Park. 7th Annual Fancy Feathers Open Poultry Show. Contact: Jaci Kroupa, fresheggs91@yahoo.com; website: <http://www.fancyfeatherstx.org>

**March 4-23, 2014**

**Houston, Texas**, Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo. Contact: 832-667-1000 Website: <http://rodeohouston.com/>

**March 21, 2014**

**Beaumont, Texas**, South Texas State Fair. Contact: Phone (409) 832-9991, Email: [info@ymbi.org](mailto:info@ymbi.org), Website: <http://www.ymbi.org>

**March 22, 2014**

**Alexandria, Louisiana**, LSU Ag Center. Central Louisiana Poultry Club Spring Show. For more information, contact: Maddi Williams, 940-736-9491 [MaddiWilliams@yahoo.com](mailto:MaddiWilliams@yahoo.com), email: [clpoultryclub@yahoo.com](mailto:clpoultryclub@yahoo.com), website: <http://clpoultryclub.wix.com/mainpage>

## April 2014

**April 5, 2014**

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

**April 5, 2014**

**Norman, Oklahoma**, Canadian Valley Poultry Club spring show. Website: <http://www.poultryshowcase.com/>. Contact: Richard Peters, PO Box 735, Noble, OK 73068 [APAJudge1009@aol.com](mailto:APAJudge1009@aol.com)



April 12-13, 2014

Hutchinson, KS

2014 USA SEMI-ANNUAL MEET.

Contact: Danny Williamson Email:  
brahmabrahma@hotmail.com

### May 2014

May 3, 2014 - Tentative

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

### September 2014

September 4-13- Tentative

Abeline, Texas, West Texas Fair and Rodeo. Contact: 325-677-4376. Website: [http://www.taylorcountyexpo.com/taylorexpo\\_wtfr.html](http://www.taylorcountyexpo.com/taylorexpo_wtfr.html)

September 13, 2014 - Tentative

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

September 20-26 2014- Tentative

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

September 27, 2014 - Tentative

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

### October 2014

October 02, 2014

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

October 11, 2014

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

October 11, 2014


Jackson, Mississippi. Mississippi State Fair Poultry Show. [http://mspoultryshowclub.org/poultry\\_exhibitions](http://mspoultryshowclub.org/poultry_exhibitions)

October 17, 2014

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

October 18, 2013 (Special)

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



**The  
South Central  
Regional Classic**

## El Dorado, Arkansas

### The 38th Annual Spring Classic April 5, 2013

Judges: Sam Brush & Dwight Madison

Contact: Deranda Garrett, 239 Ouachita 151  
Camden, Ar 71701  
Phone: 501-580-1961  
Email: mikayla99spike@yahoo.com

## Central Louisiana Poultry Club Spring Show

March 22, 2014 ~ 2014 Louisiana APA State Meet

Alexandria, Louisiana - Judges: Sam Brush & Troy Jones

Both Junior and Open Shows ~ ABA/APA sanctioned show for all APA categories of poultry.  
LSU Campus - Charles Dewitt Building ~ Maddi Williams, 940-736-9491 MaddiWilliams@yahoo.com, email: [clpoultryclub@yahoo.com](mailto:clpoultryclub@yahoo.com), website: <http://clpoultryclub.wix.com/mainpage>

## SOUTH CENTRAL APA & ABA JUDGES

One-year listing, bold, and underlined, with details just \$12.

### ARKANSAS

Jacob Bates 614 N. Hancock St., Charleston, AR 72933 479/965-5222.

### LOUISIANA

JIM CRAIN, APA General Lic #1184, ABA General Lic #344, Bantam Duck #157, Serama #26. 318-455-9980: 160 Pelican Cove, Homer, La. 71040 (03-14)

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

### OKLAHOMA

L. C. "Corky" Higbee 6100 Cemetery Road, Noble, OK 73068-8604 405/872-7504.

Richard Peters P.O. Box 735, Noble, OK 73068 405/527-8513.

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

### TEXAS

SAMUEL BRUSH, 1009 Hillview Drive, Keller, TX 76248-4012, [sbrush@verizon.net](mailto:sbrush@verizon.net), 817.379.6475, APA General License. (12-14)

TROY JONES, 7004 Apache, Fort Worth, TX 76135, 817-237-3797, ABA General Bantam (#107) and Bantam Euck (#72) Licensed. (01-15)

James Cooper 1111 Woodbine Street, Kemp, TX 75143 903/498-7168.

Monty Fitzgerald, 1713 CR 4280, Decatur, TX 76234; 940-393-8907

Tracy Hill 10721 Truman Street, Amarillo, TX 79118; 806/622-2488.

Melody Jonas 436 CR 3605, Lampasas, TX 76650-9711; 512/556-2800.

Dwayne Jonas 436 CR 3605, Lampasas, TX 76650-9711; 512/556-2800.

STEVE JONES, 9677 Butler Lane, Poetry, TX 75160, [ghia4me@sprynet.com](mailto:ghia4me@sprynet.com), 972-636-9093, APA/ABA General License. (12-14)

Charles Mahoney 11312 Earlywood Drive, Dallas, TX 75218; 214/324-3911.

PAT MALONE, 4903 Brazowood Circle, Arlington, TX 76017, 817.478.2397, [PatMalone@pleasantrychurch.org](mailto:PatMalone@pleasantrychurch.org). APA General License, Bantam Chicken & Bantam Duck (12-14)

Jeff Maxwell Jr. 5230 Abercreek, Friendswood, TX 77546 409/258-5662.

Joe H. Osburn 296 CR 4896, Boyd, TX 76023 817/220-6261.

### ADDITIONAL STATES

JEFF HALBACH, 31601 High Dr. Burlington, WI 53105. [jeff.halbach@tds.net](mailto:jeff.halbach@tds.net), 262-534-6994. APA General & ABA General and Bantam Duck. (12-14)

DWIGHT MADSEN, ABA Bantam License #349, Duck #161. ABA District 11 Director. 17402 Locust Rd., Carthage, MO 64836. Email: [doit85@hotmail.com](mailto:doit85@hotmail.com), Phone: (417) 359-3867. (05-14)



## APANEWS March 2014

The first item on my agenda is to tell everyone how great the annual meeting in Springfield was. They had about 3400 birds in a well lit and warm building. The Northeast Poultry Club members went out of their way to make everyone feel welcome. They even had an information table set up at the main entrance to welcome people. There were activities and seminars all day Saturday including a book signing by Jan Brett. She signed books for over 3 hours and I know there were people who came to get a book signed that had never been to a show. That is great publicity for poultry shows. The Northeast Poultry Club honored Don Nelson, who is a great supporter of poultry wherever he goes and has been a great friend of the club; congratulations Don! Congratulations also go to Tom Roebuck with the Show Champion on a Black Cochon and Danny Padgett with Reserve Show Champion on a Blue Muscovy.

The directors meeting on Friday evening went very well, even though illness and bad weather kept a few from making the trip to Springfield. The minutes of the meeting will be published in the next issue of the News & Views for everyone. The board voted on accepting the White Marans into the Standard, their description will also be in the News & Views. The board also voted to place the 2015 APA Annual meet with the Pacific Poultry Breeder's to be held on January 29 & 30, 2016 in Modesto, CA.

The APA General meeting was held on Saturday afternoon at the show hall and the highlight of the meeting was to honor three fine gentlemen, Warren Carlow, Bob Hawes, and Bill Sistine.

Ballots have been coming back at a very good rate. Thanks to everyone who took the time to vote. They will be sent to the election commissioner on March 11 so we will have the results very soon. The new slate of officers will take over on April 1, just in time to attend the 2014 Semi-annual in Hutchinson, KS.

The next big trip for the office is to attend the 2014 Semi-annual in Hutchinson, KS

on April 12-13. Danny Williamson and his group have a great weekend planned for all at the "Chicken Kicken" National Meet" show. All exhibitors will receive a gift bag and a free pass to explore the Kansas Cosmosphere and discounts for the Imax shows. The host hotel will be the Ramada Inn, 1400 N Lorraine St, Huthinson, KS 67501, phone 855-809-3509. They will be having a banquet on Saturday night at the Kansas Cosmosphere catered by Good Shepherd Turkey Ranch and Krehbiels Specialty Meats.

They will be handing out the awards at the banquet. Catalogs will be mailed in mid February. If you would like more information or to request a catalog contact Danny at: phone-785-227-5149 or email to brahmabrahma@hotmail.com.

Hope those incubators are full of future champions for everyone.

Pat Horstman

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

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

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

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

**AMERICAN POULTRY ASSOCIATION**  
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## ABA HAPPENINGS

### March 2014

Hello all – March is here and with any luck, our weather will break. This winter has been a tough one on both the birds and the caretakers. From what I hear, even the parts of the country where it is all warm and toasty have had considerable challenges. If you have a story to share, please send it in to the ABA office. With your permission, I will be happy to share your experiences in an upcoming newsletter and the upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary yearbook.

Speaking of excitement, May 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for submission of articles and ads for the yearbook. We will stick to this schedule. There is many hours of work that goes into this project and we want to keep this project on schedule. It will be a special edition yearbook which will have some upgrades and hopefully a cross section of many of our top ABA supporters, clubs, and breeders taking ads. Taking an ad in the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ABA yearbook, in my opinion, should be on every ABA members bucket list!

Here are the rates: Full page (black and white) \$95; (color) \$175. Half page (black and white) \$75; (color) \$125. 1/4 page (black and white) \$40; (color) \$75. 1/8 page (black and white) \$25; (color) \$50. Judges ad (black and white only) \$35.00. CLUB Full page (black and white) \$120; (color) \$200. A club page is made up of 6 individual squares (or three double squares). The top 1/4 Page is dedicated to the hosting club. This is a great way to advertise your show and its hard working members who dedicate their time to setting up cages, and donating their time and resources to your show. This a great spot for everyone to show some support for their show!

If I sound like I am trying to sell you something... I am. I would like to make this a yearbook to remember and to honor all those who work so hard to keep this hobby a great pastime.

Now – on to the big project this year – our all new Bantam Standard is scheduled to be available this November. This is a big step for the ABA as we will be using photographs instead of illustrations. The Standard com-

mittee, led by Mr. Jeff Halbach has been stalking the show aisles with our ABA photographer, Neil Grassbaugh, looking for the best of the best. They have been compiling many many pictures and many many hours on this project. Their efforts are not going unnoticed! When you see these gentlemen, please don't forget to thank them for their work.

There are sponsorship opportunities available for this project as well. Deadline to get in on this is 4/1/2014. Sponsorships are available for \$50 - \$100- \$250 - \$500. At the \$100 and above level, you will have your name listed in the Bantam Standard as a Gold – Silver – or Bronze Sponsor in this and ALL FUTURE printings. This is a way to get your name, or your club's name, recognized as a top supporter of the ABA and of our hobby. This project will be no small task and the printing costs alone (which will be in the USA) makes this a large bite for a small club like ourselves. Make no mistake about it, you will be in great company with great people for a great cause. (Note: you must be an ABA member in good standing to qualify for this opportunity)

I would like to thank those clubs and individuals who have sponsored this project to date. Having your support and faith in the ABA is what keeps us a strong club. If you are interested in joining this group, send me an email at [bantamclub@gmail.com](mailto:bantamclub@gmail.com) or give me a call on my cell at 973-271-3335 so we can talk about it and work out the details.

For now I will sign off and wish you all a great hatching season and enjoyment with raising your beautiful bantams.

Karen Unrath

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North East Oklahoma Poultry  
 Show - All Bantam Show  
 March 1, 2014  
 Pryor, Oklahoma  
 ~Show Results ~  
 Results by Kenneth Kvittum  
 Photos by Kimjo Ford

Show Champion Black Cochin, Rock Hill Bantams. Reserve Champion Silver Blue Modern, James Miller

Champion Modern Game: Silver Blue Modern, exhibited by James Miller.

Champion Old English, Black H, exhibited by Barnes Bantams. Reserve Old English, Blue Wheaten P exhibited by Greg Garison.

Champ SCCL - White Leghorn ( C ) -- Steve & Gina Androes Res . SCCL -- Barred Rock (K) -- Rock Hill Poultry

Champ RCCL - Partridge Wyandotte ( H ) -- Leza Stemple Res. RCCL-- Silver Sebright ( H ) -- K & D Bantams

Champ Feather Legged -- Black Cochin ( C ) -Rock Hill Poultry Res. Feather Legged - - Bearded Black Silkie ( H ) - Brenda Gambill

Champ AOCCL -- White Crested Black Polish ( H ) Rock Hill Poultry Res. AOCCL - - Dark Cornish ( H )--- Emma Gates



Judge Dwight Madsen, Missouri, and Pryor, Oklahoma show superintendent, Kenneth Kvittum.



Janice Hall receiving Show Chamion Award



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# Geese

A Three-Part Series  
By Christine Heinrichs

## Part 1: Heavy Geese

Geese, long ago domesticated and a companion to human agriculture, are losing ground. Backyard chickens are popular and easy to keep, but breeding geese is a different commitment. They require lots of time, feed and space to grow and mature through their life cycle.

"The decline has subtly grown over the years, due to loss of farms, for economic reasons and the cost of feed," said James Konecny, experienced waterfowl breeder and president of the International Waterfowl Breeders Association. "There are limited flocks. The numbers have really declined."

Geese are separated into three classes for exhibition purposes by the American Poultry Association: Heavy, Medium and Light. This article will focus on the heavy breeds: Embden, African and Toulouse. The other classes will be covered in future issues.

All three Heavy breeds have been in the Standard since the first one was published in 1874. Big geese require time and space to succeed. But there's a market for them



James Konecny's exhibition African male. Photo Courtesy James Konecny.

and they are an asset to integrated farms.

All three heavy goose breeds have separate lines for commercial production and exhibition showing. It's confusing, because they go by the same names. Exhibition birds are larger than commercial ones. Exhibition Embdens stand 36 to 40 inches tall, compared with commercial ones at 25 to 30 inches. Commercial varieties are bred for quick growth to table size. They have good fertility and reproduce well.

"Compared to commercial varieties, exhibition geese are just massive," said Konecny.

Geese are generally hardy and easy to manage. They are naturally resistant to many of the maladies that afflict other poultry. Reginald Appleyard, legendary English waterfowl breeder, describes them as "being amongst the brainiest of all classes of domesticated fowls." They eat grass and weeds. They are sociable with each other and with people. They form a cohesive gaggle, the word technically correct for a group of geese on the ground, as they graze. They are a flock in flight. Domestic geese retain some ability to fly, but they need time to take off and a clear runway. With a happy home and comfortable living conditions, they are unlikely to present any problem by taking to the air.

Some geese are territorial, especially during the breeding season, and will sound the alarm when strangers approach. They are effective as watchdogs, because they announce the presence of strangers so noisily. They are protective of the flock. Geese have strong individual personalities.

"They will respond to you and have a conversation with you," said Konecny. "They make great pets even if you don't tame them down."

Domestic geese retain some wild qualities. Even wild geese tame relatively easily. Wild/domestic hybrids are not uncommon. Domestic geese, like their wild relatives, are seasonal egg layers. Chickens and some ducks have been selectively bred and domesticated to be year-round egg layers. Geese have not, although some breeds lay between 20 and 40 eggs in a season.

Embden: These are the big, white farmyard geese. Standard weights for adults are 26 pounds for males, 20 pounds for females. They are not as noisy as Africans but not as quiet as Toulouse.



African geese at Metzger Farms in Gonzales, California. Photo courtesy John Metzger.

They are excellent meat birds that require three years to reach full maturity.

"You can see your potential and what you will have at Year One," said Konecny, "but full potential will be reached in three years. You have to have patience. That's the growing cycle of these big birds."

Toulouse: Historically, this French breed was raised for its large liver, used in making foie gras. Today, the exhibition Toulouse is less desirable as a meat bird because of its extra fat.

Commercial Toulouse are popular for the table, smaller and leaner. The ideal exhibition Toulouse is low-slung and heavy bodied, with a dewlap under the chin and a fatty keel below its midsection hanging nearly to the ground. Because of this lower distribution of its body, its legs appear short.

The Toulouse was originally an all gray breed but now a buff variety is recognized and some breeders maintain white flocks.

Ganders often weigh as much as 30 pounds, although Standard weights are 26 pounds for old ganders and 20 pounds for old geese.

African: The big brown or white African geese have a distinctive knob on their head, black in the brown variety and orange in the white, above the top bill. A buff variety, with black knob, is being raised but is not yet recognized for exhibition. They stand more upright than other geese, and have long, swan-like necks. Standard weights for exhibition birds are 22 pounds



for old ganders and 18 pounds for old geese. Like the other breeds, commercial varieties are smaller, more like Chinese geese, their cousins in the Light classification. African geese are more likely than the other two heavy breeds to be interested in having a relationship with humans. They are also the most likely to be good setters.

"Even though I don't spend a lot of time with them, they stay pretty tame," said Konecny.

"Africans stand out as the friendliest."

### Goose history

Geese were domesticated as far back as 5,000 years ago in Egypt, the natural flyway for waterfowl migrating between Africa and Eurasia. The migrating flocks included Asia's Swan Goose and Europe's Graylag Goose, the ancestors of modern domestic geese, as well as the Egyptian Goose, technically not a true goose. Egyptians netted them as hundreds of thousands settled on the Nile on their migration. From catching wild birds to eat, it's a short step to keeping them in pens, then breeding them and selecting breeding birds for the qualities most desired.

Religiously, the goose was associated with the cosmic egg from which all life was hatched. The god Amun sometimes took the appearance of a goose. Geese were also associated with Osiris and Isis, as a symbol of love.

The Romans and Greeks raised geese and honored them. Geese were sacred to Juno, queen of the gods, wife of Jupiter and protector of Rome. White geese lived in her temples. They are said to have saved

Rome from an attack by the Gauls around 390 BC by raising the alarm and awakening the guards. They became associated with Juno as symbols of marriage, fidelity and contentment at home. The Greek goddess of love, Aphrodite, was welcomed by the Charities, whose chariot was drawn by geese.

The 4th century AD Christian Saint Martin of Tours is the patron saint of geese, which is traditionally the feast centerpiece on his day, November 11. The tale is that he did not want to become bishop, so he hid in a barn with the geese. They noisily drew attention to him and he became bishop of Tours in 372. Charlemagne encouraged goose husbandry in his empire, 768-814 AD.

Celtic myths associated the goose with war, and remains of geese are found in warriors' graves.

The migrations of geese suggested their role as messenger of the gods to early cultures. They also symbolize movement and spiritual quest. Their return each year is a reminder to come home.

Mother Goose may have been based on a historic person or may be a mythic character to embody storytelling. The goose is a symbol of communication, expressing themes of human life in legends and tales. The first book of Mother Goose stories was published in Boston in 1786.

"The Goose Girl" was included in Grimm's Fairy Tales in 1815, translated into English in 1884.

As little as a century ago, people in England kept geese in a half-wild state, letting their geese forage and live on the river. The geese spent the spring and summer



James Konecny's exhibition Dewlap Toulouse male in Illinois. Photo courtesy James Konecny.

on the village green, then migrated to the River Cam for the winter. In February, the owners would call their geese, which responded to their voices and returned home to nest and rear their young. Those offspring were a significant contribution to the villagers' income.

### Cooking and eating goose

Goose has fallen out of most cooks' repertoire and few cookbooks even carry advice for cooking it successfully. As a cold weather bird, goose carries a thick layer of fat under its skin. The meat is actually quite lean, and all dark meat. The roasting process produces prodigious fat, inches of it in the roasting pan. Since so few cook them, cooking techniques have lost ground and few people even attempt them. Their fat makes those unfamiliar with them stay away, but their meat is not marbled with



Embden Geese are the breed most often used for meat production. Geese raised for exhibition are larger than their commercial counterparts.

Photo courtesy John Metzger.



fat, as beef is. The fat under the skin acts as a natural basting for roasted goose. Goose grease is an unappreciated oil that can be used in baking. Collect it from the roasting pan and use it throughout the year. NPR commentator Bonny Wolf calls it "the creme de la creme of fat."

"I am not advocating the daily use of goose fat. I wouldn't, for example, put it on my morning toast," she said. "It would, however, be delicious."

In the 19th century, every farm raised some geese and the goose was the traditional holiday bird.

Contemporary chefs are re-discovering this favored bird on the table. Current USDA statistics show that American consumers eat an average of less than a third of a pound of goose annually.

Commercial geese are produced mainly in South Dakota and California. Commercial producers have their own varieties that they rely on, the ones sold frozen in markets.

Their down and feathers are also valuable goose products. Goose down is the best insulator for clothing and comforters.

### Raising geese

A breeder needs to keep at least one family of geese to keep a bloodline intact, without experiencing loss of characteristics or inbreeding. Generations will live together, but geese prefer to mate in pairs, although some are willing to live as trios.

Geese should produce and lay and be fertile. "Around here they burn it off because it gets cold," said Konecny from his Royal Oaks Farm in Barrington Hills, Illinois. If that weight loss doesn't happen naturally, reduce feed so that the geese enter breeding season fit and trim.

"If they go into breeding season with a full keel and haven't burned some of that fat off, they will have fertility problems," he said.

As waterfowl, geese like water but can manage without it. They do better if they have some access to water, even if it's only a kiddie pool.

"A nice clean tub of water gets them in the mood and stimulates them to mate," he said.

Angel wing is a problem that may result from a diet too rich in protein. "It can happen to any breed of goose," said Konecny. "They are all going to be big birds and they grow fast." He reduces protein in the goslings' diet as soon as blood feathers start coming in, around four to six weeks of age, by putting them out on grass or

providing greens in some other way.

All geese are grazers and prefer to move around on pasture. Konecny's birds have both pasture and woods to roam. Although some commercial growers claim success with as little as nine square feet per bird, John Metzger of Metzger Farms in California considers that a bare minimum.

"I would like to see at least nine square feet inside and 30 square feet outside per bird," he said.

Konecny has observed that Toulouse geese are especially sensitive to a diet overly rich in protein.

"They must process protein a little bit differently," he said. He didn't have any angel wing in his flocks in 2012.

Commercial meat birds can be allowed to hatch their own eggs and raise their goslings.

Exhibition birds are too large and heavy. Konecny recommends setting their eggs artificially.

The IWBA has developed its own feed formula to supply all the nutritional needs of waterfowl.

Breeders were dissatisfied with the formulas offered on the market, none of which had everything waterfowl need. The IWBA formula includes fish meal, important to waterfowl that often include fish in their wild diet, and probiotics. It's also competitively priced to be affordable for both backyard poultry keepers and commercial producers. Distillers grain, a common feed ingredient, harbors microtoxins that geese can tolerate but can kill smaller ducks.

The IWBA has arranged for the formula



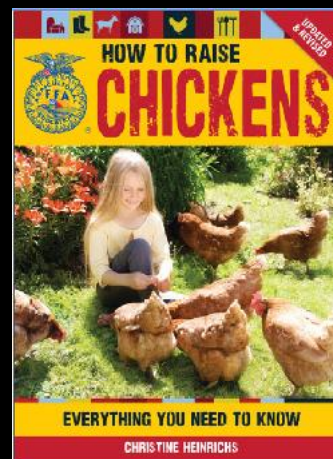
To win at a show, this Embden gosling will grow up to have entirely white feathers, an orange bill and bright blue eyes. Photo courtesy John Metzger.

to be produced by Hubbard Feed, making it available in the Midwest and Great Lakes area. Production and distribution for the rest of the country are in the works. IWBA is looking for other small, regional feed companies to produce duck and goose feed according to their formula.

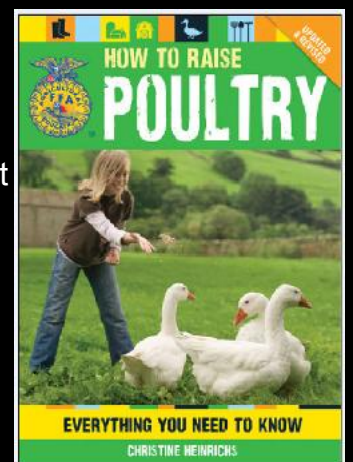
The Winter IWBA Bulletin has a detailed description of the feed formula and is available from IWBA through its web site or by contacting Chris Ervay at (919) 880-8538.

"We want everyone who raises waterfowl to have a good food," he said. "Most

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commercial feeds are horrid for our birds.”

Feed may be a factor in keeping heavy geese' legs, feet and bills the correct orange color. They should not be pink, but pink feet and legs and reddish pink bills have been showing up all around the country. Even Konecny's geese have developed pink feet. Metzger attributes it to feed that relies on grains other than corn. Lower levels of xanthopylls in other grains result in the undesirable pink feet. Some birds may have a genetic tendency toward pink feet, legs and bills, too.

“Unless they are getting green grass or alfalfa hay, their bills, feet and egg yolks will lose their orange color over time,” Metzger said. “The underlying color in some geese seems to be pink.”

With time and space to grow, good food to eat and a pool to splash in, geese do well in all climates. The United Nations, in a Food and Agriculture brochure titled The Underestimated species, calls them “a multipurpose animal,” an “ecological weed



## APA ABA Youth Poultry Club

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

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

control alternative” and “the unbribable watchdog.” Underappreciated for the value they can add to integrated farm operations, heavy geese are losing ground on American farms.

“Our large Standard breeds of chickens, ducks and geese are the breeds that are disappearing and are in trouble,” said Konecny. “IWBA is available to help new breeders get started and succeed.”

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# Sourcing Stock: Commercial Hatcheries

## Part 1

By Brian Reeder

I had a very interesting reminder that commercial hatchery stock is not as bad as many exhibition breeders often make it out to be and I wanted to share my experience and the thoughts it brought to mind with you. I know it may seem odd to speak of the merits of hatchery stock in an e-zine dedicated to exhibition poultry, but there is no firm dividing line between 'exhibition' and 'commercial' stock. While it is true that in most cases the birds sourced from hatcheries will not be show quality, some may even have a disqualification, and they generally will not have the refinements of some show lines. However the notion that there is some vast gulf between them, that they are not even the same breed, is false and only reveals a lack of genetic knowledge and understanding on the part of those who make such claims.

To begin, in the late fall of 2012 the group of egg hens I had were wiped out by a weasel. In the spring of 2013 I decided to try a few more birds to see if I had successfully predator-proofed my chicken houses and if I would be able to keep some birds without more losses. I did not want to start with expensive or rare stock, so I simply ordered a few birds from three different hatcheries to see if they could survive. I went this route so that if my houses were not fully predator-proofed, my losses would not be financially devastating nor would any rare breed have any of its genome lost. Before we go any further, I will say this turned out to be wise, as my houses were not fully repaired and I did lose these birds again in early winter 2013 to a weasel. I do not have any birds at this time, but I also didn't lose a lot of money on the experiment, nor were valuable genes lost. Considering how severe this winter has turned out to be, I think the weasel may have done me a favor.

As a personal aside, I now see that I will have to take a very different approach if I am to keep any birds at all and so I will be doing a major overhaul on one or two of these houses and will only keep a few bantams in the future, as I haven't the time, inclination or resources to completely overhaul all my large chicken houses and so those houses are being converted to use as hosta/shade plant houses for use in my plant breeding projects. Because of this, I will be limited in the num-

ber of birds I can maintain and due to the small amount of space that I have chosen to predator-proof bantams will be the only viable alternative to allow me to at least keep a small breeding flock. So I learned two very important things from the chicks I ordered in 2013. One is personal and is how I will have to change my focus and approach as I just described above. The second is about the current state of hatchery birds and will be part of the basis for the rest of this article.

Over the years of my research and poultry keeping, I have often ordered stock from hatcheries for various reasons and I have seen birds that ranged from surprisingly good to truly horrendous, but they have tended to average just ok - neither terrible or wonderful. So I can say I was

truly, pleasantly, surprised by the chicks I received in the spring of 2013. By the time the weasel wiped them out for me in December 2013, they were mature enough to tell much about their type qualities.

I had ordered several breeds from three hatcheries. From Murray McMurray I ordered Rhode Island Red pullets, Dark Cornish pullets, Silver Phoenix cockerels and Blue Laced Red Wyandotte straight run. From Ideal Hatchery I ordered Partridge Chantecler cockerels and Buckeye cockerels and from Cackle Hatchery I ordered Silver Yokohama straight run. There were a total of 70 chicks from which I was hoping to keep about 25 birds, though I would have been content with as few as 7 (1 in 10). I have always tended to order more chicks than I need, with the 1 in 10 ration being my general average guideline (that is, for every one bird I was hoping to have usable as an adult, I would order ten chicks). I do this because I am generally looking first and foremost for resistance to MG and Marek's as well as good temperament, average to good production and fair to good type (not exhibition type, but actual breed traits). Thus I have to fight averages in order to achieve those goals and can't order one chick for each adult bird I want to keep. Even at that, in some instances, there will be no keepers from ten chicks of a given breed, but in this recent group of chicks, I would

have exceeded my projected averages and had more birds to keep than I had anticipated.

Some of the birds had less disease resistance than others and I saw considerable Marek's susceptibility in one group (Silver Yokohama) while another group (Partridge Chantecler) showed poor resistance to MG,

but overall, there would have been more than the 1 in 10 average with excellent disease resistance for most of the breeds. Yet most interesting and surprising was that type, in general, was much better than expected. The best type was in the Rhode Island Red pullets and the Silver Phoenix cockerels, with the RIR pullets being large, dark red and with moderate comb size and the Phoenix males actually had long tails in most individuals and some even had long saddles. This was most sur-

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“Over the years of my research and poultry keeping, I have often ordered stock from hatcheries for various reasons and I have seen birds that ranged from surprisingly good to truly horrendous, but they have tended to average just ok - neither terrible or wonderful. . .”

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prising and from either of those, one could easily have selected birds to breed up an exhibition line, even though that was not my intent. In the past, these two breeds from this source had not been as good as these examples, so it was very nice to see the overall improvements that had occurred in that stock. Most notably, none of the stock was truly terrible.

While there were problems in certain groups, there were enough good birds of every breed that an exhibition line could have been selected from any one of them within a few generations of careful selection, though the Chantecler may have been the most difficult. This is very encouraging and I think it is an important thing to point out and draw to the attention of newcomers, beginners to the hobby, and those who do not have a small king's ransom to spend on a handful of 'exhibition quality' birds, with all the potential peaks and pitfalls that entails. One very interesting example amongst those chicks was the BLR Wyandotte group. I ordered six chicks. All six lived and grew to maturity. There were four males and two females. Of those four males, one was excellent, with very good size and type, magnificent lacing and dark, rich red coloring. The other three males were of lesser quality with poorer lacing and variable richness of tone to the red

coloring. The two females were not great when young, but by adult plumage, they had good lacing and enough depth of tone to be excellent breeding material. Those two hens and the best male could have been used to breed up a show line of BLRW within a few short generations. They were, in fact, as good or better than many “breeder quality” birds I have seen from the “finest show lines”. Now of course, some breeders will fall back on the old yarn that “bad birds from a good line are better than good birds from a bad line”. This is merely more ‘genetic’ nonsense that may have some slim basis in reality, but that is being used as a catchall and incorrectly at that.

So let’s look at why I think these birds were good and had potential and why I say that ‘exhibition lines’ could be selected up from these mere ‘hatchery chicks’. First, there is the tendency amongst far too many poultry people to act as though exhibition and hatchery lines are completely different things, that they are in fact not even the same breeds and the snarky and aggressive comments of many would lead the unknowing to think they were not even the same species. At the very least, reading such comments, one would think the hatchery and exhibition birds were two different coins, completely different things, when in fact, they are two sides of the same coin. The fact is that they are complementary.

When one begins to discuss chickens, to speak with breeders or read comments on various forums, you will quickly see that there is a belief amongst some that the hatchery stock is some sort of laughable joke, a con job on the rubes, and that such birds are not even “real breeds” or belong to the breed they are called, but this shows the genetic ignorance of these people. It is true that hatchery birds are not highly selected for very nar-

row and specific gene expressions, but they do generally have the basic genetic package of their respective breed. There may be modifiers missing, or there may be a wide segregation of modifications, but the basic gene package is usually there and can be selected into the narrow expressions desired for exhibition, either through selection (to focus on specific modification combinations) or through an outcross with exhibition stock (to bring in missing modifiers) and then selection.

It is important to understand that a ‘breed’ can be segregating many alleles and still be a breed. ‘Breed’ is not defined as total, clone-like homozygosity at every allele nor by the most extreme expression of modifiers, despite what many believe. That is more in the range of a species, though many species do not have such homozygosity either. In fact, such homozygosity represents a restriction of genetic diversity and makes any line, species or breed more susceptible to both the recessive, deleterious genes that bottlenecks bring to the surface and it makes such a line less able to respond to environmental variables and new pathogens. In short, total homozygosity and the clone-like status it creates is a detriment to survival, except where only the most beneficial genes have been retained and the most deleterious have been eliminated - a very rare thing in a lineage created by humans through artificial selection where ‘looks’ is all that matters...

So while many exhibition lines do have

incredible type and amazing uniformity of phenotype, what they tend to lack is genetic diversity and they can often show many deleterious genes manifesting in lack of resistance to common pathogens, low fertility and viability of zygotes as well as other factors commonly lumped under the term ‘inbreeding depression’. This is not true of every show line, and a well maintained show line that uses judicious outcrossing and multiline approaches may not show these problems. As well, a line that is exceptional with many good genetic traits (not just in looks) and few or no deleterious recessives may be indefinitely inbred with no ill effects, but such lines are

extremely rare, and one will encounter many very fine show lines where there are problems hovering about the edges, so to speak, if not blatantly obvious.

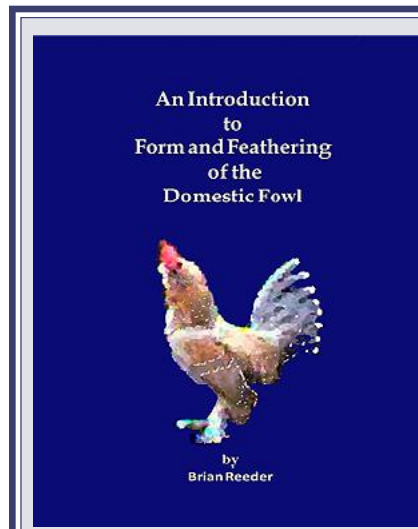
The hatchery lines, for their lack of extreme homozygosity for type genes, generally have much more genetic diversity. It is this very diversity, manifest in type genes as well as viability genes, that make the snobbish mock them so loudly. Yet, this diversity is a gold mine of potential, making the hatchery lines in some ways more akin to landraces. In addition to offering a good basis from which to select the narrow phenotype traits associated with exhibition lines, they also may well carry a diversity of other important, but less obvious genes including factors related to viability, production, fertility and resistance to pathogens. Not such a laughing stock, after all!

With that said, there are to be seen indi-

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“It is important to understand that a ‘breed’ can be segregating many alleles and still be a breed. ‘Breed’ is not defined as total, clone-like homozygosity at every allele nor by the most extreme expression of modifiers, despite what many believe. That is more in the range of a species, though many species do not have such homozygosity either. . .”

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viduals with problems from any and all hatchery lines as well, but it is rare to find that an entire population from a hatchery line shares all the problems seen in any one individual, due to the greater genetic diversity and the high level of heterozygosity for many alleles seen in these lines. Because they are segregating many alleles, they are often a huge pool from which to make many types of selection, while more uniform lines have much less genetic diversity due to their higher homozygosity. Such highly homozygous lines, while reproducing very consistently and showing high refinement for visual traits, do not have much "wiggle room" so to speak, and often do not have the variability to make any new selection directions from. You might say that such lines are 'locked in' due to their homozygosity and each new generation of selection, especially when such lines are bred in small numbers, potentially eliminates more alleles of any given loci where there may still be some heterozygosity. That may not be seen as a problem when discussing comb size for instance, however when discussing other factors such as egg production or fertility, it can result in severe problems.

There are many advantages to hatchery birds, especially for beginners and those who wish to try a breed without a huge investment. The ease of obtaining these birds is their greatest advantage. They remove the expense of shipping adult fowl or traveling (often long distances) to a show or breeder to buy stock, for which there is no guarantee that they will be some magical panacea because they are from 'exhibition lines'. In common language, I have seen just as much garbage from so-called 'exhibition lines' as I have from catalog lines and except in some rare instances, it is hard to be sure the 'exhibition birds' you are buying aren't from hatchery stock to begin with. I know of numerous instances where 'exhibition lines' derive directly from hatchery stock. If one person could select up 'exhibition lines' from hatchery stock, so can you, provided you learn what the standard calls for and develop a good eye for those traits and learn to cull. That is what selection entails - being able to see what is desirable and what isn't and culling out the later, therefore not allowing it to perpetuate its less desirable genes. This is how selective breeding is done in all domestic populations, plant or animal - it is a narrowing of the gene pool through selection toward specific desired effects.

Once you, as a beginner, have kept some birds from the hatchery(s) for a while, gaining experience with chickens and given breeds, and you have found a breed or variety

of a breed that you like, you can add enough stock from the hatchery to begin breeding for a small expense. Then use some money to invest in a standard and really pay attention to it. Look at the top exhibition lines and attempt to learn what sets them apart from your stock, but don't allow yourself to be browbeaten into getting rid of your own birds in order to start over. Learn about the genes involved in color/pattern (1) and form/feathering (2). This is key because once you know how the genes are working you will begin to be able to recognize segregations in the right direction within your own flock or you will come to realize that certain genes are lacking in your stock and will have to be brought in from an exhibition line that has such genes.

Now if there are necessary genes missing in your line, this doesn't indicate that you must get rid of your birds and start over with "correct" birds. All you need to do is to bring in a bird or two with the correct genes. The easiest way to do this is to buy one or two to four cockerels from a very good exhibition line and cross them into your line, creating a composite line that brings in the genes you need and gives you materials for further selection in the right direction. I know of many exhibition lines that have been created in this manner. It is a much more common technique than one might suppose. Also, most exhibition breeders will have extra cockerels of their lines and are generally happy to sell them.

One reason to not get rid of your stock is that, if they are flourishing in your poultry yard, they will likely be adapted to your environmental conditions. Environmental factors are something we often take for granted in animal breeding, but it is still a factor to consider. Plant breeders are often more aware of this important point as plants can be more impacted by environmental factors than animals, but animals are not immune to environmental factors either. If your line is flourishing in your poultry yard, do not get rid of it. One thing that many of us have witnessed, but may not recognize, is the impact of environment on new stock.

It is not at all uncommon for a new line, especially one brought in as started or adult birds, to show suppressed performance in their new home as compared with the performance in their previous home. This is because many factors in the environment can vary and their home environment is the one

they are adapted to. The longer a line has been adapted to one particular environment, the greater their adaptation to that environment will be and the more impact a move to a new environment may have (this will apply equally to exhibition and hatchery lines).

Many of us have noted that new stock to our poultry yard often does poorly, but after a few generations, the line begins to perform better in our yard. This may be less true when the stock is brought in as chicks, though there may still be a noticeable improvement once those initial chicks are reproduced in the new environment for a few generations. This is most likely the impact of environmental differences. The modus operandi of this effect is epigenetics. The epigenes react to the environment and either activate or inactivate genes in the genome in response. Thus, over time, most lines will become adapted to their new environment.

If your birds are flourishing in your environment, they are already suitable for your environment or they have adapted to it. Do not discard them in favor of "better looking" birds, only to find they are not as well adapted to your environment making progress with them slow. The wise choice is to keep your less refined but environmentally adapted line with which you are already familiar and then integrate the new, more refined line into it over a few generations. In the end, you can create a composite line that has all the good traits of both lineages and none of the bad (if you really make the effort to work in sufficient numbers). At the least you can make an exhibition line that should retain some viability for a time and when an outcross is needed, you will know how to do it and what stock you can go to.

Next month we will look at some details of breeding strategies when obtaining and subsequently improving stock from hatchery sources, as well as strategies for outcrossing that stock to exhibition lines where needed.

(1) - See *An Introduction to Color Forms of the Domestic Fowl: A Look at Color Varieties and How They Are Made* by Brian Reeder for more information on the genetics of color and pattern in standard chicken breeds.

(2) - See *An Introduction to Form and Feathering of the Domestic Fowl* by Brian Reeder for more information on the genetics of form and feathering genes of chickens.

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**"If your birds are flourishing in your environment, they are already suitable for your environment or they have adapted to it. Do not discard them in favor of "better looking" birds, only to find they are not as well adapted to your environment . . ."**

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# Backwoods Benefit Poultry Show Rison, Arkansas March 01, 2014

Show Results by Kevin Harper  
Photos by Julie Graves

## Open Show Winners

### Large Fowl Class Champions:

Best American--Rhode Island Red RC--  
Theresa McConnell, Camden, AR. Res.  
American--Rhode Island Red Pullet--Randy  
Bill Cherry, Rison, AR.

Best Asiatic--Black Cochin Hen--Drexel



Best Open Asiatic--Black Cochin Hen--Drexel  
Jordan, Little Rock, AR.



Best Rose Comb Clean Leg--White Wyandotte  
Cockerel--Jerry Carter, Hamburg, AR.



Grand Champion Of Open Show--BB Red OEGB Cock--Bobby Durr, Natchitoches, LA

Jordan, Little Rock, AR. Res. Asiatic--Black  
Cochin Cock--Drexel Jordan, Little Rock,  
AR.

Best Mediterranean--Dark Brown Leghorn  
Hen--Elizabeth Moseley, Traskwood, AR.  
Res. Mediterranean--Dark Brown Leghorn  
Hen--Elizabeth Moseley, Traskwood, AR.

Best Continental--White Marans--Ernie  
Haire, Arp, TX. Res. Continental--Black  
Copper Marans--Ernie Haire, Arp, TX.

Best All other Standard Breeds--Oriental  
Farms. Res. AOSB--Oriental Farms.

**Champion Large Fowl--Black Sumatra  
Cock--Oriental Farms, Pine Bluff, AR. Re-  
serve Champion Large Fowl--White Marans  
Pullet--Ernie Haire, Arp, TX**

Best Goose--Brown Chinese Cock--Sunni  
Deb Weaver, Crossett, AR. Res. Goose--  
White Sebastapol Hen--Sunni Deb Weaver,  
Crossett, AR.

Best Turkey--Bronze Tom--Elizabeth  
Moseley, Traskwood, AR. Res. Turkey--



Best Single Comb Clean Legged--Barred Rock  
Pullet -- Julie Graves, Monticello, AR.



Best Open Bantam Duck--Grey Call Hen--  
Theresa McConnell--Camden, AR.





Reserve Champion Open Bantam --White Silkie Pullet--Heather McClain, Warren, AR.

Narragansett Tom--Elizabeth Moseley, Traskwood, AR.

Best Duck--Alesbury Hen--Rachel Hill, Traskwood, AR. Res. Duck--Alesbury Hen--Rachel Hill, Traskwood, AR

**Bantam Class Champions:**

Best Modern Game--Birchen Modern Hen--Jim Crain, Homer, LA. Res. Modern Game--BB Red Modern Cockerel--Roger West, Haughton, LA.

Best Old English Game--BB Red OEGB

Cock--Bobby Durr, Natchitoches, LA. Res. OEGB-Silver Duckwing OEGB Cockerel--Bobby Durr, Natchitoches, LA.

Best Single Comb Clean Leg--Barred Pullet-- Julie Graves, Monticello, AR. Res. SCCL--Black Australorp Hen--Marguerite Lindemann--Bono, AR

Best Rose Comb Clean Leg--White Wyandotte Cockerel--Jerry Carter, Hamburg, AR. Res. RCCL--black Wyandotte--Jerry Carter, Hamburg, AR

Best Featherleg--White Silkie Pullet--Heather McClain, Warren, AR. Res. FL--Buff Brahma Hen--Elizabeth Moseley--Traskwood, AR.

Best Bantam Duck--Grey Call Hen--Theresa McConnell--Camden, AR. Res. Bantam Duck--Grey Call Cock--Theresa McConnell--Camden, AR.

**Champion Bantam--BB Red OEGB Cock--Bobby Durr, Natchitoches, LA. Reserve Champion Bantam--White Silkie Pullet--Heather McClain, Warren, AR.**

**Junior Show Winners**

**Large Fowl Champions:**

Best American--Rhode Island Red (Single Comb)--Sunni Deb Weaver, Crossett, AR.

Best Asiatic--Barred Cochin Hen--Sunni Deb Weaver, Crossett, AR. Res. Asiatic--Partridge Cochin Hen--Sunni Deb Weaver, Crossett, AR.

Best English--Speckled Sussex Hen--Sunni Deb Weaver, Crossett, AR. Res. English Speckled Sussex Cock--Sunni Deb Weaver, Crossett, AR.

Best Mediterranean--Single Comb Lt. Brown Leghorn Hen--Will Bryles, Ward, AR. Reserve Mediterranean-Single Comb Lt. Brown Leghorn Cock--Will Bryles, Ward, AR.

Best Continental--Buff Laced Polish Cock--Rachel Hill, Traskwood, AR. Reserve Cont.--Salmon Favorelle Hen--Sunni Deb Weaver, Crossett, AR.

**Grand Champion Large Fowl -- Speckled Sussex Hen--Sunni Deb Weaver, Crossett, AR. Res. Champion Large Fowl--Brown Leghorn Hen--Will Bryles, Ward, AR.**

Best Goose--White Embden Hen--Sunni Deb Weaver, Crossett, AR. Reserve Goose--White Chinese Hen--Sunni Deb Weaver, Crossett, AR.

Best Waterfowl--White Muscovy Drake--Will Bryles, Ward, AR. Reserve Waterfowl--Grey Call--Will Bryles, Ward, AR.

**Bantam Class Champions:**

Best Modern Game--Brown Red Modern Pullet-- Will Bryles, Ward, AR. Reserve Modern--Birchen Modern Pullet--Will Bryles, Ward, AR.

Best Old English Game--Brown Red Cock--Joey Byrge, Camden, AR. Reserve OEG--Silver Duckwing Pullet--Mikayla Garrett, Camden, AR.

Best Single Comb Clean Leg--Rhode Island Red Hen--Addie Bryles, Ward, AR. Reserve SCCL--Black Japanese Cock--Mikayla Garrett, Camden, AR.

Best Rose Comb Clean Leg--Black Wyandotte Pullet--Will Bryles, Ward, AR. Res. RCCL--Black D'Anver Hen--Ethan Graves, Monticello, AR.

Best Featherleg--Black Cochin Hen--Will Bryles, Ward, AR. Reserve FL--Black Cochin Pullet--Will Bryles, Ward, AR.

Best All other Comb Clean Leg--Dark Cornish Hen--Will Bryles, Ward, AR. Res. AOCCL--Sicilian Buttercup Hen--Jennifer Sneed, Monticello, AR.

Best Bantam Duck--Grey Call Hen--Will Bryles, Ward, AR. Reserve--Grey Call Cock--Will Bryles, Ward, AR

**Grand Champion Bantam--Black Cochin Hen--Will Bryles, Ward, AR. Reserve Champion Bantam--Dark Cornish Hen--Will Bryles, Ward, AR.**



Grand Champion Junior Show--Black Cochin Hen--Will Bryles, Ward, AR.





Scenes From Rison, Arkansas Show ~ Photos by Julie Graves





## *Breed Focus:*

# Background On The Brown Leghorn Chicken

*(Reprinted with permission)*

The leghorn is a lightweight, long tailed breed of chicken originating in Italy and highly refined in this country. It is known for its production of large white eggs. The poultry breeders of the last century created many varieties of leghorns. The American Brown Leghorn Club, incorporated in 1901, promotes the breeding and showing of light and dark brown leghorns in both the standard and bantam (miniature) types.

In the brown leghorn we find a rare balance between beauty and productivity. The small farmer, the hobbyist and the fancier agree that this breed of chicken exceeds their expectations in the laying pen, in the show-room or just strutting around the yard. Over 140 years of careful selection have ensured an overall high level of quality in today's birds.

**Production:** The egg industry today relies primarily on white leghorns for the eggs sold in grocery stores and used in restaurants. High productivity is a quality shared by brown and white leghorns alike, and while the brown's different colors make her undesirable to the factory farmer, for the small-holder they are an asset.

Brown leghorn breeders report consistently receiving large numbers of eggs from their pullets. The hens have been known to lay well into old age. Numbers are not the whole story, however. A flock of hardy brown leghorns will maintain a high yield, even on forage alone. This is one of the premier free range breeds. They are lightly built, but sturdy: capable of moving swiftly and flying well to elude predators, but with a rugged frame that withstands the rigors of year round laying and supports a considerable quantity of meat for its size. On pasture particolored plumage particularly pleases passers by as well as providing protection for the pullet. The subtle earth tones help conceal the bird from predators. In fact, the light brown leghorn coloration is similar to the red jungle fowl, which is presumed to be the domestic chicken's wild ancestor. Given a suitable structure in which to roost and lay their eggs, leghorns will roam far and wide to procure their food during the day and return in the early evening. They also do well in a fenced enclosure, although if the birds' wings are not

clipped the yard must be roofed or quite high to prevent them from flying out.

**History of the Breed:** The ancestors of the American brown leghorn appear to have arrived in Connecticut from Italy in 1853 and were known as "Italians." Widely bred in New England from that time onward, they were first called "leghorns" at Worcester, Massachusetts in 1865. This was a time when Americans were exploring the potentials of breeds from around the world to improve the domestic stock. Lightweight, active Mediterranean breeds, such as the leghorn, the minorca and the ancona were highly sought after for the year round production of white eggs. In those days the farm flock produced meat for the table as well. The leghorn breed, although not extremely fleshy, provided high quality, fast growing fryers for Sunday dinner. In fact, through 1938 the Pullman Coach Company bought only brown leghorn cockerels for fried chicken served in their dining cars.

To ensure the purity of each valuable type of chicken, breeders elected in 1871 to agree upon breed standards and to organize poultry shows at which the individual birds could be judged against each other according to these accepted standards. By the turn of the century competition at these shows was intense. Equally intense were the laying contests held to determine the most productive breeds and strains. Some brown leghorn flocks were able to hold their own in both.

In 1920 one brown leghorn breeder was able to advertise that his famous strain won the Great American Egg Laying Contest with offspring from show birds that had won Best Display three years in a row at the nation's biggest poultry show at Madison Square Garden. These great lines are the foundation of today's birds.

As the brown leghorn was coming into its own, around the turn of the century, breeders prized darker, wine colored male birds while preferring a light olive brown female. This eventually gave rise to two separate varieties. The Dark Brown Leghorns, male and female, are a deep shade of mahogany, accented with fiery dark red and lustrous greenish black. The Light Brown female is a warm olive brown color over the back with a breast of rich salmon.

The light brown male sports a bold combination of orange, bright red and greenish black. The females of both varieties should be stippled subtly with a single comb dark brown hen darker color and both males are extremely glossy. Each variety was further

divided between common or "single" combed birds and those with rose combs.

**Bantams:** Each of these four types was later reproduced in miniature or "bantam" form, thus increasing to eight the varieties we have today. Bantam leghorns can be as vigorous and hardy as their large counter-parts, and although they don't lay those large eggs, bantam breeders proudly say that three bantam eggs equal two large fowl eggs. Their size and thriftiness make bantams ideal for the backyard enthusiast.

**The ABLC:** The American Brown Leghorn Club was formed in 1901 declaring as its three objectives "to increase interest and demand for high quality brown leghorns; to disseminate information on reliable and successful methods of breeding, raising and management; to bring about united efforts, harmony, integrity and good fellowship in promoting the interests of brown leghorns." The club entertains special meets at poultry shows around the country and hosts an annual national meet which travels to a different region of the U.S. each year. In addition, the ABLC sponsors programs to interest people in brown leghorns and help get them started. Such programs include sources of stock and hatching eggs, newsletters, yearbooks, advertisements in various publications, and the distribution of fact-filled brochures.

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