

Exhibition Poultry

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Amy Jane Wiknik, at the Northeast Poultry Congress, January 2017, West Springfield, Massachusetts. One of the winners in our August photo contest.

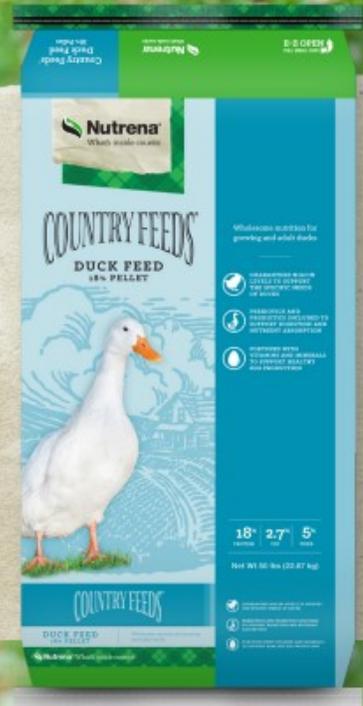
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Exhibition Poultry

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| American Bantam Association News. | 04 |
| Current Bird Flu Map | 07 |
| The Rhode Island Red | 08 |
| Practical Bantams: A Bantam Marans Project. | 14 |
| More on Deep Litter | 19 |

Advertisers Index

| | |
|--|----|
| Nutrena | 02 |
| Cindy Rusk | 04 |
| American Bantam Association | 05 |
| CVPC Shows | 10 |
| CVPC Shows | 11 |
| SkyBlueEgg Araucana - Ann Charles. | 12 |
| Brian Reeder | 13 |
| Chris McGeorge | 16 |
| Cindy Rusk | 17 |
| Nutrena | 18 |
| Smith Poultry Supplies | 19 |
| CVPC Shows | 20 |

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From the Editor . . .

I don't really want to complain but what else is going to be thrown at us as purebred poultry breeders, and as humans in general? We could all use a break. It won't happen by turning off the 'news' because so much is happening all around us, and effecting us personally on a day to day basis, we can't ignore it. With feed prices so high (I can cut back on birds), gas prices (I can stay home more), and food prices, (I can make sandwiches), what I really want to do is get to some poultry shows, and am really looking forward to this Fall and Winter. From all the show results I am seeing the fairs are rocking and a lot of people are bringing home big wins with some good looking entries.

What a great time to be a conscience breeder of quality birds that are disease resistant, and can cope with rapid environmental changes from day to day. I feel a bit like we, our birds, and our breeding programs are being tested to see if we come up to snuff. Are our birds genetics suitable for what may become the new norm? Most birds (and people) can thrive in a mild overall environment but those days may be in the past. Who knows?

Speaking of Fall and Winter shows, this A. I. situation has not gone away over the Summer like we were told it would be. The heat was supposed to kill the virus but that is not happening. I received the following information yesterday in a press release from the Canadian Poultry Magazine . . .

"HEADLINE: National Poultry Show dates moved for 2023. Show moved to winter to avoid potential impacts from future spring migration seasons. The National Poultry Show, presented in partnership with the Poultry Industry Council, is moving to a new date for 2023. The show will be held February 8th to 9th at the Western Fair District Agriplex, in London, Ont."

If anything feels like chaos to me it is this darn bird flu situation. I have included a current map and report on page 7 where you can check daily for any updates in your area, or to a state you plan to travel too. There is also a Facebook group dedicated to following outbreaks. This is definitely a fluid situation that needs to be constantly monitored.

Editor,
Ann Charles



Hello ABA Members!

I hope all is well and everyone is surviving this heat. Here in Florida it has been miserable...just hot, hot, hot and humid. I know the birds are thankful not only for the fruit, but for the shade over the coops the mulberry tree we planted years ago provides! I also know as much as I hate this heat I'll be missing it when I'm freezing come winter ;). All these water changes definitely gives one ample time to check out the juvenile birds. Amazing how bantams can change seemingly over night.

This time of year is busy busy with yearbook planning. Karen, Kim, and the Yearbook committee have been working like beasts to get this completed. It is always a huge undertaking so if you see them out at the shows this fall give them a big thanks! The yearbook should be at the printers by the time you are reading this so it is that much closer to your mailbox! If you have recently moved please send me an email to membershipABA@gmail.com with your new address so I can update your membership and make a note so we know to send you a YB out-

side of the bulk mailing.

In other ABA news the joint show APA-ABA show report has been well received by members and show secretaries from what I have heard. This can be viewed

and printed on the ABA website at bantamclub.com. Again a HUGE thank you to Norma Padgett and Karen Unrath for taking this on!

The ABA Nationals is right

Cindy Rusk
WINDGATE FARMS

Raising Call Ducks

WHITES
PASTEL
BLUE FAWN
BLACK & BLUE BIB
SNOWIE
MAGPIE

CHOCOLATE
BLACK
NUTMEG
GREY
BUFF
BLUE
SILVER

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around the corner, November will be here before we know it. We have gotten some donations for the annual auction but are still looking for more! This year in addition to the quality birds usually offered we would like to offer ABA collectables and memorabilia. If you have something or birds you would like to donate please let us know! Don't forget to check out the auction this year and if you can make it try to make the ABA General Meeting!

I often get asked how ABA due dates work. With the ABA we do dues in quarters. All members, regardless of the month they join will be due in either Feb, May, Aug, or Nov. When you join your due date will be the

next quarter. For example if you joined in Jan 2022 your quarter would be Feb and dues would be due Feb 2023. When it is renewal time an email is sent to all members with an email on file through the email system we use and postcard for those without an email address on file. I usually try to do this the week or two before the dues quarter will start. If you are not receiving these renewal emails please be sure to contact me so I can look in to that. A second postcard is mailed and finally a final renewal letter before a membership and points are moved to inactive status. You can always contact me at membershipABA@gmail.com to find out when your due.

I do hope everyone has had an extremely successful hatching season and that you are seeing lots of promise in your pens for the fall shows! I hope to see many of you at the Ohio Nationals and don't forget to bring your bantam bucks to spend at the ABA table! If there is anything I can help with don't hesitate to contact me!

Until next time try to stay cool!

Michelle Lynch
ABA Membership/Show
Sanction Coordinator
email: membershipABA@gmail.com
website: bantamclub.com



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H5N1 Bird Flu Detections across the United States

(Backyard and Commercial)

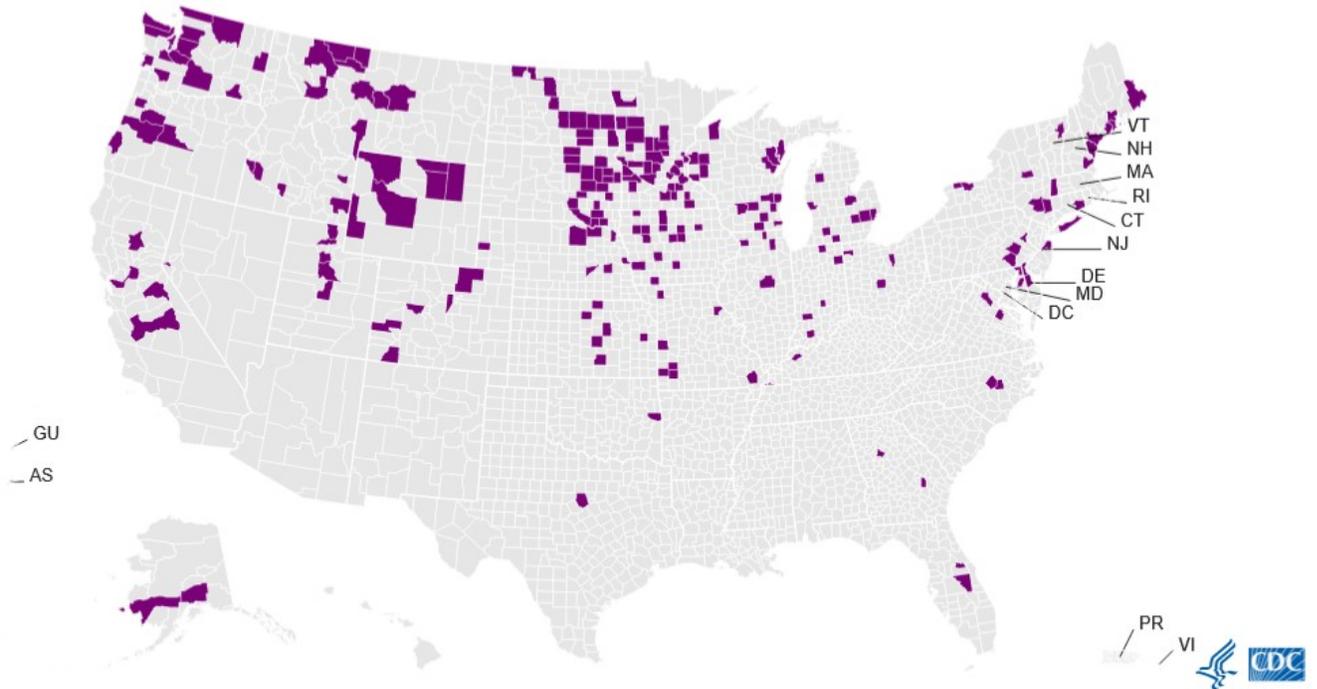
Updated September 8, 2022

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/data-map-commercial.html>

| States Affected | Counties Affected | Reported Outbreaks |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 39 | 222 | 430 |

Counties Affected

Instructions: Counties that have reported bird flu outbreaks are marked in purple. On the map, select a state that has an outbreak to zoom in. More information is available about the outbreak by hovering over with the mouse (desktop) or tapping (mobile) the affected county. [Download Data](#)



Data Table

SHOW 10 ENTRIES

SEARCH

| County | State | Outbreak Date | Flock Type | Flock Size |
|----------|-----------|---------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| Morrison | Minnesota | 09-07-2022 | Commercial Turkey Meat Bird | 50000 |
| Defiance | Ohio | 09-03-2022 | Commercial Table Egg Layer | 3000000 |
| Ashland | Ohio | 09-03-2022 | Backyard Producer (non-poultry) | 640 |

The Rhode Island Red:

An Ideal Chicken Breed for Urban, Suburban and Rural Settings

By Brian Reeder

As poultry keeping increases in popularity in many diverse settings there is a need for potential keepers to decide which breeds best suit their needs and environment. One very popular and highly suitable breed is the Rhode Island Red. A breed in the American class, the Rhode Island Red is a dual-purpose breed with a long history of providing large numbers of brown eggs and excellent meat for the table. This hardy, calm and easily kept breed is an excellent choice for use in urban, suburban and rural settings. As well, the Rhode Island Red is readily available, inexpensive and attractive.

The origin of the Rhode Island Red is unique among the American breeds and goes back into the mid-nineteenth century in the states of Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Early imports of Chinese and other Asian landraces such as Cochin Chinas and Malay Games contributed significantly to the development of this American breed. These imported birds were bred with local fowl to produce the earliest lines of Rhode Island Reds. Through a breeding practice known as backcrossing (a form of out-crossing) the developing flocks of Rhode Island Reds were repeatedly bred to the best ex-

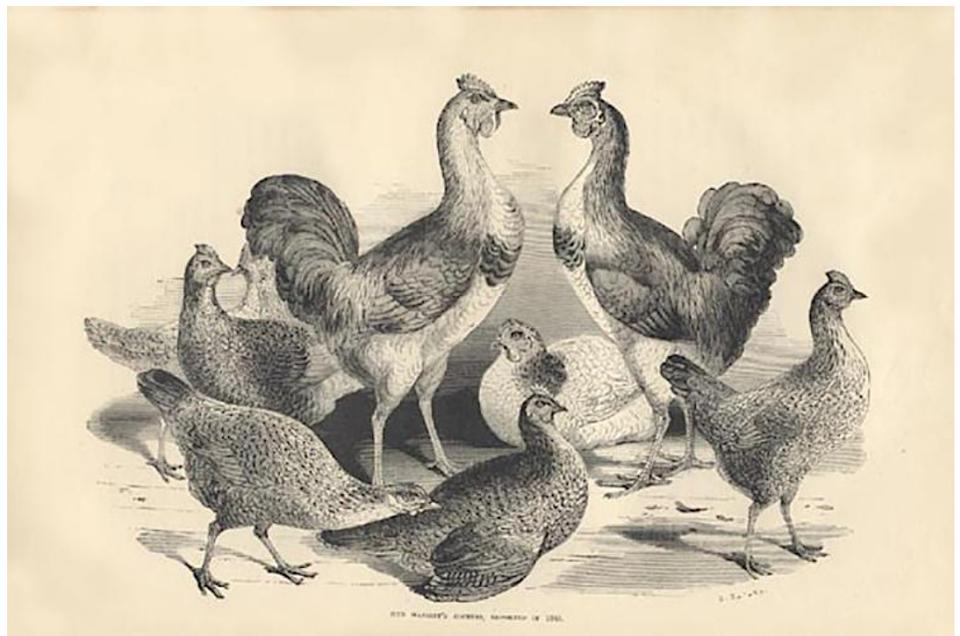


Commercial type Rhode Island Reds from Murray McMurray hatchery.

amples of the imported Cochin and Malay males over a course of many years. This system of breed development led to a high level of vigor in the new breed.

The Rhode Island Red has a

great deal of genetic diversity due to the many years of development through backcrossing to vigorous Asian landrace fowl. Such diversity ensures that the breed shows great vigor. The

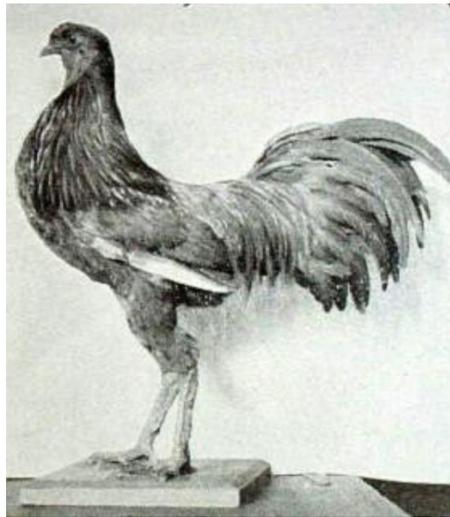


Queen Victoria's original Cochin Chinas from the 1840's.

Rhode Island Red has also been a popular breed since its introduction and this has ensured that they have been bred in large numbers. For this reason, inbreeding depression is rare in most Rhode Island Red lines. In addition, Rhode Island Reds often show considerable disease resistance to many commonly encountered poultry pathogens including *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* and Marek's Virus. The combination of vigor, production, disease resistance and beauty makes for a very desirable breed that is a joy to care for.

The Rhode Island Red is still a vigorous and productive breed. It owes this to the unique manner of its development. Rhode Island Reds, of all the commonly available brown egg laying production breeds, show exceptional egg producing abilities with hens regularly laying 200 to 300 eggs per year. For those looking for hens to produce brown eggs, the Rhode Island Red is one of the very best choices available. In addition to the fine production of brown eggs, and being a calm and hardy bird, the Rhode Island Red is also a beautiful bird that is easy to manage.

When you consider that the breeds involved in the development of the Rhode Island Red included the calm, gentle giants known as Cochin Chinas, it is easy to see why the Rhode Island Red is a calm and friendly breed of chicken. Unlike flightier breeds of chickens such as Mediterranean class breeds, the Rhode Island Red is calm and non-flighty, making



One of the old type Malays (1846). This is a taxidermic bird from the Smithsonian.



Exhibition type Rhode Island Red.

them a pleasure to work with. While an occasional Rhode Island Red male can show some aggression, the hens are easy to keep and handle. As well, being a calm breed, they handle confinement well for those who have problems with predators or limited range for runs.

While any caging should provide ample space, the Rhode Island Red will not suffer from confinement as many flightier breeds do and they will still provide their wonderful brown eggs in abundance. This makes them especially

suitable for urban and suburban settings where space is at a premium. For those lucky enough to have an area where their flock can free-range or who have the space to allow for large runs, the Rhode Island Red is a scrappy survivor that can forage for their own sustenance and their colors blend well in natural settings to provide them with camouflage against predation.

The beautiful, rich red-brown coloring of the Rhode Island Red is visually its most distinctive feature. Males and females are both cloaked in a rich, deep reddish brown feathering with black feathers found in the wing, tail and neck feathers. While the tone of red-brown can range from a dark cherry or mahogany red to a brighter and lighter orange-red, all examples are beautiful and eye-catching. For exhibition purposes, the darkest tones are most desired. Some show lines are so dark that they actually appear to be nearly black. Production lines, more commonly seen and more regularly available, tend to be a brighter shade of orange-red that is to many observers actually more attractive than the exhibition coloring.

Whether you choose to obtain exhibition or production Rhode Island Reds will depend on the reason you wish to own and raise them. For those who wish to produce eggs, the production lines will be the obvious choice, and these lines are much easier to locate while being less expensive to purchase. Exhibition lines, while

Continued on page 15 . . .

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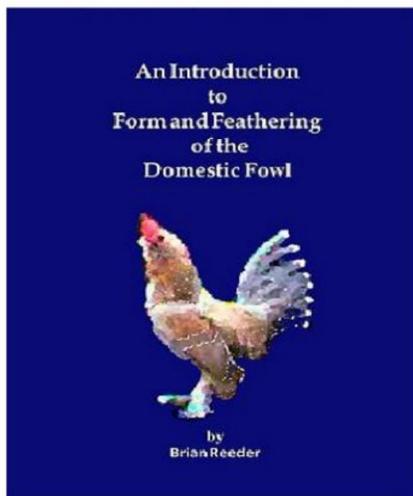
Rhode Island Reds . . . from page 11

showing perfect confirmation, may show slightly less production value, are more difficult to locate and are often more expensive to purchase. Whether you choose exhibition or production lines, the Rhode Island Red will remain an excellent choice either way.

As the popularity of poultry keeping continues to increase, more and more people will be looking for the best poultry breed to match their needs. The Rhode Island Red is an excellent choice. Through the unique way that the breed arose and the genetic diversity that the breed maintains due to its origin, the Rhode Island Red has much to offer in a wide range of environments. The breed has been popular for over a century and is still produced in large numbers making them vigorous, hardy and readily available. The combination of beauty, production and hardiness makes for a very appealing combination and will help to keep the Rhode Island Red popular for many years to come.



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Practical Bantams . . .

Bantam Marans: A work in progress

Articles and photos
by Bev Davis

My adventure with the Marans breed started when a little ginger headed boy with a cheeky grin showed a Marans at the local agricultural show. That bird (male) was almost as big as that little boy, Jacob, but he won!

The problem was that although this boy had a lot of interest in chickens he couldn't go any further with this bird because the breed hadn't been accepted by the APA. Thus started my efforts and those of others in the long process of getting the breed accepted by the APA.

In the beginning I had been given a small Marans crossed with a large fowl Marans and had started breeding them but found I couldn't manage both large fowl and bantams at the same time. I tried to find homes for the bantams with people I thought would work with them. I was lucky in sharing that line with Victoria Oochs who kept them safe for me. The egg color wasn't good and my poultry breeding experience wasn't what it could have been at the time,



Bantam Maran chicks from the F2 generation.



The egg at the top left is one of the original Bantam Marans eggs and the one below and centered is F1, the other two (right) are F2.



Two pullets from a cuckoo bantam male over a blue, full sized Marans. As you can see, the size has increased and I have to work on leg feathering. They are, top cuckoo, and bottom, blue cuckoo.



Black Silver female: 2 lbs. 5 oz



Blue female: Weight 2 lbs. 8oz



Cuckoo female: Weight 1 lb. 12 oz



Blue Marans: Weight 2 lbs. 8oz



Cuckoo bantam male

but it was a matter of learning as I went along. Years went by and several varieties of Marans were accepted into the Standard with a lot of interest growing in the breed. Years later, after the Marans as a breed were flourishing, I began to reduce my flock with the thought of retiring. That was when Victoria Ochs contacted me and asked me to help her develop the bantam Marans. I remembered Jacob, and the reason I had started breeding Marans in the first place. I agreed to help.

We are just over a year now into developing bantam Marans in the hope of having a bird that 4H kids can handle. We have had to breed bantams with large fowl to get better egg color. We are getting the odd bird that lays a number five egg and a few birds with the correct proposed weight for bantam Marans - - Males: 2 lb 12 oz and females: 2 lbs 8 oz. We are still in the early stages of development but hope to continue improving the lines in future generations. Pictured in this article are the steps in our progress to date.



Bantam Marans eggs with color chart



Black Silver bantam Marans male and Black Silver bantam pullet.

Editors Note: In the most recent version of the American Standard of Perfection, 44th edition, the bantam Marans is not an approved breed although the Large Fowl version has been approved since 2011 in the Continental (French) class. Likewise, the Bantam Standard does not recognize the bantam Marans as an approved breed. Any bantam breed should be a copy of the large fowl in the same breed, but

just in a miniature version. Standard weight for the large fowl Marans is: Cock—8 lbs., Cockerel—7 lbs., Hen—6.5 lbs. and Pullet—5.5 lbs. This puts the proposed standard weight for the bantam Marans at a little over a third the size of their large fowl counterparts. Bev has promised to keep us updated on the progress of the bantam Marans project and hopefully getting them accepted into the Standards.

Chris & James

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More On Deep Litter

By Ann Charles

I am a huge fan of deep litter. I discovered it on my own by accident when I first started raising chickens, before I ever found out it was a “thing”. Now I am hooked and can not think of any other way to raise poultry. I never have to clean a pen, the birds are happy and healthy and if I could just figure out a really good watering method where they were not constantly scratching litter into it, all would be perfect.

I have a lot of deep litter here, it's old and it's deep. The bottom is 10 years old in fact and those birds will dig deep holes in their pens and keep moving it around. I am currently doing some research on how to incorporate it into a garden. That is— when I have time for a garden. The following is quoted from an article by Harvey Ussery who has written extensively on this subject.

“Deep litter is an active compost heap driven by a busy gang of microbes. And among the metabolites of the microbes — by-products of their life processes — are vitamins K and B12, in addition to other immune-enhancing compounds. The chickens actually ingest these beneficial substances as they find interesting things to eat in the litter. Don't ask me what they're eating, but chickens on a mature deep litter do little other than scratch and peck.

“Scientific experiments have borne out the benefits of a bioactive deep litter. In 1949, a couple of researchers at the Ohio Experiment Station published research on deep litter. To summarize: One experiment compared two groups of growing pullets, both on old built-up deep litter, one group receiving a complete ration, the other fed a severely deficient diet. Mortality and weight gain in the two groups were virtually identical. In another experiment comparing pullets fed a severely deficient diet, groups on old, thor-

oughly bioactive litter suffered far lower mortality (7 as opposed to 23 percent) and achieved much higher weight gain (at 12 weeks, 2.34 compared with 1.64 pounds) than those on fresh litter. Both these and further experiments demonstrated: “Obviously, the old built-up litter adequately supplemented the incomplete ration.”

“The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations confirms these observations: “Microorganisms thrive on the manure in the litter and break it down. This microflora produces growth factors, notably vitamin B12, and antibiotic substances, which help control the level of pathogenic bacteria. Consequently, the growth rate and health are often superior in poultry raised on deep litter.”

From: Better Chicken Health: Deep Litter Manure Management, By Harvey Ussery, <https://www.grit.com/animals/chicken-health-deep-litter-zm0z13jazgou/>

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