

Exhibition Poultry®

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Volume 5, Number 2 • <http://www.ExhibitionPoultry.net> • February 2014

In this issue . . . APA News • ABA News • How A Poultry Show Works • Breeding Programs • Why Hens Stop Laying • Some Thoughts For The Beginner • Haynesville, LA Show Results • Poultry Breed Clubs Listing • APA & ABA Judges List • Upcoming Shows, and more. . .



Pictured: A Black Australorp cockerel exhibited by Matt Ulrich. He was Champion Large Fowl (Show 1) at the Gulf South Fall Classic, Baton Rouge, Louisiana on November 9, 2013. Photo by Ann Charles

Exhibition Poultry Magazine®

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On The Cover . . . A Black Australorp cockerel exhibited by Matt Ulrich. He was Champion Large Fowl (Show 1) at the Gulf South Fall Classic, Baton Rouge, Louisiana on November 9, 2013. Photo by Ann Charles

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Exhibition Poultry Magazine® 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

February 2015

February 22, 2014

Newcastle, Oklahoma, The Great Plains Game Bantam Spectacular. One day-double show. Contact: Andy Barnes, 580-439-5956, ouchickencrazy@pdi.net; RR 2 Box 450, Comanche, OK, 73529.

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, freshheggs91@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, 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, email: 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 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.taylorcountyexpocenter.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/sff/>

October 11, 2014
Jackson, Mississippi. Mississippi State Fair Poultry Show. 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, 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, slbrush@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 76550-9711; 512/556-2800.

Dwayne Jonas 436 CR 3605, Lampasas, TX 76550-9711; 512/556-2800.

STEVE JONES, 9677 Butler Lane, Poetry, TX 75160, 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. 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, 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, Phone: (417) 359-3867. (05-14)



APANEWS February 2014

A very important thing is happening in the APA right now. The Election! Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on January 28, 2014. The by-laws under Article II – Election of Officers, section e states: “Enclosed with the ballot shall be a return outer envelope addressed to the Secretary with a place in the upper left corner for the name and address of the voter so that the Secretary can identify the voter as qualified to vote.” What this means is that if you don’t include your return address in the upper left corner of the envelope your vote will NOT be counted. It would be a shame to take the time to vote and have that wasted because you didn’t include your return address. The candidates listed on those ballots are willing to give of their time and talents on a voluntary basis to support the APA, please encourage them by voting.

The 2013 APA Annual is now history. It was a very good show. The group with the Northeast Poultry Congress has had a lot of experience in putting together a poultry show and they didn’t disappoint anyone this year. The building was well lit and warm (important in Massachusetts in January), there was plenty of space for birds, vendors, a great sales area, and lots of gathering space to talk chickens. The club members all worked well together and if there was a problem, it was handled quickly. Congratulations to Tom Roebuck who had the show champion on a Black Cochon and Danny Padgett for reserve show champion on a Blue Muscovy.

The APA table was right in the middle of the action and I was happy to sign up new members, renew old members and sell merchandise. It was also great to visit with people who I don’t see very often and meet new people. I was fortunate to sign up new members from the New England area. It’s good to see that interest in poultry is still out there and still growing.

The yearbook committee has begun to solicit articles and ads for the 2014 yearbook. The 2013 yearbook was a success and they would like to continue that with this issue. There are a lot of APA members who

have years of experience with birds, now is the time to share that with the younger generation. Just take a little time, pen and paper, and jot down a few of the things you have learned and send them to the yearbook committee or the office so they can be included.

The next event for the APA is the 2014 Semi-annual which will be held in Hutchinson, KS on April 12 & 13 at the Kansas State Fairgrounds in the poultry/pigeon barn. They are planning a banquet on Saturday night which will be held at the Kansas Cosmosphere. Catalogues will be sent out early in February, if you would like to receive a catalogue, contact Danny Williamson at 785-227-5149 or email: brahmabrahma@hotmail.com.

I still have that mountain of paperwork on my desk, so I will get back to it, enjoy the rest of the Exhibition Poultry and I will be back next month.

Pat Horstman



National Call Breeders of America
A club formed for the promotion of breeding and exhibition of Call Ducks, offering National, District and Special Meets. Quarterly newsletters and annual yearbook.
Memberships: Junior (under 16) \$8/year; Individual \$15/year or \$29/2 years; Family \$17/year or \$33/2 years; Lifetime membership \$200. Visit our website at www.callducks.org to join online or purchase club merchandise, such as t-shirts, pins, patches, posters, etc.
For more information contact secretary Dennis Fuller, 1729 Otterville Blvd., Independence, Iowa 50644; 319-334-3497, wapsiwaterfowl@aol.com
(12-14)

BREED CLUBS

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Araucana Club Of America, Promoting the tufted, rumpless, blue egg laying Araucana. \$20.00 annual dues includes quarterly newsletter, breeders guide, and Araucana Handbook. Mail inquiries to: Araucana Club of America, 207 Pickens Drive, Pendleton, South Carolina 29670. Email: secretary@araucana.net. Visit our website and forum: www.araucana.net (12-14)

American Sumatra Association, <http://sumatraassociation.org/> \$18/2yrs; \$25/3yrs. Doug Akers, 300 S. 400 W., Lebanon, IN 46052, email: 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; Website is www.mgbca.org. (12-14)

National Call Breeders of America: <http://www.callducks.org>, Secretary: Dennis Fuller, email: 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

Website: <http://www.amerpoultryassn.com>



Contact: APA Secretary
PO Box 306, Burgettstown, PA 15021
Phone: 724-729-3459
Email: secretaryapa@yahoo.com





JOIN NOW

Individual Membership:
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Outside USA & Canada: \$40 per year

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ABA HAPPENINGS

February 2014

Hello all – I am happy to report the ABA office is still bringing in new members. Our hobby seems to be attracting new people every day. My hope for the next hundred years or so is that the future fanciers keep this great tradition alive and continue to grow the ABA for the membership it serves. Why 100 years ??? -Well you should know by now that the American Bantam Association is getting ready to celebrate our —100 year birthday party. Our national meet will be in Columbus Ohio November -November 7-8-9 2014. Start saving up your bantam bucks and come out to have a great show in Ohio. There will be plenty of great things to do and some surprises too. Keep tuned to all the details by

renewing your ABA dues ontime. With the cost of postage still climbing – it is the only way to keep informed on our activities. Once your dues lapse, we will transfer your name out of the mailing list which includes the email list as well.

I want to take a few moments to ask the show secretaries for a little help in getting the word out. When you print your premium books and list the ABA meet information, please put in a little information such as 2014 IS the year to celebrate with your bantams. The ABA is 100 years old, so let's make a record number of starred wins at the shows! (to those not sure of what a starred win is, it is a win in a class of 100 or more) What a Goal! The most starred wins recorded on record – by ABA members – what better year to show a few more than 2014!!

We have just received some fantastic ABA brochures! I will be mailing some to all the show secretaries on file. If you would like some to distribute to your friends and club members, just drop me a note at bantamclub@gmail.com and I will have some sent out right away. Thanks goes to Kim Munden of PA for another great job in helping to design this brochure for the ABA. She does great work and we are very fortunate to have her on board!

I am also working with Tami Clark in California. We are working together, along with my husband Kevin and daughter Greta Unrath to process the 2013 show reports as quickly as we can. As soon as we see clear of the reports (estimate 3/1/2014) I will run the reports to calculate the Master Exhibitor and

Master Breeder programs. We also do calculations on Lifetime Achievement award winners at this time too. Your patience and understanding is appreciated. Things at this time of year can tend to get a little backed up with the increased work load.

We did have the honor to award Dr. William (Bill) Patterson of Michigan the Lifetime Achievement award at the National Meet in Knoxville TN this past December. He has been working on various breeds of bantams for a very long time and it shows in his incredible winning history! Thank you Bill – for it goes without saying that your work has not only helped your show records, but also the breeds to which you have dedicated so many hours to.

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How a Poultry Show Works in North America

*Article courtesy of the APA-ABA Youth Program
(Reprinted from November 2010 issue of Exhibition Poultry Magazine)*



Here you can see row after row of chickens waiting to be judged.

How It's All Laid Out:

Poultry shows are generally open to three types of fowl recognized by the American Poultry Association (APA) and the American Bantam Association (ABA). Each club has a book listing the breeds that are accepted by each association. The American Standard of Perfection published by the APA is one book and the Bantam Standard published by the ABA.

Turkeys and waterfowl are shown at most shows, but we will focus on chickens here, as they are by far the most common type of fowl at most shows. It may appear at first glance that there are wall-to-wall chickens in no particular order. However, someone has worked hard to organize the birds. The pattern may not be apparent, but once you know what you are looking at, it will start to make sense.

Large Fowl or Bantam?

The first thing you may notice is that there

are very large birds and very small birds. You might even notice that some look almost identical except for the size. The large birds are known as large fowl or standard size. The small birds are bantams, sometimes called "banties".

A few types of birds come only in large fowl or bantam, but most can be either. The relationship is similar to "toy" or miniature dogs and their "normal" size counterparts.

The goal is to have virtually the same bird, except for size. Typically large fowl will weigh in at 9 to 12 pounds while a bantam will weigh 2 to 3 pounds. Large fowl are the standard size for a chicken, but bantams are popular because they are smaller, easier to handle, take up less space, eat less food and still provide many of the benefits of owning chickens. In the show, large fowl and bantams will be shown separately.

Classes:

The next thing you may notice is that birds are broken down into classes.

For large fowl, the classes are named after the area of origin. You will notice an American Class, Asiatic Class, English Class, Mediterranean Class, Continental Class and an All Other Standard Breed Class.

For bantams, classes are named after physical characteristics. These include Game Bantams, Single Comb Clean Legged (S.C.C.L.), Rose Comb Clean Legged (R.C.C.L.), All Other Comb Clean Legged (A.O.C.C.L.), and Feather Legged Classes. Every breed will be listed in one and only one class.

Breed:

Within each class will be several breeds. Each breed will have specific characteristic(s) that differentiate it from all other breeds. One example of a breed is the Plymouth Rock.

Breeds will differ in shape, feather characteristics, comb and other attributes.

Some breeds originated for meat production, some for egg production, others originated from Asian or European fighting cock stocks, while a few breeds were developed for ornamental qualities.

The Standard of Perfection and Bantam Standard will provide information on breeds, their characteristics and history.

Variety:

If you look at a breed you will find that there are often many color patterns represented, this color pattern is known by the term "variety". Both large and bantam Plymouth Rocks are recognized in each Standard in Barred, White, Buff, Silver Penciled, Partridge, Columbian, and Blue varieties. The black variety was recently admitted, but for Plymouth Rock bantams only. Each of these varieties has distinctive traits that set it apart from other varieties. You may find some of the same varieties appearing in a number of breeds, for example, there are also Buff Cochins, Buff Cornish and Buff Orrington's as well as a few other breeds.

The Standard of Perfection will list the characteristics of each variety in large fowl and bantams and the Bantam Standard will list each characteristic in bantams

Gender & Age:

Within each variety, birds will be divided based on sex and age. A cock (C) is a male bird over one year old while a cockerel (K) is a male bird under one year old. A hen (H) is a female over one year old while a pullet (P) is a female under one year old. Birds might also be placed in a trio, which will be either an old trio (2 hens and a cock) or a young trio (2 pullets and a cockerel).

Scoring Birds:

Judges score birds using a detailed point system that compares various physical points on each bird. Certain characteristics are disqualifications and preclude a bird from being considered for placing. The closer a bird approaches the standard, the more points they will score and the better their chances of placing. For more information on the point scale, see the Standard of Perfection published by the APA or the Bantam Standard published by the ABA. A copy should be available at the information desk at a show.

Placing:

Judges will review the birds and place the best specimens. The first step is to look at all of the pullets of one breed & variety and rank from first through third or fifth place.

The same will be done with each age/gender group (cockerel's, hens, cocks) and the coop cards will be marked with a 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 etc.

After all of the birds in a variety have been judged, the official will select the best out of the whole group and second best representative of the variety and

mark them Best of Variety (BV) or Reserve of Variety (RV).

After all of the varieties of a breed have been judged for Best and Reserve, the official will pick from those birds the two that best represent the breed and will mark them Best of Breed (BB) and Reserve of Breed (RB).

After all of the breeds in a class have been judged, the official will place a Best and Reserve in the whole class from the Best and Reserve of Breeds these are then marked as Class Champion or Reserve Class Champion.

Typically a show will have a Champion Row where the best bird in each class is displayed. From the birds placed on Champion Row, the judges will select a Champion Large Fowl, and Champion Bantam. Finally a Grand Champion, or Best Bird of Show, may be selected from among the best of the waterfowl, turkeys and chickens.

Judges:

The judges of a show are licensed either by the American Poultry Association or the American Bantam Association (or both). The licensing process requires years of practice, an apprenticeship, and passage of a strenuous written and practical test. Judges are poultry fanciers who have taken the hobby to its full extent and are a wealth of knowledge. It is considered good etiquette not to talk with or interfere with a judge while they are judging.

What if a Bird is Not in the Standard?

There are many breeds, varieties or hybrids that are not recognized in the APA or ABA standards. (If they are not of a recognized breed, they may be placed but cannot win champion if they are entered into a show.) If the standard of perfection for the breed has not been officially determined, there are no standards by which a bird can be judged.

To be admitted into the APA standard, a breed must have several supporters that have been working with it for at least 5 years and are able to have a minimum of 50 birds exhibited at a show. If all of these conditions are met, a breed or variety may be admitted to the standard and written up in the Standard of Perfection. It will be eligible to compete in shows from that point forward. END

A Page From The Past . . .

Single Mating Is High Mark Of Master Breeding

Ben F. Ricketts

A single mating producing beautiful uniformity is to me the highest mark of a master breeder. Perhaps it is possible in some cases to produce an individual specimen which may be higher to the Nth degree by double mating; but in so doing a family is produced whose offspring contains so many off-standard birds that, for example, a new breeder would lose complete interest in the breed or variety and give it up.

I remember the first year I started judging was in 1931 and one of the four shows I judged was the Atlanta, Georgia, fair and included was Mrs. Donald Donaldson's exhibit of Single Comb Rhode Island Reds. They were just beautiful. After the judging Mr. Donaldson came to me and said he would like to take me to their yards if I had time before I went home. This I did and I have never forgotten the sight I saw.

Here were some 200 or more females that were almost like peas in both color and type, and on close examination I could not find a single one with black flecking on wing, bow or breast. Yet they had good black tails and were quite good in wings. The males were grand uniform birds too. At that time most people would have declared it was impossible to produce this uniformity from a single mating and without carrying a lot of breeders with excess black along with others completely lacking in black, others with smut in undercolor, etc. As long as you tolerate and propagate these defects they will remain. There is nothing to take the place of uniformity in size, shape and color, and this is the mark of the master breeder.

"Single Mating . . ." Reprinted from *The Voice of the Poultryman*, Summer 1968, Volume 1, Number 3. Original copies courtesy of APA/ABA Judge, Steve Jones, Poetry, Texas.

Breeding Programs

By Christine Heinrichs

Breeding your own birds allows you to influence the traits you want in your flock, whether that be feather color, body type or friendliness. Over the centuries, poultry keepers have tried every possible way to breed birds. The following breeding methods are traditional ones that have satisfied breeders through the years, updated to take advantage of modern tools and knowledge.

"There is a time to inbreed, a time to line breed and a time to out-cross," said Dick Demasky, a breeder of many years' experience. "Knowledgeable breeders do it all, when the need arises."

Determine your goals

Success means different things to different flock owners. As with other livestock, utility values overlap with show values. Ideally, small flocks can combine beauty and usefulness. Productivity and behavioral traits such as broodiness and motherliness aren't seen in the show coop. Show judges look at chickens for their body type, comb and feather qualities including color and condition. Their guides are the Standard of Perfection and the Bantam Standard.

Keeping a flock of a rare breed broadens that breed's genetic base. The more separate flocks of a breed, the greater its chances of survival. Breeding a rare breed flock for Standard qualities and vigor contributes to the overall health of the breed. Even a few generations produces some genetic distance from other populations.

General pointers

Vigor, vitality and longevity will be significant regardless of your other goals. A long-lived flock with prolonged utility is desirable regardless of your other interests. Selecting birds with long, productive lives will impart low mortality and vigorous constitutions.

Birds selected for breeding should be firm and well-muscled without being fat. Legs should be properly placed. Eyes should be bright, clear and properly placed. Wings should be carried properly.

Hatching early in the season gives your birds more time to grow in their first year. Your best producers will start laying early, giving you the tip that it's time to start setting their eggs. Hens that lay well in short day, natu-

ral light conditions are good producers.

If you know your birds well enough to know them by their eggs or are willing to trap nest during the entire laying season, select hens who lay through hot and cold weather. The best producers lay through any weather and through their molts.

Color and pattern are important, but some deteriorate with age. A bird with proper color pattern during the first year wouldn't necessarily be culled for deteriorating color as he or she aged. A bird whose feathers retain the quality of color and pattern over the years would be favored over one whose don't.

Hens producing eggs have large, soft vents. If they are not producing, the vent is small and may be puckered.

There is no Perfect Bird. You will always be weighing strong points against weaknesses. Keeping a poor bird in the breeding program because it has one characteristic you want is usually a bad idea. It's also not wise to discard an otherwise strong bird because of one defect. Breeders are always making difficult choices to complement one bird's strengths against its weaknesses. That's the challenge of breeding.

Trap nesting

Trap nests are special nest boxes that trap the hen inside until you let her out. The advantage is, you can identify which hen laid which egg. The disadvantage is that it's labor intensive. You have to check the boxes at least twice a day to release the hens.

It allows you to select eggs from your best birds. Mark them with her number or some other unique identifying mark. You can write on the surface of the egg with a pencil or marking pen. If you are clan mating you can identify both parents on that egg.

Trap nesting also allows you to keep track of egg production. As hens age, they generally lay fewer eggs. If egg production is your goal, you will want to cull those who are not laying to your standard. Hens with exceptional laying records would be retained as breeders even after their production declined.

Breeding Programs

Appearance seems obvious, but Standard qualities can be subtle and elusive. Work with an experienced breeder until you develop your eye for the refinements of show qualities. They have spent many happy hours ob-

serving their birds. Sitting and watching will educate your eye to the desired qualities.

A single hatch during the breeding season may be enough for you. Two are possible and some birds are willing to raise three sets of chicks in a year. All chicks from that year are in the same generation, the same breeding cycle. A single cycle could extend from January to October.

Different methods require different amounts of record keeping. Formal pedigrees are not kept in a breeding registry for chickens as many other livestock breeds do.

Birds need to be identified, either as individuals or as members of a group. Leg bands, wing bands and toe punches are all good ways to identify your birds. Leg bands are the standard for identifying birds at poultry shows.

Obtain the best stock you can, but don't be afraid to start with imperfect stock. That's part of the challenge. The reward is the gratification of overcoming those imperfections and improving your flock. "The pleasure of surveying a handsome, uniform flock that has grown from a successful breeding program is hard to beat," says Craig Russell of the SPPA.

Rolling Matings

Rolling matings require the least record keeping. The system doesn't require any records at all, but it's to your advantage to keep track of the year the birds are hatched, so that you know their age.

You can begin rolling matings with a trio in a single pen the first year. Future years will require additional pens as you separate the best birds for mating.

After the first year of raising chicks, select the best birds and breed them back to the best that you started with. The best pullets go into the breeding pen with the best cock and the best cockerels go into pens with the best hens from the previous year.

At the end of the season, select the best of the old birds and the best of the young birds. They will be your breeding stock for the coming year. That's what keeps the system rolling.

Birds in large enclosures or on pasture will give each other adequate space. If the hens are being stressed by too much attention from the rooster, take him out every other day or move him from pen to pen.

Rolling matings also allow you to select birds for a particular strength, separate them for breeding, and then work the resulting birds into the main breeding program. These side matings can help you focus on desirable traits and experiment with breeding in your flock.

Side matings are any matings done outside your main breeding system. If an unusual characteristic emerges in some of your birds, you can even breed brother to sister, although that has the highest risk of bringing out undesirable traits as well. You can then include the best individuals in your regular breeding program.

You will need at least two pens for each breed or variety. Additional pens may be needed as your flock expands.

Line breeding

Line breeding breeds daughters back to fathers and grandfathers, sons back to mothers and grandmothers. It is a modern method that has worked well to produce rapid gains in characteristics. It is used to perpetuate strong qualities or individuals.

Line breeding results in predictable and reliable offspring. Surprises are unlikely, because the genetics are limited.

Weaknesses can be identified and those birds culled. Keeping a generation between breeding partners reduces the risk of inbreeding weaknesses.

The best birds are considered 'seed stock' and are used only for breeding.

Clan matings

Separating your flock into clans, or yards, along either matriarchal or patriarchal lines, allows you to maintain vigor in the flock without introducing new birds. Mr. Demasky has maintained a flock of Old English Games since 1966 using this method.

In matriarchal clans, each hatching egg is marked with the mother's clan mark when it is collected. As they hatch, each chick is toe-punched and wing-banded with the clan mark. It's usually convenient to hatch batches of each clan together. A clan mark can be anything that uniquely identifies the clan and lets you keep the clans separate. Additional marks can also identify individuals and link them to their ancestors.

Chicks can be kept separate by hatching all the eggs of a single breeding under one hen or in one incubator or on a particular day. Small wire hatching cages can keep the chicks separate as they hatch. In patriarchal clans, all eggs from the hens bred by that rooster are marked and incubated together.

Clans are maintained as separate stock. Cocks and hens of the same clan are never bred to each other. They are always bred to birds from other clans, so you need to keep at least three clans. Breeders typically keep an odd number of clans.

Matriarchal clans are usually pair-mated. A particularly successful pair can be kept together for years. You can experiment with other pairs for different results.

Patriarchal clans usually set the rooster in with a group of hens. A rooster can be bred to any hens not in his clan.

The variety of possible matings reduces the possibility of depending excessively on any individual bird. An especially desirable individual's qualities can be perpetuated by creating clans of full sisters or brothers.

Clan matings require keeping records of each chick. In matriarchal clans, it's possible to trace the ancestry of every chick. These pedigree records can give you a rich store of detail about your birds and your breeding system.

Breeding out-and-out

Breeding out-and-out means introducing new roosters every one or more years. This brings new genetics into your flock, increasing diversity.

You may keep records on each rooster. With some very rare breeds, only a few lines exist. Even if you acquire a rooster from a different person or hatchery, he may be from the same genetic line as your current birds. Keeping records helps you identify your stock and its relationship to other flocks.

This method can produce unexpected results, reducing uniformity in your flock. It will keep your flock productive and may offer you characteristics you want to perpetuate in side matings.

Grading

Grading introduces stock from another breed to the existing flock to add a characteristic or change it in some way. Grading is often used with rare breeds that have lost genetic vigor. By adding birds of another breed, then breeding the offspring back to pure birds, flocks can be reinvigorated.

It can be controversial because it adds different genetics to the purity of the flock. That purity is relative, and can be regained through breeding back to the original stock. The table below shows the progression back to purity over a number of breeding cycles.

This is an old system that has long been used in maintaining other livestock, including cattle, sheep, horses, swine, goats and dogs. For all practical purposes, eight breeding cycles result in pure stock. Six cycles are usually adequate for registry of other livestock.

Each bird has to be identified by its group in order to choose appropriate mates and be certain where the flock is in progress toward purity. This method can also be used to develop new breeds or re-create breeds.

Within a breed, this method is called stud mating. One or more roosters with particularly desirable characteristics can be graded into a flock. After breeding them to a group of hens, the sons become the males for the rest of the flock. Only the best birds are bred.

You might develop your own line of superior males this way.

Cross-breeding

Cross-breeding, breeding a hen of one breed to a rooster of another, can produce hybrids with desirable utility characteristics. The offspring will not be acceptable for showing. The first generation of two distinct breeds bred to each other shows the most hybrid vigor.

Most commercial chickens are hybrid crosses, Cornish on Rocks. Commercial breeders maintain separate breeding stock to produce their production birds.

Crossing breeds is tempting and has always been done by breeders seeking something new. Popular crosses in the past include Games and Dorkings, usually a Game male on a Dorking female. At the turn of the 20th century, this cross was thought to produce the best meat chicken.

Grading Chart - The table below shows the progression back to 'purity' over a number of breeding cycles.

Year	Fraction	Decimal	Per cent
1	1 / 2	.5	50%
2	3 / 4	.75	75%
3	7 / 8	.875	87.5%
4	15 / 16	.9375	93.75%
5	31 / 32	.96875	96.875%
6	63 / 64	.984375	98.4375%
7	127 / 128	.9921875	99.21875%
8	255 / 256	.99615375	99.615375%

Why Hens Stop Laying Eggs

During the fall, many backyard flock owners ask, "Why have my hens stopped laying?" Several factors may cause the reduction in egg laying, says LSU AgCenter poultry specialist Dr. Theresia Lavergne. The most common causes are decreasing day length, improper nutrition, disease, aging and stress. The LSU AgCenter poultry specialist says if hens reduce egg production in fall, the probable cause is the decreasing day length.

"The reproductive state of birds is regulated by the amount of light they receive each day," Lavergne says. "Hens are stimulated to lay eggs when day length increases and reduce egg laying when day length decreases."

So in a natural environment, birds lay fewer eggs during fall and winter compared to spring and summer.

If maintaining egg production throughout the year is a priority, artificial light can prove useful. Hens require at least 14 hours of light every day to maintain egg production. This light can be provided from sunlight, artificial light sources or a combination of both.

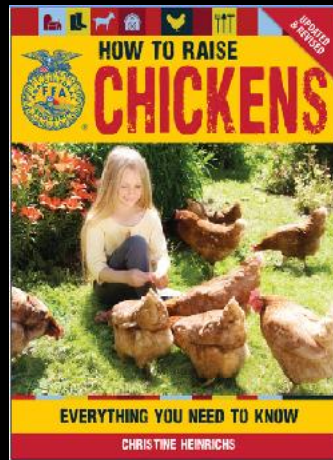
Lavergne says one 40-watt light for every 100 square feet of coop is adequate to maintain egg lay. The artificial light can be left on continuously, or can be used to provide supplemental light during the hours that sunlight is not available.

"If you are not going to leave the artificial light on continuously, but are going to use it only to supplement the sunlight, the artificial light should be added in the morning hours so the hens can roost as the sun sets and not be stranded in the dark when the artificial light is turned off," the poultry specialist says.

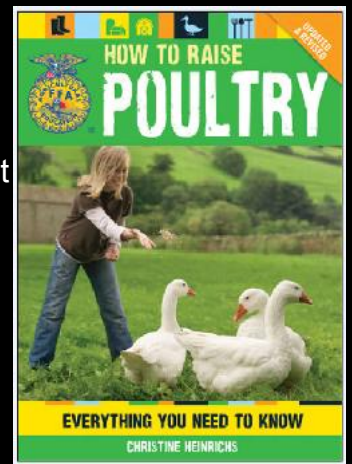
If you determine that the length of daylight is not the cause of reduced egg lay, you need to evaluate some of the other causes, Lavergne advises.

Improper nutrition is an alternative cause of reduced egg lay. Layers require a balanced diet and a constant source of fresh water to maintain maximum egg production. "It is important to provide a nutritionally balanced layer food to your hens to ensure that they will have adequate levels of protein, calcium and energy to maintain egg production," she says. Also, providing oyster shell to your hens will help maintain strong egg shells.

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"Be careful when supplementing hen diets with whole grains, scratch feeds or table scraps, because too much of these can cause the hen's diet to become imbalanced," Lavergne says.

Disease is another cause of reduced egg production. "If your hens have a dull and listless appearance, watery eyes, runny nostrils, coughing, lameness or mortality, contact your veterinarian to diagnose and treat the problem," the poultry expert recommends.

The effects of aging on egg production will vary from bird to bird. Many hens, however, will have decreased egg production after two to three years of age.

A decline in egg production also may be

attributed to stress. Limiting the incidence of chilling, handling, changing environments, moving, parasites, fright and predators is necessary to maintain maximum egg production.

Additionally, if egg production is decreasing, you may need to consider the possibility of predators consuming the eggs, egg-eating by the hens themselves, egg breakage or hens hiding the eggs (if they are able to run free).*

*This information is reprinted, with permission from, *Why Hens Stop Laying Eggs*, published by the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center.



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

CONGRATULATIONS . . .

To the owners/exhibitors of these SkyBlueEgg bred large fowl Araucana at the 2013 APA & ACA National !
NorthEastern Poultry Congress • Springfield, MA • January 18-19, 2014



Black Araucana Hens (8 shown):

- 2nd - Cindy Mansell, Waterloo, New York
- 3rd - Cindy Mansell, Waterloo, New York
- 5th - Cindy Mansell, Waterloo, New York

Amanda Cambre, Bush, LA
Black Araucana Pullet
APA/ACA National
Champion LF Araucana &
Reserve Champion
AOSB

Black Araucana Pullets (8 shown):

- 1st - Amanda Cambre, Bush, Louisiana
- 2nd - Ann Charles, Winnfield, Louisiana

Golden Duckwing

- Best of Variety - GDW Pullet - Amanda Cambre, Bush, LA
- 1st - GDW Cock - Cindy Mansell, Waterloo, New York

Junior Show

- Best of Breed - BBR Hen - Angela Tuttle, Bush, LA
- Reserve of Breed - Red Cockerel - Angela Tuttle, Bush, LA



SkyBlueEgg Araucana



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Ann Charles

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Some Thoughts for the Beginner

By Brian Reeder

People new to the hobby often ask me what they should start with or how they should approach getting started. I first ask them what they want to accomplish in keeping and breeding chickens. There are many answers and all are equally valid. Some people simply want a few hens for eggs. Other people are looking to raise a breed for competitive showing. Yet others wish to breed and there can be many different directions they want to take including simply raising their own small flock to breeding a line for improvement and showing to creating new varieties of a known breed to creating their own unique breed. In all instances, I recommend that the beginner apply some patience and get some experience before getting too deeply involved or investing too much money. Beyond that, the answers depend on the direction the person wants to go. We will look at some of those answers in this article.

The simplest group to advise is those who just want some hens for eggs. The first thing I tell these people is to get a well-constructed, very predator-proof enclosure built (or purchased) before you even consider getting your first bird and spend some time reading up on maintaining a few hens on the many internet sites out there specifically about this type of poultry keeping. There are many things you will want to decide before you start buying birds. How much space do you have and what are the predator considerations in your area? Remember that you almost always have more predators about than you may think. They are stealthy and many are nocturnal, so you may not see them, even if they are there and just being in urban areas won't ensure not having predators. Raccoons and opossum, for instance, do exceptionally well in urban and suburban areas.

Once you know your predator considerations, the area you have for hens and the type of housing and run you want to use, get your housing in place before you get your first bird. Then you can think about the birds. There are many good selections. What you go with will depend on whether you want white, brown or rain-

bow colored eggs. The white egg layers tend to be flightier and more high-strung than the typical brown egg layers. I prefer the brown egg lines, so I have more information to pass on about them.

One of my very favorites is the Rhode Island Red and they are one of the very best brown egg layers available. In addition, the Buff Orpington and any of the 'sex-linked' types are excellent choices. I recommend that for egg production, one select birds from one of the many hatcheries, or purchase them through a feed store that offers these types. In time, the back yard egg producer may go over to a show type line, such as exhibition Rhode Island Reds, if a strain can be found with good egg production, but to begin with, the hatchery birds will be all you need to produce good eggs, they are inexpensive, easy to obtain and the quality is not as bad (in terms of their looks) as the typical exhibitor will lead you to believe.

For those who want 'rainbow eggs' generally greenish to bluish eggs, the hatchery type "Easter egg" birds, often erroneously called 'Araucana', are ideal. They are produced by crossing a carrier of the olive eggshell gene (O) over production type birds, and usually produce eggs more toward the greenish side, as they tend to be created using brown egg production birds. They are hardy and easily kept birds, but don't send a show breeder in paroxysms of apoplexy by calling them "Araucana" or "Ameraucana"!

The next easiest group to advise is those who want to raise or breed for showing. If they simply want to purchase or raise birds for show, then all they need to do is decide on the breed they want and find good examples to purchase. Be sure you know the fine points and disqualifications of the breed you want and be prepared to fork over some money if you want 'show quality' birds. You are best advised to go look at the birds you are considering. I know of many stories where people purchase "show stock" through the mail only to get birds with a host of disqualifications! The buyer must beware.

For those who want to actually breed for show, the best route for the beginner is to start with a breed that is already well established, is well known and competi-

tive in most shows and is easily located in breeding and/or show quality as well as being of fairly good quality from the chick hatcheries. I mention this last part because your show line birds may have problems that can more easily be corrected by going out to hatchery birds, such as low fertility, poor production or lack of disease resistance, amongst other problems that can emerge from inbreeding and genetic bottleneck.

For the beginner with unlimited funds, just find the best breeder in the country and buy some of his or her best stock. Be sure your housing is very secure (and this always applies to everyone). For the rest of us in the 99% I recommend that the beginner to chickens who has never kept any birds to start by ordering a group of chicks from one of the hatcheries in one or two of their varieties that are fairly good quality. While most hatcheries only show 'art prints' of their breeds and there is no way to know what their birds really look like, there is one or two showing actual pictures or video clips of their birds. I recommend these hatcheries over any of the others, as you can watch their videos and see that some of their lines are good enough to start with. You can also do a Google image search to see if you can locate pictures of the various breeds from a particular hatchery.

When ordering from a hatchery, it is best to stay with well-established varieties of the more popular breeds and I would also say the same applies to starting with stock from an exhibition breeder, as well. Some of the best breeds and varieties for the beginner to start with include Barred Plymouth Rock in large fowl and bantam, Rhode Island Red in large fowl and bantam, New Hampshire in large fowl and bantam, Black or White Cochins in large fowl and bantam, Partridge Wyandotte in large fowl and bantam, etc.

There are two points to consider. First, for the raw beginner on a budget, the hatchery birds are a great place to gain experience and they are not all the horrible garbage exhibitors often make them out to be. They won't generally be show quality, but I know of several show lines that have been bred up from hatchery stock through careful selection over a few

generations. Don't underestimate the power of selection on a basically accurate gene pool! The second point is that the show lines and hatchery lines can often compliment each other, with the hatchery birds offering fertility, higher egg production and greater disease resistance (in many, but not all instances) while the exhibition birds offer more refined appearance. I know of many instances where a winning show line has been developed by blending a good hatchery line with a beautiful but less viable show line to result in an exhibition line that is both viable and refined. I always stress to new exhibitors that hatchery birds are not poison and exhibition birds aren't always all they are cracked up to be. Each has shortcomings and often the two sides can complement and balance each other, though this is truer in the more common breeds and varieties.

The final two groups have more specialized considerations. Whether producing a new variety of an existing breed or a new breed altogether, there is much more work in these two areas than in either of the previous ones. A working knowledge of genetics and some specific knowledge of poultry genetics are indispensable for either pursuit. Some background in keeping and raising chickens in helpful. The raw beginner is best served by breeding something established for a few generations just to get basic experience. A good way to start is to begin with one of the more common and well-developed varieties of the breed you wish to make a new variety of. If it can also be a base variety that will work with the new variety you want to make, all the better. Then when you have some experience with breeding the breed, and raising chickens in general, you can obtain the proper bird(s) for the outcross to make the new variety and pro-

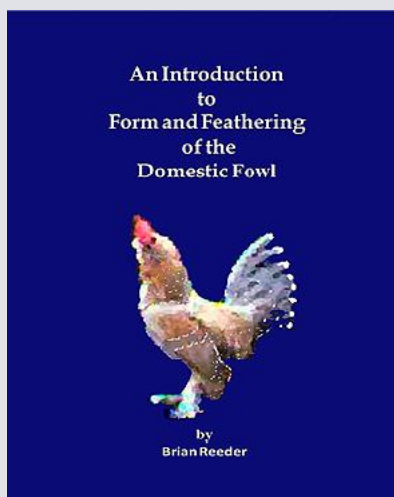
ceed from there.

As an example, let us say you want to make a barred variety of a breed that does not have a barred variety yet. If there is a black variety already, then that is the one to go with, as it is the base that barred is on. In another example, if you want to make mille fleur in a breed without that variety, if there is a red brown (eb s+) or partridge (eb s+ Pg) variety already, then that is the one to start with and later you bring in the right genes to make mille fleur. This then is an additive project. Far too often I see people wanting to make this or that variety and using a variety to start with that will only complicate matters. For instance, if you want to make mille fleur (eb s+ Db Pg Ml mo) then starting with a black variety is not a good idea and will add a whole host of melanizers that will have to be bred off later. By starting with a partridge (eb s+ Pg) variety though, you already have several of your base genes and all you are doing to create the mille fleur is to add some more genes. In that way, there is less to 'fight' and breed out later on. This simplifies the project. Making outcross selections in this manner though does require a basic knowledge of not only genetics, but also the specific genetics of the varieties you want to work with (at least) and better yet, a working knowledge of the genetics of poultry varieties in general.

The final group, those who would make new breeds, may feel that their options are completely open and that they can go in any direction, making any crosses, but even here a knowledge of the genetics of varieties and genetics in general, is very valuable. Making wise choices will simplify the work and give you the option of breeding in somewhat smaller numbers. For instance, if you want to make a spe-

cific form with no emphasis on color varieties, then you will simply cross breeds with the form genes you want (see An Introduction to Form and Feathering of the Domestic Fowl for poultry form genetics). Bear in mind that there are some visual effects that can be produced in more than one way. Short legs, for example (bone shortening) can be produced either through the lethal dominant creeper gene or thorough a complex of multiple recessive genes that interact to create shortened skeletal effects, much like creeper, but without the homozygous lethality. While creeper is easier to locate, the later gene complex excludes the homozygous lethal effect seen with the true creeper gene. In some instances, certain lines of extremely short-legged Chabo (Japanese bantams) incorporate both creeper and the non-lethal recessive complex.

If the breeder of a new breed has a focus on form, but doesn't want a wild segregation of color genes, then a focus on the same base e-allele and/or s-allele is helpful (for more on the e-allele and s-allele see An Introduction to Color Forms of the Domestic Fowl: A Look at Color Varieties and How They Are Made). For instance, many breeds have a black variety, so if creating a new form breed, one might consider using all or mainly black varieties of the various breeds being blended to make the new breed. Staying within a basic varietal base has the advantage of not forcing you to select for color and form at the same time. In my experience, it is easier to approach form first and set color later, but if you can stay within a basic color set so that you can select form while keeping color basically how you will want it, that is the best option. Other examples would be sticking with all red duckwing varieties, all red wheaten



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varieties or all birchen varieties, etc. Try to bring in as few alternate genes that you don't want as possible. So if you want clean legs, try to avoid feather legs where possible, or if you want yellow skin, avoid white skin. If you want red earlobes, avoid white earlobes. Try to align your breeding options by bringing in the genes you need while avoiding as many genes you don't want as possible. This only makes your work easier and produces far less culls. Always remember that for every extra trait you are trying to breed up or breed out you are greatly increasing the number of chicks you will need to produce. The numbers run, by gene, 1=4, 2=16, 3=64, 4=256, 5=1024, 6=4,096, 7=16,384, etc., just to see one homozygote for all the genes, for whichever direction you want, when two heterozygotes for that many genes are mated.

In whatever way you choose to raise or breed chickens, there are considerations before you start - secure housing, how many you can comfortably maintain or breed, how much feed they will take, what your objectives are and the time and energy you have to invest in that goal. Be realistic, educate yourself about what you want to do and proceed slowly, gaining experience and skill so that you can have a good and efficient experience.

Pelican State Classic Haynesville, Louisiana

November 23, 2013

~ Show Results ~

By Jim Crain

The Pelican State Classic had its 26th annual show at the fairgrounds in Haynesville, Louisiana on November 23, 2013.

Judging the show were Anthony Ashley from South Carolina and Jacob Bates from Charleston, Arkansas. 64 exhibitors showed 816 birds in the show.

The exhibitors and visitors enjoyed a day of showing and visiting with good poultry friends, good food, an auction and Youth showmanship.

The Large Fowl Champion was a Black Araucana pullet by Amanda Cambre. The reserve Grand Champion Large Fowl was a white laced red Cornish hen by Brent Bryan of Mississippi.

Among the Bantams, the champion bantam was a Dark Cornish cockerel by Jerry McCarty of Louisiana. The reserve bantam champion was a single comb White Leghorn hen by Bill Hopkins of Texas.

The champion duck was a Gray Call old male by Will Bryles of Arkansas, and the reserve was a Gray Call old female by Theresa McConnell of Arkansas.

The 2014 show is scheduled for November 22nd, the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Contact Jim Crain for more information, 318-455-9980.

Modern Game Bantam Club of America 2014-15 Officers Elected

MGBCA members recently elected the following officers to lead the club.

President: Tom Anderson, North Carolina
Vice President: C. Vic Stirnman, Illinois
Sec/Treasurer: Lee Traver, New York
Publicity Director: Claudia & Bob Choate, Texas
Dist. #1 Director: Tom Kane, Virginia
Dist. #2 Director: Jeff Sumner, North Carolina
Dist. #3 Director: Matt Lhamon, Ohio
Dist. #4 Director: Matthew Glass, Oklahoma
Dist. #5 Director: Jim Saltee, California
Dist. #6 Director: Heather Hayes, British Columbia

The club had a successful 2013 with 72 shows submitting the results of sanctioned meets at Special, State, District and National levels. Our 2014 National meet and annual meeting will be in conjunction with the ABA 100 year anniversary show.

If your local show would like to host a Modern meet please contact MGBCA at traverfarm@wildblue.net or 4134 NY Highway 43, Wynantskill, NY 12198. If you know which district you are in you may also contact the district director.

For those Modern exhibitors who are not members we welcome your participation. In addition to sponsored meets we publish four newsletters annually, have an informational website (www.mgbca.org) and maintain a variety points recognition system. I'm able to connect people looking for Moderns with members who may have birds available. The annual club dues are \$20.



The Pelican State Classic
November 23, 2013

**Reserve of Variety
Black OEG Pullet**

Jim Crain, Homer, Louisiana



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