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Exhibition Poultry

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Exhibition Poultry Magazine

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From the Editor . . .

Stating the obvious - it's hot. We are suffering and the birds are suffering. Unless you have an air-conditioned barn that is. And with the way electric charges per KWH are jumping I don't see how that is a sustainable solution to breeding purebred exhibition poultry. I think most of us realize that 'vigor' - which encompasses a whole range of parameters, including the ability to survive extreme temperatures—is something we should really be paying close attention to in our breeding stock.

My larger birds laid all Winter and Spring, and loved the temps although they were a bit colder than normal. The temperature swings however were a big problem and resulted in erratic lay. Than summer hit early the end of May. Having already hatched copious amounts of chicks for the fall shows, plus replacement birds, I made the decision on June 1st to shut my birds down and hopefully force an early molt. My idea was that the molt would carry them through the Summer heat, with less feathers, less fat, and less work to do. I was also hoping to save a little on feed by dropping the protein significantly lower than my commercial layer feed. Who would have known that the price of whole oats would almost double in a month's time?

Fortunately, I have only lost one bird to the heat—so far—it was an older cock that probably thought it was a good idea to breed a hen at 2 PM with a 114 heat index. After 4 weeks on whole oats, free choice (less work for me), everyone else seems to be doing fine. The hens are trimming down, birds are molting but not at the rate I would have hoped or, and I have read that whole oats help the birds handle heat stress, so that was an additional perk.

My grow outs, and the few bantam chicks I am still hatching, are still on the commercial Nutrena feeds which are what I feed exclusively. But having all the breeders and older show birds on oats temporarily is making life easier for me right now.

Taking care of poultry contains so many variables, and mother nature is always tossing a few new ones in the pot. It helps if we, as poultry breeders, and our birds, are resilient.

Ann Charles,
Editor



Hello ABA Members!

I hope this newsletter finds you all well! It has been busy at the ABA, which is always a good thing. By the time this reaches you the upcoming Yearbook should be well on its way to production. I know I'm looking forward to it and if you have a chance be sure to thank Karen and Kim for all their hard work.

The ABA added 81 new members since the last newsletter!

Attention Show Secretaries:

We have some Big News. The American Poultry Association and American Bantam Association have teamed up to offer one Show Report form to cover both club's reporting requirements per show.

The 2022 ABA Scholarship application period is now open.

This is open to all ABA members planning to attend or currently attending a post high school accredited college, trade school, or other institution of higher learning. Deadline for applications: July 15, 2022 Download your application today.

Even with all the uncertainty from Covid, and now AI, we are still going strong. I, like everyone, hope things get back to normal for us all soon. Florida hasn't

been impacted, show wise, much due to all our shows happening from Oct to Feb but I'm cautiously watching. I've been taking precautions with my flock and trying to minimize contact with wild

birds in every way I can. It's not easy, especially when your daughter breeds Muscovy Ducks, but our Great Pyrs definitely help keep things out of the yard.

We've had a pretty decent

Cindy Rusk
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hatch this year. Not quite as many as I'd like, but probably as many as I should. I tend to get to a point that I am managing things fine...then I think "why not add a few more".

Chicks are A LOT of work. How something so small can make such a mess and eat so much still eludes me...actually, I have kids I take that back lol. I'm enjoying watching them grow out and my kids and I are excited for the show season. We are still hatching some breeds that started laying late so fingers crossed. Who knows we might have something nice come the National in Ohio this year!

Speaking of the National, we are still looking for donations for

the ABA annual auction. Location: Ohio State Fairgrounds, Columbus, Ohio. Date, November 12-13th. Are you able to support the ABA Auction with a pair of birds or poultry related merchandise at our ABA Breeders Auction? Please let us know.

This year along with the high-quality stock usually offered we would like to offer a nice selection of ABA collectables. If you have something, you feel would fit the bill please let us know! We thank you in advance and thank all members for their continued ABA support!

Until next time!
Michelle Lynch

.....

7th Annual MEGA Show Shaping Up To Be A Grand Poultry Event

The 2022 Mega Show on November 5th, 2022 in Norman, Oklahoma is starting to take shape. Along with our outstanding regular show premiums the MEGA will also feature a record number of Breed Special Add On Awards and premiums.

The MEGA will have a record breaking 30 breed specials this year compared to 17 last year. These awards are shows within the MEGA SHOW and gives each featured breed something special to compete for in addition to the regular show awards.

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EPMag

Shows & Contests

<https://epmag.show/>

A few standouts from our May
2022 photo competition.







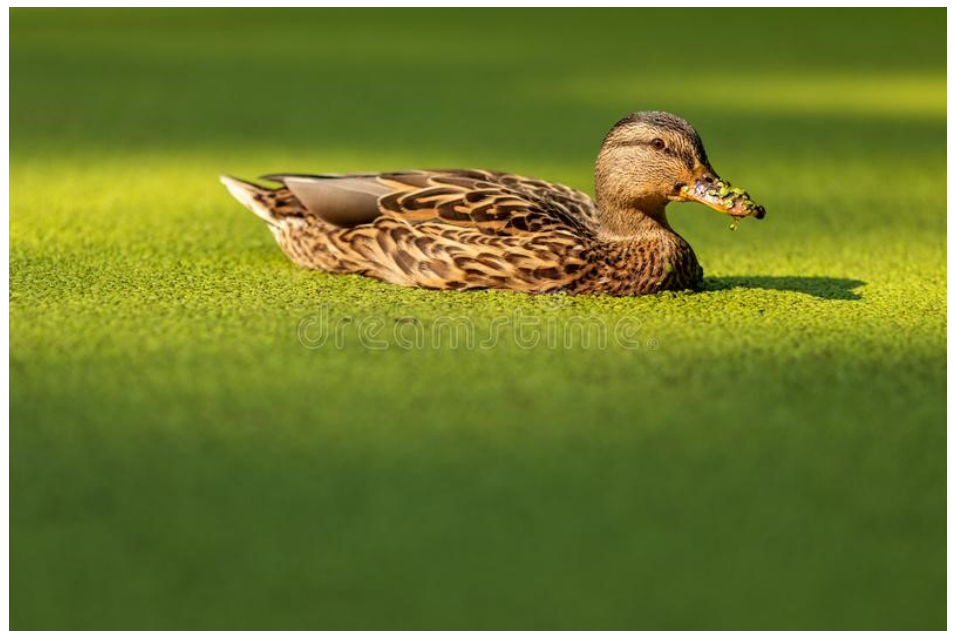


Duckweed As Poultry Feed

By Anna & Mark Hess

Along with black soldier fly larvae, duckweed is at the top of our list for this year's chicken feed experiments. This little plant was a ubiquitous part of my childhood since it grew wild in the ponds I played in. I transplanted some into my own backyard water garden by the simple method of scooping a few leaves up into a quart jar and emptying them into their new home.

Given full sunlight and still water, duckweed will grow like crazy until it coats the surface of a pond and has to be scooped out to make room for other plants. Suffice it to say that duckweed is easy to grow and doesn't need much infrastructure after the original pond-building.



What I wasn't aware of at the time is that duckweed is extraordinarily high in protein. You'll remember from my chart of protein content in chicken feed ingredients that corn is 9% protein and dry-roasted soybeans are 37% protein. Well, depending on who you talk to (and presumably depending on the species of duckweed, since there are several), duckweed is 30 to 50% pro-

tein. Wow!

Duckweed can make up to 40% of a chicken's diet, with 25% being more optimal. One study suggests that duckweed may be best fed dried and I can envision drying stations where I just scoop duckweed out of the pond and toss it on a table in our hot summer sun.

Duckweed likes high fertility water, but that's pretty easy to achieve. Some folks take the graywater coming out of their kitchen sinks and channel it into duckweed gardens — the duckweed cleans the water while producing free chicken feed. In my backyard water garden, I just threw several goldfish in the pond and the fish poop was sufficient to keep the duckweed growing like crazy.

If you are able to get your fish to reproduce (which mine did after a year or two), then you could even give your chickens a fish now and then as an even higher boost of protein.

A photograph of a black chicken standing in a field of green grass and duckweed. Overlaid on the image is a promotional graphic with the text "Cut costs. Grow your own feed!" in large, bold, yellow letters. Below this, there is a red arrow pointing to a small image of a book titled "The Working Chicken". The text "Download your FREE chicken ebook!" is also present. At the bottom of the graphic, the website "avianaquamiser.com/chicken-books" is listed.

Cut costs.
Grow your
own feed!

Download your
FREE
chicken
ebook!

The Working Chicken

avianaquamiser.com/chicken-books

Duckweed as a Water Purifier

“Water pollution is a critical issue for human health, aquatic plant and animal biodiversity. Our research investigates one possible solution is using aquatic plants as a natural treatment system. “We used a total of six measurements (dissolved oxygen, conductivity,

turbidity, pH, color of water, and the number of colonies grown on the culture media) taken for seven days to compare the effect of duckweed on the change in water quality.

“Our results show that duckweed significantly reduced the turbidity and number of bacteria in the water, suggesting it may be the most optimal water purifier among the three plants tested.

Based on the results from this

experiment, we recommend floating plants as one alternative to resolving water pollution which would effectively purify water as well as require less cost for construction and maintenance.”

Excerpt from: The effect of floating plants on water purification: Comparison of the water purification capability of Water Hyacinth, Duckweed, and Azolla. By Jiwoo Park and Jonathan Richard, American School of Bombay, Mumbai, India Nov 21, 2020

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Purebred Poultry Breeds and Sustainability in Changing Times

By Ann Charles

I read a number of commercial poultry publications and scientific articles each month always looking for information that can be applied to my Araucana breeding program and also for applicable ideas to share in this publication. A particularly sobering piece by Madeleine Baerg appeared in the June 16, 2022 edition of Canadian poultrylast month. It was titled: *Extreme Weather and Poultry: Rough waters ahead*. In this fact filled article she spelled out some key events that devastated Canadian Flocks in 2021. And 2022 is already looking even worse for many of us hear in the USA. She starts off with the following statements . . .

"Ask a British Columbian poultry producer to describe 2021 and you'll likely hear descriptors like catastrophic and gut-wrenching. Together, an extreme heat dome event in late June and devastating flooding in November killed more than 1.2 million birds in the province's poultry barns.

"Though it's not possible to attribute individual weather events to climate change, many fear 2021's extreme events could well be a preview of a new, more violent weather reality.

"The heat dome started on the Friday. When I came back to work

the next week, all day Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, we were doing insurance claims for growers," says Dr. Gigi Lin, a veterinarian with Canadian Poultry Consultants Ltd.

"They all died from heat prostration. The birds either died from heat stress directly or you saw layer production drop dramatically, especially in broiler breeder layers. It was heartbreaking. As a veterinarian, there's only so much I can do. I can't change the temperature."

"The losses didn't end when the thermometer finally dropped, Lin says. She diagnosed nine cases of blackhead in turkeys within two to six weeks of the heat event: an "unheard of" number, she says. Diseases like infectious laryngotracheitis (ILT) spiked for the next six months.

"Farmers left reeling from the heat-related losses had little time to recover before catastrophic flooding caused by 'atmospheric river' torrential rain occurred in November.

"In early December, the B.C. government reported the flooding had killed 628,000 chickens: birds either drowned in the floods or died when flooded roads left barns cut off from feed and other resources.

"Secondary losses mounted over nearly three weeks. With roads throughout B.C.'s primary poultry region flooded, the entire poultry supply and logistics chain backed up: hatching eggs couldn't get to farms; processing-ready broilers couldn't make it to market; even feed ingredients had no way to reach manufacturers.

"I don't want to say this is a new normal, but a future challenge. We're seeing not only in BC but also across the world that we're having very abnormal natural disasters and natural events."

It sure seems that the weather/disease/and feed variables are taking a toll on our hobby as well as people's enthusiasm. How sustainable is your farm and your chosen poultry breed(s)? Diseases like Newcastle (remember that one?) Avian Influenza, feed prices, heat waves and other weather related anomalies subject our birds to more and more stress with each passing year. I feel that it has never been more important that we all consider vigor, disease resistance, and sustainability to be our key goals as responsible poultry breeders.

Personally, I do not offer my birds additional warmth (after 2 weeks of age) or cooling at any time in their life. They do have shelter from the wind and rain, fresh water, and good feed. They are not given vaccines of any kind. I do worm them every 2-3 months although I have never seen a worm out of any of them. Other than that, they are on their own and only the fittest survive to breed, and show.

Ask yourself if your favorite breed is suited to your climate? Are your facilities capable of coping with unexpected temperature extremes, frequent power outages, and high fuel prices if you need to run a generator? These are all factors we need to consider while we attempt to maintain our purebred, exhibition flocks.

Practical Bantams . . .

Breeding & Exhibiting New Hampshire Bantams

by Edgar Mongold

Judging and Showing

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



Bantam New Hampshire female.

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

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

Breeding

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

The rapid layer that burns out



Edgar Mongold

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



Bantam New Hampshire male.

clan breeding. It's an Insurance policy. I have on occasion painted myself into corners with my breeding programs.

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

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

Pen 1—Old Hen & Cockerel 1

Pen 2—Pullet 1 & Cockerel 2

Pen 3—Pullet 2 & Cockerel 2

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

my numbers down. My backup will include others breeding stock from my 'friendship style—

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

clan breeding' insurance policy.

When I evaluate a pair mating it's based on uniformity in the offspring, not which pair produces the "one" exceptional bird.

Also, people don't comprehend that just because you

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



A newly hatched batch of bantam New Hampshire chicks.

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



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"The prize for most economical language could go to certain colloquial dialects of Indonesian that are rarely written but represent the daily reality of Indonesian in millions of mouths. For example, in the Riau dialect spoken in Sumatra, ayam means chicken and makan means eat, but "Ayam makan" doesn't mean only "The chicken is eating."

"Depending on context, "Ayam makan" can mean the "chickens are eating," "a chicken is eating," "the chicken is eating," "the chicken will be eating," "the chicken eats," "the chicken has eaten," "someone is eating the chicken," "someone is eating for the chicken," "someone is eating with the chicken," "the chicken that is eating," "where the chicken is eating," and "when the chicken is eating."

"If chickens and eating are à propos, the assumption is that everybody in the conversation knows what's what. Thus for a wide variety of situations the equivalent of "chicken eat" will do—and does."

From: https://getpocket.com/explore/item/the-world-s-most-efficient-languages?utm_source=pocket-newtab

Howard Davenport



**Y.E.P.A. Youth Leader - Texas
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