

Ameraucana Bantam Bulletin

AMERAUCANA BANTAM CLUB, 6442 CHESTNUT AVE., ORANGEVALE, CA 95662

SUMMER, 1983

Vol. V, No. 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our incubator is unplugged for the first time since December of '82 and another hatching season (whew) nearing its end. "Nearing" because just a few hens are sitting on eggs yet, as I suppose there will be until about the end of July. But Ameraucanas in wheaten, white, blue, black, and buff, all in various stages of growth and development, fill up the rearing pens to capacity. So where, may you ask, will space be found for those last few small hatches? The answer lies in culling the least desirable.

As usual, culling starts early-on here and continues to the birds' maturity. It is the only way I have found to be able to raise so many varieties. Those of you who have visited our "chicken barn" know we also breed bantams in Silver Laced Wyandottes (daughter Melissa's) and Buff Brahma's (son Robbie's). We have also taken on the project of developing a strain of large fowl Silver Laced Wyandottes that is fast-feathering. Add to that the fact that we recently acquired four Toulouse goslings and you will know why wife Mary's patience sometimes wears thin. Thank God for feather fanciers wives.

All members who plan to help the organization by showing at the qualifying meet come November at Columbus, Ohio, need to coordinate the entries so as to be able to meet the APA and/or ABA admission requirements for new breeds and varieties. Upon the shoulders of Don Cable, our secretary, falls this unenviable and formidable task. So EVERYONE PLEASE let Don know as soon as possible what you can show so that he can advise all of us what to enter in order to avoid duplication of effort in some varieties while perhaps falling just short of the mark in some other varieties.

Only by working together can we achieve the goals we have set for 1983. Through cooperation, hard work, and self-sacrifice we can do it. And remember: "Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desire of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this..." Psalm 37:4,5 (NIV)

Until next time.
Mike Gilbert

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED

Those members subscribing to Poultry Press or who are ABA members or both, are now aware of the really serious proposal by Dr. K.G. Keenum, North Carolina Department of Agriculture, regarding the mandatory testing for pullorum and the devastating consequences that the acceptance of this proposal would have on each of us. For those not aware, this proposal, as succinctly outlined by Bill Cawley, of Texas A&M, in the reprint of an editorial sent to all ABA members, would seriously curtail, if not end for all practical purposes, the public exhibition of poultry, especially across state lines. For a copy of the editorial detailing the facts of the matter, contact your secretary.

Whether you exhibit your birds or not, you benefit indirectly from exhibition as it is the chief vehicle for both sustaining interest in the fancy and is the crucible for passing judgment and the free exchange of ideas so necessary for the continued progress of all breeds of poultry. Your chosen avocation is seriously threatened and the exhibition of poultry as we know it, could well come to an end.

This is perhaps the most important message that has been brought to you by way of this bulletin and as your secretary, I must urge you to act upon this vital matter by writing now to:

T.O. Gessel, Director
Regulatory Coordination Staff
APHIS, USDA
Federal Building, Room 728
6505 Be;crest Rd.
Hyattsville, MD 20782

Be sure to mention that you are opposed to the proposed amendment to Section 145.53 (b) (3) (vii) to NPIP, which was published in the Federal Register, Vol. 48, No. 104/ Friday, May 27, 1983/ Proposed Rules P23829. Please send a copy of your letter to Mr. Gessel to your United States Senators and Congressmen. Even more important, you should send a copy to your state officials- Governor, Commissioner of Agriculture, Legislators, etc. as the increased cost brought about by multiple testing must be born by the state and most State Officials are unaware of the proposed amendment so important to us all.

Remember this is only a proposed amendment, not the law of the land as yet! To prevent this amendment from becoming law, exhibition poultry people must mount one of the largest write-in campaigns in history. Each of us has a stake in this very real threat to our hobby, so let your voice be heard. Mr. Gessel must receive your comments on or before July 26, 1983.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

AMERAUCANA BANTAM CLUB
BREEDER'S DIRECTORY
-1983-

Blehm, John 4599 Lange Rd., Birch Run, MI 48415 WHEATEN and WHITE
 Brooksher, Jane 25333 S. Lammers Rd., Tracy, CA 95376 WHEATEN
 Burger, Richard 5046 Ogletown-Stanton Rd., Newark, DE 19713
 *Cable, Don 6442 Chestnut Ave., Orangevale, CA 95662 WHEATEN and SILVER
 *Carpenter, Ken Star's Haven Ranch, 50 Hoag Cross Rd., Ossining, NY 10562
 Clifton, Larry 17217 Van Ogles Ford Elhi Rd., Sumner, WA 98390
 *Cook, Harry Water St., RD#1, Box 130, Eatontown, NJ 07724 BLUE and BARRED
 Donaho, C.L. 4401 Wilson Lane, Fort Worth, TX 76133 WHEATEN
 Dutton, Bob 25 Northgate Rd., Walnut Creek, CA 94598
 Frank, Jeanette P.O. Box 824, Great Falls, MT 59403 WHEATEN and WHITE
 Fugate, John 304 W. Washington, Athens, TN 37303 WHEATEN, BLACK and BUFF
 Gard, Jack L. 8787 Oroville Hwy., Marysville, CA 95901 WHEATEN
 *Gary, Frank L. 5 Barbara Drive, Crosswicks, NJ 08515
 *Gilbert, Mike W.5171 Baker Rd., Holmen, WI 54636 WHEATEN, BLUE WHEATEN, BUFF
 BLUE, BLACK and WHITE
 Grinnell, Dr. L.J. 606 Ridge St., Shelbina, MO 63468
 Gwynes, Ray P.O. Box 14, Andersonville, GA 31711 WHEATEN
 Hansen, David 429 E. Elizabeth, Ft. Collins, CO 80524
 Holland, Bill 421 W. 5th Ave., Jerome, ID 83338
 Horman, Dave RFD#2, Holmen, WI 54636 WHITE
 Huffstutter, Ken 2239 Lobert St., Castro Valley, CA 94546 WHEATEN and WHITE
 *Ikeda, Jaime 10411 Byrne Ave., Cupertino, CA 95014 WHEATEN and WHITE
 *Keeney, D.L., Jr. 2211 Commerce St., Dallas, TX 75201
 *Kellegg, Bernard P.O. Box 62, Viroqua, WI 54665 BLACK
 Ng, Paul 618 24th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94121
 Purcell, Carole Rt. 1, Box 2762, Laurel, MT. 59044 BLACK
 Rayher, Marie 19822 W. Grant Line Rd., Tracy, CA 95376 WHEATEN and WHITE
 Reber, Dr. John Box 328, Apple Creek, OH 44606
 Roxburgh, Dorian Greystone Cottage, Colemore Lane, Kingwood Common, Henley
 on Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 5NA England
 Savory, T.M. P.O. Box 105, Randwick, N.S.W. 2031 Australia
 *Segler, Jerry A., Sr. Box 23, Sparland, IL 61565 BLACK, BROWN, BROWN RED,
 SILVER, WHEATEN and WHITE
 Seidel, Paul 10316 Yelm Hwy, S.E., Lacey, WA 98503

Spinas, Virginia Rt. 3, Box 3760, Roseburg, OR 97470 WHEATEN
Tuckwood, Jim Rt. 3, Box 21, Boscobel, WI 53805 BLACK, WHITE and BLUE
Tutaj, Duane 17 W. 661 Lorraine Ave., Addison, IL 60101
Van Kampen, Mary Holliman Rt. 1, Box 370, Long Beach, MS 39560
Winter, H.G.M. Box 43, Maxville, Ont. KOC ITO, Canada
Wunderlich, John 3512 Maywood Ave., St. Louis, MO 63121
Ziegler, W.C. 10411 Byrne Ave., Cupertino, CA 95014

Membership as of 6/27/83
* indicates charter member

ABC NATIONAL MEET

Last call for specials to be offered at our National Meet! If you would like to pledge a special for your favorite variety of Ameraucana bantam at our National Meet in November, please contact your secretary before July 9, as our premium list copy will be sent off to Show Secretary Clell Agler on that day. A list of our specials and an entry sheet will be in a future issue of Poultry Press.

ABC ELECTION

The Fall issue of our Club Bulletin will contain a ballot for our biennial election of officers. If you would like to run for any of the various offices or would like to nominate another club member, please contact your secretary so that written permission may be secured in order to place the name on the ballot. This must be done soon!
In addition to the usual election of officers, there will be a proposal to ammend the constitution to allow for an honorary vice-president's position to pay tribute to some person who has, over a period of time, provided a great service to the Ameraucana Bantam Club or to the fancy in general. The ABC Board of Directors has voted to bring this proposal before the membership at large in the upcoming election.

ABA BANTAM STANDARD UPDATE

In as much as there is no suitable drawing to illustrate the Ameraucana bantam in Bantam Standard, it has been decided to use the illustrations of the wheaten male and female (actually, photographs) which appear on page 39 of the Ameraucana Bantam Handbook. While far from perfect, they are a great improvement over the poor drawings illustrating our breed in the current edition of Bantam Standard. These photographs will represent our breed in forthcoming editions.

UNDER THE MULBERRY TREE

Congratulations to Glenda Heywood on the new format for Hen House Herald, as it is a great improvement! Glenda has also offered a year's subscription to HHH for the largest entry of Ameraucanas at our National Meet. Member John Wunderlich writes: "...while judging in Richland Center, Wisconsin, at a June show, I judged and handled some beautifully colored birds. These birds really caught my eye, as they were dainty, typey and colorful. That's why I'll offer this special at Columbus: \$5.00 cash for the best colored male and the same for the best colored female- I'll pick these two birds out and present checks to the winners. I plan to get some of these birds from Mike Gilbert this summer to start with."

A recent letter from Harry Cook, of New Jersey included a colored photograph of his wife, Mary, holding one of Harry's new barred Ameraucana cockerels. The barring appears regular with fine color, so the new variety is well on its way. The letter also included a note from Clarence Begner, who worked with the progenitors of Ameraucana bantams more than twenty years ago. Earlier this month it was my pleasure to attend a get together at the home of Western District Director Marie Rayher, of Tracy, CA. Members Bill Holland and Jane Brooksher were also in attendance. The food was excellent, the company first rate, and as a special treat, I witnessed one of the finest collections of bantams that I have ever seen. Other than Ameraucanas in white and wheaten, Marie has literally dozens of breeds, many in several varieties, arranged in neat rows of pens and the quality of the birds are outstanding. Jane and Cloyce Brooksher provided the 50¢ tour. Welcome to new members Paul Seidel and Virginia Spinass from the Pacific Northwest, to Ray Gwynes, down Georgia way, and to our new junior member from the city by the Golden Gate, Paul Ng. Paul writes that he has several breeds down there in San Francisco, but how he manages to keep them in the city is a mystery. I also started with poultry as a boy in San Francisco some forty years ago, but people were more tolerant of poultry keeping then, and in those days in San Francisco, a rooster was a ROOSTER, if you get what I mean. Anyway, we wish our new members well!

Our British member, Dorian Roxburgh, has stepped down from her former post as Secretary of the British Araucana Club and we wish her a good rest after ten years at the helm. However, she is still an active breeder, so the rest is temporary at best. I received a copy of the British Araucana Club Journal in which our Australian member, T.M. Savory mentioned our club to the new Secretary, so news, (both good and bad) travels far and fast.

Speaking of good news, in a telephone conversation with Southern District Director, Jack Fugate, just the other night, I learned that his health is good again after a botched diagnosis, and that he plans to be at our National Meet in Columbus, Ohio, in November.

This has not been the best of years to get a number of suitable chicks out in preparation for our National Meet, and not just here on the West Coast. I have had reports of fertility problems from our members from all parts of the nation and the majority of my chicks are very late this year, since our Winter season didn't really end until April! However, we are all in the same boat and I would appreciate those members planning to exhibit at our National Meet, following Mike Gilbert's plea for good communication so that we can make the best showing possible and meet both the ABA and APA requirements for admitting new breeds and/or varieties.

Finally, let me make one last appeal for your help with the letter to Mr. T.O. Gessel as per the item on page two. Please do yourself a favor and take a little time to write that letter so important to us all, thanks!