

Poultrynz

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02 POULTRYNZ
OUR PRODUCT CATALOGUE

03 RECIPE
ROAST VEGETABLE QUICHE



04 WHEATEN OLD ENGLISH GAME BANTAM



06 THE RHODE ISLAND WHITE PRESENTS A CHALLENGE



08 EAR-LOBE AND EGGSHELL COLOURS



11 MAREK'S DISEASE, THE OLD BOGEYMAN

Poultrynz Editorial

Welcome to the first Poultrynz Newsletter for 2023. The only one in January.

I'm sure all of us had a great break and ready to go for the next 12 months. My apologies to a few of you ordering Poultrynz Products with the weather in the Coromandel and surrounding areas not being able to be delivered. All fixed now which is a relief.

Plenty of mites around so you will need to keep on top of them in the usual way. This hot, hot climate is not helping either so the drinking water also needs to be attended too as well.

Until next issue.
Regards, Ian Selby.

It's live!

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Starter Pack 500ml Poultry Shield, Poultrynz DE 300gm, 125ml Leg spray		\$36.00	\$10.00	\$20.00

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ROAST VEGETABLE QUICHE

INGREDIENTS

Serves 6

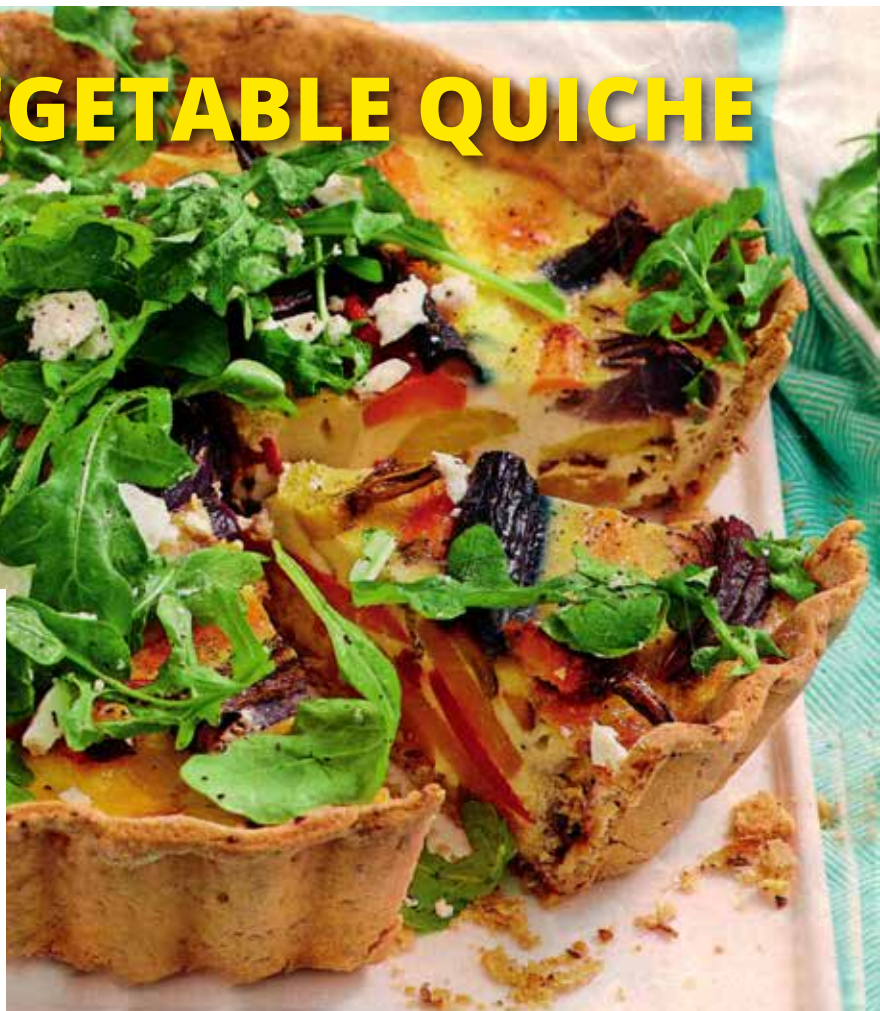
- 650g pumpkin, cut into 1cm wedges
- 240g rainbow carrots, halved lengthways
- 1 red capsicum, cut into 2cm pieces
- 2 red onions, cut into 8 wedges each
- 1 bulb garlic cloves, separated
- 2 rosemary sprigs
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 4 eggs
- 300ml thickened cream
- ¼ cup milk
- 50g baby rocket leaves
- 75g feta, crumbled

PASTRY

- 1½ cups plain flour
- 125g chilled butter, chopped
- ½ cup walnuts, toasted and chopped
- 1 tbsp cumin seeds, toasted
- 2-3 tbsp chilled water

METHOD

- Preheat oven to 200°C. Lightly grease a 22cm flan pan with a removable base.
- In a large baking dish, toss the vegetables, garlic and rosemary in oil. Season. Roast for 25-30 minutes.
- Meanwhile, in the bowl of a food processor, make the pastry. Pulse the flour and butter together until fine crumbs form. Add the walnuts and cumin seeds. Pulse to combine, then add enough chilled water to bring the dough together. Turn onto a lightly floured surface. Form into a ball. Flatten slightly and wrap in plastic wrap. Chill for 30 minutes.
- Roll the pastry between 2 sheets of baking paper until 3mm thick. Ease into the pan to line, trimming edges. Bake blind for 10 minutes. Remove the paper and baking weights. Bake for a further 5 minutes. Place on an oven tray.
- Arrange the vegetables in the pastry shell. In a jug, whisk the eggs, cream and milk together. Season. Carefully pour into the shell.
- Bake for 1-1¼ hours until just set. Cover with foil during the last 20 minutes if it browns too much. Serve topped with the rocket and feta.



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WHEATEN OLD ENGLISH GAME BANTAM

The Wheaten Old English Game Bantam is one of the most attractive birds we have today from several viewpoints. I have bred most breeds of bantams as well as other varieties of Old English, and the Wheaten seems to combine qualities that no other breed or variety is capable of.

For the breeder that likes a light coloured bird, the Wheaten is exceptional because if bred with the proper hard, glossy and firm feather. The light hens do not tend to show dirt like other light coloured birds. There is such a contrast between the colour of the male and female that one will never fail to be amazed as well as pleased with the variety in colour they afford. Seldom do people see this variety of Old English Game for the first time that they do not question the cock and the hen as being the same breed or variety. If brilliance of colour is desired one will have to go a long way to come close to a Wheaten male. Of course the typical hardiness, fine egg producer and table fowl common with Old English Game also prevail in the Wheaten, which when all added up make one beautiful, easy to keep and fascinating bird.

In single mating the Wheaten it is well to select males with pure black breast and tail plus black on the lower webs of the primary wing feathers. Wheaten males that have much tendency toward speckling in any of these areas as cockerels are not desirable since pure black in its place sets off the other colours, and speckling increases in the offspring rather than decreases. Most males will show a bit of speckling in the breast as they grow older, but this is not a defect to be concerned with. The head, neck and saddle should have a light orange colour and not the dark red that one sees too often. The shoulders and wing bows should be a bright reddish bay covering a considerable area and not small or speckled with black. The secondary wing feathers should form a nice wing bay effect of bay colouring when the wing is closed



Wheaten Old English Game Bantam Female

and the inner web should be a dull black. Quite often one sees a sparce wing bay with very little bay colour and the black of the wing bar running all the way down from the bow. The beak of the male should be a light horn and not partially dark. In single mating it is well to select a hen with as light a colour of wheaten as possible in its various shades for different parts of the body. I believe if a person will breed from light coloured hens and ask the opinion of an old breeder once in a while at a show or by sending him a feather, the colour pattern will soon become plain. A necessity in the female is to get the two top main tail feathers a rich wheaten slightly stippled with black, and the rest of the main tail feathers with enough dull black in them plus having the outer web slightly edged with wheaten. Here again some people fail in that they allow all of the black to disappear in the tail. Wheaten pullets generally appear to be too dark until after the first moult or when they get their mature feathers. To the beginner this sometimes is discouraging until they have moulted and are nearing maturity.

If double mating is practiced, one may allow

the hens to be a bit dark in order to secure enough black feathers in the male offspring, but sometimes the light orange colour suffers from this. The cocks can be allowed to have a quantity of speckling in the breast and light streaks in the black of the primary wing feathers to obtain a nice female offspring but here again the problem of getting sufficient black comes in. All in all I prefer to breed from birds as close to the Standard as possible, and have found that the offspring have been very gratifying.

The above appears to the writer to be important colouring points to watch for, but of course the most important thing is the true Old English type of which all varieties are the same.

Feeding and handling the Wheaten is a simple operation and outside of regular corn, wheat and oats mix I feed a commercial breeder mash constantly with a generous amount of gray or hard oats mixed in during the moulting season. All breeds are easily tamed if a little patience is shown now and then, and the results are always gratifying when show time comes. As to housing I can only say, be sure there is plenty of light and ventilation; too many breeders have dark, poorly ventilated shacks for bantams and since a certain amount of each year requires the birds to remain under covert it is necessary that they have a pleasant place in which to spend this time.

I still consider myself a novice breeder with Wheatens, but have yet to find a variety of Old English or any other breed that will breed any truer with less effort and still prove to be ever a fascinating venture. Let me heartily recommend the Old English Wheaten Game Bantam to the newcomer as well as the old timer.



Light Red, Wheaten bred, Old English Game Bantam Male

A Guide To Poultry Breeding

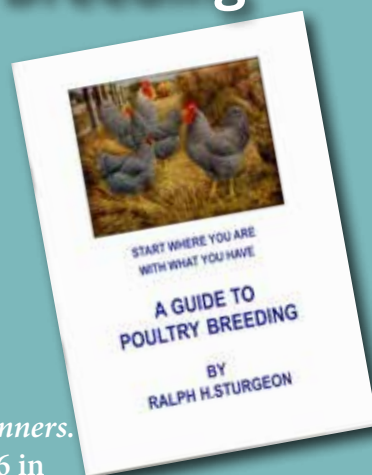
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THE RHODE ISLAND WHITE PRESENTS A CHALLENGE



by A.B.Peters. USA 1952

As a Rhode Island Red breeder in 1917 I was in despair trying to get real uniform red colour in my flock; almost all Reds then were as various in shades and colour placement as we see today. An advertisement by one of the most prominent Rhode Island White breeders of that day, Mrs. C.M.Vertrees of Cecilla, Kentucky, pictured big rugged long backed true brick shaped whites, of such beauty that I just had to try some. Though the price was high, this was a very fortunate choice since this blood line was the oldest and best established at the time and if continued to produce the finest winners in showrooms and egg-laying contests throughout the United States and Canada for the next two decades. Perhaps this first and most vital point in considering this fowl is to know its three breed make up it was a cross of white Wyandotte on partridge Cochin, back crossed to Cochin and then final cross to Rosecomb white Leghorn to make it one half Leghorn, three eighths Cochin and one eighth Wyandotte. It is interesting to note further that the Rosecomb White Leghorn had but recently been made at that time – 1890 – by crossing the single-comb White Leghorn and White Hamburgs, while the White Wyandotte had also just begun to assume breed status.

Now from its origin it is easy to see that the principal faults of the Rhode Island Whites were apt to be Cochin colour (black and red) and shape; Wyandotte

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and Leghorn shapes also common, instead of the true oblong brick-shaped. That is, that the backs would be short instead of long, concave and heavily cushioned instead of flat. Often to, would appear the high tall and breast of the Leghorn rather than the horizontal body carriage desired to give it true Rhode Island shape.

COLOUR FAULTS

From the Leghorn too, would come the 'Hamburgh' large floppy Rosecomb with its poor, often upturned, spike instead of the 'rocker' Rosecomb where the spike hugs the head as in good Wyandottes.

The principal colour faults of plumage being red and black would appear in white birds as red (or dulled buff) in wingbows and bars and black in quills of feathers. These were the worst predictable faults in the pure bred Whites.

In early years a good many off colour birds (that is, birds with colour) appeared buff, brown or black-laced feathers all over the fowl; red-winged ones and some Columbian patterned.

Having talked personally with many of the earlier breeders I never once found barring cited in the original stock. But, after the Rhode Island Reds were used in cross-mating which produced a new shape, barred birds appeared, and from its crosses with pure strains became a frequent; so much so as to greatly reflect on the Rhode Island White, and in fact to my personal knowledge killed then off in a number of localities. One other fault that was predictable an occasional white, blue or green leg from Hamburgh, although these were not too frequent. I was a Red breeder at the time I began breeding whites and was well versed in correct breed type and how to produce and maintain it; so this, the biggest challenge in breeding them, was not too hard a job. I always was a 'stickler' for a broad low breast and a properly balanced body. To aid myself and my customers in visualising the correct shape or type, I 'defined' brick-type in terms of the common building brick (on edge) twice as deep as wide and twice as long as deep perfectly balanced, horizontally. The nearer a white 'fills out' this brick the better he is, and no judge can overlook such type.

One important point in selecting or judging Rhode Island Whites is to pick those which carry the head and neck forward of the breast. Another is to avoid cushioned backs – pick even for 'break' in front of tail. For breadth of back, that White suits me best which seems to have a crease or part right down the middle of the back.

A really good pure bred Rhode Island White is a thing of rare beauty and perfection; and leaves nothing to be desired either as a show bird, market fowl or layer, and is not in anyway like a Rock or Wyandotte in shape.reverse, in fact-to overweight specimens, rather poor in quality of "silk."



A breeding pen of Rhode Island Whites

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EAR-LOBE AND EGGSHELL COLOURS



by J.J.Prait. USA.

Courtesy of the American Bantam Association

Without the phenomenon being fully understood poultry breeders have known that there is a relationship between the colour of a hen's ear-lobes and the colour of the shell of the egg she produces. Breeds of chickens with white ear-lobes produce white-shelled eggs, and with few exceptions a bird with red ear-lobes lays brown shelled eggs. A few breeds within the latter grouping may produce shell colours from creamy to blue or green. When the first standards were developed for purebred chickens attention was paid to the colour of the ear-lobes as a factor in egg colour preference.

The colour of an egg shell is considered an important aspect of egg quality in many countries. Brown eggs presently dominate markets in the United Kingdom, France, Ireland and Portugal, whereas white eggs are preferred in the United States, Austria, West Germany, Switzerland and Spain. However, during the time we lived in Germany in the late 1940's there was a noted preference for very dark brown eggs in the North Sea region. That made the Barnevelder a popular breed. Barnevelders made up the largest classes at the Bremerhaven shows at that time.

Also shell texture differs in various breeds. Pure Buttercups lay an egg with an enamel-like texture approaching that of a guinea fowl. And of course, what causes the blue pigment in Araucana eggs is a very dominant gene. Birds with very little Araucana Blood in them will lay coloured eggs, not always blue but ranging from green to pink. Rumpless and tufted Araucanas which can be traced to a pure

Various Egg Colours - Dark Brown - White - Tinted - Green

ancestry also carry a lethal gene which causes a high embryo mortality.

In the October 1987 issue of *WORLD'S POULTRY*

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SCIENCE JOURNAL, Mr. Lang and J.W. Wells of the Edinburgh Research Station in Scotland published, "A Review of Eggshell Pigmentation." In summary the report states that the pigmentation of eggs is variable throughout the avian phylum. In most species, the principal pigments found in eggshells are Protoporphyrin, the immediate precursor to the red blood cell pigment, haemoglobin, and biliverdin which is the breakdown product of haemoglobin. Normally the eggshell of the domestic fowl, *Gallus comesticus*, contains mainly protoporphyrin. However, a mutation found in the Araucana gives rise to blue or green eggs due to the presence of a mixture of biliverdin, its zinc protoporphyrin throughout the shell. To the average poultryman this scientific reporting is just gobbldygook, so I wrote to the senior author of the report, stating in part: "For 50 years I have judged poultry and I am convinced of a relationship between ear-lobe colour of a fowl and eggshell colour. That is why we consider the wrong ear-lobe colour in a breed to be a serious enough defect to call for disqualification in showbirds. I am aware that if red commences to appear in the ear-lobes of white egg breeds the birds will commence to produce a creamy tinge in their egg shells. Can you explain this?"

In response I received a lengthy letter from Mr.



Araucana hens that lay Green eggs

Lang, and in the key paragraph he states: "Regarding your observations on the relationship between ear-lobe colour and shell colour, well this was something I was unaware that existed. However, ear-lobe colour is probably due to the blood pigment haemoglobin, the end product of porphyrin synthesis. The link

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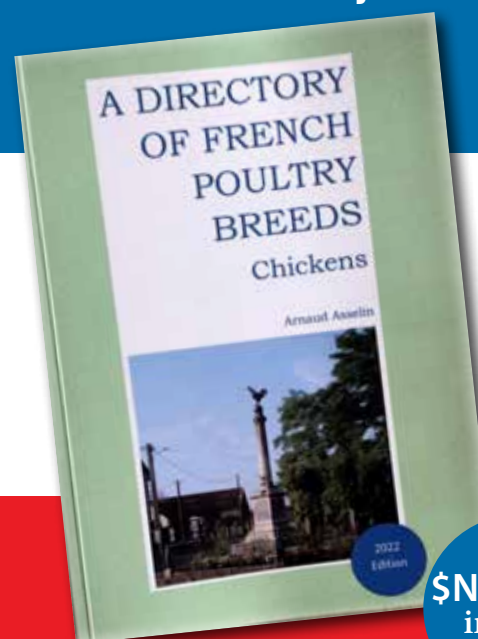
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may lie here. Ear-lobe colour intensity may indicate the birds capacity for porphyrin synthesis and thus the degree of shell colour which may be expected. I presume you have observed that the white layers have pale ear-lobes, and birds producing creamy eggs (due to the presence of porphyrin) probably carry part of the gene for porphyrin synthesis which could be expressed, as you have found, in ear-lobe colour.” Most of the letter discussed pigments which have different biochemical origins and concluded by stating: “However, any other indicator such as ear-lobe colour which could be used as a marker for shell colour quality would be extremely useful to breeders. As little research has been carried out in these areas I am afraid I cannot be more specific, but thank you for writing, it has given me more questions for future consideration.”

This is an example of knowledge gained through keen observation by laymen over the years which the scientists can't explain. Conclusions



Barnevelder hens that lay Dark Brown eggs

arrived at through the practice of husbandry can be accepted as valid and offer challenges for the scientists.



Brown Leghorn hen that lays White eggs

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MAREK'S DISEASE, THE OLD BOGEYMAN



by Peter Laing, MRCVS

A bogeyman can turn up unexpectedly at any time to cast his malevolent influence on the situation and this is precisely what Marek's disease does. The disease occurs worldwide and was first accurately described by a Hungarian doctor, Dr. Marek, in 1907, although of course, at that time, the cause was not known. We now know that Marek's disease in all its forms is caused by a virus of the herpes family which is quite unrelated to the viruses which cause another well known group of diseases of poultry, the various kinds of leucoses, with which Marek's disease has always been confused. The Marek's disease virus really is like the bogeyman of legends. It is distributed worldwide in the environment where it occurs in a number of strains that vary in virulence from being quite harmless to having the potential to cause death in a very high percentage of the chickens that pick up the infection. The actual virus particles are shed from infected chickens in fluff and feather debris, like dandruff in human beings, and after being shed they can remain alive for over a year. During this time, they can infect new chickens at any time, if they breathe in or peck at dust or anything that has become contaminated with the virus particles. Once a chicken has become infected, it remains infected for its whole life, whether it becomes ill or not, and it sheds virus particles in its feather debris from time to time and these particles contaminate the environment where they are ready to be picked up by other birds. Also, even vaccinated birds spread infection to some extent, because vaccination does not actually stop the birds from becoming infected, but merely blocks the development of the clinical disease. The course of the disease is complex and it can show up

Typical Marek's disease of the joints in a number of different ways, in some ways, therefore, resembling diseases such as malaria in human beings. After first picking up the infection, the virus multiplies rapidly and there is a transient phase when the chickens

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Pullet starting to show Blindness, a symptom of Mareks

may look ill. Illness can show up as a transient paralysis or just as slight malaise and during this time, in any case, the birds are very infectious and will spread the virus rapidly to other birds in the flock. Then the clinical signs usually disappear for a time according to the breed, sex, age and individual susceptibility of the chicken before clinical disease shows up again.

When it does show up, it is then in the form of a virus cancer.

1. The cancer develops at different rates, according to the susceptibility of the bird. The virus can cause rapidly growing tumours in almost any internal organ - the ovary, liver, spleen or lung, for example.
2. Or cancer cells can infiltrate nerves.
3. If nerves to the legs or wings are involved, the bird will show lameness, paralysis or drooping wings - the classical signs of fowl paralysis, which used to be an alternative name for Marek's disease.
4. If a nerve to the head or neck is affected, the bird may stand with a twisted neck, or walk in circles, may 'star-gaze', or may topple over and turn somersaults.
5. If nerves to the internal organs are affected, some kind of dysfunction results. In this case, the bird may lose its appetite and become thinner and thinner before dying, often from kidney failure.



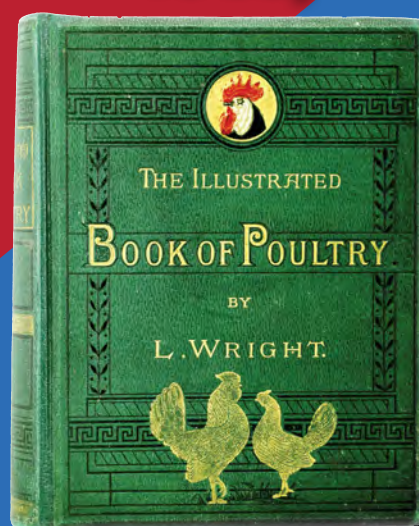
Another symptom of Mareks disease

6. Or it may develop paralysis of the crop which remains distended with food that becomes sour and evil smelling when the bird vomits.
7. Oh yes! and occasionally the cancer can affect the eye, so that the bird becomes blind.

So you can see in what a wide variety of ways the old bogeyman can show.

During my time as a vet, I have seen outbreaks in roaster chickens and in pullets that were being reared for egg production where mortality was as high as 80% and all the affected birds had rapidly growing cancers. Unfortunately, I have seen similar high mortalities in some strains of pure breeds, probably where the individuals are derived from a small genetic pool of parent breeders. I have also seen outbreaks of classical fowl paralysis occur in fully mature birds after they have suffered from some stress and often I see flocks where a high percentage of the birds have become unthrifty and just seem to fade away when they are somewhere between 12 and 20 weeks of age. On the other hand, I have talked to breeders who have never had a case of Marek's disease at all and have never even thought of vaccinating, and other people who, during a life time of pure breeding, have quietly developed resistant strains of chickens by selective culling. Some bloodlines are very resistant and actually work was being done successfully to develop resistant strains of birds for commercial egg production by Sykes and others at the time that the first vaccine became available in 1970.

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