


Exhibition Poultry

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

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 **Nutrena**
What's inside counts.



On the Cover (left to Right): Maddox Weigelt, Reserve Show Champion with a white Wyandotte bantam & Alina Goldie, Show Champion with a black Cochin bantam. Story County Fair in Nevada, Iowa. Photo by Kyla Struthers.

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Exhibition Poultry

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Exhibition Poultry Magazine

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From the Editor . . .

In the last issue we ran an article on heat stress and your birds. It was timely and let us all know how heat stress should effect our chickens and what to expect at different temperatures. I re-read that article recently after making it through our record hot summer. This year, I had no poultry deaths due to heat. The birds that the article referenced must be fairly cold blooded. Instead of reacting according to the chart's specs, my birds laid well right through 6 weeks of 110+ heat indexes, and still kept us generously supplied with eggs. Also, for the first time, I did not use fans on them. I hope your results this year were similar and that your birds are adapting to your local environmental changes as mine seem to be.

I have to admire those of you who suffered through the hottest summer I've ever experienced, kept your birds in condition, and attended the traditional Summer Fairs and early shows in the northern states. From the amount of win photos our readers submitted for this issue it is obvious that the shows are back and thriving after the "pandemic" shut so many down a couple of years back. We have included many of the photos submitted to us, in this issue, and the wins and photo quality are impressive to say the least. We simply ran out of room or we could have included more. Congratulations to everyone on your big wins! Check the table of contents for your last name to see if your photo is included in this issue. I really wish I could have made room for more of them but as it was, a couple of articles had to be pushed forward to the next issue. The level of participation in these early 2023 poultry shows bodes well for the larger ones that are just around the corner - including the 2023 ABA Annual.

Best of luck to everyone at the Fall shows. I hope your hard work pays off.

Ann Charles, Editor



September 2023 ABA Happenings

Boy - the time is flying by and Fall with all its' great escapes is here. A perfect escape is a poultry show if you happen to find one. So, enjoy yourself and good luck with your birds and all the hard work you have put into them so far.


By the time you read this, you should have received your yearbook. I cannot precisely predict when it hits the mailboxes, but the ABA's work is done on this, and it is in the hands of our postal service.

It is with a heavy heart that I report the loss of Russell Crevoiserat. Russell served the ABA as our financial advisor, Legband shipper in prior years, and as head of the Ways and Means committee for many years. His family has asked that in lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Disabled American Veterans – DAV. Russell was a dear friend to many including myself. I hope his efforts have inspired others to serve your local poultry clubs as he has done for decades.

Speaking of legbands, we




continue to offer ALL sizes of the 2023 Legbands in the following sizes. They are available in the following sizes: D (10mm) – E(11mm) – F (13mm) – G(15mm) and G

(16mm) (a new slightly larger G we are reviewing) - H (18mm) - I(20mm) - J(22mm) – and K(25mm). On October first, or thereabouts, we will then start taking orders for the






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Scholarship Update“ We are excited to announce the 2023 recipients of the PenPals scholarship. They are Athena Balderas, UT and Caroline Evans of FL. Congratulations to these young ABA members. We wish you well on your journey and are proud to support your efforts.

Our 2023 ABA National Meet will be held in Shawnee, Oklahoma. For more information, contact Wade Walker

at wt.walker@yahoo.com. This is going to be a great show and a good event for all. This will be a wonderful opportunity for the ABA to show a presence and recruit some new ABA members. I hope you can make this show as it has been a while since the ABA was out this way.

Last month we shared some items that were to be considered by the ABA Board of directors. These potential changes were regarding the current rules on protests and a possible revision to the Bantam Standard as it relates to weights. Thank you for your feedback. Your ABA Board of Directors will take your considerations under advisement as they go into session to dis-

cuss and potentially vote on these options.

The ABA Constitution and By-Laws in cooperation with our Standard Committee has prepared the be final. If the protest is sustained the deposit shall be returned to the protester, otherwise it becomes the property of the local association.

I am very busy in the office processing show reports. This is a time-consuming part of the management of the ABA and I appreciate your understanding of this process.

Until next month,
Enjoy your birds.
Karen Unrath
ABA Secretary

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SEPTEMBER 2023 EPMag

‘WIN’ Photo Submissions

The end-of-Summer Fairs and early poultry shows have been busy, and swamped with poultry entries. We asked for photos of wins and we had a wonderful response. Photos could be from this year or last year or possibly earlier but a good quality photo was obviously important. We have including as many of them in this issue as possible. Congratulations to all of you on your accomplishments!

Photo submitted by: Jennifer Matheos Rice
Pictured: Black Bantam Cochin Cock owned by
Natalie Rice, Junior Show Champion, Tri-State
Poultry Show.





Submitted by: Rhiannon Barreda. "My best guy, Kenya, of Wing & A Prayer Farm, LLC– Reserve at 2022 Nationals (African gander).



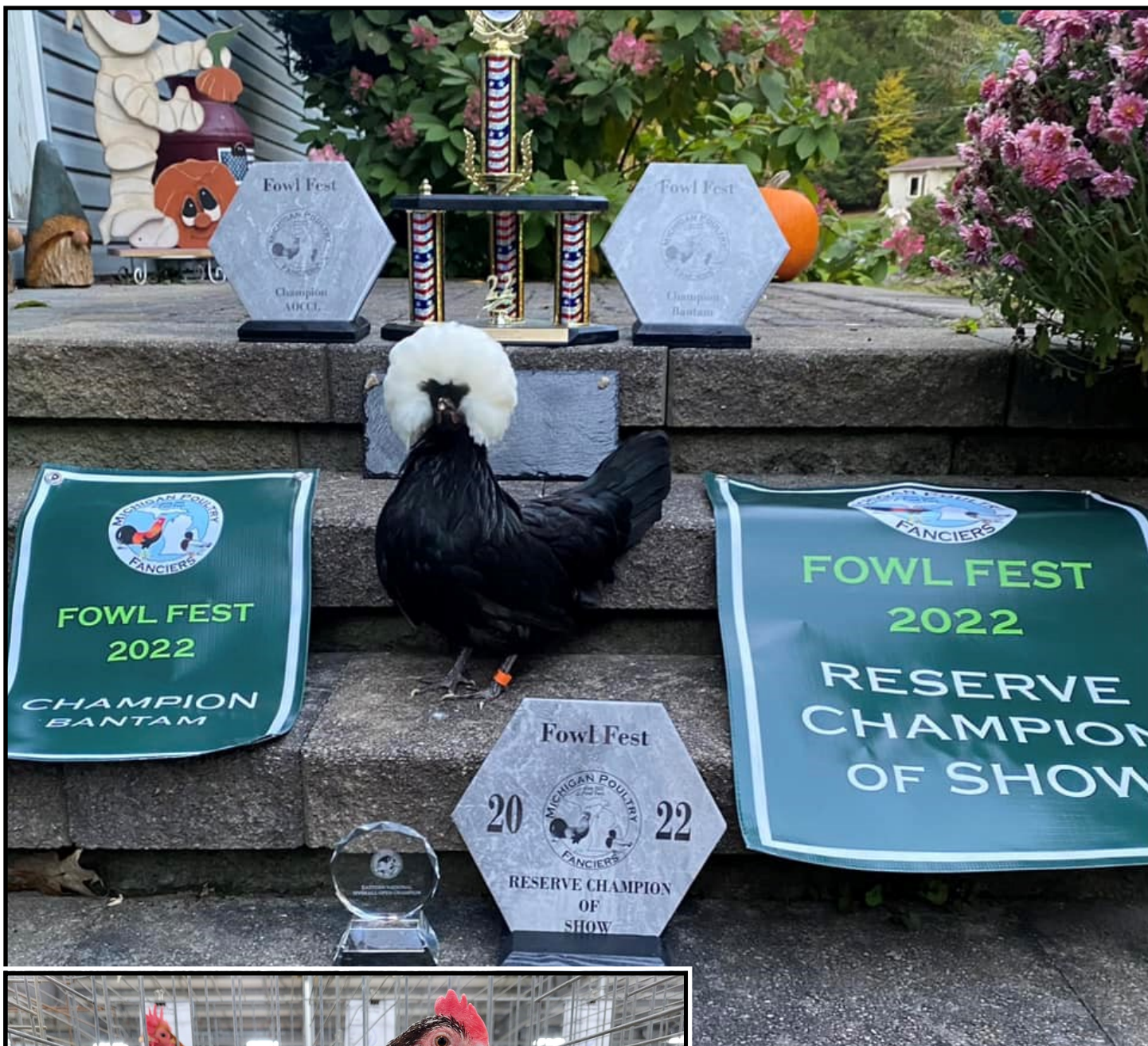
Submitted by: Jimmy Church. Buff Brahma Bantam pullet. Champion Featherleg at the 2022 Ohio National, ABA National, and Brahma National.



Submitted by: Lisa Jo Kite Shay. White Crested Black Polish bantam hen, "Just Peachy", Peach State Poultry Association., 2019 Reserve Champion bantam.



Submitted by: Kristina R. Lyle. Grand champion bantam at Shelby County fair. Shown by Trenton Lyle, blue mottled Serama.



ABOVE:

Submitted by: Melissa Schuckers
NB WC black bantam Polish pullet. Michigan Fowl Fest 2022 double show. "Vera won Reserve Show Champion on both cards."

LEFT:

Submitted by Emmy Lineweaver: Bantam Speckled Sussex Hen—Reserve Champion Bantam, Best Single Comb Clean Legged, 2022 Central Indiana Poultry Show—ABA District Meet.

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Partridge & Penciling: Pattern Gene Expression and Interactions

Article by Brian Reeder

Photos by Grant Brereton

Pattern gene, notated as Pg, acts as a simple Mendelian dominant gene, but is not visible on all e-alleles. E-allele interaction is extremely important to the fundamental expression of the so-called 'Pattern Gene'. This factor distributes the eumelanin form of melanin (black) to create a range of patterns layered on pheomelanin (red/silver pigments – the s-allele) that depend on interaction with the e-allele rearranging the melanin distributions into the range of patterns we know in the poultry hobby. When combined with all the other additive genes of color and pattern, a vast range of hobby color forms have been created. One particularly lovely expression is the combination of eb (brown) and Pg, known as the hobby varieties 'Partridge' in the red form and 'Penciled' in the silver form.

PG, by itself and without either of its interaction genes (Db and MI) forms the simplest of the patterns on females of the e-alleles eb or e+. Only when this pattern expression occurs on eb do we recognize these as varieties that we often refer to as 'Partridge' or 'Penciled' in the Hobby, but e+ hens can express the same lacing over their duckwing melanic distribution pattern and these can be quite lovely, though I have never seen them quite as cleaned up and refined as in the best purebred Partridge or Penciled varieties of the recognized breeds. I do not know if that means they can't be cleaned up, though.

The eb Pg pattern is made up of concentric curved eumelanin lines that arrange themselves by anchoring at various heights along the quill of the effected feathers, layered over pheomelanin of some type, and curving around the contour of the feather, creating a chevron shaped line that extends around the feather, one ring inside the next with each ring getting closer to the tip of the feather. The outer edge of the feather is not eumelanin (black) but is



This picture by Grant Brereton shows an eb s+ 'Red Brown' hen. This is the basic e-allele eb (brown) combined with basic red (s+) with no pattern gene. You can see that the body feathers are pheomelanin covered by eumelanin pigments. When Pg is added, the patterning pulls the eumelanin into bands and exposes the pheomelanin underneath creating a bright pattern. The basic eb s+ hen thus looks darker than her patterned counterpart."

pheomelanin (red/silver: the S-allele) on the hen's breast and body. Some lines will show an outer eumelanin line, but this is interaction with one or another of the many eumelanin genes. I have seen this expression in some large fowl Dark Brahma lines, for instance. Males on either of these e-alleles appear much like typical wild type males and do not express patterning generally. If Db or Co is found segregating on these males, patchy breasts and undersides are common – a good reason to avoid Db and Pg getting mixing with these varieties, if at all possible, unless the goal is to go toward Db or Co based varieties.

This concentric-ring lacing pattern can express itself on both be (brown) and e+(duckwing) hens, though it is most commonly seen on eb in such varieties as the Partridge Wyandotte, Partridge Rock, Sil-



"The hen in this picture is a British Partridge Wyandotte showing the combination of eb s+ and Pg. Unlike the American Partridge lines, this hen has no mahogany and is a lighter form of Partridge. This color form shows the partridge lacing to great advantage. You can see how the pattern gene causes the pattern to pull the eumelanin into tight concentric rings that concentrate into black and thus exposes the pheomelanin underneath the eumelanin of the regular eb s+ pg+ hen."

ver Penciled Wyandotte, Silver Penciled Rock, Silver Penciled or 'Dark' Brahma and Partridge Cochins. This basic combination can be seen in a great many landrace breeds throughout Asia. In the West and especially in America, it is most noted with the breeds mentioned above. While the Wyandotte and Rock would be considered American Class breeds, I think of them as modified Asiatics or 'of Asiatic extraction'. The Brahma and Cochins are obviously Asiatics.

This combination of eb and Pg, when well selected and homozygous, is extremely lovely and can be fairly easily to make in a range of breeds. Using one of the foundation types mentioned above, a cross to most any e-allele could eventually work, as eb is recessive to everything, so the options for outcrossing are high. Once you re-segregate eb and have a pair of these re-segregants, you can breed 100% eb from those. The allele eb is as low as you can go, and

nothing else is known to be able to lurk beneath it. I have always thought of eb varieties as the very best for those wishing to breed very consistent birds that don't throw any major variations, if the other genes are set. With any pair of known eb/eb homozygotes, eb is all you are going to get at the e-allele. For this reason, outcrosses making this simple color form can be very successful.

The first generation of such a cross is fairly even, having an e-allele from each parent and being heterozygous for the Pattern gene coming from the Partridge or Penciled variety. It is often useful to avoid interaction genes Ml and Db, also things like Co, as you want to keep as many additive genes out as possible, but whatever additive genes are present, your F1 will have a dose of all; they will be heterozygous at all of those alleles, and you may also have a lot of alleles that are now heterozygous. The key in the second generation is to find the homozygotes for the recessive eb allele and pay special attention for those also expressing pattern gene, and then breed from those. In this way, working to shuffle out the additive genes and getting down to basic eb Pg homozygous expression is important to quickly recreating the basic pattern (e-allele and Pg-allele interaction) in its proper proportions. Depending on the level of difference in the form and feathering genes between the two breeds will determine a great deal about how quickly they look like a Partridge or Penciled variety in the breed (form and feathering) you are working with. Once you have a mixed stock, showing some of the form genes that you want with pure expression of both eb and Pg, you can begin to backcross into the form breed to keep improving type. A project like this moves in a sort of triangular fashion for a few cycles. The first triangle is the purebreds that are crossed, their first generation offspring and the second generation that is produced by interbreeding the F1 and selecting the individuals expressing eb, paying special attention to those with one or two doses of Pg. The second triangle is the selected F2 and the pure form stock crossed, their first generation offspring and the second generation offspring arising from interbreeding the F1, again picking for purity of eb and Pg, but increasing the expression of the form genes coming from the original form breed. This type of turning can be done for

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These pictures show regular red Partridge of the British style. These two birds are the basic e-allele eb combined with red, showing no dilution, and pattern gene. Note that pattern gene, in this combination, is only visible on the female.

several generations, but it is much easier if you don't have too many additive genes, and especially the interaction linkage genes. If I wanted to make an eb Pg variety on a breed where it does not exist, I would look for standard varieties such as duckwings (plain duckwing e+ with few interaction genes; i.e., "wildtype"), Birchen or Brown Red (ER with S or s+ expression at the s-allele) and I would consider using black (E and/or ER) varieties as well. With the later, there is the possibility of picking up MI, Db or other additive genes, but when a black breed not carrying MI or other hidden additive genes such as Db or Co (which E can fully hide) can be found, it can be very useful for making new varieties of the given breed. It is not too uncommon for there to be good black varieties of a good many breeds where varieties based on eb, e+ and eWh are not currently known. Fertile ground for exploration, I think even if a few melanizers have to be bred out. However given the choice between simple e+, eb or eWh and E or ER, I would be inclined to look toward the former for outcross material, especially if no visible additive melanizers are present. It is important to remember that eb is recessive to the other e-alleles. In my experience it has been easier to simply resegment homozygous brown,

patterned individuals from crosses to more genetically simple varieties than to deal with getting rid of such genes as Columbian and Dark Brown in addition to dealing with the e-allele and other additive genes such as melanizers. These genes can behave in very unexpected ways and can turn up in the most unlikely places, skewing varieties and generally making kind of splotchy messes, except when they are arranged properly on the allele with the other linkage genes to make what we in the hobby consider to be proper patterned varieties such as laced, spangled, penciled, dark penciled, or autosomal barring. The linkage seen between Pg, Db and MI is extremely interesting. It is often assumed that you can move through the patterns genetically with regularity and ease as we see in other non-linked alleles, but interblending patterns to create other patterns can be fraught due to linkage. Let us say that we wanted a Golden Spangled Cornish. Sounds easy, right? The Dark Cornish already has MI and Pg, so we just need to add Db, right? So how about a New Hampshire? That seems logical as the NH has Db, but the two varieties are in locked-in linkages at both sets of Pg/Db/MI alleles. The New Hampshire is pg+/Db/ml while the Cornish is Pg/db+/MI. In order to make the spangled variety, you must recom-

bine those three alleles to Pg/MI/Db. But therein lies the rub. To get those genes to combine in that way will take a linkage break, a rare instance where the linked genes split apart and segregate (recombine) separately. So while you likely could eventually find the proper segregant, you might need a large number produced over the years in order to actually locate the correct combination. I would never say that lucky accidents never occur, though! An easier way might be to cross a spangled Hamburg with the Dark Cornish and produce several cycles of the triple-generation breeding scheme I describe above. The basic Cornish form genes are not linked to the pattern linkage group, so the correct pattern can be reseggregated onto the Cornish form. The thing to remember is that it is more difficult to “make” the complex patterns from scratch than it is to transfer the complete linkage group already combined the way you want it. Of all the pattern linkage groups, the simple single gene “Pg”, which is the linkage group Pg/db+/ml+, is perhaps the easiest to work with, and especially so when outcrosses are made to other simple varieties, avoiding the genes Db and Co especially. The Partridge and Penciled varieties represent this simple pattern gene combination with dimorphic color patterns, the male wild type and the hens showing concentric lacing throughout their body feathers on the e-alleles eb and e+. On the e-alleles E and ER, this combination has little effect, even in the females and so the phenotype presents as simple birchen varieties such as Birchen or Brown Red. Wheaten hens with no melanic modifier genes also show little expression of Pattern gene, while wheaten roosters with Pg are simply wild type. If you are looking for a striking pattern where good examples of the existing varieties can be found, Pg in simple combination with eb is a good place to look. The Partridge Wyandotte bantam has long been a good variety of a good breed and there are good lines of Partridge Cochin bantams, perhaps also large fowl Partridge Cochin, Dark Brahma, and Penciled and Partridge Rocks of both large and bantam fowl. Further, since good examples of breeds with one of these varieties exist, making this variety in other breeds would be possible. As the Partridge Wyandotte bantams are often remarkably hardy birds,



This male Partridge Wyandotte of the British style (photo by Grant Brereton) is a diluted red partridge. Whether Pg or pg+ are present, the male of such lines will appear like this rooster, Pg having little to no effect on the male of the basic eb or e+ e-alleles.

this could be an excellent place to start and an excellent form of the eb Pg combination to incorporate into other breeds, as our extremely dark Partridge is a unique and interesting combination. The versions of partridge bred in the US utilize Mahogany and some carry melanizers, in order to make them very dark. ‘Partridge’ is bred in many shades around the world, ranging from pale golden versions, to red or orange to deep red versions, all the way up to the cherry/black mahogany lines of the US. There are many forms of ‘Partridge’ that can be made ranging through the whole possible spectrum of pheomelanin... All the way down to ‘Penciled’ on the extreme pheomelanic restriction side.

The penciled lines are the silver counterparts to the red partridge lines. The best silver Penciled lines are pure for all the silvering alleles and so present a very black and white effect that is very attractive. In females you can create deep silver shading at a glance that is remarkable. On closer inspection such clean hens can look very psychedelic, with an almost hound’s-tooth pattern. If these silver hens have any red based pheomelanin expressing, the



In this photo we see a color variety that is non-standard in the US. This is a Silver Mahogany Brown—eb S Aph Mh Pg. This is a lovely color combination. The only variety in the US exhibiting this color form is the Salmon Faverolle, which exhibits silver mahogany on the eWh wheaten e-allele."

under color can show a peach to yellowish tint, that at a glance looks like tobacco staining. To me, this can be quite attractive, and intentional combinations of silver with expressed Mahogany can be very beautiful, as well as the golden forms that can be made, but if the goal is clean, pure silvers, then the silvering factors must all be present: S/Aph^h/mh⁺.

While a simple pattern, it is also complex and intricate. The simple wild type male combined with the deeply patterned and detailed female in contrasting bands of eumelanin and pheomelanin plays on the wild type red jungle fowl phenotype making a more detailed and patterned version of the basic wild type pattern. To me, it is a perfect blending of nature with artificial selection.

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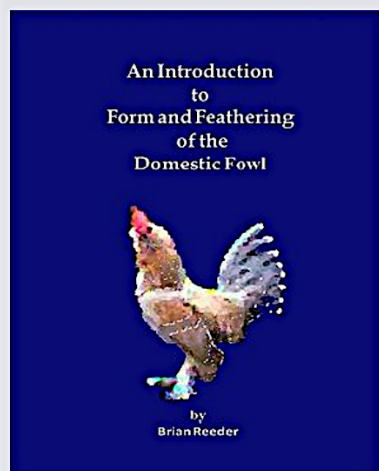


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Submitted by Sarah Hamilton: Black Copper Marans Pullet, "Lizzie", exhibited by Elliott Hamilton, was the 2022 Youth Continental Champion, Champion Large Fowl, and Reserve Land Fowl at the Ohio National.



Submitted by Byron Faulkner, Grand Champion of Show 2023 Montana State Fair with a Gray Call hen.



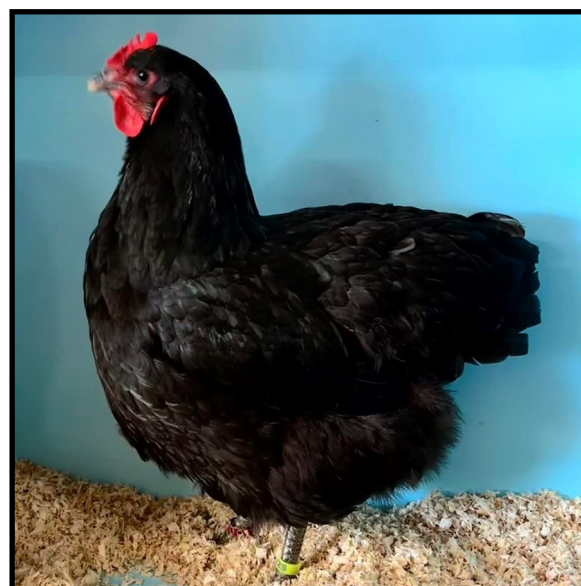
Submitted by: Weezee Sellars, Reserve Champion of Show, Champion Large Fowl, Champ American, and Champion Jersey Giant. Show: 2017 South Mississippi Standard. Double Show. Both judges.



Submitted by: Genevieve LaFerriere. Spangled Hamburg male: Super Grand Champion of Show at the 2023 Connecticut Poultry Breeders Association Show.



Submitted by: Heather Terrell, White Sebastopol Gander, Champion Overall Goose, 2023 Bluebonnet Classic, TX.



Submitted by: Susan M Buchanan, Black Jersey Giant Pullet, Champion American, 2023 Green River Poultry Club Spring Show, KY.



LEFT

Submitted by: Susan M Buchanan. Mille Fleur Belgian d'Uccle Hen, Super Grand Champion, 2023 Carpet City Bantam Club Spring Fling, Dalton, GA.

BELOW

Submitted by: Shelby McAtee. Silver Laced Wyandotte Cock, Champion Rose Comb Clean Leg, 2023 Indiana State Fair. Shelby McAtee Norris Family Farm - Loogootee, IN.



ABOVE - Submitted by: Colleen Kelley. Black Breasted Red Ohiki, Best in breed 2023 Pips & Chicks Virtual Poultry Show.





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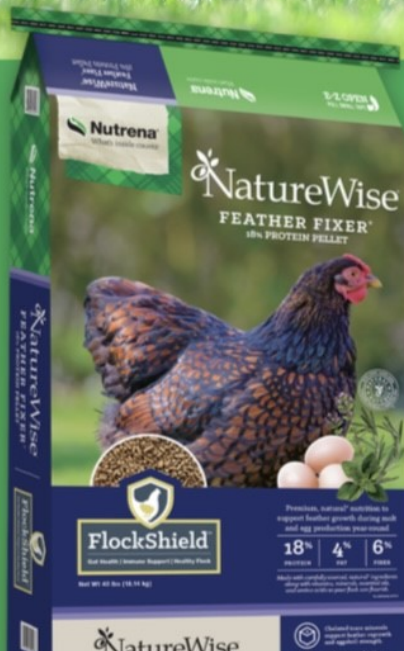
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