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Poultrynz

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Poultrynz Editorial

The dramatic change in the weather has certainly changed the landscape in the upper part of New Zealand. I wonder how many fowls and bantams were lost? There is nothing we can do by such a downpours but we can plan for other events in the future. There will be some due to the changes in the climate, so there is an opportunity to help ourselves in the future. Managing such changes is always a challenge but careful planning in placing your fowl houses are is the best start. Best wishes to those effected at this time, the future can only get better now we know what to expect.
Until next issue.

Regards,
Ian Selby.
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THAI COCONUT CHICKEN CAKES

INGREDIENTS

Makes about 40

Chicken cakes

500g chicken mince
3 spring onions, finely chopped
1 Tbsp red curry paste
2 Tbsp chopped coriander
1 tsp fish sauce
3 Tbsp thick canned coconut cream
½ tsp salt
oil, for frying

To serve

Steamed rice
Banana leaves, optional

Pickled vegetables

1 small cucumber
2 carrots
6 green beans
500ml white vinegar
2 Tbsp salt
½ cup cauliflower florets
2 cloves garlic, chopped
3 hot red chillies, sliced
2 shallots, sliced
½ cup vegetable oil

METHOD

- Mix all the chicken cake ingredients together. except the oil. Roll into small balls and chill.
- Fry in hot oil until browned all over and cooked through. Serve with pickled vegetables and steamed rice (on a banana leaf, if using).
- For the pickled vegetables, peel, trim and cut cucumber and carrots into small batons. Cut beans into short lengths. Bring vinegar and salt to the boil in a saucepan and plunge in carrots, cauliflower and beans. Blanch for 1 minute then drain.
- Purée garlic, chillies and shallots in a blender or food processor. Heat the oil in a frying pan over a medium heat and add the blended paste. Stir-fry for 3 minutes, then add the vegetables and toss to coat in the paste. Transfer to a bowl. The vegetables can be made up to 5 days ahead; keep refrigerated.

THE AUSTRALORP

From the library of the late F. Owen French, Australia. Black Australorps

Due to the foresight and skill of William Cook of Orpington, England, the poultry breeders of Australia are indebted to this pioneer in poultry culture for the Black Orpington fowl. Reconceived the idea of breeding a fowl with qualities, which would stamp it as one of the most suitable breeds for commercial purposes.

In his own words he stated, "I took a good Black Minorca, which plumage variety are extraordinary layers, with black plumage, not putting on fat readily, with white flesh and skin of fine texture, but with black legs and tremendous activity. The points I hoped to procure from this breed were: black plumage, red face and large comb and ear lobes."

"I procured the finest bodied cocks of the breed that I could find throughout the country, with red ear lobes. These had been killed or thought little of before, because they had not white ear lobes."

"With these red lobed Minorcas I mated some Black Plymouth Rock pullets which were 'sports' from the American Plymouth Rocks, owing to the Black Java having been used in the making of the Rock, Plymouth Rocks are hardy layers of a brown or tinted egg."

"These varieties when crossed produced black pullets and good shaped birds. The cockerels came of a mixed straw colour and were, of course, useless for my purpose. With these beautiful pullets I mated a good Langshan of the old short legged type and as is well known these birds were extraordinary winter and particularly autumn layers of deep brown shelled eggs so these birds, with their long deep breastbone and white skin and flesh, infused many good qualities into the breed."

"The feathers down the legs had to be disposed of and to do this I sought out all the Langshans that were produced without feathers on their legs. These Langshans laid earlier than the feathered legged ones and with their breasts curved in that peculiar way which denotes strength of constitution, and their fine qualities, they soon set their stamp of real excellence upon the birds."

"So with wastrels from good breeds I formed the Black Orpingtons, using birds from Europe Asia, Plymouth Rocks from America and three varieties

A young pair of Black Australorps

that were looked upon as three of the best for general purposes that England possessed."

Such then, was the fowl produced by W Cook in 1866, but in 1891 a Black Orpington was produced by Joseph Partington and exhibited at the Dairy Show where three of the four exhibits were sold for the sum of £30 each. These were a very large breed displaying much more fluff than the "Cook" Orpington. Authorities are satisfied that Black Cochin and Langshan blood was used in this production.

The writer has contended for many years that Black Java and Sumatra blood has been frequently used in the production of the Australorp, this name, by the way having been adopted in England as denoting the Australian Orpington, by Mr. C. House. Apart from the Australian crosses of Black Java, it is of interest to find that the history of the Black Java suggests and English origin. Farm Poultry, U.S., 1/11/1903, page 418 includes the following extract; "the stock (Black Java) I had forty years ago, (1853) was hatched from eggs coming from Java, which I knew were imported from England ... the Java fowl, as bred forty years ago from imported stock known to be imported and also known to have come from the East Indies, was, and is, about the same fowl as is bred today". Just what was the type of fowl imported from England is a matter of conjecture, but, we know that about 1850 the Black

Cochin created a furore. In 1843 some fowls, under the name of Cochin China, were imported to England. These passed into the possession of Her Majesty Queen Victoria. They were unlike the true Cochin, and it is considered they were evidently more Malay than Cochin. As these were the two popular breeds at this period, it is extremely likely that the Java importation combined this blood. The type of the Black Java as adapted in America is not unlike the present day Australian Australorp. The Sumatra infusion in the Australorp has also made it's appearance known by typical sports.

Records show that the first importation of Black Orpingtons to Australia was brought out from England by W. Graham Sydney in November, 1887. The first exhibition to receive an entry was at Balmain on July 4th 1889. From that date the Black Orpington became very popular throughout Australia. Due to the activities of two groups of breeders, one aiming for show points and other for egg laying qualities the type varied considerably. The show type, with loose feather and fluffy thighs gradually evolved into what is now known as the Standard Orpington, but the laying type was further split up by unrecorded crosses, of which the Langshan undoubtedly played a prominent part. This is clearly shown in the photos of Orpingtons competing in the Hawkesbury Agric. Show Egg Laying competitions during 1907 and 1908. The former six Orpingtons which laid 1248 eggs show a racy type, somewhat short in body, erect habit and high tails, whereas the latter six, which laid 1217 eggs, depict a heavy type, undoubtedly Orpingtons.

In each state during the years since its first importation breeders have evolved strains of this remarkable and productive fowl that are now world famed.

A trio of Black Australorps

The size of the egg: With care in selection of breeding stock there is little difficulty in maintaining egg size in the Australorp.

The writer has found that pullet breeding is one of the chief causes of small eggs. Where adults and second year birds are used, with cockerels from a hen with a margin over 2oz the progeny require very little culling for egg size.

GOLDEN PENCILLED HAMBURGS

Golden Pencilled Hamburgs once known as Dark

Prior to 1785, pencilled fowls came to England from Holland and then to America. Before being divided into separate classes they were known by many confusing names.

When they first came from Holland they were called Pencilled Dutch, and as they were scattered throughout the world they were known as Bolton Grays, Bolton Bays, Creoles Creels, Chittaprato and Pheasants. It was not until they were separated into classes that Hamburgs became known as a separate breed and a standard was established for them. There were, at first, two varieties, the LIGHT and the DARK, which later were known as Silver and Golden Fowls. Fowls of the Golden variety were selected and bred until they had been produced with colour and markings so distinct as to leave them without rivals and they were then named Golden Pencilled Hamburgs.

The chief aim in developing Golden Pencilled Hamburgs by establishing strains, has been to separate the gold bay from the silver and to have the barring of the females so regular as to give it the appearance of having been laid on by geogometrical precision, and the males ideal in colour and free from foreign colour.

Although the Spangled varieties are heavier in body, the general formation for the breed is shown in the American Standard of Perfection illustration of Silver Spangled Hamburgs.

In the Golden Pencilled Hamburg male, the colour of the neck hackle and breast is a bright bay or reddish

bay. In females the body is a reddish bay, each feather being barred with black. Often American Fanciers don't have access to the British Standards. The following is from the British Standard but you will note there is little difference. Both sexes: beak - dark horn; eyes - red or dark; comb, face and wattles - red; earlobes - white; legs - leaden blue. In the males, the neck-hackle, back, saddle, shoulder, wing bows, breast and upper parts are a bright coloured bay, also the wing coverts and the bottom web or visible part of the feather is generally black or course pencilled. The tail is black, tinged with green. The sickle feathers and tail coverts are of solid rich, transparent green surface colour and black foundation and are laced all around with a narrow strip of gold. The female neck hackle is a bright golden colour. All the rest of the plumage is a bright golden colour each feather being pencilled distinctly and evenly across with fine parallel lines of a rich green hue. The pencilling and intervening lines should be of the same width; the secondaries should be pencilled as much as possible but the markings are naturally a little coarse.

Silver Pencilled Hamburgs once known as Light

A male that has the finest exhibition qualities, especially good headpoints, mated with hens of equal quality and from the same strain will prove to be the most satisfactory breeding fowls for the production of exhibition Golden Pencilled Hamburgs.

It is almost a waste of time to attempt to breed Hamburgs of sterling quality without having stock that are not only excellent in themselves, but near akin and bred in line from the best. In breeding for colour, the richest coloured birds should be selected. The earlobes on some of the finest males are frequently almost as large as a silver half dollar, as smooth as glass and as White as the most beautiful enamel. The lobes of the hens should be as large, comparatively, as those of the male.

The exquisite shape of the Hamburg comb cannot be lost sight of in selecting fowl for breeding. They should have eyes of a rich bright red, the shanks and toes should be a leaden colour and as smooth as polished brass.

SLOW FEATHER GROWTH LEADS TO PECKING

The Rhode Island Red is perhaps the worst breed for variation in rates of feathering today, but some breeders are already applying the methods used so successfully in America.

The genetics of rapid feathering are well known, and progress can be made quickly if pedigree breeders will use, as stock cockerels, male chicks displaying rapid feathering during the first eight weeks after hatching.

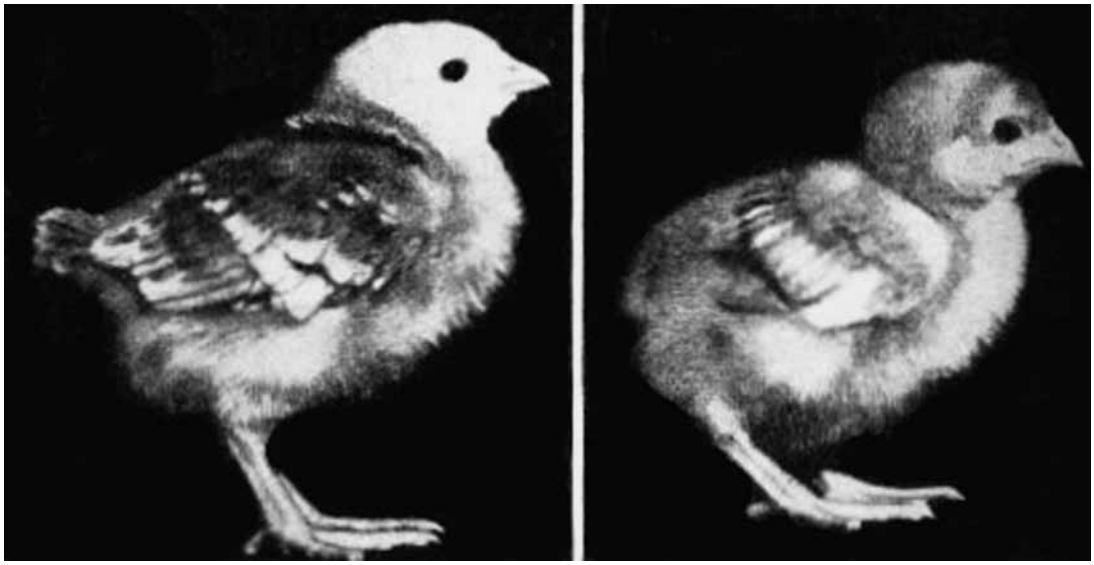
If only poultrymen could see, for example, Rhodes and Anconas hatched and reared identically on a standard diet, they would appreciate better the genetic aspects of bad feathering. The Anconas will show almost perfect feathering, while the Rhodes will be very variable - from excellent to poor, according to strain.

When there are 100 chicks in a pen, some well feathered and others barebacked, this variation is striking to the eye, and is one factor leading to feather-picking.

Too High Temperature.

Too high a temperature under the hover when the chicks are between three and four weeks of age may prove detri-

A chick showing slow feathering over the wings and back



The difference between fast and slow feathering

en off artificial heat as early as possible, preferably between four and five weeks of age.

It is at this time, when new feathers are sprouting, that too high a dry heat directed from above on to the backs of the chicks causes trouble. It definitely checks feather development, and, therefore, causes bare backs to develop; and such semi-bald areas appear allergic to pecking. It seems, too, as though the issue of the larger feathers (at the wings and tail) is somewhat painful or irritating. While there may be a dietetic aspect to feather-picking, it is, as stated previously, one which plays little part in the causation of the trouble.

Mineral Deficiencies.

Deficiencies of minerals like salt, manganese or cobalt, or even of proteins, are known to have been a major cause of feather-picking in some countries.

Some people believe that feather-picking is due to a deficiency of protein, but I do not accept this theory. The following example will, perhaps, explain why: Among a series of experimental groups some birds developed feather-picking, drawing blood from the wing feathers. When one group was given double the floor space the outbreak stopped immediately, although the food and the other environmental factors remained unchanged. The birds in the remaining groups were left to peck each other; and had the trouble been due to lack of protein it would surely have become worse as the birds got bigger and heavier.

Local Treatment Only.

This, however, was not the case. The incidence did not increase; it was greatly reduced, and required nothing but local treatment of the affected parts. Moreover, some of the groups (of the same age, breed and sex) never even developed the trouble; yet all were in the same house and fed on the same food. An appreciation of all the factors mentioned, and the many possibilities of their interaction, should eradicate some of the fixed ideas which have been so prevalent in certain sections of the industry regarding feather-picking.

It must be realised that this vice is a response to the industrialisation of the domestic hen, and that it will remain with us as long as chicks are herded together with only a few square inches per bird in an environment where food is plentiful and ambient temperatures higher than normal. If breeders will select for fast-feathering strains, and poultrymen will adopt sound breeding (with particular attention to ventilation) and sensible feeding methods, much less will be heard of the incidence of feather-picking.

HOW TO USE DIATOMACEOUS EARTH IN YOUR GARDEN

From "The Prairie Homestead" USA

Here I go again...Venturing into another "controversial" subjec... I'm such a rebel.

Nope, I'm not talking about GMOs, or vaccines, or any of that stuff today. But rather, diatomaceous earth.

Whooo... Crazy, huh? I have such a knack for happening upon controversy in places I'd never expect it. But maybe that's because we live in the age of the internet and even the slightest, silliest things are controversial these days. (Does anyone else get tired of that?)

You've heard me talk about DE before here on the blog. In fact, one of my most popular posts ever goes into all the details of using diatomaceous earth around your home and for your health.

However, even though there are all sorts of diatomaceous earth uses in your home and medicine cabinet, I actually use it outside my home, more than inside.

I sprinkle it in my chicken coop to cut down on flies, use it on my barn floor, and occasionally dust my garden with it as well. And since I've received tons of questions about using diatomaceous earth in the garden, that's what we're diving into today.

What is Diatomaceous Earth?

Diatomaceous earth is an ultra-fine white powder made from the fossilized remains of algae-like plants (aka diatoms).

There are a lot of different health claims attached to DE, but I personally am most interested in the pest control aspects of the stuff.

Diatomaceous earth purportedly works as effective, natural pest control as the fine powder is razor-sharp on a microscopic level. It slices into the exoskeleton and dries the insect out. Because it works from a mechanical standpoint, versus a chemical one, you don't have to worry about insects developing a resistance, or spraying toxic pesticides on your plants. Which is why a lot of naturally-minded folks are fans of the stuff.

Diatomaceous Earth Safety

As soon as I even whisper the word "diatomaceous" online, I get pounded with emails and comments from people loudly proclaiming the "dangers" of DE.

Yes, there are some considerations to take into account when handling DE. Do I think it makes diatomaceous earth something to be afraid of? Nope. But do use common sense, and follow these guidelines:

- Always, always make sure you're using food-grade diatomaceous earth, not the stuff designed for swimming pools.

Diatomaceous Earth can be sieved over the ground

- DE is an ultra-fine powder, which means it's not great for your lungs. So avoid breathing the dust, or wear a mask when you apply it.
- DE is drying, and while it won't cut your skin like it

will an exoskeleton, it does feel funky if you get a lot of it on your hands. Feel free to wear gloves when you use it.

Diatomaceous Earth in the Garden

As you know, I've been locked in battle to save my veggies from hungry insects this year. I've been using my DIY Organic Pest Control Garden Spray recipe on the veggies getting hit the worst, and also sprinkling on some DE as needed. Which sparked an interesting conversation on my Facebook page the other day.

Diatomaceous Earth and Bees

Recently, it's been brought to my attention that many folks are concerned about using diatomaceous earth in their garden because of the effect it may have on beneficial insects, especially bees.

As many of you know, the bee population is declining, which is a very serious problem. I wouldn't want to do anything to add to this issue, so I decided to investigate further. Here's the issue with bees and DE (in a nutshell):

1. You sprinkle DE all over your garden like crazy.
2. Bees come visit your garden to pollinate the flowering plants.
3. Bees land in the DE. Bees try to groom the DE powder from their legs.
4. Bees die = not good.

This has caused a number of gardeners to become very much against any use of diatomaceous earth at all. However, I prefer a balanced approach of looking at issues, so I decided to investigate further.

After talking to a local beekeeper, and reading a number of perspectives, it seems as though the importance lies in how we apply DE, versus the notion that simply DE on the premises is inherently bad.

I have decided to follow these strategies for continuing to use diatomaceous earth in my garden, while keeping the bees in mind at the same time.

- Apply DE sparingly, and only to plants that are seriously effected by insects.
- Apply DE in the early morning, or late evening, when bees are less likely to be out.
- Apply DE close to the ground, where bees are less-likely to land.
- Do not apply DE to flowering plants where the bees would be landing to pollinate.
- Apply DE on non-windy days to avoid it being spread over the entire garden.

Do I still think using DE is better than chemical pesticides. **YES.** Just only use it where you need it and use it with discretion.

How I use Diatomaceous Earth in the Garden:

1. DE is easiest to apply if it's in a shaker container of sorts. If you only need to use a small amount, you can repurpose an old spice shaker.
2. Sprinkle DE on the plants being eaten by insects. Follow the considerations for bees above. Only use DE on the plants in your garden that need it. Don't dust it all over everything.
3. Reapply after heavy rain, or watering.

Does it work?

It sure seems to; at least for me. I have noticed a decrease in insect problems after applying. The main disadvantage to DE is that you must continually reapply it, so it can be a bit of a chore. But if you are consistent, I do think it can be an effective garden pest control method which does not rely on harmful pesticides.

Let's Sum it Up:

- Don't stick your head in a bag of DE and huff it. Your lungs will not be happy.
- Don't jump into a tub of DE and rub it all over your skin. Unless you want to feel dry and crusty.
- Don't go crazy and dust DE all over your garden. Respect the bees and allow them to do their job.
- Don't use DE if you don't want to. If you'd rather not use DE in your garden, that doesn't bother me a bit. You can opt for a natural, homemade garden pest control spray instead, pick the bugs off by hand, or just buy veggies from the Farmer's Market. Any of those options are just fine by me.