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ABC Forum Administrator



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Ameraucana Breeders Club, 33878 Hwy 87, California, MO 65018-3911  
[www.ameraucana.org](http://www.ameraucana.org)

## President's Report

Welcome to 2007! This year marks 25 years of membership in the Ameraucana Breeders Club for me. Prior to 1982 I raised what we called Araucana chickens. I didn't know anything about a "Standard" for chickens and that Araucanas had become a recognized breed a few years earlier. Before that time Araucana and Easter Egg Chicken had the same meaning. I had a membership list for the SPPA and found that a fellow in Wisconsin named Mike Gilbert also had "Araucanas". When I called he told me he had the same kind I had, with muffs and tails, and that they were now called Ameraucanas. I joined the Ameraucana Bantam Club that he had helped organize, and he sent some hatching eggs to me by having his friend Bernard Kellogg deliver them to a poultry show here in Michigan. I believe that was the first time I'd gone to a poultry show. Here it is 25 years later and many commercial hatcheries are still selling chicks that come from "colored" eggs as "Araucanas/Americanas". I wish the government would fine them for false advertising

or at least for improper spelling.

I just checked to see when I was President before and it was 10 years ago. As I read the introduction that I wrote for the Bulletin back then I noticed I related the same story that I told above. Many of you probably don't remember it or are new to the club so I'll leave it as is. My wife, Kathy, and I will celebrate our 34<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this May. Kathy and I are semi-retired and do some print advertising work from our home. She sells the ads and I do the graphic layout, billing, printing and delivery. We have three children and 5 grandchildren. David is our youngest son and is 11 years old. We were home-schooling him, but he is now attending a Christian grade school. We have 25 acres and live at the end of a Dead End gravel road. Half of the property is wooded and the other half is a farm field. Besides chickens we have, Jack, the dog. Years ago we also raised our own beef. I sorted the birds and put them in breeding pens on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Winter came late, but we are into a deep

freeze as I write this. Due to the climate, here in mid Michigan, I know that I'm rushing the breeding season and think that next year I'll wait until at least the first of February to setup the breeding pens.

Thanks to the club officers that served us over the past couple years and longer. They are: Teresa Brittnacher, Larry Clionsky, Beth Collier, Mike Gilbert, Koralyn Kibbee and Paul Smith. Welcome to the new group of officers. Their names with contact information are listed in this Bulletin. Special thanks to Michael Muenks for accepting the responsibilities of the Secretary/Treasurers job. I know, from experience, that is the most demanding and time consuming office in any club like this. I look forward to working with Barbara, Jerry, Lisa, Michael, Paul, Rob and all our members as we "encourage the continued improvement of Ameraucana bantams and large fowl through breeding, exhibition, and dissemination of relevant information".



John Blehm

## Ameraucana Breeders Club Meet Policy

The ABC places **meets** at the requests of our members. Please contact your district director to request a meet at your favorite shows. The

following is the official meet policy for the ABC club: "Meets will only be placed by a district director if a member in his or her district requests

a meet for a specific show in time for the distribution of information via the ABC quarterly Bulletin prior to the entry deadline for that show".



Blue Wheaten Portrait

## Winter Brisk, Chehalis, WA, Meet Report

Washington State Meet, December 9-10, 2007, reported by Lisa Cree

13 bantams shown by 4 exhibitors, judged by John Monico

BV & BB wheaten H by Barb Hoover – out of 13 shown by 4 exhibitors & **Reserve Champion AOCCL**

RV & RB wheaten H by Moria Perez & RB

4 large fowl shown by 2 exhibitors, judged by Chris Maddalena

BV & BB black K by Lisa and Gary Cree – out of 2 shown by 1 exhibitor & **Reserve Champion AOSB**

RV black K by Lisa and Gary Cree

BV & RB blue K by Lisa and Gary Cree – out of 1 shown by 1 exhibitor

BV silver H Jodi Herron – out of 1 shown by 1 exhibitor

JR Show, bantams shown by 2 exhibitors, 0 LF, judged by ?

Best Bantam by Youth, wheaten H by Moria Perez

2nd Best Bantam by Youth, Ceara Maxell

## Oklahoma State Poultry Federation, OK, Meet Report

South Central District Meet, December 9-10, 2007, reported by Paul Smith

1 bantam shown by 1 exhibitor, judged by Jerry Yeaw

BB Buff C by Darrell Fausett – out of 1 shown by 1 exhibitor

20 large fowl shown by 2 exhibitors, judged by Rick Hare

BB, BV black K by Paul & Angela Smith – out of 8 shown by 2 exhibitors & **Champion Ameraucana,**

RB, RV black P by Paul & Angela Smith & **Reserve Champion Ameraucana**

BV blue H by Paul & Angela Smith – out of 5 shown by 2 exhibitors

RV blue P by Wesley Wyche

BV blue wheaten P by Paul & Angela Smith – out of 2 shown by 1 exhibitor

RV blue wheaten K by Paul & Angela Smith

BV wheaten H by Paul & Angela Smith – out of 1 shown by 1 exhibitor

BV white K by Wesley Wyche – out of 2 shown by 1 exhibitor

RV white P by Wesley Wyche

JR Show, 0 bantams shown, 5 LF shown by 2 exhibitors, judged by Monty Fitzgerald

BB black P by Matthew Smith – **Champion Ameraucana, Reserve AOSB Jr. Show**

RB blue K by Matthew Smith

### Abbreviation Guide for Meet Reports

**BB**=best of breed

**RB**=reserve of breed

**BV**=best of variety

**RV**=reserve of variety

**C**=cock

**H**=Hen

**K**=cockerel

**P**=pullet

**AOV**=Any Other Variety,

**AOCCL**=All Other

Combs Clean Legged

Bantams

**AOSB**=All Other

Standard Breeds (large

fowl)

## Western District

Greetings from Lisa Cree, your new Western Director!

It's been an exciting fall and winter for my husband, Gary and I. In November we flew out to Indianapolis for the big Indy show. It was quite an experience. The show was amazing and it was a real treat to see the birds, visit friends and meet so many people in person. In December our local club, the Washington Feather Fanciers holds it's Winter Show. We're pretty involved in this club, and while it's a small show by most standards, it's always one of our very favorites. We've had our ABC State Meet at this show for a few years and enjoy visiting each year and talking birds.

In January we drove down to Stockton California for the Pacific Poultry Breeders Association's Winter Show. We've found this to be a delightful show and this year we were grateful to find the Siskiyou Passes were in the best shape they've been in years. I'm the District Director for the Japanese Bantam Breeders Association and we were delighted to host the 2007 JBBA National at the Stockton Show. The National went well and the turnout was very good. It's given me some ideas for our own upcoming ABC National in October.

### April 28-29 is the Montana State Meet.

This show is the ABA Semi-Annual. It's being held by the Rocky Mountain Poultry Association in Great Falls, MT at the Montana State Fairgrounds. Judges at this show include:

Pat Lacey (Wisconsin), Ken Cook (Oregon), Gary Overton (Ohio) Paul Weiser (Washington) for the Junior Show, and for Showmanship Josh Simon (Washington)  
 Contacts for this show are:  
 Jamie Rensom, [rensmon@bresnan.net](mailto:rensmon@bresnan.net) (406)443-4347  
 Sharon Schroeder, [swinechick@hotmail.com](mailto:swinechick@hotmail.com) (406)546-5110

### October 6-7- The ABC National Meet

Hosted by the Montana Poultry Fanciers Association and being held at the Montana State Fairgrounds in Great Falls MT.

This is a double show. The ABC National has been placed in the first of the two shows. Judges are Paul Wieser and Brian Decker. An egg contest is also being planned and we're hoping Mike Gilbert will judge these.

I've been in touch with Koralyn Kibbee about this show. She has some terrific award ideas and is very excited about the show. Koralyn and I have discussed awards for a number of classes but what we can do will be based of course on the support we can get. The

Montana Poultry Fanciers Association has generously donated \$300.00 towards awards for the ABC National. We've had a couple other pledges, but we really need your support! Please consider what you can do to help make this a terrific event.

You can contact me or Larry Kibbee, the MT Poultry Assoc. President.  
 Larry Kibbee, [singletreebantam@wmconnect.com](mailto:singletreebantam@wmconnect.com) (406)284-6978

### December -Washington State Meet (generally held the 2nd weekend of December)

The Washington Feather Fanciers "Winter Brisk" contacts:  
 Mike Dooms  
 2412 Seward Ave.  
 Centralia, WA 98531  
 (360)-736-2751  
[mpdooms@localaccess.com](mailto:mpdooms@localaccess.com)  
 Linda Kozak  
 9617 SW 192 Street  
 Vashon, WA 98070  
 (206)463-1317  
 We've been encouraged to see increased interest in the breed both in Washington State and California, although at this time this doesn't seem to result in many birds being shown.

Please contact me if you have suggestions or ideas.

Warmest regards,  
 Lisa Cree  
[creefarm@peoplepc.com](mailto:creefarm@peoplepc.com)  
<http://creefarm.fateback.com>



Make plans now to attend the ABC National meet at the Big Sky Exposition, in Great Falls, Montana, October 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007!



Mike Gilbert  
 large fowl RV  
 brown-red pullet

### North Central District Report, Jerry De Smidt, Director



Do you have pictures of your birds you would like to share?

Send them to the club secretary either as electronic files or as regular photos!

Greetings from the Midwest region!

As I sit here writing this article the temperatures here in the Midwest are well below zero and negative wind chills as low as -30. With it being so cold outside not much activity is going on, we are staying in and trying to stay warm, working on building 2 brooders, and putting jig-saw puzzles together.

With the cold upon us, and the barn heated to 40 degrees, the birds took a short break with their egg production, laying fewer eggs than normal. With the lower egg production we are still setting about 5 to 6 dozen eggs per week. At this time most of us should have our

breeding pens together and getting lots of fertile eggs and hatching lots of chicks for the Nationals in Montana at the Big Falls Poultry show in October. Our hatching has been very good with most varieties. Once again the blue and black Ameraucana large fowl are slacking in the egg production and are not that fertile. They are always the last ones to start laying heavily and become fertile. The whites, buffs, wheaten, and blue wheaten are both fertile and hatching well. We will soon be taking those breeding pens apart and making room for the chicks.

We decided to go to Denver again this January and show at the National Western Stock Show. There were

about 500 birds total and we did very well with the Ameraucanas. We had Champion and Res. Champion AOSB with the blacks, cockerel and pullet respectfully; there were about 12 blacks and 4 AOV in the large fowl. The black cockerel was also Res. Champion Large fowl. In the bantams we were the only ones that showed and had Res. AOCCL with a Black pullet. The interest in Ameraucanas in Colorado is growing and we are selling lots of birds out there. The show was a great show and had lots of fun while I was out there. I would like to see more Ameraucanas out there to increase the availability of our breed to others.

### South Central District Report, Paul Smith, Director



Greetings from the South-Central District!

Most of the shows are now history and hatching season should be in full gear. We are running several months behind our normal schedule, due to the weather and our house project. When we entered Texas on our way home from the Frankenmuth national it was 88° - quite a change from the snow in Michigan. Even in late October it was too hot to pen the birds for breeding. The last of the breeding pens were FINALLY set up during the first week of February.

We will set another incubator by the time this newsletter is printed. Our first hatch was a total loss due to an incubator which failed. We are planning on hatching some for the Montana national & the 2007 shows. We have had several requests for day old chicks but are only supplying hatching eggs this season due to the time required to produce chicks.

Our house is almost totally dried-in. Presently it lacks the Deep Blue River metal roof installed over the plywood to be completed with the outside. Then we

can start to complete the inside.

We are offering a few quality black breeding trios and layers. Earlier, we hadn't planned on letting any of them leave, because they were under size due to the extreme hot summer, but to my surprise, they have caught-up to where they should be.

I hope everyone enjoys the rest of the show season, and that the Lord blesses all with a successful hatching season.



## Northeastern District, Rob Sando, Director

Hello from a very cold Ohio!

As I write this it is 15° with a wind chill of about 5°. Spring is around the corner I hope. I have placed several meets around the area, but I need to hear from all of the members in the Northeast District to know where all they show. The best way to contact me is by email at [rsando\\_shrop@hotmail.com](mailto:rsando_shrop@hotmail.com). I hope everyone is getting

those birds mated and getting ready for a good hatch to show those birds.

Many of you may know who I am, but for those who don't I will tell a little about myself. I live in New Madison, Ohio. I own and operate a grain farm. I also raise Shropshire, Lincoln, and Merio sheep. The chickens I raise are black, blue, wheaten, buff Ameraucanas, Brown

Leghorns and Rhode Island Reds. I am single so no family to report on. I work full time at Lewisburg Container where I run a 5 color press with high graphics. So I do stay busy!

Let's all try to get to the shows and tell the poultry world how great our Ameraucanas are! Until next time . . . Rob Sando



## Southeastern District, Barbara Campbell, Director

As incoming director for the southeastern district, I'd like to say "Thank you" to Beth Collier for serving in this position for the past two terms. Beth stepped up to accept the directorship at a time we needed her even though her life was very busy. We appreciate your service Beth!

I look forward to getting to know the members in the southeastern district. Please feel free to email me at [BlueEggAcres@comcast.net](mailto:BlueEggAcres@comcast.net) or by phone at 865-494-0876

with any questions, concerns, and or just to chat. I'd love to hear which variety (ies) of Ameraucanas each of you keep/breed. I'm especially interested in receiving feedback about any shows you may attend. It will be our turn to host the annual National Meet in 2010 (sooner if one of the other districts passes on their turn) and we need to find the best show and location for this honor. I know 2010 sounds like a long way off, but it will be here before we know it.

I had every intention of having eggs in the incubator by the 1st week of February. We've had such a mild winter and my pullets were in full production around mid January and even a couple of the hens had started to lay. I got my breed pens all set up and then we finally got some winter weather. I was collecting 12-15 eggs a day out of 19 birds when I set up my pens, but today, February 2nd, I only gathered 4. Can't say I blame them though, I don't like the cold either!



### AMERAUCANA CHICKS

Bantams and large fowl in several varieties from [ChickHatchery.com](http://ChickHatchery.com)

Now accepting order for 2007 hatches in March and April.

Go to [www.ChickHatchery.com](http://www.ChickHatchery.com) for complete information and an Order Form or send a SASE to ChickHatchery.com, 4599 Lange Rd., Birch Run, MI 48415, for an Order Form.

## ABA and APA Yearbook Ads

It's that time of year again. You can find last year's club page ad on page 286 of the 2006 ABC yearbook. If you would like to be part of the group that sponsors a page, in the 2007 Yearbook the cost is \$15 per 1/8 page square space. You can purchase more than one space if you want. Make the checks payable to the ABA.

You can send (email preferred) your ad copy to John Blehm and he will design the ad and send in the checks together. If there is a lot of response the club will do two pages, but this is on a first come basis according to which checks come in first. John needs to receive your checks and ad info by April 1, 2007 in order to get it to the

ABA by their deadline. If there are not enough participants to fill a page John will return your checks. If John receives information about the APA Yearbook club page ads he will post it on the ABC Forum. Send checks to: John W. Blehm 4599 Lange Rd. Birch Run, MI 48415-8137 [John@ameraucana.org](mailto:John@ameraucana.org)



**Club Merchandise**

- 1982 Club Handbook - \$5
- 1998 Club Handbook - \$5
- 2005 Club Handbook - \$5
- ABC 4" Patch (2) - \$5.50
- Bulletins 1979-1984 - \$30
- Bulletins 1985-1993 - \$35
- Breeders Directory - \$2

Make Checks Payable to the Ameraucana Breeders Club and send to the club secretary.



**Ameraucana T-Shirts**

Black – 12" ABC Logo  
 100% preshrunk Cotton  
 \$10 - M, L, XL  
 \$12 – XXL

Natural – 2 5/8" ABC Logo  
 50% cotton/50% polyester  
 \$10 - M, L, XL  
 \$12 – XXL

Shipping included in the price. Send payment to:

John W. Blehm  
 4599 Lange Rd.  
 Birch Run, MI 48415-8137

**Treasurers' Reports**

<b>ABC Checking Account #22869, Credit Union Plus, Birch Run, MI</b>	
Opening Balance as of 11/24/06	\$1,290.02
Income – Dues, Directories, Donations, etc.	325.00
Subtotal	\$1,615.02
Expense – Postage	\$35.90
Expense – Website Hosting for one year	\$83.40
<b>Ending Balance as of 12/31/06</b>	<b>\$1,495.72</b>
Respectfully Submitted, John W. Blehm, Secretary/Treasurer	
<b>ABC Checking Account, Central Trust Bank, Jefferson City, MO</b>	
Income – Dues, Directories, Donations, etc	843.69
Transfer from Credit Union Plus Account	1,495.72
<b>Income Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 2,339.41</b>
Expense - Postage	161.22
Expense – Office Supplies (Laser Printer for Bulletin & office supplies)	519.65
Expense - Checks	15.95
Expense – Poultry Press Ad	65.00
Expense – Refunds	27.73
<b>Ending Balance as of 2/28/07</b>	<b>\$ 1,549.86</b>
Respectfully Submitted, Michael J. Muenks, Secretary/Treasurer	

**Club Notes**

- The deadline to submit articles, ads, reports, etc. for the next bulletin is May 15, 2007 and need to be sent to the club secretary.
- Bulletin advertisements are free to all members!
- Check out the ABC Forum, [www.ameraucana.org/abcforum](http://www.ameraucana.org/abcforum), to keep up with current topics in the Ameraucana world.
- Don't forget the ABC Sharing Place, <http://groups.msn.com/ABCShareingPlace>, a great place to share your experiences with Ameraucana.
- If you would like to make donations for the National Ameraucana Breeders Club meet, October 6, 2007 at the Big Sky Poultry Exposition please contact our Western District Director Lisa Cree at [creefarm@peoplepc.com](mailto:creefarm@peoplepc.com).



Robert Walchak  
 Res AOCCL, BV  
 white bantam  
 cockerel

Michael Muenks  
 BV silver bantam  
 pullet

## Upcoming Club Sanctioned Meets

March 3, 2007

Special Meet, requested by Wes Wyche  
Northeast Oklahoma Poultry Club, Pyor, OK  
Contact:  
Kenneth Kvittum, (918) 476-5613

March 17-18, 2007

Special Meet, requested by Michael Muenks  
Heartland Classic Poultry Association, Cape Girardeau, MO  
Contact:  
Kirk Keene, [whtrock@hotmail.com](mailto:whtrock@hotmail.com) (618)827-4800

March 31-April 1, 2007

Delaware State Meet, requested by Larry Clionsky  
Delmarva Poultry Fanciers Club, Harrington, DE  
Contact:  
Rich Barczewski, [rbarczew@desu.edu](mailto:rbarczew@desu.edu) (302)659-1211

March 31, 2007

Special Meet, requested by Rob Sando  
Southeast Ohio Poultry Breeders, Marietta, OH  
Contact:  
Jeff Oxley, (740)593-6537

April 7, 2007

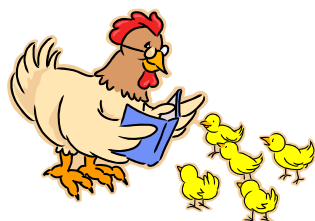
Special Meet, requested by Barbara Campbell  
Upper Cumberland Fancy Feathers Club, Cookeville, TN  
Contact:  
Daryl Strunk, (931)879-2765  
David Rose, [rosewood1@citlink.net](mailto:rosewood1@citlink.net) (931)788-6676

April 15, 2007

Pennsylvania State Meet, requested by Rob Sando  
Uniontown Poultry Show, Uniontown, PA  
Contact:  
Jay Yobst, (724)553-0610

April 21, 2007

Special Meet, requested by Barbara Campbell  
Green River Poultry Club, Inc Spring Show, Brownsville, KY  
Contact:  
Randy Graham, [rtgram@yahoo.com](mailto:rtgram@yahoo.com) (270)597-3866



April 21, 2007

Special Meet, requested by Michael Muenks  
Missouri State Poultry Association, Sedalia, MO  
Contact:  
Bernita Miller, [bmiller@iland.net](mailto:bmiller@iland.net) (660)647-2474

April 28-29, 2007

Montana State Meet, requested by Jeannette Frank  
Rocky Mountain Poultry Association, Great Falls, MT  
Contact:  
Jamie Rensom, [rensmon@bresnan.net](mailto:rensmon@bresnan.net) (406)443-4347  
Sharon Schroeder, [swinechick@hotmail.com](mailto:swinechick@hotmail.com) (406)546-5110

April 28-29, 2007

Special Meet, requested by Rob Sando  
Dayton Fancy Feather Club, Greenville, OH  
Contact:  
Gary Overton, (937)839-5626

May 26-27, 2007

Special Meet, requested by Rob Sando  
Southern Ohio Poultry Association, Lucasville, OH  
Contact:  
Dave Adkins, (740)259-2852

October 6-7, 2007

ABC National Meet, placed by the Board of Directors  
Montana Poultry Fanciers Association, Great Falls, MT  
Contact:  
Larry Kibbee, [singletreebantam@wmconnect.com](mailto:singletreebantam@wmconnect.com) (406)284-6978

October 13-14, 2007

Michigan State Meet, requested by John W. Blehm  
Michigan Poultry Fanciers – Frankenmuth Fowl Fest,  
Frankenmuth, MI  
Contact:  
John W. Blehm, [FowlFest.org](http://FowlFest.org) (989)777-1234

October 20, 2007

Indiana State Meet, requested by Wayne Gritter  
Central Indiana Poultry Show, Lebanon, IN  
Contact:  
Doug Akers, [dakers@purdue.edu](mailto:dakers@purdue.edu) (765)482-7182  
Ton Patterson, [rpatter815@earthlink.net](mailto:rpatter815@earthlink.net) (765)676-6192



## Blast from the Past: Wheaten Ameraucana Bantams



The following is an article written by Don Cable for the 1982 club handbook:

Wheaten is the most widely bred variety of Ameraucana bantams presently found in the United States. Mike Gilbert is primarily responsible for their present high state of development and foundation stock from his breeding pens may be found scattered not only throughout the Midwest, but have established a secure foothold on the West Coast as well, particularly in California.

The wheaten variety provides a special challenge in that it is like breeding two varieties in one. The males have the familiar black-breasted red patter, though somewhat lighter in color in certain sections, while the female is totally different in plumage color, being basically a light, creamy wheaten with black restricted to wings and tail. The standard calls for male hackles and saddles of bright orange red of blazing brilliance, toning off to flashing gold at their extremities, free from dark striping, which is a common defect. This flashy orange red and gold contrasted with lustrous black in breast, wings and tail make for an eye-catching, attractive combination. Females, though certainly less flashy, have a special appeal of their own. The rich wheaten hackles blend softly into a creamy wheaten overall color contrasting sharply with the black in wings and tail. Beard and muffs call for black in the males and a very light creamy wheaten in females, which add

a certain charm to this variety.

As can be expected, there is some variation in the basic wheaten color pattern, but is most apparent in the female line. Color will run from rich, dark wheaten to an extremely light creamy wheaten, approaching white. The light, creamy wheaten is preferred; assuming the contrasting black in wings and tail remains sound. This required black in wings and tail tends to diminish with age, and birds which retain black make valuable breeders. A light phase occasionally produced by wheaten throws white males irregularly marked with red about the head and/or throat and back, and white females with lemon hackles. These females are quite attractive. Producing uniform color as required by the standard is an ongoing challenge to the breeder of this distinctive variety and the vivid color contrast between the sexes adds both interest and appeal to the wheaten Ameraucana bantam.

When hatched, wheaten chicks are a creamy white and virtually indistinguishable from other bantam breeds, save for the profuse chick down around the face which will develop into beard and muffs. Chicks feather rapidly and may be readily sexed by color at about three weeks of age. Pullets as expected are much lighter in color, being a mixture of brown, buff and white, whereas the cockerels in addition to these colors contain varying degrees of black. Sexual maturity is rapid and it is not uncommon to

have half a dozen early hatched cockerels squeaking away as they attempt to crow not long after they are out of the brooder. Is not until young birds achieve their adult plumage that they may be evaluated by color, so patience is required, particularly for cockerels, whose beard and muffs are the last section to assume the required black color. And frontal head feathering is rid of white.

When pullets come into lay their shells are a rich, sky blue which begins to fade only after a sustained lay of several months. In as much as the blue egg shell is a fundamental breed characteristic of the Ameraucana bantam, any deviation from blue must be eliminated by immediate culling. It has been my practice to let each hen set and bring off a hatch of chicks at the termination of the breeding season. Ameraucana bantam are patient setters and can be trusted to raise a brood of half dozen or so chicks with ease. In order to get by high temperatures in late spring and summer, which can be rough on chicks in the brooder, I let each hen bring off a late hatch, which is easier on the chicks and provides me with a great deal of personal pleasure just to have them about. The payoff comes when you ease back in your lawn chair with a cool one and enjoy the antics of these little families on a pleasant summer evening. Take a little time to enjoy your bantams.

Take a little time to enjoy your bantams.



### Bantam Hill

Interested in Ameraucana? Visit our website at [www.bantamhill.com](http://www.bantamhill.com) for more information or send a SASE to Bantam Hill, 33878 Hwy 87, California, MO 65018

We have currently booked all spring 2007 orders! Check our site in June 2007 for available started Ameraucana.



## Nation Animal Identification System (NAIS)

By Michael Muenks

I have no idea what everyone knows about NAIS or how they feel about NAIS, and most of the time I am not quite sure how I feel about it myself, but I have gotten involved to at least have my say! I managed to get myself involved in the state advisory committee for Missouri, and have attended a meeting. It is my understanding that all states have NAIS advisory committees and I would suggest getting involved so that the exhibition poultry hobby is not saddled with regulations that destroy our hobby.

So what is NAIS? It is basically the federal Department of Agriculture's attempt to identify every livestock animal in the country and keep track of it from birth until death. I can understand the motivation for tracking larger animals, but this seems senseless to me for poultry of an exhibition nature. As a side note, the definition of livestock is really interesting and a lot of people should be concerned by the definition and what it could imply.

I was interested to hear at the

last Missouri NAIS meeting some of the beef producers lamenting the time when NAIS becomes mandatory. For beef producers it really means lower prices for some. The producer spoke about how having an identification system for all of his cattle was currently meriting premium prices for his cattle in comparison to cattle without documentation. This made a lot of sense to me, and I wondered why not allow the free market to run the show and reward those with the gumption to keep good records? When the discussion turned to exhibition poultry, we pointed out that many of our birds are culled at a young age and tracking all of them was a burden. We also pointed out that the Nation Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) seemed to be working fine. No one really had an answer except to speak eloquently about the need to track down flocks in the area of a production farm in the case of an outbreak of bird flu . . . Excuse me, I need to step out of the way of the piece of sky that just fell! We reminded the group of what the NPIP was

and did, and that essentially we all had premise ID's and could be tracked if need be.

The ABA and APA are both working to come up with a unified policy for both groups.

So what should you do?

- Get involved with your state's Animal Identification System/Program advisory committee.
- Attend forums and informational meetings to express your views.
- Check out [NoNAIS.org](http://NoNAIS.org)
- Check out the USDA's NAIS website at <http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/index.shtml>
- Contact the agriculture staff of your Senators and Congressional Representative.
- Contact your state representative and senator or their staff.

For a closing thought I would offer that it is interesting that for a program that technically does not exist there sure seems to be a lot of effort and time being spent on the issue! Keep yourself informed and get involved!

## New Ameraucana Varieties

Most Ameraucana breeders have a few experimental projects. Maybe you are attached to the mottled color/pattern or maybe you really like the lemon blue color. There is development

work being conducted around several new colors and patterns. The June 2007 issue of the bulletin will feature the work of members on new varieties and the ABA and APA recognition

process for new varieties of Ameraucana. If you would like to share your work with new varieties please send information and pictures to the club secretary by May 15, 2007.

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Have you ever shipped chickens to a show or traveled for more than two days with birds to a show?

Send hints or suggestions to share with others in preparation for the National Meet in Great Falls, MT this fall to the club secretary for inclusion in the next ABC bulletin.




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## Cree Farms

Specializing in Black, Blue, and Splash

We're working with several lines, breeding for hardy, show quality stock with an eye towards preserving good utility characteristics and desirable egg color. NPIP member.

Chicks and adult breeding stock available seasonally. An information brochure is available upon request. Always a discount for youth exhibitors.

Lisa and Gary Cree  
Seabeck, Washington  
Western District Director  
[creefarm@peoplepc.com](mailto:creefarm@peoplepc.com)  
<http://creefarm.fateback.com>

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**Welcome to our  
New Members**

- J. Frank Baylis, Va
- Karen Bouton, NY
- Robert Bryson, NC
- Ramona Iwan, WA
- Karen Kerr, MA
- Claire Ramey, SC
- Brian & Bridget Riddle  
Family, CA
- Kate Sparks, MI
- Jonathon Terrian, MI



**Features in the June Issue:**

- Transporting Birds to Shows
- Blast from the Past
- New Varieties of Ameraucana
- ABC National Update

**BIG SKY POULTRY EXPOSITION  
6TH ANNUAL FALL DOUBLE SHOW  
OCTOBER 6, 2007**

Hosted by

*Montana Poultry  
Fancier's Association*

Judges:  
Paul Wieser &  
Brian Decker

Contact:

President- Larry Kibbee 406-284-6978  
Show Secretary- Sharon Eliasson  
eliasson@midrivers.com 406-323-1655



**MONTANA STATE FAIRGROUNDS  
GREAT FALLS MONTANA**

*Ameraucana Breeders Club  
National Meet*

Western Director, Lisa Cree  
360-830-2732



**Ameraucana Breeders Club Board of Directors**

**President, John Blehm**

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**Secretary/Treasurer, Michael Muenks**

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**Director-South Central, Paul Smith**

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**Director-Southeast, Barbara Campbell**

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**Director-West, Lisa Cree**

Seabeck, WA [creefarm@peoplepc.com](mailto:creefarm@peoplepc.com)