

# Exhibition Poultry

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

Volume 13 No. 1 • <https://www.ExhibitionPoultry.net> • January/February 2024

 **Nutrena**  
What's inside counts.



Julie Rena Fyffe: American Silkie Bantam Club 100 Year Anniversary Show, Best of Breed Silkie, held at the Red River Bantam Club Show, Marietta, Oklahoma.



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# Exhibition Poultry

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### Exhibition Poultry Magazine

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## From the Editor . . .

I'll talk about the weather and chickens because it is really on my mind. Drought busting is ongoing, and we will get a bit more help with that tonight. I am so grateful for the rain. But next week's polar vortex is certainly going to be a challenge, even for us in the South. Most of my birds have been out free ranging for the last few months and thankfully they put themselves up at night and there have been no predator losses. That really helps with my workload. Only my bantams are in breeding pens and their chicks, and the weekly hatches, are keeping me busy. I have been running lights in my chicken pens 24-7 for two years now. It is the best thing I have ever done to keep nocturnal predators at bay. No racoons, possums, coyotes, or owls have made an appearance since. A six foot fence, and a good guard dog keep the daytime predators away. At night the large fowl come in to the light and find a place to roost. They sleep when they feel like it, sometimes with their head tucked under a wing. Not sure why but all my birds are switching to winter breeding instead of spring. My bantams are the most fertile they have ever been and they are all laying liking crazy right now. The large fowl are keeping us well supplied with eggs, since I don't have any breeding pens set up with them.

On to a very sad subject, - - we lost Edgar a couple weeks ago. Andrew and I last talked too him when he was at the Ohio National and I did not realize how bad things had got with him until we were told he was in hospice. He was a good friend and we all talked a lot over the years, mostly on the phone, but often at shows. Edgar sure loved those New Hampshire's and he bred some great ones. I have included a reprint in this issue of an article he did for us a couple of years ago. Edgar was really good at telling you exactly what he thought! He did not pull his punches. At the same time he was always a supportive and loyal friend. Rest In Peace, Edgar Mongold.

Ann Charles, Editor



**ABA Happenings  
January 2024**

Happy New Year!!

On behalf of the ABA Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs, and working team, we wish you a wonderful new year with lots of birds, shows, and hopefully some wins. We hold this hobby dear to us and although we compete, we also support each other in many ways. We are a part of a unique population that speaks our own language. Try talking to your non poultry people and use words like – mottled – combs – undercolor – finish out – sickles – crele.... the list goes on and on and the conversation will be short. So, let’s make this a year to embrace our hobby and continue to create a culture of support and enjoyment of what we were given.

The ABA National Meet is in the books. Thank you to all the folks in Shawnee Oklahoma for hosting this event. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend personally, but from all accounts, it was a fantastic show. I would like to take a moment to personally thank Kim Munden for stepping up in my absence. She does a fantastic job and is a top ABA

team player. You should expect to see more on the results soon.

Our 2024 Legbands are moving quickly. This year, they are blue. Don’t wait to order yours

as we do not plan to reorder/ ALL sizes of the 2024 Legbands are available: D(10mm) through K(25mm. A cross reference sheet is found on our website to

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help you determine which size you will need.

I continue to work through the ABA show reports. This is the part of the job which is the most rewarding to me personally. I really enjoy sending the ABA members that note that they have made a level win. I know how very hard it is to accumulate these wins and get excited each and every time an ABA member achieves one.

If you have not already purchased a 2020 ABA Standard, now is the right time to complete your library. The next edition is being worked on now. This edition will be the 2024 or 2025 depending on the timelines of completion. A big step for the ABA in 2024 is to manage our member-

ships using a membership portal. This will enable all members to renew online and have their membership card available to them immediately. You will also be able to look up your dues status anytime and verify/change any important information like name – address – email – and phone. As we transition to this method, there will be some snags. That is the nature of any migration. We ask that you work with us to help in this transition. We will need updated addresses and most importantly an up-to-date email for everyone. We can ONLY use one email. I have had one ABA member set up theirs as (example ElmerfuddABA@gmail.com) This is just one idea of how one might

want to segregate their emails that I am sharing in case you are unsure. My personal email is great, but full of many different things, and I might choose to set one up independently just for all my poultry club emails.

I am looking forward to the transition and to serving the ABA members even better as time goes on.

Until next month,

Enjoy your birds and do your best to raise some champions.!

Always take a moment to visit the ABA site [www.bantamclub.com](http://www.bantamclub.com) to see what is new.

Karen Unrath  
ABA Secretary

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The advertisement features a cartoon chicken pilot in a red biplane flying through clouds. In the bottom left corner, there are images of the Bantam Standard 2020 book and the 2019 Yearbook. The background is a blue sky with white clouds.

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# Deconstructing White in the Araucana Chicken

By Ann Charles

This article is primarily about my experiences with working with the white variety in my Araucana over the last twenty or so years. However, these same concepts would apply to most white chickens. Currently, I have only recessive white in my bantams, and only dominant white in my large fowl Araucana. My white standard-sized Araucana originally began with a recessive white chick from another breeder but I have lost that recessive white gene over time in my large birds.

As pretty as whites are at the shows at their peak of perfection, it is not one of my favorite colors. They are just too hard to keep clean. Yet, for this very reason, most people agree it is hard to beat a good white at the shows. I find white are also harder to sell, at least to my customer base. Most people seem to want to show Black Araucana, or something more colorful like the Silver or Golden duckwings. As luck would have it, over the years, my whites have become my best birds. During this same time frame, I was taking several setbacks on my blacks. So, a few years back I decided to cross my whites into my few good black birds to improve type, size, vigor, etc.

I knew it would take several generations to sort out all the different genes and varieties hiding under the white color but I did not realize how long this process would actually take. Remember, my goal was to transfer most of the good qualities of my white Araucana to my black Araucana.

For those of you who don't know, white is usually produced by using a good solid black bird as a base color. From that point, many genes might be added into the mix to make a nice clean, non-brassy white. Dominant white only removes Black pigment (eumelanin) whereas recessive white removes black (eumelanin) and most red pigments



White Araucana cockerel, large fowl. Wing band #303, 'Gorgeous George'. Homozygous dominant white. Current photo (January 2024). Color is pretty good. Never been bathed. Kept for a white breeder.

(phaeomelanin). That said, if either of these 'white' genes were good at their jobs, no other genes would be necessary to make a white chicken a dazzlingly sparkling clean white beside a good bath. Both recessive and dominant white are known to be leaky, and to a certain extent let 'color' show through. Some varieties are even built on this 'leakiness' in whites. One example would be the Paint variety recently developed in the Silkie chickens, the genetics of which is leaky dominant white over black.

My first crosses: dominant white Araucana x black Araucana.

Results: 100 % 'Paint' chicks, all would be heterozygous for dominant white and looked white but with off-colored feathers here and there. Those off

-colored feathers are useful because they are leaking the color hiding under the white, and in my experience, by examining them closely they can tell you a lot about the individual genetics of each bird. As an example, if those off-colored feathers were blue instead of black, I could assume that the bird had a gene for blue, and sometimes those feathers also had barring, which meant the bird had cuckoo genetics too. After the first cross, I could have backcrossed my Paint chicks back to a black parent when mature but this would have made any resulting chicks only 25 % of the desired 'white' line. So my choice was to take the best of the 'paint' generation and make full sibling matings, and then cull hard for type, vigor, and color.

2nd cross: This was the paint on paint offspring of the first cross. These birds produce whites, obviously, and paints, plus about 25 % of every color you can imagine. I found my original whites were



'Barry', #341, 8 month old Intermediate cuckoo cockerel . . . He only has one barring gene but is homozygous for (E/E) black. He is not my best bird from this project but is the closest, so far, to true black in the males.



Blue Paint cockerel, #321 'Pintor' (January 2024). Blue feathers leaking through the white. Not to be confused with splash. Heterozygous for dominant white. This leaky color is the most common for the first cross of a black to a white.

hiding blue, silver, cuckoo, and even wheaten. Add in the fact that the cuckoo and silver are sex-linked and yet another wrench is thrown in the mix.

3rd cross: Keeping and using only the very best of the 25% of the F2 chicks that did not have the dominant white gene has left me with a mishmash of varieties to work with. I have blacks, (only a few) blues, blue cuckoos, wheatens, blue wheatens, blue golden duckwing, and any other combination of blue, cuckoo, silver, and wheaten you can think of. I am still focused on the blacks, and on maintaining the best qualities from the white outcross, but I am also enjoying the other varieties that were hidden in my original white Araucana. Now you know some of the planned crosses and possible outcomes of the first few generations. Now for some specifics on one of the more interesting black on white crosses and the results:

**Bossman F2** (Tufted Paint Araucana Cockerel)  
X **Queen** (Tufted Black Hen)

A note on Queen, she was one of my only blacks currently capable of beating my white large fowl Araucana and as luck would have it, she did win Best of Breed on the show that was designated as our ABEC National at Baton Rouge a couple of years ago. One of my white hens was Best of Breed and Reserve AOSB under a different judge for the second show that day.

I set 13 fertile eggs during the Winter of 2021-2022 over 3 months from the Bossman x Queen cross, beginning Christmas Day 2021 through March 5, 2022. Results: 2 were dead in shell (tufted on tufted crosses) and 11 of the 13 hatched. 5 were culled at hatch for no tufts or partial tail. Their colors were 2 whites, 1 black paint, one cuckoo, one black. This mix of colors showed me that Bossman, a paint, also had a gene for barring (cuckoo). He also sired some blue chicks on this same black hen. Of the six chicks I kept there were three cockerels, and three pullets. All of the pullets were sold - a blue cuckoo, a paint, and a blue. I kept the three cockerels, One was a tufted blue cuckoo (Prince), one was a tufted cuckoo and one was a non-tufted blue cuckoo and turned out to be the best male as time went along. The non-tufted cockerel hatched with blue and yellow chick down and a small spot on his head. As he matured, he was very leaky (gold), and then, later as an adult his color was best described as Blue Golden Crele. I would go so far as to say he was Black 'E'/split with wheaten 'ewh', plus he carried genes for blue, silver, and cuckoo. Which is just the mix you would expect when initially deconstructing a white bird. Needless to say, his name is 'Colors'. I still have him and depending on which color of hen I breed him to he has contributed heavily to some of my better birds in a number of varieties. Luckily I have a good market for off colored chicks.

I lost the tufted cuckoo cockerel to heat in a sudden June heatwave. The tufted blue cockerel was developing really nice in type, had great fertility, and then I lost him too. But before he died he produced an interesting sire record (remember I am working with lethal genes in the Araucana) I had placed him in a trio with two tufted paint hens,



'Blue Boy' #379, an 8 month old blue cockerel standing in front of his sire. 'Colors' #221, who is a son of Bossman (paint) and Queen (black). 'Colors' is an excellent example of the surprising genetics that can be hiding under either dominant or recessive white. The best I can describe his color would be blue golden creel.

hoping for a few blacks to move on with. The *best case* scenario from this cross would be 25 % dead-in-shell (homozygous for tufting gene), 50% tufted, and 25% non-tufted. What he actually sired out of 32 fertile eggs from these two hens was: 18 DIS chicks! Such is the luck sometimes when breeding Araucana. 12 chicks hatched easily, but 3 of those failed to thrive and died at the one week mark. This happens sometimes with Araucana. So, out of 32 fertile eggs I ended up with 9 healthy chicks, 5 of them double tufted and 4 non-tufted. I kept one very vigorous tufted blue pullet from this cross. She was fertile on the first egg she laid, and all those thereafter, and I am growing some nice chicks out of her now. She is the pullet that the snake tried to kill a few issues ago. Those chicks would be the 4th generation from the original white on black cross that produced the Paint cockerel "Bossman".

And the project continues . . .

# Practical Bantams . . . Part II

## Breeding & Exhibiting New Hampshire Bantams

by Edgar Mongold

### Judging and Showing

For me, after Best of Breed and Reserve of Breed New Hampshire, nothing else matters as far as breeding is concerned. Any placings higher are just nice for promotional purposes and attracting new people. When exhibiting Displays, points are based on the number of entries in classes won, so can be bought and paid for - either by a few exhibitors or because they are a popular breed/variety. Been there, done that, have the T-shirt. Almost every aspect of competition can be modified to give a person or breed an edge. For me there has always been something exciting about being



Bantam New Hampshire female.

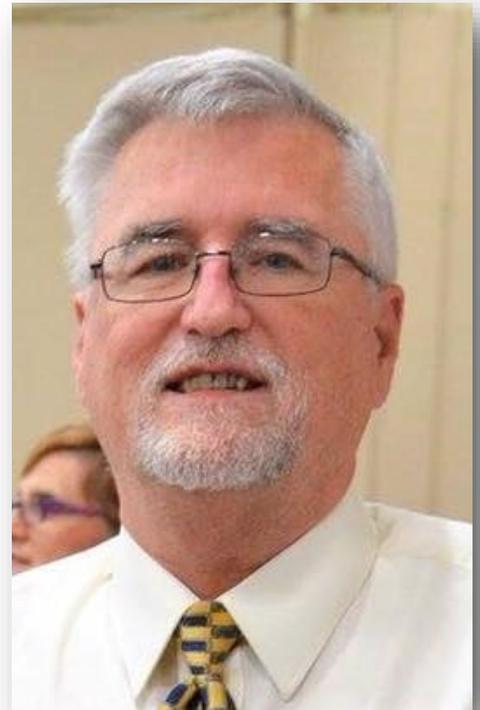
the underdog in competition. It means bringing ones 'A game' each and every time you show your birds. That is probably why when judging, I wanted to know how good the less popular breeds/varieties were. I have never regretted the extra time spent studying the Standard - as the reward was seeing, handling, and recognizing something I may never see again.

Putting the breed first is a concept some will never understand or accept. The biggest problem is getting past egos. Anyone can win when sharing top breeding stock, advice, and hauling other's stock to shows the original breeder can't attend.

### Breeding

When selecting breeding females (any bantam breed) look for females that they lay 5 to 6 eggs per week, and monitor them for how many weeks per year they maintain that lay. What age are the females? Start checking 2+ year old females for longevity of lay. Data is critical. I hear more and more of exhibition strains laying as pullets only, and also of low fertility with males. When the strain moves from needing major adjustments to maintaining the quality of the strain, the breeding methods change. Longevity of production, male and female, are needed for maintenance.

The rapid layer that burns out is what I am having to deal with



Edgar Mongold

currently. By culling birds after 2 or 3 years you commit to the course taken by eliminating genes one might need later. Bad idea. I call it "breeding towards the blowup". One slip up, and you have with no backup. This is why I like my 'friendship style' of clan breeding. It's an Insurance



Bantam New Hampshire male.

policy. I have on occasion painted myself into corners with my breeding programs. This is why I work with others and keep older stock as additional insurance. I don't mean cull as kill—just removed from my breeding program. Particular birds I place or share with certain people and they are still available to my breeding program. Same with their offspring.

---

“Almost every aspect of competition can be modified to give a person or breed an edge. For me there has always been something exciting about being the underdog in competition. . .”

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I am currently working out long-term maintenance of a strain with a limited numbers of birds. In this plan—just 5 birds in three breeding pens:

- Pen 1—Old Hen & Cockerel 1
- Pen 2—Pullet 1 & Cockerel 2
- Pen 3—Pullet 2 & Cockerel 2

I plan to replace these birds only when there is marked improvement in all areas of the total offspring AND I have checked their offspring's quality. I am trying to figure out how to keep

my numbers down. My backup will include others breeding stock from my 'friendship style—clan breeding' insurance policy. When I evaluate a pair mating it's based on uniformity in the offspring, not which pair produces the "one" exceptional bird. Also, people don't comprehend that just because you have birds it

doesn't mean that you have to hatch chicks from them every year. Waiting a year or two before using a male or female helps keep some diversity in your line.



A newly hatched batch of bantam New Hampshire chicks.

Most seem to want to crank tighter and tighter to intensify certain traits until they paint themselves into a corner as far as vigor or egg production.

*(Reprinted from EPMag 11-4)*



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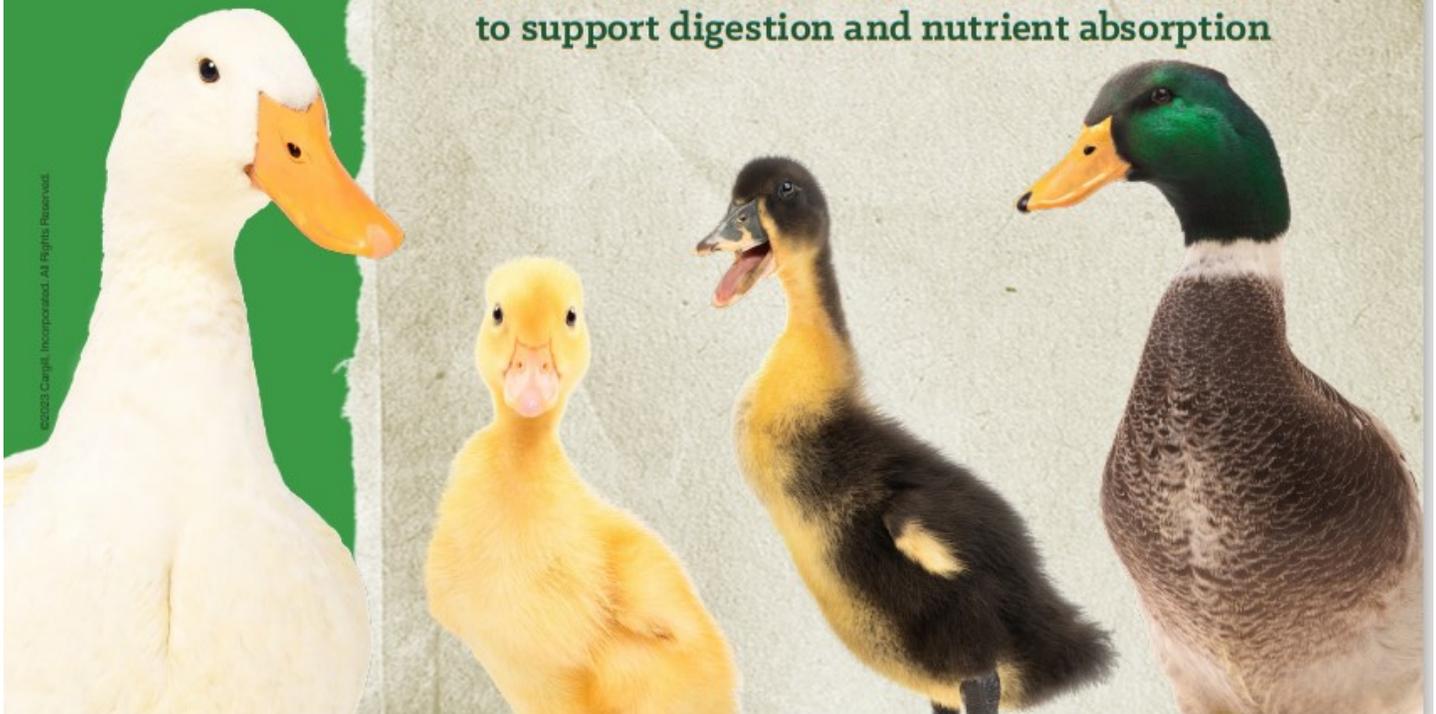
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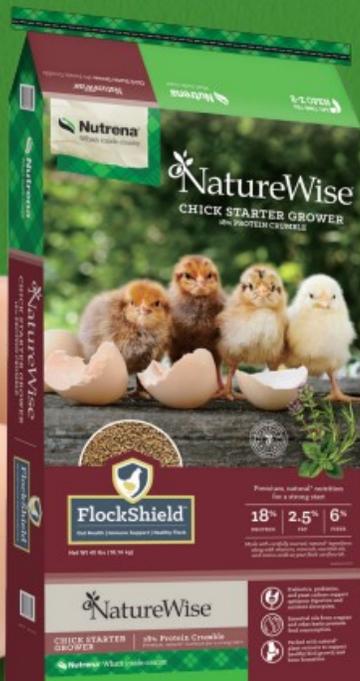
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**EPMag.News**

# EPMag December 2023 Win Photo Submissions



Mackenzie Miller: My Sebastopol gander at his first show won Reserve Overall Waterfowl, Best Overall Goose, Best Sebastopol, Best Medium Goose and blue for type. The Northwest Washington fair, judged by Emmet Wild.



Scott Perry: Champion AOSB and 3rd best Large Fowl. Brown red Modern pullet, Twin Tier Show, Bath NY, September 2023.



Patrick PJ Jones: Reserve Champion Large Fowl, light Brahma cock, State Fair of Texas, October 21st 2023, Dallas, TX, judged by Ed Haworth.



Brittany Bloch: My daughter Gracelyn was the Champion Showman in the 5 & 6 year-old showmanship division at the 2023 Ohio National.



Colleen Kelley: White Call drake, Best of Variety and Best of Breed, Virginia Poultry Association, November 18th 2023



Tim Hopkins: White Serama cock, Best of Breed at Knoxville, Tennessee show.



Kimberly Underwood: Champion AOSB and Overall Show Champion for the District 7 Polish Breeders Club meet, Sultan hen, at the OSPF Show Shawnee, OK.



Becky Mercer: Show Grand Champion at 7220 Poultry Show, Laramie, Wyoming. September, 2023.



Rik Deih: Silver Spangled Hamburg LF, champion continental, champion LF, and Reserve Show Champion at Central Illinois Poultry Club show this last November 25th 2023. 1170+ birds in show.



Parker Padilla: Champion AOCCL, White Crested Chocolate Polish Bantam Cockerel at the Gold Coast Feather Fanciers show in Hollister, CA.



Jessy Graham: Champion Asiatic, Blue and White Cards, Heart Of The Ozarks Show, October 2023, Light Brahma Hen.



Patrick PJ Jones: Overall Super Show Champion, blue card, light Brahma hen, Klein Poultry Extravaganza, December 2, 2023 at Klein, Texas. Judged by Bart Pals and Rico Sebastianelli.



Kasia Cusick: BV and BB Large Fowl Brahma and Reserve Asiatic at Florida Sunshine Classic. Also Youth Best Variety at Ohio Nationals 2023. Shown by Michael Cusick.



Darrell Garland: Cochins International Eastern National, Overall Champion Large Fowl, Best Asiatic. Anderson All Breed Bantam Club, November 18, 2023. Judged by Jamie Matts.



Kasia Cusick: Youth Best Variety and Best of Breed d'Anver at Ohio Nationals 2023. Shown by Lucas Cusick.



Jessy Graham: White Silkie Hen, Reserve of Breed, Oklahoma State Meet for the American Silkie Bantam Club, Red River Bantam Show, October 2023.



Above: Colleen Kelley: Virginia Poultry Breeder Association, Nov 18, 2023, Reserve Champion Bantam Duck, White Call Drake.



Left: Patrick PJ Jones: Champion Large Fowl, light Brahma cock, Panhandle South Plains Fair, September 23, 2023, Lubbock, Texas. Judged by Craig Roussanville.



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# Edgar Mongold

(1954-2023)

*R.I.P. Dear Friend*

“Edgar Kent Mongold, 69, of Washington Court House, Ohio, passed away on December 28, 2023. He was born on July 22, 1954 in Van Wert, Ohio. Edgar was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. Edgar is survived by his beloved wife, Roberta Mongold, his daughter Jennifer Cardenas and son-in-law Hector Cardenas, his son Robert Mongold and daughter-in-law Tiffany Mongold, as well as his grandson Ryan Mongold and

granddaughter Savanna Mongold. He was preceded in death by his father, Charles Kenneth Mongold, and his mother, Helen Ellen Mongold.

“Edgar served in the Army from 1974 to 1977. He proudly represented his country during his military service. After his honorable discharge, Edgar pursued a career with The Job and Family Services for the State of Ohio, where he made a positive impact on the lives of many. In addition to his career and family, Edgar had a passion for various hobbies. He was an exhibition poultry judge, breeder, mentor, and exhibitor. He was also a Master

Gardener and had a keen interest in daylilies, serving as a judge, hybridizer, mentor, and exhibitor. Edgar's educational journey led him to Bluffton College, where he pursued higher education. He valued knowledge and continued to learn throughout his life. Edgar Kent Mongold will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who knew him. His dedication, kindness, and passion for life will be remembered and cherished forever.”

*Reprinted from the  
Record Herald*

*(<https://www.recordherald.com/>)*



Tammy Ford racked up the wins at the Forsyth Fowl Fancier Show, Winston Salem, North Carolina and the Friendship Poultry Club Show in Morganton, North Carolina.



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*Photos courtesy of Kathy Mormino, Cassandra Haring, Andrea Jacobs, and Joanne Glaudini.*

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