

Exhibition Poultry

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

Volume 10 No. 6 • <https://www.ExhibitionPoultry.net> • November/December 2021

Andy Barnes took home the top prize as Show Grand Champion with an Old English Game at the MEGA Show in Norman, Oklahoma on November 6, 2021.



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Exhibition Poultry Magazine®

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Exhibition Poultry Magazine

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From the Editor . . .

What a great weekend we just had! Andrew and I attended the MEGA Show in Norman Oklahoma. A huge THANK YOU to the CVPC for an incredible experience. Although we worked hard all weekend, we also had a great time and visited with so many wonderful people.

Our last poultry show was in January 2020 in Columbia, Mississippi—almost 2 years ago. The long pause, as you can guess, was due to the Covid situation. I started showing poultry at APA/ABA sanctioned shows 14 years ago and this was the longest stretch I have ever experienced without having a chance to exhibit my birds. It is so good to be back to the shows with all the noise, excitement, and tired feet.

On the subject of shows—the Canadian Valley Poultry Club's choice of hotels was just perfect. I have stayed in various hotels for many shows in Oklahoma with some bad weather and those flat plains can stir up some fairly intense weather conditions, especially in the Winter. However, the hotel we stayed in for the MEGA Show was solid as a rock and felt very safe. And, a BIG plus is that the hotel had a in-house restaurant/buffet on the first floor that served breakfast, lunch, and dinner with a number of excellent food choices at unbelievably low prices. Who wants to be driving around a city at night looking for a decent place to eat when you are bone tired from showing birds all day? Not me! In house food options is definitely the way to go. The NCED Hotel & Conference Center is *the* place to stay when you are in Norman, Oklahoma. I highly recommend it.

Since we attended the MEGA show I have managed to include a bit of their show highlights in this issue. I was supposed to receive some APA results along with photos Monday morning but they have not arrived yet and this issue really needs to go to press. So, look for more on the MEGA Show, The APA Annual, and the ABA Annual meets in the next issue.

Until next time . . .

Ann Charles, Editor



APA News & Notes October 2021

By Jill Burks

Greetings from upstate New York! I am excited to be joining the APA as Assistant Secretary working in conjunction with David Adkins. For those of you who don't know me, I have a professional background in publishing and marketing, and in recent years have been serving as Secretary-Treasurer & Newsletter Editor for the Plymouth Rock Fanciers Club. Besides Plymouth Rocks, my flock also consists of Ameraucanas and Standard Bronze Turkeys.

Like most of you, I am planning my Fall/Winter show travel schedule and looking forward to visiting with poultry friends again. In addition to my local shows, I will be attending the 2021 APA Annual Meet at the Heart of The Ozarks Poultry Association show on November 6 & 7 in Fayetteville, Arkansas. In addition to what promises to be a fantastic show, the proposed changes to the Standard will be presented to the Directors and at the General meeting for discussion.

We encourage all members to read and respond to the proposed changes that were included in the July newsletter, and contact your District Director with any comments or concerns prior to the Annual Meet so they can be included in the review process.

The inaugural "APA Live" streaming event was held in mid-September. The event introduced viewers to the National Poultry Improvement Program and why it's important, with opportunities for live viewers to ask questions. If you missed seeing it, you can watch the recording on the American Poultry Association's YouTube Channel. Stay tuned to the APA Marketing Facebook page for future live events.

Looking ahead: 2022 will be an election year for the APA. All eligible voters will be sent a ballot at the end of January. If you have been considering running to serve as an Officer or District Director, please take a moment to review the qualifications, duties, and process as outlined in the APA's Constitution and By-laws (found in the Yearbook and on the website.) Anyone wishing to run for office must notify Secretary Adkins by December 1st that they wish to have their name placed on the ballot for the coming election. Have a great fall and I hope to see you at a show soon!



ABA News November 2021

By Karen Unrath,
ABA Secretary

The 2021 ABA National meet is coming up soon at the Dixie Classic on December 3-5 2021 in the Jacobs Building at Chilhowie Park, Knoxville, Tennessee (3301 E. Magnolia Avenue, Knoxville, TN. 37914). If you wish a catalog to be mailed to you, please request one at tvpcdixieclassic@gmail.com. Or contact - Eddie Dunlap (865-742 5525), Dunlapfarms63@yahoo.com

We hope to see many new and familiar faces there. This should be a great show and with any luck the weather will be on our side too.

We will be meeting with the Board of Directors to discuss the ABA and what is coming next. If you are not yet an ABA member, I encourage you to give us a try. We offer competitive awards programs, four newsletters per year, member pricing on ABA seamless legbands as well as other great perks. For \$25 per year – it is a sound investment. I hear

that the Canadian border will be open soon. This means we can reconnect with our Canadian exhibitors and judges. This is another reason to celebrate.

I am excited to announce that we are working with Samantha Wulff from Indiana. She is helping us secure some great pictures of those beautiful show birds you have all worked so hard on. So, if you see Samantha, give her a big thank you for helping us out. We are fortunate to have her on our team working to bring the birds to life not only in the show hall, but in the ABA publications and communications.

Legband Update: ABA 2022 should be arriving soon. (I am told by October 31st) Visit the website to place your 2022 or-

ders. We expect to have them on the site by the 15th. Always a good idea to place your order early so you can mark that off your list of things to do. We had to turn away orders this year. This is something we hate to do, so do your part and order early.

Prior year legbands are available for those who want to try them out and are not fussy about the date on the band. These are also available based on stock and not in every size. Visit Bantamclub.com to learn more.. (NOTE: on previous year bands which are available at discounted prices, the year will not match the age of your bird. It is an inexpensive way to try them out, using the numbers as identifiers)

Thank you goes to John Hepner of California for helping us each year with the bulk legband order. It is a tremendous amount of work and John makes the who process go smoothly.

Show sanctioning for all ABA shows is \$50 per show. This can be sent in with the show report or paid in advance at Bantamclub.com. Clubs do not need to join the ABA separately to sanction, however there are some perks to holding a club membership. IF your club opts to hold an annual membership, the address on file will receive and ABA yearbook, four newsletters, and a free ¼ page in the ABA yearbook. Definitely worth the small fee and it helps the ABA remain strong and your club

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keeps up to date. You can sign u online under regular memberships.

If you have a question regarding your membership, or would like to join the ABA, please contact Michelle Lynch at memberships-aba@gmail.com. Michelle is our membership coordinator and can answer your questions and even sign you up over the phone.

Hoping everyone enjoys the fall show season and especially the friends we have at the shows.

Ohio National News

We're excited to announce that we have over 6,000 entries for the Show on November 13 & 14!

We will be setting the show up on November 6 & 7, 9 am-4:30 pm. You are welcome come and help with set up if you'd like. We will serve lunch on Saturday.

If you haven't made your hotel reservations, please do so as rooms are filling up. The hotel partners are listed on our website www.ohionational.org and also in the show catalogue. Be sure to mention the Ohio National Poultry Show when making reservations for our special room rate.

Don't forget, we will be live-streaming on FACEBOOK on Saturday afternoon from 1-5 p.m., including the junior show awards

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presentations. Also, on Sunday morning from 8:30-10am for the open show awards presentations.

If you have questions, don't

hesitate to call or email. Have a safe journey to the Ohio National – see you at the Show!

Poultry Feed: It's not just for chickens anymore!

Are you a chicken owner who has taken an interest in waterfowl? Learn about the different nutritional needs of ducks.

Chickens and ducks have similar dietary needs. Your free-ranging ducks may be able to eat a multi-poultry diet but will do better on a feed formulated to meet their specific nutritional requirements.

Niacin: Ducks need higher levels of this vitamin than chickens do. Too little can result in leg deformities. The good news is, if the deficiency is caught in time, it can be reversed!

Protein: Ducks are omnivores, meaning they eat both animal and plant matter. A diet for ducks should be about 18% protein, some of which should come from animal sources.

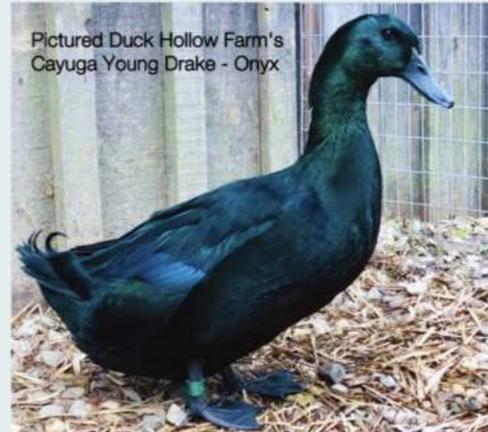
Calcium: Compared to chickens, ducks need less calcium. Too much can be harmful.

Properly balanced diet: Laying ducks need certain vitamins and minerals to stay healthy. Also, an imbalanced diet can cause a condition called angel wing.

Prebiotics and probiotics: These elements are important to the health of both the digestive and immune systems. They also help the intestine process food more efficiently.

Quality feed: Ducks are sensitive to mold toxins (mycotoxins). Feed manufacturers test ingredients to help reduce the risk of mycotoxin contamination. To prevent mold growth after purchase, store your feed in a cool, dry location.

Hard, small pellet: Ducks love to dabble, or dip their food in water while eating. Smaller pellets are easier for them to swallow than large pellets. Harder pellets hold together in water, which means less mess in their drinking water and reduced waste!



Pictured Duck Hollow Farm's Cayuga Young Drake - Onyx

Congratulations to Duck Hollow Farm and their Champions this 2021 show season. We look forward to your continued success! - Nutrena®

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Pete and Alex of Duck Hollow Farm home of Milliman Waterfowl in Branchport, New York.

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Help your ducks live their best lives with their own specially formulated diet: **Country Feeds Duck Feed!**



Transporting Your Show Poultry to and from the Show

By Jonathan Patterson,

APA District 3 Director & APA/ABA licensed judge

Exhibition poultry enthusiasts differ from your typical poultry person. We put in the extra effort to find or breed quality stock to take to our local, regional, and national shows. Many times, we drive several hours to take our birds to a show to compete with our peers. Sometimes the smallest details separate the winners from the losers. Oftentimes that small detail is condition.

One aspect of show poultry that should not be overlooked is how we transport our birds. We spend countless hours making sure our birds are in peak condition and in perfect feather. Why then, would we take our bird and transport it in a wire cage that will inevitably break or ruffle its feathers?

Every exhibitor should look into investing in travel boxes that are designed for the breed's they raise.



Ideally, the box would be wooden, plastic, or even cardboard. These materials have a slick surface so that when the bird turns or moves it doesn't fray or break the feathers against the walls of the box. Each box should have a good amount of pine shavings in them to absorb any messes the bird may produce. I have found that giving the birds just

enough room to sit and stand is sufficient. The idea is to not give them so much room that they can walk in their own mess (if you know what I mean) or flap their wings. These crates should be well ventilated. Especially if you are traveling in warmer weather. I have found that custom made wooden boxes, to my specification for size, with dowel rods on the front

work very well. Make sure you can get the bird in and out easily. Meaning the door opening is large enough for the bird. I also like to have a place to mount feed and water cups. If I'm traveling over 6 or 8 hours I can feed and water when I stop for fuel or a break.

A little trial and error will help you find the right fit for the breed you are transporting. The number one mistake I see is people bringing birds in metal wire cages. Oftentimes there are more than one bird per cage. This is not a recipe for success when trying to keep your birds in perfect show shape. If you want to be a serious exhibitor, I challenge you to find a transport box to fit your needs so that each bird arrives at the show just the way they were before they left on their trip!

Howard Davenport
APA State Rep. - Texas
Y.E.P.A. Youth Leader - Texas
President - American Buckeye Poultry Club

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REFLECTIONS OF AN APA STATE REPRESENTATIVE

By Howard Davenport

As with most members of the APA, I look forward to the annual Yearbook to arrive in my mailbox. The 2021 Yearbook was one of the best ever with more color ads than ever before. The membership really came through with their support, and the Yearbook Committee was exceptional in creating the ads. The 2021 Yearbook will definitely go down in history as one of the best ever published.

While browsing through the many articles and ads, I came across the APA's Strategic Plan. I found this very interesting, as it pretty much let me know where

we've been, where we're at, and where we're going. It is important for me as an APA member to know this, and the Strategic Plan filled in a lot of gaps that I personally had questions about. The Board and committees that put this together covered a lot of ground, and you can tell just by reading that a lot of thought went into its development.

As I was reading through the plan, I found the Environmental Scan particularly interesting as I felt certain elements affected me personally as an APA State Representative, particularly the elements of leaning on the State



Reps, increase visibility of the State Reps and District Directors, and bringing the backyard folks into the organization. There is so much more that a State Representative can do to promote the organization and the fancy be-



Displaying at Tractor Supply Company during "Chick Days."

yond placing a State Meet once a year. We can't expect the District Directors to do it all. This is the reason we have State Representatives to take up the slack and be a voice for our constituents.

In January 2021, I decided to do a Membership Drive and recruit some backyard hobbyists into the fancy. I had heard the rumors that the APA was losing members of up to 300 per year, shows were dwindling in numbers, the APA didn't promote a welcoming environment to the backyard folks, and the constant drama in the social media groups were running people off. After analyzing this, I came to the conclusion that this was nobody's fault but our own, and I decided to do something about it regardless if I had the support of the APA or not. I was going to make a difference.

Between January 1, 2021 and October 5, 2021, I signed up 100 new APA members in Texas alone. This feat was unheard of, and after the announcement was made, I was swarmed with calls and messages asking how I did it, and I wanted to share my methods in this article for those that may want to follow my lead. With over 13 million people in the U.S. that own chickens according to the latest USDA data, there are plenty of "fish in the ocean," - you just need the right bait to catch them!!

This first section will deal with recruiting, while the second section will deal with retention.

SECTION 1 - RECRUITMENT

1. USE SOCIAL MEDIA TO YOUR ADVANTAGE - There are literally hundreds of Facebook groups dedicated to poultry of some sort. Find a group in your local area and join it. If one doesn't exist, then create one. There are going to be numerous "newbies" in these groups looking for advice and showing pictures of their birds. Try to answer as many questions as you can in a professional manner without being condescending. Once you establish yourself as a "nice person." throw up a few pics in the group of your show birds and awards. This will spark interest, and the group members will then see that there is something beyond their conventional backyard flock that they can aspire to. Once you gain their respect and trust, it will be easy to bring them up to the next level. Above all, be sincere and make it exciting!!!

2. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES - In 2 years, I can easily count on one hand how many people I've signed up to be APA members at a poultry show. Most people that come to the shows here are already members, but it's still important to be at as many shows as possible to show your support and answer questions. I focused on activities outside the show barn, particularly Pullorum/Typhoid testing. I realize this may be somewhat unique for me, and most State Reps don't have this opportunity to "preach the Gospel," but there



Educating our youth in poultry diseases.

are additional methods I've used to recruit new members.

* **SETUP A DISPLAY DURING "CHICK DAYS."** - This venue has been quite successful for me. Get to know the managers of your local feed stores and request to set up a display outside the entrance. I have banners I've made with APA information that I put up as a backdrop, and the APA secretary sends me information for handouts. I always bring a couple of my show stock to put on display and a few awards. Everyone stops to look at the birds, and I hand out the info. Almost 100% of the time, when they come out of the store with their new chicks, they're going to stop and talk more. This is when I make the sell by discussing the mission of the APA,

poultry husbandry, and educational benefits for the youth. Carry business cards!!! Offer them "service after the sell." Refer them to the APA website!! Above all smile and be enthusiastic.

*** HANG OUT IN THE POULTRY SUPPLIES AISLE** - You have to remember that the majority of the folks you're going to encounter in the feed store have never even heard of the APA, and with some, it is their first time with chickens. This is another area where I have been quite successful in recruiting new members. As I stated earlier, get to know

the store managers. Believe it or not, they actually appreciate your expertise and will let you hang out as much as you like. As with most of us, I carry pictures on my phone of some of my best birds. When I position myself in the poultry aisle, I have those pics pulled up and ready to go. I will casually be looking around the aisle, and then a customer will come up looking at feed or supplies. This is where I make my move. I just strike up a general "How are you doing" conversation. No sales pitch at all. Just talking about chickens in general. Then, I excitedly show them a picture or two of my birds and

formally introduce myself as the APA State Representative. I have now established a rapport with the customer, handed them a business card, and provided them with info on the APA.

*** WEAR POULTRY RELATED CLOTHING** - Yes, as ridiculous as it may sound and look, you'd be surprised how many people have come up to me saying, "I love your shirt!!" Right then gives me the opportunity to say, "Thanks, do you raise chickens?" I have now established a connection, and I let the conversation flow.

SECTION 2 - RETENTION

*** BE AVAILABLE** - You can't just sign someone up and disappear. You must make yourself available within reason. Personally, I'll become "friends" with those I recruit on Facebook. This is not to imply that you need to be available 24/7 to answer questions, but some of your time should be designated for that. I'm sorry, but a quarterly newsletter doesn't do it for me. I may have an issue that I need to discuss that can't wait on a newsletter. The State Reps should be able to at least respond to a question in a reasonable amount of time.

*** KEEP MEMBERS INFORMED** - The best way I've found to do this is a "State" social media page that is exclusive for members in your state. Any topic can be discussed between newsletters, show ads can be posted, "in search of" ads, and issues particular to your state can be discussed and addressed. It is



Posting photos with new members give them a sense of belonging.

beneficial that your District Director is a member of this group to answer questions above your pay grade.

*** GET THE NEWBIES TO A SHOW**
- Most of your new members will not have show quality stock right off the bat. I'm not for sure if this is unique to Texas, but the bigger shows here have a "Backyard Class" that we encourage people to bring their NSV's to in order to get them involved in exhibition. We give out awards in the categories of Champion Backyard, Reserve Champion Backyard, and Most Unique. The backyard enthusiast now feels part of the "family," and by seeing the quality of birds in the Open Show, they are encouraged and motivated

to move into the standard breeds and varieties.

*** PROMOTE YOUR NEWBIES -**
We're now in the era of "selfies" and "look at me" media. Nothing makes a person happier than having a pic of them posted on social media, especially with their favorite fowl. When able, I take a pic of every person I sign up and post it on Facebook or other social media platform. I post it on my personal page and any local group page of which they are a member. I get to know the people I'm signing up and write a short bio on them to go along with the pic. They now feel important, and their peers see them as important. You've now not only advertised them, you've adver-

tised the APA, and their friends will contact you for more info.

Although 100 new members seemed like an impossibility, it was far from it. By being enthusiastic about the organization and raising poultry, I was able to accomplish something that some said couldn't be done. The key was being sincere, available, encouraging, and becoming the "Face of the APA in Texas." I followed the recommendations in the APA's Strategic Plan to the "T," and it paid off a hundred fold. The opportunity is out there for all of the State Representatives to make a difference. If I can do it, anyone can do it!!

Howard



Take advantage of visibility with your members, especially the youth.

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Pictured above is Tarah Payne and Howard Davenport. Tarah's Marans won Best of Breed at the CVPC's Mega Show, November 6th at Norman, Oklahoma. Howard Davenport interviewed Tarah at the show and asked her to tell us all a little about herself.

She stated, "I am from Coggon, Iowa. I'm the District 2 Director for The Marans Club and also a member of The Marans Chicken Club USA. I started with hatchery chickens back in 2010 but found Marans in 2014, and then started breeding to the Standard of Perfection. I started out with Black Coppers and have been working solely with my own line since I started them. I started working with Whites in 2019, and then Wheatens in 2020. I have also had Blue Coppers since 2017." Tarah's Best of Breed win netted her a cool \$750 just from winning the 'Marans Super Show' held at the MEGA show, on November 6, 2021.

Where To Start: The Beginner Showman

By Katrina Sallee

Odds are, if you're reading this article you have questions, and a lot of them.

It wasn't very long ago that I was in the very same shoes you are in now. You've discovered the exhibition side of poultry, and now you want to show poultry too, but how? The questions are endless: are my birds good enough, what makes a bird show worthy, where are the shows, what's the APA, the ABA, and how in the world do I complete all the necessary forms?

If you're anything like I was, by the time you get to that last question, you're overwhelmed and talk yourself out of it. To say the pro-



Katrina Sallee

cess is intimidating would be an understatement. But how do you get those answers? You have so many questions, but you don't want to post the questions in an open group. You don't want to look silly if a question you ask is too

“beginner”. You don't know anyone well enough to private message them.

So what the heck are you supposed to do?

Let me start by saying, you can do it! At one time we were all beginners. Many showman can remember a time themselves when they felt the awkwardness of entering the world of exhibition poultry. Maybe this is why chicken people love chicken people! We love to help the new folks, we love answering questions, we want you to feel more comfortable and less intimidated in the show circle. We want you to join us in this wonderful hobby!

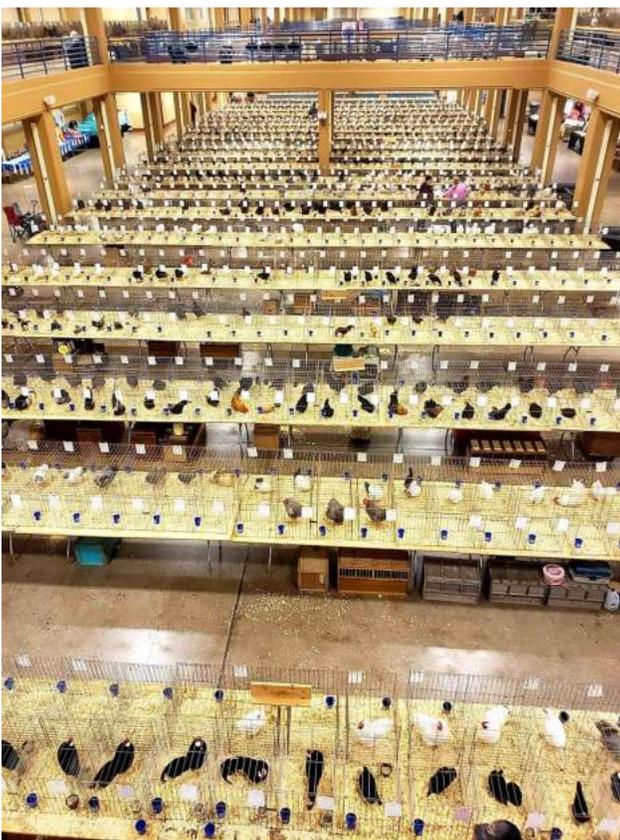
So where to actually start... my first recommendation is to become a member of the American Poultry Association, also known as the APA. If you're raising bantam breeds, I would also recommend joining the American Bantam Association, the ABA. Join the Facebook groups, for both associations, and if your breed has a club I recommend becoming a member of that as well. Most importantly, buy a copy of *The Standard of Perfection*. This book can only be bought through the American Poultry Association. Don't fall prey to the scanned copied books on eBay, or the outdated old versions of the standard. I know it's a little pricey, but once you begin to read, and understand it's true value, you'll understand it's worth its weight in gold! The first 39 pages of that book are the most important. Every term, disqualification, and defect that a judge will be looking for are defined there. You must understand those 39 pages are a guide-



Katrina Sallee prepping a bird for their first poultry show while her son Kade watches. Photo by Mark Cunningham.

line for all poultry breeds. Then you can locate your specific breed, and variety (variety is a term used to identify a bird's color) to further refine the requirements of the breed, and variety you're showing. The number one rule when it comes to showing birds is, read your standard! The standard is like a road map, it will enable you to obtain a clear vision of the final goal for your birds. If you don't have the map, how do you know what direction you're headed?

A requirement for most shows is your NPIP certification, and AI paperwork. So, what is NPIP and AI? NPIP stands for National poultry improvement plan, and AI stands for avian influenza. You are basically certified by the



A view from the second floor of the massive show hall at Knoxville Tennessee and site of this year's ABA Annual Show.

state that your birds are free of certain diseases. If you want to show poultry you might as well start this process. There are shows that do the testing on site, but odds are you'll want to go to many shows. Simply put, this will make your show life much easier. I will fully admit, this completely scared me to death! Not that I had any sick birds, but all the what if's. What if they find something wrong with my birds that I didn't know about, what if they say my coops aren't good enough, what if they say my coops aren't clean enough, on and on I would worry. Finally, a friend encouraged me to just do it! I made the call, found out what I needed to do and got an appointment date. It was easy,

and I wish I would've done it sooner (every state is different for their requirements.) As my friend encouraged me - I shall also encourage you. Just do it!

After I received my certification paperwork, I entered my first show, The Dixie Classic in Knoxville, TN. I was nervous, but mostly excited! I only took two birds: two barred Plymouth Rock cockerels. I won a BV (best of variety), and RB (reserve of breed). The significance of the win was lost on my naivety of the hobby. All I knew was that I did well



Katrina and Kade Sallee at their first poultry show. Photo by Mark Cunningham.

and had a blast! I made so many friends, and saw so many beautiful breeds. I was hooked, and my son and I have attended many shows since. Now that my husband has retired after 20 years in the USMC, he shows with us. We feel blessed to have found a hobby that we all enjoy, and can participate in.

So, who can show chickens? Short answer, Anyone! This is why I felt compelled to write this article, because I've been in your shoes. You don't have to have the most expensive birds, or the most perfect birds. As long as you have a desire to educate yourself, learn ways to improve your birds and most importantly enjoy yourself, you're going to do great. I guarantee that along the way, you will meet some of the kindest, caring, and helpful folks that make the hobby even more enjoyable.

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Cargill Launches Poultry Feed With Essential Oils For Healthy Flocks and Maximized Egg Production

Improved Nutrena® NatureWise® formulas boost overall wellness, happiness and productivity of backyard chickens

(WAYZATA, MINN)

October 6, 2021 – Backyard poultry owners want natural, wholesome feeds that help their birds thrive, keep their eggs strong and keep coops fresh. Cargill is delivering on this demand by adding essential oils to its Nutrena® NatureWise® poultry feeds. The natural* essential oils contribute to the promotion of egg weight, size and production, enhanced palatability and a fresh aroma direct from the bag.

“We listened to what poultry owners and soon-to-become owners want most and expect from their poultry feed,” said Stephanie Poupart, poultry strategic marketing manager in Cargill’s animal nutrition business. “We made their desire for feeds that contribute to healthier, happier chicken flocks, stronger eggs and fresher coops our call to action in developing the new NatureWise® products.”

In addition to the egg weight, size improvements and feed palatability enhancements NatureWise® feeds offers:

- FlockShield™ proprietary ingredient mix helps maintain a healthy gut and strengthens the immune system,
- Prebiotics, probiotics and yeast culture to support optimum digestion and nutrient absorption,
- Vitamin D3 to promote calcium absorption and strong eggshells,
- Plant extracts to support healthy bird growth and bone formation, and
- Yucca schidigera extract to aid in the control of manure odor.

During an 8-week observational study of nine backyard flocks fed NatureWise® Layer Feed, owners documented pleasant aroma experiences when opening the bag of feed. Birds had a better appearance, laid more eggs (with deeper golden yolks, stronger eggshells and superior quality overall), and appeared to enjoy their feed more, had more energy and seemed “happy.”

“These advancements further affirm Cargill’s commitment to enabling and ensuring the optimum well-being of backyard flocks across the U.S. and the success of their owners,” said Poupart.

Now available nationwide, the NatureWise® lineup includes Layer 16% Pellet, Layer 16% Crumble, Hearty Hen® Soy-Free, Free-Range Egg Producer, Feather Fixer, All Flock Pellet, All Flock Crumble, Meatbird, and Chick Starter Grower (updated formula available January 2022). For more information about the new NatureWise® poultry feeds and to find the nearest dealer, visit Nutrenaworld.com/dealer-locator. In addition, shoppers who purchase NatureWise® poultry feed between October 1st and November 15th can enter to win a year’s worth of feed and receive a valuable coupon with the See the Difference Challenge at Nutrenaworld.com/NatureWise.

*As defined by AAFCO – the American Association of Feed Control Officials



Breeding Modern Game Bantams

By Jeff Duguay, Ph.D.

Unlike many other breeds of poultry, moderns were developed specifically for exhibition. Moderns are a tall, refined breed, with what is almost an exaggerated length of neck and leg. The neck is to be long and slightly arched and the legs long and muscular. Although tall and refined, moderns are not to be lacking in body depth. A

modern should have a short flat back, be wide at the shoulders, and narrow to the tail. A modern's breast should be broad and full, not thin. When holding a modern, the breast should fill up your hand and the keel should not protrude out. Moderns should have a short whip tail. They should hold their wings up over the thigh but not over their back. The wings should not extend past the stern. The modern should be well-balanced, with its legs in the center of its body.

The goal of exhibiting, at least for me, is to try and produce that "perfect" exhibition specimen. Alt-

hough this is a goal that is likely to be unachievable, I find the challenge of improving my flock of exhibition moderns over time to be very rewarding. I like seeing how my birds come closer to meeting the Standard of Perfection and the Bantam Standard with each generation. For those that may not be familiar with exhibition poultry, there is the American Poultry Association and the American Bantam Association. Each of these organizations produce a Standard by which exhibition poultry are judged. Each of these organizations has a program to train and license judges. Judges go by the



Figure 1. This is a cockerel produced early on in my breeding program. Areas in need of improvement on this bird include: Wings are held a little too low; Wings are too long, they extend past the stern; tail is too wide; back is too long and narrow.



Figure 2. This is a cockerel produced several generations later in my breeding program. Although not perfect, it is far superior to the bird in Figure 1. This bird has very nice wing carriage, they are held correctly; Wings are the proper length; tail is much more "whip" like; Back is short and wide.



Figure 3. The back on this brown red is too narrow, giving it somewhat of a tube shape appearance.



Figure 4. A modern should be wide at the shoulders and taper nicely to the tail, giving it a heart-shaped appearance.

Standard when judging exhibition poultry. Therefore, it is up to the exhibitor to develop a breeding program so that their birds meet the requirements listed in the Standard. How do you take your flock and breed them to more closely match the Standard? Well, there is not a single correct answer to this. Much of what winning exhibitors have learned has been through years of trial and error. My advice to anyone new to exhibition poultry is to first buy the Standard, either the Standard of Perfection, Bantam Standard, or both. Read your Standard and know your Standard. You can't breed toward that "perfect" bird if you don't know what the end goal is. The end goal is described in detail in the Standard. Additionally, you should buy the best birds you're able to afford from a reputable breeder that shows and does well in the shows. Talk to breeders. Find out what they do to improve on their flock over time. Finally, experiment with your breeding pens and keep good notes on your breeding program. Know what pair each chick

comes from. If you're going to improve your birds, you must know which combinations of breeding worked and which didn't. Although you should buy the best birds you're able to, this does not mean that



It is possible to increase the height of your moderns without sacrificing overall type.

you need to buy a “perfect” bird nor does it mean the birds that you buy won’t have areas in which they need improvements. What you are buying is genetics. Breeders that consistently win have been line breeding their birds for several generations. By getting breeding stock from them, you will have genetics that you can begin working with to produce show quality birds (Figures 1 & 2).

Comparing the birds in figures 1 & 2 gives an example of what can be done by line breeding. I purchased good stock, genetics, when purchasing my original modern breeders. The birds I purchased were not perfect, but they were from reputable breeders and gave me a good place to start.

Whether you’re breeding moderns or any other exhibition poultry, you should first begin by assessing what you have. How do your breeders line up with the Standard? What are their strengths? What are their weaknesses? Once you have these basics determined you need to de-

cide what trait or traits you want to improve on first. To try and improve your birds in several areas simultaneously will likely result in frustration and disappointment. Once you’ve decided on one or a few traits that you want to improve on you should pair your birds so that they complement one another. If a bird is weak in a certain area, pair that bird with one that is strong in the area (s) that it is weak. It’s almost as though you are trying to build a better bird.

I’ll provide an example to better help you grasp the concept of pairing birds based on their strengths and weaknesses. My objective when I first began focusing my breeding program was to breed for taller birds. Looking at the competition at the shows it was clear to me that my moderns



This birchen pullet was Grand Champion of the show at the Peach State Classic, GA. There were 1,028 birds in the show.

were a little shorter than much of the competition, especially the competition that was winning. Typically, with height comes back

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length in moderns, meaning taller birds tend to have longer backs. The Standard calls for moderns to have a rather short back. You want moderns that are wide at the shoulders with their back tapering to the tail (Figures 3 & 4). It would be relatively easy to produce taller birds by breeding large males to large females. To just breed your birds without consideration of other important traits, such as shape, width, and length of back, will result in birds that don't meet the Standard. Instead of having short birds that lose in the shows, you'll end up with tall birds that lose.

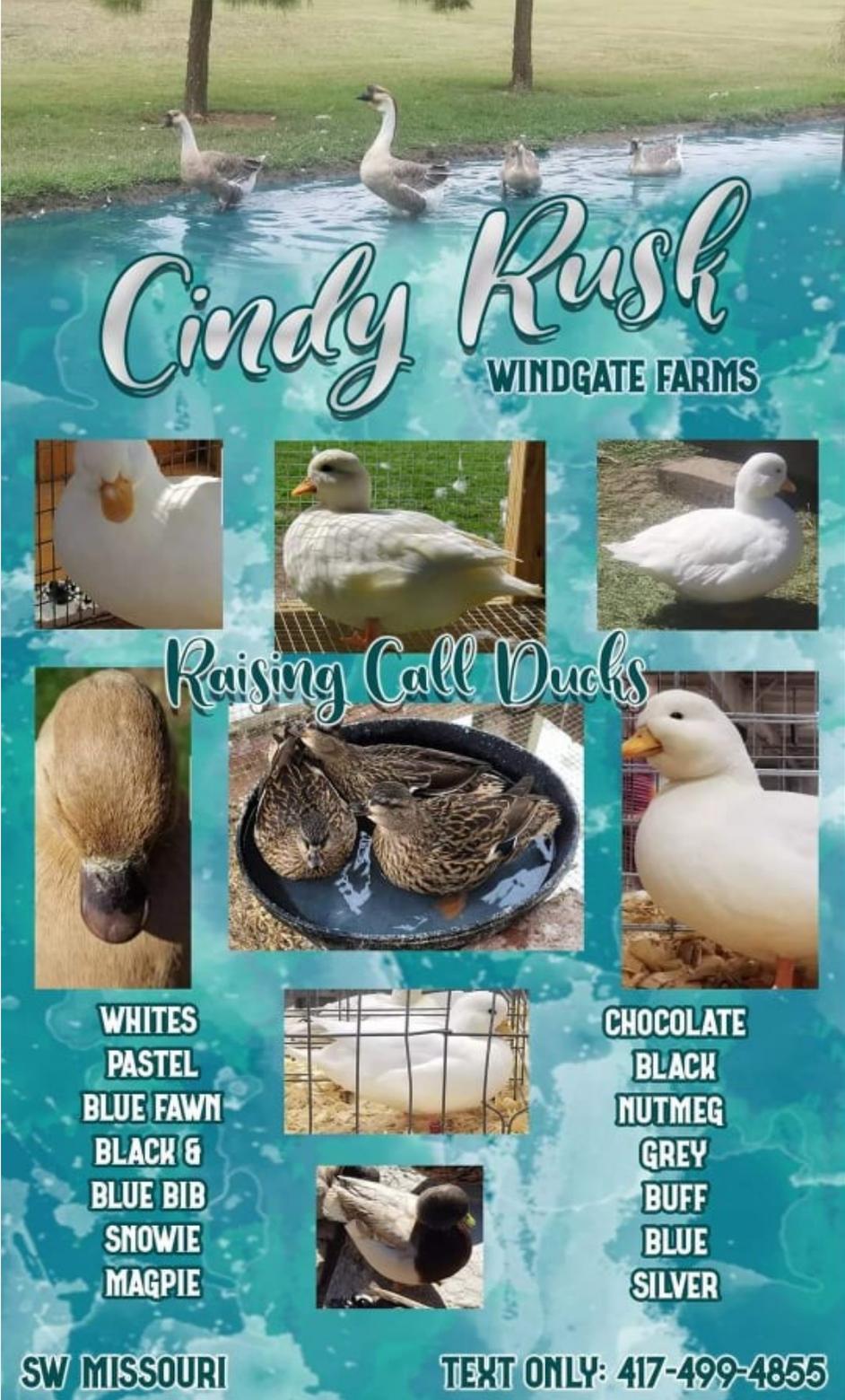
When selecting my breeders with the goal of producing taller birds with short, wide backs I used my tallest males that had wide backs. If a male was tall but did not have a wide back, I didn't use him. I didn't want to end up with tall birds that had narrow backs.

Season 1 – I selected tall males with short, wide backs. I mated these males to the best type females that complimented them. For example, if I had a male that carried his wings a little low, I mated him to a female that had good wing carriage or one that carried her wings a little too high.

Season 2 – Some of the offspring from the season one breeding (known as the F1 generation) were a little taller than their parents. I then used my tallest F1 males that also had relatively short backs and mated them to good type females that complimented them. I found that I didn't necessarily need to mate these males to my tallest females. The idea is to mate them to the

best type females that compliment them. I also learned that I can use a short male that has really nice type. Mating a short male to a tall female that compliments him can also give you tall birds

with nice type. You will want to continue this mating strategy for as many generations as is necessary. Don't go to extremes where you end up with birds that are too big. Also, consider other traits as



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A good example of a modern with wide, prominent shoulders.

you are doing this. Don't sacrifice a good trait just to get taller birds.

If you would like to find out more about my breeding strategies that have worked well for me you can contact me to order a copy of my newly published book or find me at a show and ask questions. Since I'm a visual learner, I included lots of pictures (over 200 color pictures) comparing traits in my book.

This article was adapted from Jeff's new book "Breeding and Showing Modern Game Bantams: Making it to Champion Row." To order a copy of Jeff's book email him at jpduguay1@gmail.com or message him on Facebook.



This birchen pullet was Reserve Show Champion at the Heart of Dixie Show, AL. There were 1,087 birds in the show.

Attention Poultry Breeders and Exhibitors: A New Must Have Book

Breeding and Showing Modern Game Bantams: Making it to Champion Row

In this book, Jeff Duguay, Ph.D., has over 200 color pictures. Topics include:

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- Over 200 Color Pictures
- And Much More

This book is available for purchase for \$25 plus shipping. Jeff can be reached at 225-371-2682; jpduguay1@gmail.com or Facebook messenger. Jeff will have copies available at shows he attends. This book is 8 ½ x 11 and is 91 pages!



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Pictured above are Mary Lewandowski and Tom Kernan of T&M Sumatras from Virginia. They won big at the CVPC's MEGA Show, November 6th in Norman, Oklahoma. Their Black Ameraucana hen was Champion AOSB, Reserve Champion Large Fowl and Reserve Champion in the ALFA competition. Tom's Sumatra cockerel also set the MEGA Show's all time record price for their breeder's auction when it sold for \$1,150!

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Thank you to the Canadian Valley Poultry Club for a GREAT show!

MEGA Show

Norman, OK • 11/6

~ Bantam Show Results ~
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