

# Exhibition Poultry®

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

Volume 5, Number 8 • <http://www.ExhibitionPoultry.net> • August 2014

On our cover . . . Show Grand Champion at the Bluebonnet Classic, College Station, Texas on January 8th, 2011 was a large fowl Light Brahma cockerel exhibited by Chad Spence. See Christine Hienrichs article on the origin of the Columbian color pattern on page 6. Photo by Bob Choate.





# Exhibition Poultry Magazine®

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# Exhibition Poultry Magazine®

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P.O. Box 1027, Winnfield, LA 71483

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**Ann Charles**  
Editor/Publisher

email: [contact@SkyBlueEgg.com](mailto:contact@SkyBlueEgg.com)

Phone: (318) 209-9802

**Andrew S. Charles**  
Technical Support

email: [admin@ExhibitionPoultry.net](mailto:admin@ExhibitionPoultry.net)

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**

## September 2014

### September 4-13

**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 5-13, 2014

**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 13-14, 2014

**Deatur, Texas**, Amarillo Bantam Club Show, Contact: Al Walker, 900 Country Rd. 36130, Honey Grove, TX 75446. 903-739-8225 or 903-815-8255.

### September 19-27 2014

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

### September 27, 2014

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

## October 2014

### October 2, 2014

**Pine Bluff, Arkansas**, Southeast Arkansas District Fair. Contact: Lewis Hinkle, 870.543.0198, [tootie9901@yahoo.com](mailto:tootie9901@yahoo.com).

### October 4, 2014

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

### October 4, 2014

**Decatur, Texas**, Red River Bantam Club Show. Contact: Al Walker, 900 Country Rd. 36130, Honey Grove, TX 75446. Phone: 903-739-8225 or 903-815-8255.

### 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. APA Sanctioned. [http://mspoultryshowclub.org/poultry\\_exhibitions](http://mspoultryshowclub.org/poultry_exhibitions)

#### October 10-19, 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, 2014 (Special)

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

#### October 18, 2014

Newcastle, Oklahoma, Contact: Scott Kincaid [kayjen@pdi.net](mailto:kayjen@pdi.net)

#### October 19, 2014

Newcastle, Oklahoma, Texas All Game Bantam Club - "The All Game Show". Contact: Troy Vannoy, 903-429-6681 (after 7 pm).

#### October 25, 2014

Abilene, TX, Taylor County Expo Center. Abilene Poultry Association. Contact: Bonnie Campbell, 110 Ridgecrest Dr. Abilene TX. Phone: 325-529-6064

### November 2014

#### November 1, 2014

Fayetteville, Arkansas, Heart of The Ozarks Poultry Club annual Fall Double Show. Website: <http://www.hotopa.com/index.html>

#### November 1, 2014

Atoka, Oklahoma - All Bantam Show, Contact: Delbert Jenkins, [delandbrandy@yahoo.com](mailto:delandbrandy@yahoo.com).

#### November 8, 2014

Atoka, Oklahoma, Red River Shootout. contact: Jason Copass, [jason4osu@gmail.com](mailto:jason4osu@gmail.com).

#### November 7-9, 2014

Columbus, Ohio, The Ohio National Show, 2014 ABA National Show. Website: <http://www.ohionational.org/>

#### November 15, 2014

Haynesville, Louisiana - Pelican State Classic hosted by the North Louisiana Poultry Club - Contact: Jim Crain, [jacrain@chilitech.com](mailto:jacrain@chilitech.com).

#### November 15, 2014

Atoka, Oklahoma - O.E.G. Bantam Bonanza, Contact: Greg Garison 580-889-0621.

#### November 22, 2014

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Parker Coliseum at the LSU Ag Center. GCPFA's Gulf South Fall Classic. **DOUBLE SHOW**. Website: <http://www.gcpha.com>. Contact: Rhonda Silva [gcpha01@gmail.com](mailto:gcpha01@gmail.com)

#### November 29, 2014

Anadarko, OK, Anadarko County Fairgrounds. South Central Poultry Club Show. Contact:

Matthew Glass, (405) 320-3817

### December 2014

#### December 6, 2014

Atoka, Oklahoma - 2013 Southeast Bantam Game Show - Double Show - hosted by The Atoka Bantam Club. Greg Garison 580-889-0621.

#### December 6-7, 2014

Knoxville, Tennessee, the 2014 APA National Show, hosted by Tennessee Valley Poultry Club. Website: <http://tnvpoultryclub.com>

#### December 13, 2014

Shawnee, Oklahoma. Oklahoma State Poultry Federation 97th Annual Show. Website: <http://www.okspf.com/> One day show.

## 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. Phone: 318-455-998, email: [crainjac@gmail.com](mailto:crainjac@gmail.com), 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](mailto: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

### January 2014

#### January 4, 2015

College Station, Texas, Brazo County Poultry Club Show. Contact: Claudia Choate, [Claudia@bluebonnetclassic.com](mailto:Claudia@bluebonnetclassic.com), 512-273-2010.

#### January 17 - Feb. 8, 2014

Fort Worth, Texas, Southwestern Exposition & Livestock Show. Contact: 817-877-2400. website: <http://www.fwssr.com/>

### February 2014

#### February 22, 2014

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

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](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@pleasantridgechurch.org](mailto:PatMalone@pleasantridgechurch.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. (05-15)





## APANEWS August 2014

Greetings from the APA office. I love this time of year, windows open; chickens, ducks, turkeys, geese, and even guineas all making noise. This is the first year for the Guineas, hope my neighbors don't mind. I suppose I'll find out as they get older. I learned this spring that a lot of the backyard people are interested in Guineas because they eat bugs. All you Guinea people in the APA remember that, it could add to the selling point on your birds. I just thought they made good guard birds as they make noise when anything comes near.

The APA is doing well. In June we had 27 new members and as of July 10 we already have 11 new members. I also have noticed that the orders for Standards haven't decreased. The APA is having a growth spurt! This is great news but leads to challenges for the office. One thing that the new people have trouble with is when they try to enter birds in their local fair. Some have no idea where their bird belongs or what it is. This is something handled by each individual fair, so if you see new people at your local fair, please offer them help. They are really interested but have no idea where to start. A lot of them don't think of their birds as animals, but as pets, so when they ask you what breed "Suzy" is, don't look surprised.

The APA facebook page has become very active. One of the issues that has been discussed is the updating of show information on the website. If individual shows would send their current information to the APA at: [secretaryapa@comcast.net](mailto:secretaryapa@comcast.net), I will be happy to forward the information to the webmaster so changes can be made. Please have the contact person or club president send the information. We are trying to become more user friendly, but it is taking time to update everything.

Things in the office are pretty normal, but there are a lot of emails back and forth from the directors working on updating the by-laws and the Standard Committee making changes to the admission rules. Both committees have assured me that they will be done soon. The suggested by-law changes will be published in the September News & Views for your comments. As soon as the Standard Committee has anything to report, we will let you know. Their suggestions have to go to the full board before they can be finalized.

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)

## BREED CLUBS

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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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Email: [secretaryapa@yahoo.com](mailto:secretaryapa@yahoo.com)

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## ABA HAPPENINGS

August 2014

The ABA is brimming with excitement over a birthday party!! We are throwing our own party celebrating 100 years!! The ABA, originally formed in 1914 has reached 100 years. This is an incredible feat and one that we hope brings out the numbers at the upcoming Centennial National Meet in Columbus, Ohio with the Ohio Poultry Breeders on November 7, 8, & 9th. We hope to see everyone there!

We plan to have lots of great items for sale including our 2014 Centennial edition Bantam Standard. This edition will be sure to please. It will be an ABA first with photographs instead of drawings. We hope to add to this project as time goes on, adding more with each printing. A special thank you goes to all the supportive ABA members who supported this project with a sponsorship. They will be listed in this new book as well as all future editions of the standard.

We are excited to announce we are sponsoring a contest in conjunction with the APA/ABA Youth program. It is an essay contest and the subject is "Why Owning an ABA Bantam Standard is Important to Me" The top winner in each category will win a free 2014 Centennial Standard. If you are under the age of 18 and are interested in this contest, contact Doris Robinson, Director at nanamamabrahma@att.net or send in your essay to APA-ABA Youth Poultry Club, ABA Essay Contest, 810 Sweetwater Road, Philadelphia, TN 37846. We are looking forward to sharing this information and more importantly to giving the deserving winners their rewards. Deadline for submissions is Friday, September 26th and you must be a paid up member of the APA/ABA Youth Poultry Club to participate. Visit their website for more details at apa-abayouthpoultryclub.org.

**ABA Seamless Legbands:** For those of you who have used ABA seamless legbands, there is no reason to talk here about them because you already know how great they are. Did you know that the ABA has been administering a legband program since 1943?? That is

a very long time. For more information on our legband program, visit our website at [www.bantamclub.com](http://www.bantamclub.com) or contact Russell Crevoiserat at [russell8431@att.net](mailto:russell8431@att.net).

In a nutshell - these are seamless plastic bands complete with the current year (2014) and a unique identifying number. These numbers are recorded with the ABA and can be used to identify your birds source in the case of loss. Using these bands in your breeding program is invaluable.

Since each band carries the year and these are designed to be put on the growing bird, there is never any question on the age of the bird in hand. For instance, birds hatched this year can only wear the 2014 legband. It is put on the bird as they grow and once on, they are permanent. They will not slide off. If in two years, you are not sure the age of your bird, or why she is no longer laying the eggs you expect, just pick her up and look at the band. Gosh - this lady is 6 years old... How did that happen?? and now I know why she is not laying what I was hoping for. It works great and also gives you as a breeder, a solid reputation, for you cannot sell a two year old bird unless it is a two year old bird. (the legband will always show the true age of the bird) This works well from the buyers end too. For these reasons, ABA legbands in your breeding program? Priceless!!! You can order yours today at [www.bantamclub.com](http://www.bantamclub.com). Note: We will soon be taking orders for the

2015 bands. They change colors each year which helps us quickly identify them as well. Keep checking for availability.

If you have some ideas for the ABA, please contact the ABA office at [bantamclub@gmail.com](mailto:bantamclub@gmail.com). We are always open to suggestions and want to keep the membership engaged and involved. Speaking of involved, 2015 is an election year for the ABA. We are a non profit club made up of sixteen geographic districts. Each district has a volunteer director. If you are interested in serving, please send in your letter of intention by November 1, 2014. This is the deadline for you to run for a position. For more details on eligibility, refer to your current yearbook for the details.

Not an ABA member? I am very sorry. I will be happy to help you fix that. I know just the cure. It is a \$20 annual payment made out to ABA and sent to PO Box 127, Augusta, NJ 07822. I guarantee within a few weeks, you will begin to feel better.

So for now - I must sign off to the other business of the ABA, mostly the ABA 2014 yearbook. This book should arrive in your mailboxes sometime in August/September. With the bulk mail schedule, it is hard to predict, but we will do our best. Thank you to all the advertisers of this year's book. I hope you all enjoy this 100 year old edition.

Karen Unrath - ABA Secretary

# The American Bantam Association

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# The Columbian Color Pattern

By Christine Heinrichs

Reading "The Devil in the White City" by Erik Larson, <http://www.randomhouse.com/crown/devilinthewhitecity/home.html>, got me thinking about the Columbian color pattern in chickens. Larson's book is about the Chicago World's Fair of 1893, the Columbian Exposition. It was a fabulous enterprise, intended to outshine Paris's Exposition of 1889, crowned by the Eiffel Tower. The Columbian Expo's answer to that was the Ferris Wheel.

The book is a wonderful history, exploring the personalities that designed and built the fair and how their genius and perseverance brought the fair into being. Larson ties the story of the fair to the crimes of a serial killer who lured his victims from the activities surrounding it.

I'd heard that the Columbian color pattern was introduced at the Expo. But as I researched the question, no documentation for that was in the records. The Illinois State Library's site on the subject, <http://columbus.gl.iit.edu/>, specifically states that the poultry exhibit "contained no special novelties."

According to Craig Russell, president of the SPPA, legendary Wyandotte breeder B.

M. Briggs developed the pattern and gave it its name, in honor of the Expo, although it was not introduced there. He had started with Silver Laced Wyandottes when they were still known as American Seabrights. He is considered the originator of the White variety and was certainly the first to advertise Whites. He published a number of descriptive articles and pictures of the variety.

In 1887, Mr. Briggs started working on a Light Wyandotte, with the color pattern of the Light Brahma. His eye was caught by the two white pullets with striped hackles one of his customers produced from crossing a Barred Rock male on a White Wyandotte female. He acquired them and the following year crossed them to very typey White Wyandotte males. He began selecting birds from those offspring approached the ideal type and pattern he envisioned.

By 1893, Briggs felt the new variety was ready to introduce. Whether he took the name to honor the fair or promote his new color is not recorded. The Columbian Wyandotte received APA recognition in 1905. The Columbian Rock was recognized in 1910, and the Columbian Leghorn in 1929. Delawares, developed in the 1940s, also show this color pattern.

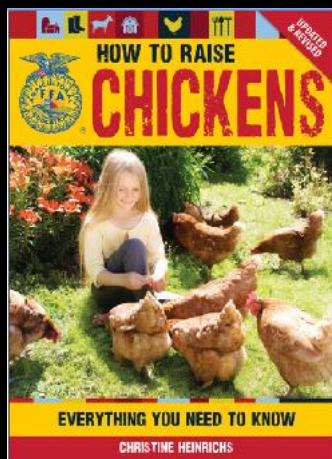


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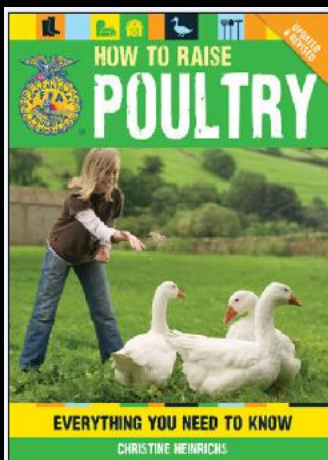
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# A New Araucana Breed Club Forms

## ABEC Club News

From The President:

In his book "Exhibiting Poultry For Pleasure" (1978) Loyl Stromberg makes a very important observation. . . "The most successful exhibitors and breeders today acquired much of their success by learning from their mistakes and entries in poultry shows." It has been almost 40 years since he wrote that and little has changed on that topic.

Almost every poultry breed club in North America, and world wide, has one primary goal, and that is to improve the quality of their particular breed, through breeder and exhibitor interaction, and hard work. This takes place through communication in all forms, but primarily at poultry shows where birds are judged by comparison. . . Comparison to the 'Standard' and comparison to each other.

A 'breed club' which is first and foremost a social club and caters to it's members as it's first priority will function at the expense of the breed itself. We have all seen this happen. The Araucana Breeders & Exhibitors

Club, it's officers, and it's membership should and will be about breeding a better Araucana. ABEC will encourage exhibition of Araucana at APA and ABA sanctioned shows, in a number of ways, primarily through an extensive awards program. Our goal is to promote the Araucana breed by educating breeders, exhibitors and the general public alike on the traits and appearance of an Araucana, whether large fowl or bantam, as bred to the 'Standard of Perfection' and the 'Bantam Standard'

To quote Fred Jeffries, "The excitement of having best pullet, or best cock, or best hen, or best cockerel, has to be experienced to be appreciated. Often there are unkind things said about the judge but most exhibitors are good sports and accept defeat graciously. It is always disappointing to lose but usually by mid-week the exhibitor is looking forward to next Sunday and a new show." Our motto at ABEC is "Breed Improvement Through Exhibition". If you attend a show you will not always be the winner, but you should learn from your losses and your breeding program will continue to improve.

I would like to officially welcome all new members to the Araucana Breeders & Exhibitors Club - - our name says it all - - who we are, and what we are about. Our website is at: <http://www.abec.us> and we hope you will visit.



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*"Breed Improvement Through Exhibition"*

ABEC is committed to breed improvement through exhibition of the Araucana breed as defined by the APA's Standard of Perfection and the ABA's Bantam Standard.

**Deadline for the 2014 ABEC Araucana Futurity Nomination Payment is September 1st!**

(For more information visit our website or email: [secretary@abec.us](mailto:secretary@abec.us))

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# Discussion on the American Serama - Hows and Whys -

By Brian Reeder

<http://brianreederbreeder.blogspot.com/>

This article by Brian Reeder was written awhile ago, but is still viable today.

Since it's arrival in the USA, the serama has generated much controversy. Many see it as nothing more than a "chabo cull" or just a crossbreed. There is some truth in both of these, but they are not quite accurate. While the Serama was developed from chabo and crosses with many other breeds, it is a true breed.

However, it is not a "breed" by Western standards. That is to say, it is not set into one type nor is it set into color varieties. It is the type of breed called a "landrace", which is a group of birds sharing common traits, but also still segregating many other traits.

The importation of landraces from Asia into the West has occurred several times and most of our modern breeds are descendants of such imports. Once in the West, these landraces have then been refined into breeds, varieties, etc. In other words, refined, to suit Western tastes. The

Asiatics (cochin, brahma and langshan) are classic examples of just such events. In the East, they are not separate breeds, and are more regional variations of the same thing. Those original variations were refined into separate varieties and breeds in the West. This process is now beginning with the serama.

With the Malaysian Serama being a landrace and not a consistent and refined breed, the question arises, "So what do we do with them?" This has been my focus of research: to determine what genes they have that are useful, what genes are not useful, problem traits and strong points.

Amongst their greatest traits is the wonderful and calm personality seen in many serama.

Amongst their bad traits is the fact that the majority of serama seem to lack the basic desirable "chicken traits" (good production/reproduction traits, high fertility, strong hatchability, etc). As well, there are type traits desired in Malaysia (where there are at least four styles of Serama) that are extreme and detrimental to a balanced, productive and graceful bird.

So what do we seek to make in the Ameri-

can Serama? What are the traits to discard and what traits are to be intensified? In what ways do we seek to change the Malaysian Serama to make it an American Serama?

As past SCNA Chair, I have had the privilege of working with the other members of the Governing Council of SCNA to formulate a desirable standard that can correct the faults of the Malaysian serama and refine it into a breed as recognized in the West. In writing this standard, our first concern was to establish one type, rather than four or five different types, as in Malaysia. To do that, we chose the "slim" form and combined it with the "apple" breast. Why?

The slim type gives several desirable traits. These include a longer back (which allows more space for internal organs and promotes better reproduction/production), longer legs (which allows the wing to not drag the ground, which is one of the major faults in most Malaysian lines of serama), a longer neck (which keeps the wattles off the breast) and the ability to have a very high held tail. The apple breast then gives much more developed breast musculing, allowing the extra culls to be usable for food, gives more muscle mass to the bird thus creating more resistance to disease and more durability and better cold weather tolerance.

To people who are used to one or the other of the Malaysian types, the American Serama type may seem odd at first, neither one form nor the other. However on closer inspection (especially when evaluated by a poultry man or a geneticist) the difference are not arbitrary. They are designed to create a better, more durable and sustainable/reproducible type. This can thus create a serama that has consistency.

Let us look at the parts of the bird and the points attached to each.

There is no point emphasis given to any size

class. This is to de-emphasize size, which has been focused on far too heavily in the US, to the detriment of the breed. Size ONLY defines the category in which the bird falls and should have no effect or reflection on market value, with type and temperament being the basis of the market value of the American serama.

Type receives 25 points, and is the highest number of points given to a single trait. That is because type makes the breed. The type of the serama (both Malaysian and American)

should be very distinct from any other breed, and a bird that looks like a "chabo cull" or an "old English cross breed" should not be considered a serama, as they do not have type (which is the general silhouette). The overall type of the American serama is a compromise between the "slim" form and the "apple" form. That general outline is a large V with the foot as the apex, the breast as the front line and the back of the tail as the back line of the V. The second V in the outline is from the back of the head/comb region and the front line of the tail. The V of the breast and back of the

tail should be slightly wider than the V of the back of the head to the front of the tail. The overall effect is of a very proud, "cocky" appearance. This is type and short squatty birds, those which look like poor chabo, old english or do not have the two distinct V's do not have type.

Another important point in the American Serama type is that the base of the foot should show from the side, allowing the wing to clear the ground. More on this in the wing and leg sections.

Temperament is the next point group. Temperament receives 20 points. This is one of the most important traits, which sets the serama (when they have this personality) apart from most other breeds in existence. Since this breed is promoted as a "pet bird", especially for young children, the calmness

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is a major and important trait to intensify. Further, aggressive, flighty or easily agitated birds are simply not enjoyable to work with and do not make good pets. These are the reasons for the strong emphasis on temperament.

Tail carriage comes next and scores as highly as temperament, as the tail carriage is one of the most important points in making the overall type. In Malaysia, there has been a trend toward heavily breasted strains with low tail angle. These are lacking in grace and are very extreme, in fact so much so that their reproduction is decreased. While a serama should be able to lower its tail, it must not carry it low, as that ruins the type and makes it mistakable for other breeds or crosses. Also, wry tails are often seen in serama, and the emphasis on high points in the tail carriage is to discourage the wry tail which is often genetic and thus requires a concerted effort to eliminate. Wry tail can be a genetic flaw, a weak tail bed (also genetically influenced) or caused by environmental problems in hatching. It must be guarded against, as it is extremely unattractive.

The wing is next. In Malaysian serama there has been a tendency for the wing to be very long and to often drag the ground. We find this very unattractive, unsightly and unclean. Since the posed serama is to have the wing carried vertically, pointing to the ground, it is imperative that it not drag the ground. However, the wing is only awarded 10 points, as the leg is equally important in making the overall type and length to allow the wing to clear the ground. The emphasis with the ten points is toward a vertical wing, with the wing clearing the ground to be considered in both the wing points and leg points, as the proper length of leg is required to achieve this end.

The body receives 5 points. This is a lower point rating, because body is also considered with type, where the wrong body form will not allow for proper type. The emphasis of the body is in the well developed breast, though this is also considered in type points as well. A thin weak or bony body is a great detriment both to type and health.

Legs receive 5 points. While the look of the leg is considered, the major consideration of the leg is if it is long enough to allow the wing to clear the ground. A medium length leg is preferred, which allows the main foot to show from the side, but if one has to choose between a shorter leg or a longer leg, the preference in the American Serama would be toward the longer leg, thus ensuring the wing clears the ground. This is also considered in the points awarded to type, as the leg too short is a great detriment to type. The short leg is a flaw often seen in the Malaysian serama and

is highly undesirable, as this is usually indicative of one of the complex of achondroplastic genes, which shortens the entire skeletal system creating a "dumpy", "squat" or otherwise non-graceful appearance which is too chabo like. The American Serama should be a graceful, mobile bird and the short leg prevents.

Feathering gets five points. We wish to see well finished feathering in all American Serama. There is some segregation of the frizzling gene and its suppressor gene in the Malaysian serama.

We wish in the American serama to breed up a true smooth feathered bird and if interested parties use the frizzling to breed up a frizzled American Serama, this is fine too though it would be a different variety of American Serama. What is important to us is to separate the frizzling from the suppressor gene, which will allow for true frizzling, true smooth feather and no intermediate forms. As well, we do not wish to see broken, damaged or poorly feathered American Serama being shown.

Comb/wattles also gets five points. This section receives fewer points, because comb finish is a refinement, which should be focused on at the end of breeding, rather than at the beginning.

A common beginners mistake is too much focus on combs/wattles/heads and color, in general. It is desirable that the wattles not touch the breast, as this indicates that the neck bones are long enough to give the graceful form and carriage desired for American Serama.

Finally, on our points scale, there is appearance. This is "finish" and is considered to help all members to focus on properly finished birds for the show room. Appearance receives five points.

Now, with the list of areas and points defined, let us talk about what I call the "intangible traits".

These are the traits you can't see, but which are essential to a breed, if it is to survive and be consistently reproducible. These include such traits as resistance to disease, vigor, production of a quality and hatchable egg, high fertility, ability to breed naturally with high fertility, no traits so extreme that they hamper or impair reproduction and health, etc.

The decision to make the form basically similar to "slim", with the longer neck, longer legs, longer back (though the longer back is disguised by the pose and the long hackle feathers), etc, was made to allow for a well proportioned body which can carry the internal organs with ease, to create a more graceful form which allows the wings to clear the ground and to avoid the achondroplastic genes,

which create the shorter legs, but also shortens the entire skeletal system.

These skeletal shortening genes are detrimental to health and reproductive traits. This decision then is based on the genetic necessities of form's influence on health and reproduction, with the visual aspect being considered, but more being a happy coincidence of the genetic reality. The compromise was found by putting the well developed apple breast onto the slim form, thus creating a balance between extreme type and vigor/reproduction, with the nod to grace and cleanliness (getting the wing off the ground). We feel our standard for the American Serama has achieved a balanced compromise that allows the best traits of the Malaysian serama to be brought forward, with the less desirable and detrimental traits being eliminated.

What we desire to create with the American Serama is a breed which is consistent and reproducible, based upon genetic understanding of form's influence on health and reproduction.

The question was, "How extreme can the bird be before it starts to impact upon health and reproduction?" Experiments and research show that the longer back (even if hidden by the overall form) gives more "guts": i.e., room for the internal organs and the proper production of eggs. We also desire that the American Serama be consistent in type with that type reproducible.

For consistency sake, we chose a compromise form, giving a wealth of genetic advantages, and allowing for one type to be created to diffuse much of the confusion seen in the various types seen in the Malaysian serama.

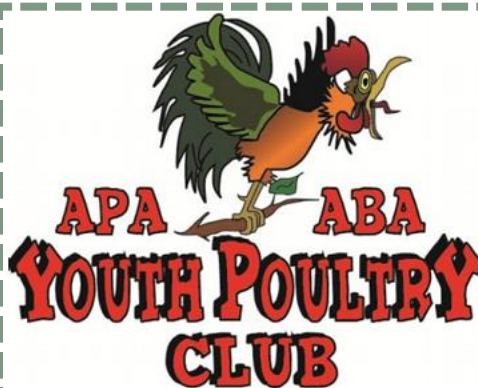
Finally, I would like to stress that there are probably no birds in the US or in Malaysia that match the SCNA American Serama standard 100%. A standard is a guideline to breed toward. Since there has been no importation of a landrace, which was then refined into consistent breeds in living memory, there is much confusion with the process. It is one thing to go out and get started in a breed that has been established for decades. You buy the best and breed to the standard. Yet it is a different process when a landrace is being turned into a refined and consistent breed.

Proceed to look for birds that are strong in various points and begin to blend them together. Since no one bird is at this time expected to have every desired trait, the development of the American

Serama will be a process of combining traits, collecting those traits together in higher concentration and increasing their prevalence in each generation. This is how breeds are developed. On the flip side of this there is



the need to be consistently removing the undesirable traits in each generation. It is also important to remember that as the SCNA Virtual Evaluations continue, that a low score for type should not necessarily exclude a given bird from breeding. As an example, a bird with really high vigor, fertility, egg production or wonderful temperament, but lesser form, can be blended with a bird of much higher type and in the subsequent generations, selection would focus on the birds with better type, but also having the good traits from the lesser type bird. It is very common that exhibition breeders do not breed from their best show birds and the most gifted breeders learn what is desirable for breeding and what is desirable for showing. In many cases, they are not exactly the same.



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: [nanamamabrahma@att.net](mailto:nanamamabrahma@att.net)

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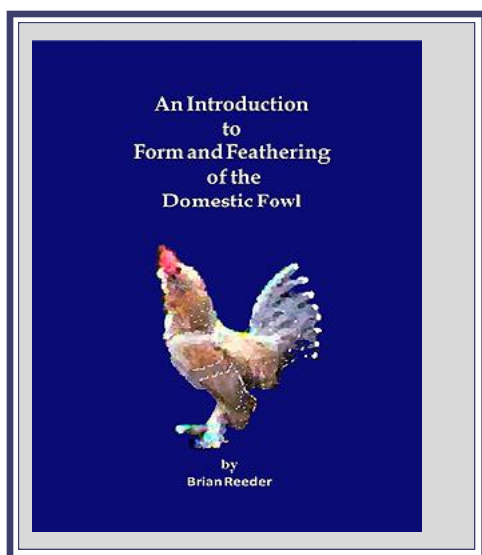
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