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#### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

#### March 30

Southeast Ohio Poultry Breeders Association

#### April 6

Upper Cumberland Fancy Feathers Club Spring Show

#### April 12-14

Alabama Chicken and Egg Festival

#### April 15

APA Yearbook Club Ads Due

#### April 15

ABA Yearbook Club Ads Due

#### April 27

Volunteer State Poultry Club

#### May 1

Meet Request for Summer Bulletin Due to Directors

#### May 4

Rocky Mountain Poultry Association

#### May 15

Articles and Ads for Summer Bulletin Due

#### June 1

Coulee Region Poultry Club

#### June 8

**Buckeye Fancy Feathers** 

# President's Report, Connie "Jean" Ribbeck



The snow has melted but it seems this year spring is a long way off. It still feels too cold for chicks. The incubators are up and running again and I have my first two hatches out. I am experiencing some infertility in a couple pens and am happy that I kept back up cockerels just in case. I am hoping to get enough birds hatched out from each variety I have before the end of April. This will give me just enough time to grow my young birds out for the National Meet in Great Falls this October.

I have been informed that the judges attending the show will be Dave Anderson and Sam Brush. Hotel information has been added to our Club Forum and when the show premium is available I will make sure and post it there also.

My numbers went down drastically last year and I still want to get down another 30 or so more birds. The work load has been easier on me and the feed bill went down quite a bit. I am still working on improving my silver and chocolate varieties. I will finally start the silver laced and blue laced projects this year. The bantam and large fowl silver laced Wyandotte pullets are full grown and finally laying.

Several people have contacted me over the past two months looking for bantam blue wheaten eggs, chicks or started birds. This variety seems to be pretty rare. If you have this variety and would be willing to share with other members, please think about adding your name to the Breeders List if you are not already on it. If you have quit raising a variety that is on the breeders list, please contact myself or Michael so that we can update the list so you will not receive unwanted calls or e-mails.

# ABA and APA Ameraucana Yearbook Ads

It is hard to believe that it is APA and ABA Yearbook Ad time again, but it is! If you would like to place an ad on the club page for either yearbook please send a check made out to the ABC. Checks will not be cashed until we have received 6 ads. We can have multiple pages of ads, but for both the ABA and APA we must have them in lots of six per page in order to have a full page. The ads are 2 inches by 2 inches. You may buy double ads, but the price also doubles! The cost of the ABA ad is \$20.00 for a 2" x 2" ad and the cost for the APA ad is \$16.00 for a 2"x2" ad.

Please send your ad electronically to Michael at <a href="Michael@bantamhill.com">Michael@bantamhill.com</a> along with the check for the ad size and organization you are buying for by April, 2013. You can advertise for breeds besides Ameraucana in your ad. I will not cash checks until I have payment for an entire page of ads.

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### Don Cash

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Black LF Ameraucana

Also Black Plymouth Rock and Silver Leghorn bantams

Limited Stock available

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in
black, blue, splash,
wheaten, blue
wheaten, splash
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and lavender-splits
&
large fowl day-old
Single Comb Rhode
Island Reds

# Hatching March through May 2013

Paul & Angela Smith 2175 CR 224 Gainesville, TX. 76240 psmith@ntin.net 940-768-8405

# North Central District Report, Duane Schroeder



My name is Duane Schroeder and I am your (new) North Central Director.

I lived in urban areas until 2006. When the last of our 4 children graduated from high school, my wife and I moved to a place in the country with 20 acres. My father always had talked about the joy he had as a boy raising chickens, and I had learned some of the basics

from him. Soon after we moved, I jumped at the chance to start raising chickens. As many newcomers do, I started with a mixed assortment of breeds from a large hatchery. I made sure some "Ameraucana" were included in the group as I was fascinated by the prospect of blue eggs. It didn't take long to realize I had Easter Eggers, and the egg coloration was disappointing to me. Once I joined the ABC, and read tons of old discussion threads, I HAD to have real Ameraucana.

Skipping forward a few years, I now have LF Silver Ameraucana, and LF Wheaten/Blue Wheaten. I have hatched over 40 so far this year. The unseasonably cold weather in our area is complicating the brooding of 3 successive hatches, but so far, so good. I also raise Black Orpington. I have attended the last two National Ameraucana meets, and just participated in my first show this past December.

North Central District 2013 meets set to date include:

- ABC Wisconsin State Meet, June 1, 2013, at the Trempealeau County Fairgrounds (Coulee Region Poultry Club).
- District meet at the <u>2013 Fall Fowl Fest</u>, October 12 & 13 in Birch Run, Michigan.
- Indiana State meet at the <u>2013 Central Indiana Poultry Show</u>, Lebanon, IN, on October 19.

Have a great year!

# Northeast District Report, Sharon Yorks



It's about that time (up here in the Northeast) when we've had enough of the freezing weather and snow flakes and we're anticipating the warm weather which should be right around the corner. It's also time to dust off those incubators and start collecting eggs for the spring hatches. But for some of us who have gotten a little impatient and couldn't wait any longer, it's time to finally get these chicks out of the

It's also time to be planning for upcoming poultry shows and turning in your show meet requests. For those of you who are not aware of how that works, if you are showing Ameraucana and are planning to attend a poultry show, contact me so we can discuss how to go about getting that show approved as an Ameraucana meet. Also, if you are planning to attend any of the

Ohio Ameraucana meets in March or June, please let me know, I'd love to meet you there.

I'd like to congratulate Austin Parker for his Best of Breed win in the open division at the Wapakoneta, OH show earlier this month with his beautiful white cock bird.

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# Northeast District Report, continued



Congratulations also go out to Nicole Pickard for her Best of Breed win in the junior division. A complete list of winners will be posted in the next bulletin and on our website's forum once we've received the show report.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have, at: <a href="mailto:syorks4@gmail.com">syorks4@gmail.com</a>



# Southeast District Report, Jes Kemp

Greetings from the South East!

As I sat down to write this, I remembered a statement that I made 5 years ago when the first chickens moved onto our property that I only wanted 6-8 hens, maybe 10 tops! My husband enjoys reminding me of that periodically.

How did an interest in having a few different varieties of well-bred Ameraucana hens evolve into 60-70 birds, 4 years of ongoing construction, countless hours of reading and re-reading the APA Standard of Perfection, evaluating our stock, hatching, culling, conditioning, grooming and showing chickens? I have no earthly idea! My family enjoys working outside and interacting with the chickens. Our birds are not only beautiful, but each has its own distinct personality, unique cackle or crow and so many other individual characteristics. I met and became friends with some great folks through my poultry passion; many with similar backgrounds and beliefs outside of our common interest in our birds. I am fully aware of everything that goes into the chicken and eggs that my family consumes, as well as the care and treatment of the birds that produce this staple in our diets. Simply put, the poultry hobby has had a wonderful impact on my family! Thank you to those who have guided, educated, befriended, enabled and shared your wonderful stock with me over the years. I will continue to try and pay it forward!

I have placed requests for several meets this spring. We are planning to be at a couple of shows in April and May in Tennessee and Kentucky. I would be happy to place any meets that you would like in the district and would like to work with other breeders to build a large entry of quality Ameraucana at some of our Southern shows. In 2014, The APA National show will be held in our district in Knoxville, TN on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. I have attended many dog shows at this venue over the years, and it is a wonderful location with several nice and very affordable options for lodging and dining. In addition, the world famous shopping outlets in Pigeon Forge are less than an hour drive from the show. I have been asked to place a meet request for this show. Let's work together and make it a great one!

Until next time, Happy Hatching, Happy Easter & May the Lord continue to watch over & bless your families and friends.

# Electronic Bulletin

Over the last several years several members have requested to receive their Bulletins in an electronic format. If you would like to receive your Bulletins via E-mail, please let Michael know if you would like to begin receiving your Ameraucana Bulletin electronically and he will add your name to the list.



# CRYSTAL CREEK

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# Hatching Eggs and Day-Old Chicks

Larry Clionsky 9 Zion Church Rd Grantville, PA 17028-9651 (717)469-7509 Lclionsky@yahoo.com

# South Central District Report, Paul Smith



Greetings from the South-Central District!

Late winter brings a close to the shows and begins hatching season for most fanciers. Our district has had qualifying meets at all the meets that we attended. First time ever, since I've been director!

Remember it requires three exhibitors competing to make a qualifying meet.

Since the national/Missouri State meet and the SC District/Arkansas State meet have been reported. We will start with the Oklahoma State meet. It was held at Shawnee by the Oklahoma State Poultry Federation on Dec. 8 & 9, 2012.

A black cockerel and black hen shown by Cliff Redden of Columbus, Kansas took top honors in the Ameraucana class winning BB and RB respectfully. Cliff's black cockerel also won Best AOSB. Matthew Smith won the Jr. show with a wheaten cockerel and wheaten pullet being BB and RB respectfully. Matthew's cockerel was chosen best AOSB in the huge Jr. show. Danny Padget judged both the Jr. and open LF.

The Texas State meet was held at the Ft. Worth livestock show and rodeo on Jan. 26 & 27, 2013. There were 29 head in the LF open class. Four were EEL. The two top were a black cockerel and black hen show by Max Strawn of Princeton. Max's black cockerel also won the AOSB. This was Max first show! Several months of encouragement to show, and being a spectator at Fayetteville and Shawnee, paid off with the top place! Max didn't want to show these, because he purchased them as a start of Ameraucana from Angela and me a few months before the show. We have been striving for 14 years to get fanciers to breed and show Ameraucana! Glad to have helped many, including Sharon Caywood, and Clif Redden get their starts. The open show was judged by Steve Jones.

The LF Jr. show had two black pullets and numerous EEL. Poultry judge Dwayne Jonas disqualified all the EEL. He selected Jack Wilde of Sanger, black pullet as BB and best AOSB. Jack also purchased his pullet from us about 3 months prior to the show. Derek Winter of Haslet, had the RB on his black pullet.

There were not any bantam Ameraucana shown at any of these meets. We did not attend the special meet in College Station. Hope to see more ABC members join in on the fun of exhibiting their birds in 2013.

Hatching season is well underway for us and hopefully many other ABC members. We started slow again this year, but are running full capacity now. We have accepted orders for 805 head of day old chicks and can supply several more. After 14 years of experience shipping day old chicks, have decided to wait until first week in March 2014 to start shipping next time. We had to back all our orders up two weeks, due to the early hatches not working out very well! We also extended our hatching season to June 10. Have learned this time: The early hatched 2012 pullets started laying long before we start saving eggs and take a rest when it's time for saving the eggs to hatch, when they are not lighted. No matter how long one has hatched chicks, there is always something new to learn from the experience each year.

Hope everyone is blessed with a great hatching season!

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# **Upcoming ABC Meets**

# March 30, 2013

Ohio Special Meet, requested by Patty Pickard Southeast Ohio Poultry Breeders Association, Washington County Fairgrounds, Marietta, OH Contact: Wyatt Adelsperger 1345 Windy Ridge Road, Vincent, OH 45782 (740)678-2883

#### April 6, 2013

Tennessee Special Meet, placed by Jes Kemp

Upper Cumberland Fancy Feathers Club Spring Show, Putnam Co. Fairgrounds, Cookeville, TN Contact: David Rose 520 Lowe Rd. Crossville, TN 38572 rosewood1@citlink.net, (931)788-6676

### April 12-14, 2013

Alabama Special Meet, placed by Jes Kemp Alabama Chicken and Egg Festival, Lions Club Fairgrounds Moulton Al

Lions Club Fairgrounds, Moulton, AL Contact: Linda Stone

Contact: Linda Stone

<u>linda@alabamachickenandeggfestiva</u> <u>l.com</u>, 813-967-5351

www.alabamachickenandeggfestival.com

#### **April 27, 2013**

Tennessee State Meet, placed by Jes Kemp Volunteer State Poultry Club, Dickson County Fairgrounds, Dickson TN Contact: Aimee Shelton 610 Sunny Ridge Circle

akshelton06122010@yahoo.com

#### May 4, 2013

Dickson, TN 37055

Special Meet, requested by Connie "Jean" Ribbeck Rocky Mountain Poultry Association, Hamilton, MT Fairgrounds Contact: Erin Faulkner erininmt@hotmail.com

#### June 1, 2013

Wisconsin State Meet, requested by Mike Gilbert Coulee Region Poultry Club, Trempealeau County Fairgrounds, Galesville, WI Contact: Mike Gilbert info@RedStagAcres.com (608)857-3386

### June 8, 2013

Ohio Special Meet, requested by Patty Pickard Buckeye Fancy Feathers, Canfield, OH Contact: Rhonda Simmons rjos2256@gmail.com (330)426-6870

### October 5, 2013

National Meet, placed by Christina Korfus Big Sky Poultry Expo, Great Falls, MT, Show 1 Contact: Erin Faulkner, (406) 231-8653 erininmt@hotmail.com

### October 5, 2013

Western District Meet, requested by Jean Ribbeck Big Sky Poultry Expo, Great Falls, MT, Show 2 Contact: Erin Faulkner, (406) 231-8653

### October 12-13, 2013

erininmt@hotmail.com

NC District Meet, placed by Duane Schroeder Fowl Fest, Birch Run, Michigan Contact: Matt Boensch entries@FowlFest.org (989)529-7030

### October 19, 2013

Indiana State Meet, placed by Duane Schroeder

<u>Central Indiana Poultry Show</u>,
Lebanon, IN

Contact David Alcase

Contact: Doug Akers dakers@purdue.edu

#### November 9-10, 2013

Ohio State Meet, requested by Patty Pickard Ohio National, Columbus, OH Contact: Erik Markley Markley@OhioNational.org (419)568-7402



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Available in the fall

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Animal Welfare



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#### **Buff Ameraucana**









# Blast from the Past: The Art of Cage Training, Patty Pickard

I thought I would touch on this subject a bit- as I have been asked by several folks as to how I actually work with the birds when cage training.

Step one - Acquire a cage similar to the ones that the bird will be shown in at the shows. You can purchase show cages from several poultry supply places. You will need to set your cage in a location that is at waist level or higher as that is how the cages will be set up at the shows. You also need to select an area that will receive high traffic from your family or friends that you can convince to come and visit your birds. It is important to get the birds comfortable with strangers walking past their cage and talking. It would be good to have some younger children walk past the cages and chatter as kids do. You will also need to set up a radio by the cage,

preferable tuned to a station that has talking and not so much music. The goal here is to replicate the show floor as much as possible.

<u>Step two</u> - Cage training isn't an overnight thing, it takes time. When I work with the birds, they may only spend an hour a day in the cage at first, gradually working up to where they are comfortable in the cage setting for a full day. When I start a new bird on the show schedule, I only take them to one day shows at first- two day shows can be a long time for a new bird. The idea is to make the bird as comfortable and relaxed in the cage as they can be. A relaxed bird will show better than a spastic one.

Step three - Now that the bird is comfortable in the cage, you can start to train him. I take the bird out of the cage, head first of course, and examine him like a judge would, and then put him back head first. I do this several times each day so that he is used to being caught and looked over. The bird will realize that he is not going to get hurt and will learn to just stand there to be caught. Judges appreciate a bird that is easily caught verses one that they have to struggle to catch. If it comes down to a tie between two birds, that judge will select the cage trained bird over the wild one. Then I introduce other people into the catch and handle routine. The bird needs to be comfortable with others handling them too.

Step four - Impress the judge. After the bird is comfortable with this routine, you add the final touch on- the pose. Take the bird out of the cage, do your examination of the bird and then stand the bird on the palm of your hand in front of the open cage- he should hop in. As soon as he hops in- toss in a treat, he will turn to get the treat. The goal is to get him to hop in and immediately turn to the door, puff up, and pose for his treat. Now it is very important to use a treat with a crinkly wrapper as you will be able to get him alert and to pose just from the sound of the treat wrapper. I use Old Roy soft dog food treats. They come in little individual packets with a nice crinkly wrapper. Tender Vittles would work if they are wrapped in plastic and not a paper type wrapper. Just shop around, you will find a suitable wrapped treat. It is wise to work on the return to cage and pose when the bird is hungry as then it will mean more. When you are on the show floor, have the wrapper of the treat in your pocket. As the judge walks by your pens, you can crunch your wrapper around in your pocket and the bird will turn and pose for the judge.

Step five - Practice. Keep it fun for the bird and he will work for you. In poultry shows, sometimes it is just the little things that make the difference in the judge's mind. Your goal in cage training is to make that judge take a second look at your bird. If you can get a second look, then you have a shot at taking that class. The birds that are just sitting or wild, aren't showing at their best. If you can get yours to pose and show for the judge, he will be impressed with you and your bird.

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# Meet Reports

### Southern Ohio Poultry Association

District Meet, October 6-7, 2012, Reported by Vicki Gilliam

### 40 large fowl where judged by Troy LaRoche

BV black K by Larry Clionsky, out of 9

RV black H by Will Kitsch

BV blue H by Camille Lewandowski, out of 7

RV blue C by Larry Clionsky

BV blue wheaten H by Larry Clionsky

RB, BV brown red C by James Fegan, out of 6

RV brown red K by James Fegan

BB, BV buff C by Will Kitsch, out of 4

RV buff P by Larry Clionsky

BV silver K by Larry Clionsky

RV silver P by Larry Clionsky

BV wheaten C by Larry Clionsky

BV white H by Larry Clionsky, out of 10

RV white K by Larry Clionsky

### 13 bantam were judged by Mike Wasyikowski

BV black H by Neil and Donna Townsend

RV black C by Neil and Donna Townsend

BB, BV blue P by Michael Gilbert

RB, BV blue wheaten H by Kathy Gratsch

BV buff P by Michael Gilbert, out of 3

RV buff P by Nathanael Medley

BV white C by Neil and Donna Townsend, out of 6

RV white H by Camille Lewandowski

### 11 large fowl were judged by Danny

BV black K by Kara Miller, out of 8, Junior Show Champion Ameraucana

RV black P by David Blehm

BV blue K by Kara Miller, out of 3

RV blue K by Kara Miller

### 9 bantam were judged by Danny

BV buff K by David Blehm, out of 3

RV buff P by David Blehm

BV silver K by David Blehm

RV silver P by David Blehm

BV white C by Alyssa Latham

RV white P by Alyssa Latham

BV AOV lavender P by David Blehm

RV AOV lavender K by David Blehm

# Nebraska State Poultry Show

State Meet, November 3-4, 2012, Reported by Vicki Gilliam

### 16 large fowl where judged by Butch Gunderson

BV black P by Gordon Gilliam, out of 4

RV black K by Gordon Gilliam

RB, BV blue K by Gordon Gilliam, out of 9

RV blue P by Vicki Gilliam

BB, BV wheaten P by Gordon Gilliam, Champion Ameraucana

RV wheaten K by Gordon Gilliam

BV AOV splash K by Gordon Gilliam

# Blue Wheaten Ameraucana











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#### Silver Ameraucana









# Meet Reports, continued

# 1 bantam was judged by Art Rieber

BB, BV black P by Gordon Gilliam

#### **Bluebonnet Classic**

Special Meet, January 5, 2013, Reported by Claudia Choate

# 11 large fowl where judged by Sam Brush

BB, BV black H by Aaron Hickson, out of 7, **Champion Ameraucana** RB, RV black P by Aaron Hickson, **Reserve Champion Ameraucana** BV blue P by Aaron Hickson, out of 4 RV blue P by Aaron Hickson

### 8 bantam were judged by Pat Malone

BB, BV black P by Susan Lembe
BV blue P by Susan Lembe
RB, BV AOV lavender H by Aaron Hickson, out of 6
RV AOV lavender P by Aaron Hickson

# 3 Junior Show large fowl were judged by Steve Jones

BV wheaten H by Brett Scantlin, **Junior Show Champion Ameraucana** RV wheaten H by Brett Scantlin BV AOV H by Brett Scantlin

### Pacific Poultry Breeders Association 66th Annual Winter Show

State Meet, January 5, 2013, Reported by Anthony Rose

# 44 large fowl where judged by Troy LaRoche

BB, BV black K by Logan Miller, out of 11, Reserve Champion Ameraucana

RB, RV black K by Jean Ribbeck

BV blue K by Debbie Phillips, out of 6

RV blue H by Debra Hogan

BV blue wheaten H by Gabriella Carson, out of 7

RV blue wheaten H by Gabriella Carson

BV wheaten K by Debra Hogan

BV white P by Debra Hogan, out of 6

RV white C by Debra Hogan

BV AOV lavender H by Kim Richman, out of 4

RV AOV lavender P by Kim Richman

BV AOV splash wheaten H by Anita Hogan

RV AOV splash wheaten P by Anita Hogan

BV AOV red pyle C by Tanner Valen, out of 3

RV AOV red pyle K by Anita Hogan

BV AOV brassy back K by Debra Hogan

# 32 bantam were judged by Anthony Ashley

RB, BV black P by Larry Giberson, out of 8

RV black P by Larry Giberson

BV buff C by Zach Rose, out of 5

RV buff K by Zack Rose

BV silver K by Danae Miller, out of 2

BB, BV wheaten P by Logan Miller, out of 17, Champion Ameraucana

RV wheaten K by Logan Miller

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# Treasurer's Report 2012

ABC Checking Account, Central Trust Bank, Jefferson City, MO	
Opening Balance January 1, 2012	\$ 1735.41
Income – January Dues, Directories, Donations, etc.	0
Income – February Dues, Directories, Donations, etc.	763.77
Income – March Dues, Directories, Donations, etc.	622.00
Income – April Dues, Directories, Donations, etc.	120.00
Income – May Dues, Directories, Donations, etc.	0
Income – June Dues, Directories, Donations, etc.	142.00
Income – July Dues, Directories, Donations, etc.	0
Income – August Dues, Directories, Donations, etc.	0
Income – September Dues, Directories, Donations, etc.	0
Income – October Dues, Directories, Donations, etc.	0
Income – November Dues, Directories, Donations, etc.	0
Income – December Dues, Directories, Donations, etc.	676.00
Income Subtotal (opening balance + months)	\$ 4,058.18
Expense - Postage	681.62
Expense – Office Supplies	516.80
Expense – Other: Memorials	
Expense – Memberships, Advertisements	68.00
Expense – Bank Charges (return item fees)	
Expense – National Meet Awards/Awards	590.85
Expense - Refunds	20.00
Expense Subtotal	\$1,877.27
Ending Balance as of December 31, 2012	\$ 2,181.91
PayPal Account December 31, 2012 balance	\$ 2,336.53
PayPal Purchases (toner, ink, Exhibition Poultry Ad)	
Total	\$ 4,518.44

# Brown Red Ameraucana







# Under the Black Locust, Michael Muenks

Over winter I ended up changing chicken feed after Kent stopped making the feed mix I had been using since our move back from Chicago. I was really disappointed that they stopped making the feed mix I was using. I found a Mennonite owned feed mill that is willing to special mix small amounts of feed. Ironically, I am currently using their laying mash. Years ago I fed mash, and the chickens are doing well and fertility is good.

On a personal note, I appreciate everyone's patience with me. My Dad took a turn for the worse in early January and he didn't stabilize until mid-March. Hopefully, he is going to level out for a bit.

Remember to show those Ameraucana! The Exhibitor point system is now posted at the website. I am feeling a bit competitive.



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# Welcome to our New Members!

Mary Allen, AR

David Black, TN

Clayton Botkin, BC

Dan Bowles, WI

Beth Bramblett, NM

Gabriella Carson, CA

John M. Carbine, NJ

Kym Citera, CA

Dr. Richard, Cotton, NC

Linda Ferguson, CA

Roselyn Johnson, TX

Christina King, NH

Elizabeth "Liz" Loizos, OK

Clara & Kirstin Martone-Gulling, Finn & Annika Gulling, Clay & Gus Martone, MD

Tina Bradbury & Gary McCloskey. TX

Dave McCormick, ON

John, Mary-jo, Mary Claire, & Meredith Morgan, OH

Barry and Susan Mouw, SC Matt, Austin, & Alexis Parker, OH

Simon Pollack, BC

Hana Prochazka, ON

Doria Ragoczy-McPherson, TX

Alban Salser, OH

Scott, Kirstin, Nathan, Lauren, and David Thompson, WI

Dawn Webster, BC



We're on the Web! www.ameraucana.org

# From the Forum: Determining Gender in Brown Red Chicks, Mike Gilbert

I picked the following quote off the Genetics Forum at Classroom at the Coop. What it means is that for chicks that are birchen or brown red (ER at the e locus and having black down), there is a way to tell the gender at hatch with a fair amount of certainty. About 71.7 % of females will have white or pink toes/feet, while males will have uniformly pigmented shanks and toes. Not nearly 100% accurate, but it is another tool for the toolbox for us brown red breeders. (Anybody want



to buy some chicks? - most of them will be males.) The quote follows:

"Sexually dichromatic variation in shank melanization, similar to that described in Barred Plymouth Rock chicks, was observed in the absence of sex-linked barring (B) in black-down birchen (ER) chicks. The shanks of male chicks are uniformly pigmented. The female chicks have more darkly pigmented shanks, and pigmentation is frequently restricted in the distal portion of the shank and toes. Among chicks definitely demonstrating the male or female phenotype, 80.2% were accurately sexed. An intermediate shank type was observed in 35.1% of the total number of chicks, and these were sexed with 55.9% accuracy. A total of 71.7% of the birchen (ER) chicks were



accurately sexed on the basis of shank color alone. This accuracy in sexing is similar to that observed in Barred Plymouth Rock chicks."

Although no study on this has been reported, I see no reason why the same tool could not be used on blacks and blues that are based on ER - and maybe lavenders too. Anybody raising those varieties care to do a study and let us know?

# Ameraucana Breeders Club Board of Directors

# President, Connie "Jean" Ribbeck

PO Box 461, Newman Lake, WA 99025 jribbeck@q.com (509-226-3833)

#### Secretary/Treasurer, Michael Muenks

33878 Hwy 87, California, MO 65018-3911 michael@bantamhill.com (573)796-3999

### **Director-North Central, Duane Schroeder**

3233 South Greensboro Pike, New Castle, IN 47362 <a href="mailto:dschroeder@hughes.net">dschroeder@hughes.net</a> (317)501-7611

#### **Director-Northeast, Sharon Yorks**

5745 Sleepy Hollow Road, Valley City, OH 44280 syorks4@gmail.com (330)416-8419

### **Director-South Central, Paul Smith**

2175 Country Road, Gainesville, TX 76240-0401 psmith@ntin.net (940)768-8405

#### **Director-Southeast, Jes Kemp**

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