

Exhibition Poultry

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

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Champion Junior Best in Show, Reserve Champion AOSB, and Champion Junior Continental at the 50th Anniversary of the Northeast Poultry Congress—2024. Pictured Left to Right: Keira Lappen, Kimberly Lappen, and Tristan Lappen of Blumoon Farm, Ashford, Connecticut

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Exhibition Poultry

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Exhibition Poultry Magazine®

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Exhibition Poultry Magazine

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From the Editor . . .

I receive all types of poultry news in my email inbox, usually daily, and one article in particular caught my eye. It was on the subject of ongoing research of using CRISPR gene editing to fight avian influenza. An excerpt . . . "Our colleagues discovered that one of the chicken host proteins used by the flu virus is ANP32A. At first, we didn't want to completely remove the ANP32A protein. We thought that by changing the protein very subtly, changing two amino acids of the protein, the flu virus would not be able to interact with ANP32A and grow in the cell." This passage is from an article appearing in this month's edition of *Canadian Poultry*.

Since I am not a fan of human genetically modified *anything*, I researched the function of the ANP32A gene. The best explanation I could find online was: "A multifunctional protein that is involved in the regulation of many processes including tumor suppression, apoptosis, cell cycle progression or transcription." (*from: https://www.uniprot.org/*). Those all seem like important processes. I think 'multifunctional' might be the key word there.

According to Christine Baes, chair of the Department of Animal Biosciences at the University of Guelph, the study's findings are a "huge breakthrough". But she admits that, "Gene editing is not a silver bullet. You need to understand the genetic consequences of the trait. Otherwise unintended consequences are possible." I believe that last part is what most of us are worried about. Baes further stated, "what's hindering the Canadian agricultural industry from applying gene editing is regulatory in nature, not technical in nature." Well thank goodness for regulations! I'll go back to the same old argument—why are millions, possible billions, of dollars being spent on gene editing research and nothing on building natural disease resistance in our poultry? Instead of being culled, any survivor of a disease outbreak in a commercial flock should be treated like gold and end up in a breeding program somewhere, passing on its disease resistant genetics.

Just my opinion.

Ann Charles, Editor



ABA Happenings March 2024

A very special thank you goes out this month to our Vice President Matt Lhamon. Under Matt's "can do approach" – the ABA is now live with our member portal where you can *Join the ABA * Renew your ABA Dues * Change your address when necessary *print out your most current membership card * Look up when your dues are due * and visit our Archived Information Bank articles. These are big steps for you and us. We are excited to improve these offerings in time. Unsure how to access it? Go to aba49.wildapricot.org! Michelle Lynch and Matt Lhamon are available to help you out if needed. You can contact Michelle at membershipaba@gmail.com and Matt at moderngame-man@gmail.com. Note: If you do not have an email address on file with the ABA, you will need to do this in order to best utilize these services.

A reminder that the 2024 ABA 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) – E(11mm) – F(13mm) – G(15mm) and - H(18mm) - I (20mm) - J(22mm) – and K (25mm). A cross reference sheet

is found on our website (Bantamclub.com) to help you determine which size you will need.

Cindy Rusk

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I continue to work through the ABA show reports. There are still a few dozen to process for 2023. We are working on finding a way to move this process along quicker. Please keep tuned and be patient. I would like to share the 2023 ABA Award recipients so far:

Certificates of Merit awarded to: Marty Abrahamsen, AR - White Cochins; Burkhart Bantams, TX - Brown Red Modern Game; James M. Chapman, TX - Black Rosecomb; Bob & Claudia Choate, TX - Lemon Blue Modern Game; James Church, OH - Buff Brahma; Linus Clark, TX - BB Red Old English Game; Patricia Dunlap-Vento, TX - Pastel Call Duck & Black Cochins; Lindsey Ely Family, OH - Bearded White Silkie; Fratto

& Stout Bantams, UT - SC White Leghorn; Brian & Peggy Gates Family, MO - Barred Plymouth Rock; Brent Gholson, FL - Light Brahma; Michelle Norine & Armida Griego, NM - Buff Brahma; Colby & Madison Harris, LA - Black Old English Game; Heads Up Bantams, MO - Black Old English Game; Hunter Bantams, TX - Birchen Modern Game; Archie Ice, OH - Bearded White Silkie; Dwayne & Melody Jonas, TX - Wheaten Ko Shamo; Susan & Michael Lazarchick, NJ - Chocolate Wyandottes; Mary Leland, TX - Non Bearded White Silkie & Bearded White Silkie; Eric Lodes, WI - Black Rosecomb; Thomas & Jonathan Peters, LA - SC Rhode Island Red

R & R Poultry, IN - Dark Cor-

nish; Connor Richie, NY - White Wyandotte; Robinson Poultry, Ontario - White Call Duck; Rogier Poultry, IL - White Plymouth Rock; Rounsaville Bantams, TX - White Old English Game; Melissa Schuckers, PA - White Crested Black Polish; Cynthia & Rob Smith, WA - White Araucana; Mike Stichler, OH - Dominique; Swamprun's Poultry, VA - Dark Cornish; Michael Tarvin, AR - White Cochins; Randy & Kristi Thompson, TN - Black Old English Game; Thompson Bantams, AL - Black Wyandotte; Tyrel Thurston, MT - Black East Indie Duck; Jeff Wilbur, Ontario - White Call Duck

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Master Breeders earned in 2023:

Cochin: Black Cochin: Michael Tarvin, AR; Keith Wagoner, AL; Silkie: Bearded White Silkie: Patricia Dunlap-Vento, TX; Tony Davis, FL; Michael Tarvin, AR; Mark E. Webster, OH. Non-Bearded White Silkie: Kate Morreale, MA; Belgian d'Uccle: Mille Fleur: Bill Patterson, MI; Hunter Bantams, TX

Cornish: White: Kanes Feathered Friends, VA; Old English Game: Black: TNT Bantams, SC.; White: Griffin & Redwine, IN; Brown Red: Steven E. Durham, SC; Wyandotte: Black: Copper Ridge Farm, FL; Partridge: Greg Shank, IN; White: Moss Family Poultry, UT; Plymouth Rock: White: Burnette Bantams, NC; Hunter Bantams, TX

One more reminder is to ask that you all consider supporting the 2024 yearbook with an ad. These

can be purchased online at www.bantamclub.com. Rates remain the same as 2023. We appreciate everyone who has advertised in the past and invite all to join the fun. By supporting this publication with an ad, you not only increase your exposure to the membership base, but you help the ABA to be able to continue to supply this quality book free with membership. If you need help, just give me a call or text at 973-271-3335 and we can come up with a great plan.

The current ABA 2020 Standard is currently out of stock, however still available in the mini version. A small reprint is in the works, so they should be available in a month or so.

As always, enjoy your birds and do your best to raise some champions.!

Karen Unrath
ABA Secretary



News for Florida Bird Shipments

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is upgrading and simplifying our online animal permitting system. We are excited to bring you the new, upgraded system which will save you time and effort when applying for permits. The

projected launch date of the new system will be Wednesday, February 21, 2024.

What you need to know about the new Division of Animal Industry Permit Portal:

- The new permitting web portal has login features using multi-factor authentication, so your entered information is safe and secure.
- Prior to applying for your first permit within the new portal, you will need to register your account.
- The initial registration will be confirmed by a second verification step through an email account with a verification number.
- Once your account is registered, you are all set to request permits.
- A step-by-step tutorial will be available on our website.

- The new animal permit portal will continue to provide 24 hours, 7 day a week access.

The method of receiving your animal movement permit has not changed:

- All approved animal movement permits will be sent to your registered e-mail address.
- The Cervidae movement, poultry import permits and feral swine dealer information will continue to be verified, which may take up to 3 business days.

We hope you like the improvements to the permitting process. Stay tuned for more updates!

(Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services | Division of Animal Industry, 407 S. Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399 . email: animalindustry@fdacs.gov)



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Working with Breeds That Don't Always Breed 'True'.

By Ann Charles

By definition, a breed is a specific type of a domesticated species. The word breed comes from the Old English *bredan* which means to "bring young to birth," but also "cherish". Also, a breed is a strain or stock of a species. There are many types of breeds. Members of a breed usually look and behave in a similar way. (Miriam Webster).

Sometimes members of a breed do not always display typical breed characteristics. In the case of poultry, some offspring of 'purebred' and often excellent samples of that particular breed may produce offspring that do not fit the standard for exhibition birds within that breed. This is usually because of a breed whose exhibition birds exist in a heterozygous state genetically. This can be due to a color variety that only fits the standard description when heterozygous like the blue Andalusian chicken, or it can be because a breed characteristic is the result of lethal genes that produce viable offspring only when in the heterozygous state. Examples of the latter would generally be the Japanese bantams and their short leg produced by the creeper gene and another example would be the Araucana and their tufting gene.

So if a breed does not breed true is it a breed? The answer would be yes, but some birds within the breed would have to be considered breeder prospects only. An example would be crossing a Splash Andalusian on a black Andalusian to produce 100% Blue Andalusian's. Mating birds that you know will only produce a limited number of potential exhibition birds seriously handicaps a breeding program, and also limits the progress of breed improvement.

Breeding two blue Andalusians together will at best produce, 50 % blue chicks. The balance of the chicks would be 25% black, and 25 % splash. Compare that too a more common breed like white Plymouth Rocks where you would expect all of the chicks to hatch as white Plymouth Rocks. The Andalusian

breeder would have to hatch twice the number of chicks as the White Rock breeder just to get the same number of 'potential' exhibition prospects. The same is true with the Paint variety which so far is only approved in the Silkie breed of chickens. Paint is genetically a very leaky heterozygous dominant white chicken. Paint is often confused with splash but the genetics are different. A paint silkie crossed on another paint Silkie should produce 50% paints, 25% whites, and 25% blacks. Fortunately for the Silkie breed, black and white are approved varieties for exhibition. Yet if you are focused on breeding Paint Silkies you end up with the same issues as with the Andalusian's, you must breed twice as many chicks as more common breeds to get the same number of 'potential' Paint show prospects.

Then there are the breeds whose breed type is heavily influenced by semi-lethal genes. The short legs in the Japanese bantam is a result of the creeper gene (cp) in the heterozygous state. Heterozygous genotypes can not breed true whether the gene dictates a physical trait or a plumage color. Two exhibition type Japanese bantams bred together would theoretically produce 50% short legged chicks (possible show prospects) and 25% long legged chicks (not suitable for exhibition), plus 25% dead in the shell embryos that inherited a creeper gene from both parents.

The Araucana tufting gene works approximately the same way as the creeper gene in Japs, being a dominant gene that is lethal in the homozygous state. Another breed that deals with a semi-lethal dominant gene is the crested duck.

Any breeder who works with these more challenging breeds has a tough job. They need to set at a minimum, twice as many eggs, and hatch twice as many chicks as the breeds that don't have the challenge of working with heterozygous genotypes to meet the breed standard for exhibition. Don't be surprised that only limited numbers of Andalusian's, Japanese Bantams, Crested Ducks, Araucana, and Paint Silkies are exhibited at shows nationwide. The breeders who work with them must be truly dedicated to their breeds to tolerate the extra work involved with these challenges. Patience is key, and breed improvement takes much longer than with less challenging breeds.

Outcrossing to Create New Varieties of Existing Breeds

By Brian Reeder

(Reprinted from March 2013 Issue of Exhibition Poultry Magazine)

'Breed' is the overall form while 'variety' encompasses variations within that overall form, be it color or form variations. The various colors, patterns, comb types, etc that occur within a given breed are the varieties, but all the varieties are still the same breed and they share many basic points in common in spite of the minor differences of their respective variety. Either through a desire to create or as a side result of resistance breeding, new colors, comb types or patterns can be produced in an established breed. While some who are very conservative frown on this, there is nothing wrong with creating new varieties. If there were not people creating new varieties in the past, most of the beautiful variations we see in the many breeds would not exist. Let us set some criteria for creating new varieties, just as we have in previous articles for resistance breeding. You will find that the criterion of the "round" is very useful. In almost all cases, we will select and outcross in a three fold round for developing new colors or forms within a breed just like we did when resistance breeding was our only

goal. The three fold round of breeding is 1 - cross two different forms, 2 - select the F1 and interbreed the F1 and/or backcross to either of the original forms, and 3 - select the best of the F2 and interbreed and/or again backcross to the breed we are seeking to make the new variety of. If we are making our new variety with two resistant strains, then we are already a bit ahead of the game. When we say that we want to make a specific color, pattern, or form, we are assisted greatly by either knowing or finding out what the genes involved in both our starter forms and our new form are. For a thorough discussion of the genes of color forms and the genes of form and feathering, see my books, *An Introduction to Color Forms of the*

Domestic Fowl and *An Introduction to Form and Feathering of the Domestic Fowl*. By understanding the genetics involved, we have a very good idea of what we will have to do and how many generations it will take us to come back to both our physical breed type and our new varietal color/pattern/form. With fairly simple genes or where we do not have too many genes involved, the three round method works well and one round of three generation may see us nearly at both our form and coloring ideal. Let us look at a very simple example. We have red duckwing Phoenix (black breast-red - $e+/e+ s+/s+$) and we want to make red wheaten Phoenix ($eWh/eWh s+/s+$). This cross is simple and will work well

in a three-round method. First we select a very hardy, resistant line of wheaten birds. Wheaten games or wheaten Malay or Shamo would be good choices, as in addition to the eWh allele, they will also add some height and size, something sorely lacking in many strains of Phoenix. Now we select the most resistant wheaten and the most resistant bird(s) from our red duckwing Phoenix. We cross them and produce a heterozygous F1 ($e+/eWh s+/s+ P/p+ \{P - \text{pea comb}/p+ - \text{single comb, if our outcross was not single combed}\}$). This F1 can be taken one of two ways. The wheaten allele (eWh) is dominant to Duckwing ($e+$), but they "blend" in the chick

down and the visual feathering of the F1 hens to be intermediate in visual type. Male heterozygotes are fairly indistinguishable from either pure allele phenotypes. Thus you can easily select heterozygotes of both sexes in the chick down phase at hatch to be bred together or backcrossed to pure Phoenix, or you can select only the F1 hens once they can be distinguished from the males and breed them back to pure red duckwing Phoenix to make the F2, F3, F4 etc., always keeping only the heterozygotes in each generation. In this way, you are bringing the overall type back to the Phoenix type, while maintaining the presence of the wheaten gene, which will be brought to heterozygosity later, when the Phoenix form type is fully established. When you have reached a point in back crossing that you feel you have the birds

homozygous enough for all the Phoenix type traits, you would select all the pale or barely striped yellowish/whitish chicks, so as to have hens and roosters that are heterozygous for eWh. These you would breed together and you would select for the 25% that would be eWh/eWh homozygotes in the chicks, determinable in this scenario by the pale, non-striped down of the chicks (for a complete discussion of chick down see my book *An Introduction to Color Forms of the Domestic Fowl*). All segregants (e+/eWh, or the partially striped, pale chicks – about 25%) could be disposed of and the fully e+ striped chicks (again 25%) could go back into e+ breeding if they are of good type and resistance or disposed of, as desired.

It is necessary in some way to separate the chicks by down color, as the pure e+, pure eWh and e+/eWh roosters will all look identical when mature. In this example we are dealing with the addition of one dominant gene to the phenotype – replacing e+ with eWh. This is the easiest type of new variety to make.

If we had decided to make a red brown (eb/eb s+/s+) variety instead of wheaten, the be allele is recessive, and then the three-round method becomes absolutely essential, as the heterozygote will only emerge when the F1 are bred together or the F1 is bred back to the eb homozygote parent breed, to make an F2.

The scenario becomes somewhat more complicated when dealing with a recessive factor, requiring more birds to be raised

and culled through. When dealing with multiple genes, or if we want to bring in a dominant or recessive gene that is found on an alternate e-allele, things become more complicated still and a working knowledge of the genes, as well as surety of identification of segregants, becomes even more important. The more genes we are attempting to add, the more birds we have to raise or the more steps we will require in our "rounds" to get the proper segregants to take back to the main strain for increasing the given breeds phenotype.

In very complex patterns or color forms, such as red-shouldered (as in Yokohama) or the solid colors (which are deceptively complex in spite of looking very simple), we often have to take a three-pronged approach. With this approach, we develop one line that is higher in our given breed's traits, while carrying the alternate gene(s), but segregating for those alternate additive genes. A second line is bred that is intermediate, where we try to keep as many breed traits as possible and as many of the alternate pattern/color genes as possible and try for as much homozygosity in both as possible. This second group is usually bred in the three-round style. The third line is bred for high levels of homozygosity of the pattern/color/form genes (additive genes), and is segregating for the breed traits. These three lines are eventually all blended into the new variety of our given breed, where after a few years of breeding, the results come together to form our new

variety. At any point in this process, crossing back to the original founder breed used to develop the new variety may be necessary to strengthen the breed traits.

I would recommend a thorough understanding of the genes, from the e-allele (first and foremost) to the additive genes that make up any given color/pattern/form you wish to develop. You will then need a strong understanding of the existing genome of the pure breed you wish to make the new variety in and then you need to understand the dominance/recessiveness/co-dominance of the genes involved.

Unless you are working with forms on the same e-allele or you only wish to add one simple dominant or recessive gene, then it is best to make the basic e-allele form before you embark on making the more complex form; i.e., before you make buff, make them in wheaten, etc.

Often, the additive genes will change the visual appearance of the chick down for a given e-allele and make it unrecognizable, so by starting with homozygosity of the e-allele for your more complex pattern, that is one headache eliminated. For instance, for all those who wish to make buff varieties, it would perhaps be best to breed up a red wheaten line first and bring it to a very high level of homozygosity for breed traits before embarking toward buff, or for those who want a Lakenvelder colored variety of a given breed, it may be best to breed up a silver form of eb brown (like a dark Brahma or silver penciled Wyan-

Continued on page 14 . . .

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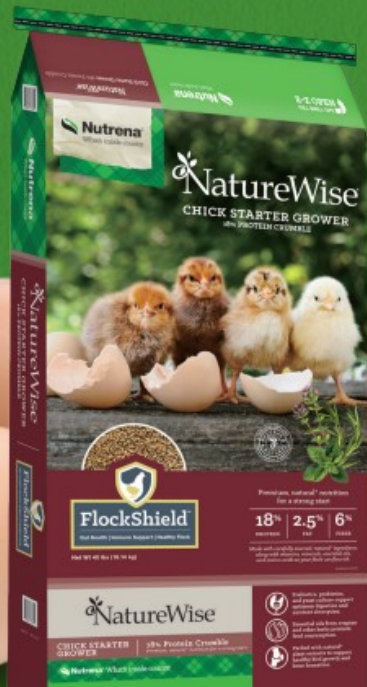
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Continued from page 11 . . .

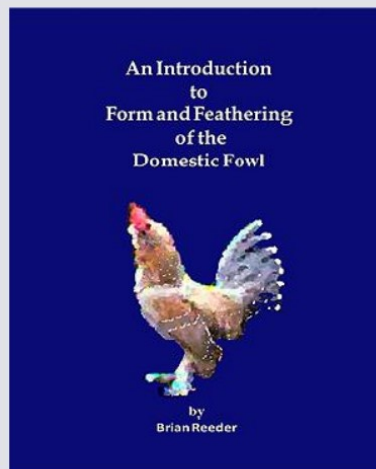
dotte without the penciling) before embarking on the actual Lakenvelder phenotype. Once the basic e-allele variety, with the correct s-allele and proper autosomal pheomelanin combination is achieved, making the more complicated variety is infinitely easier.

It should be obvious from this discussion that the creation of new varieties is not a quick process. Most people are not willing to take the time and effort, and perhaps after understanding what is involved there are those who thought they could quickly make a new variety who may well reconsider. While I encourage the development of new varieties in the existing breeds, I would strongly encourage anyone wishing to do this to consider the patience that must be involved, the split birds that should not be sold, and the fact that trying to pass something off as a new variety that is not a real variety of any breed is dishonest before they even consider embarking on such a path. The development of new varieties is very rewarding, but it is a long process filled with many obsta-

cles. I do not mean to discourage anyone from attempting this, only to point out what is involved. Segregating birds that are not one variety or another are only relevant if the breeder wants a mixed color flock or is desperate for a resistant bird for resistance breeding and nothing else is available. They can be of use, but they are not an actual variety, and unless they have all the breed traits these segregating birds really aren't any breeds.

Furthermore, you cannot blend two e-alleles to make another one. You cannot cross E based black to e+ duckwing to make ER-birchen, though many people make this cross and pass them off as such. You can make silver blacks or red blacks in later generations from this cross but they are not true ER birchen, and unless they are pure for all the breed traits, they are not any given breeds either. To make a true ER variety requires the actual presence of the ER allele, and preferably homozygous at that. Another instance is that birds split for ER and eWh can appear much like eb birds in the females, but again

these are not eb, and are no brown variety. Mille Fleur is a very specific combination of genes, but far too often, birds with some of those genes that superficially resemble Mille Fleur are marketed as such. These instances don't help the cause of developing new varieties. It is important to understand what a given variety is made up of genetically in order to reproduce that variety in another breed. A lack of understanding about the genetic makeup of a variety can lead to facsimiles that may superficially resemble the variety but is not it. This happens far too often. My concern about this was at the heart of the system of gene identification and nomenclature presented in my book *An Introduction to Color forms of the Domestic Fowl*. Without knowing the genetic makeup of a given variety it can be exceedingly difficult to reproduce it in a different breed and an attempt at a variety that misses the mark will usually result in an off type that is poorly representative of the beauty we were looking to recreate in the first place.



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2024 Win Photo

Submissions



Best of Breed Serama at the Jan 2024 PPBA Show (APA/ABA) in Lodi, CA by Dane Beverlin.



Top: Emilyn Shupe with her Rooster, Duke, at the 2023 Virginia Poultry Breeders Association Show. Second place in Intermediate Showmanship.

Left: Reserve Champion AOSB at the 50th Anniversary of the 2024 Northeast Poultry Congress - Kimberly Lappen, Ashford, Connecticut.



Reserve Champion English LF Black Australorp at Indiana State Fair shown by Cameron Lockard.



BV BB and Champion SCCL at White River Poultry show with a Rhode Island Red bantam hen shown by Cameron Lockard.



2024 United Orpington Club Alabama State Champion and Reserve English...Heart of Dixie show in Fort Payne Alabama



Jessy Graham, Reserve Champion AOCCL with a White Crested chocolate bantam Polish pullet, Fort Worth Stock Show January 2024



Kimberly Underwood, Champion AOSB at Fancy Feathers Poultry and Rabbit show Sultan Hen



Parker Padilla, Reserve Champion AOCCL White Crested Black Polish Bantam Pullet at the 2024 Gold Coast Feather Fancier show in Hollister CA



Jessy Graham, Reserve Champion Asiatic with a Light Brahma Pullet, Fort Worth Stock Show January 2024



Super Champion of Show at Fancy Feather Show in Dripping Springs, TX . White Silkie pullet, Breed Raised & shown by Patricia Ann Dunlap-Vento



Debbie Tracy, Champion Asiatic in Lodi, California.



Super Grand Champion. Collier County 4H show. Judged by Michael Schmidt. Shown by Tiffany Cusick.



Black Cayuga Pullet, Champion Medium Duck, Best of Breed, Texas - Bluebonnet Classic 2024 - Blue Feather Farms



Jack Swanson, Bantam Black Cochin Hen, Champion Of Show, Anniston, Alabama, Fancy Feathers club show, January 2024.



John Caddo, Grand Champion Bantam both shows!



Harper Schexnayder wins at dual show with Redstick Poultry Show, December 2023, Baton Rouge, LA.



Elliott Morris, Frizzled Serama hen, 'Dough, Redstick Poultry Club Show, Cajun Serama Council, Youth Champion Hen, Youth Overall Champion Female.



Champion AOSB and Reserve Champion Large Fowl. Florida Sunshine Classic. Shown by Tiffany Cusick.

IQBirdtesting: *Offering DNA Gene Testing for Poultry*

We are excited to announce our new pricing restructuring effective March 1st, 2024, offering competitive prices for our sample packages.

Our newly adopted advanced Innovation Technology now processes all DNA sexing samples through Quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction (qPCR) devices, ensuring higher efficiency and sensitivity and reducing the risk of contamination and the number of steps post-amplification.

You can send any customer service questions to this email address: support@iqbirdtesting.com.

You can also text us at +1 (786) 418-1245 or send us a written or voice message via Facebook Messenger. Website: <https://orders.iqbirtesting.com>.

We are pleased to introduce new pricing options for our services:

Gender Testing:

Blood Samples - \$15.99

Feather Samples - \$17.99

Eggshell Samples - \$17.99

Additional chicken (gallus gallus) tests:

Blue Egg Gene

With blood sample \$25.00

With eggshell sample \$30.00

With feather sample - \$30.00

Lavender test with blood sample \$55.00

Recessive White Gene (c)

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With feather sample \$55.00



6 Chick
Minimum

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