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Poultrynz

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Poultrynz Editorial

I have just set two broody hens on 13 eggs each. I don't know if they are going to be any good as I think this old cock bird is just too old. But I could get a surprise as the hens are only 2 years old. Isn't it strange how some breeds change in their characteristics as they get older. One hen had brilliant yellow legs as a pullet but as a hen the legs are almost green, she also had an even buff colour all over as a pullet but now she is two-toned. The wonders of breeding Poultry. You are not to old to learn. I will let you know if I get some chicks from is lot. Until next issue.
Regards, Ian Selby.

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

To purchase POULTRYNZ products email poultrynz@xtra.co.nz

INGREDIENTS

Serves 6

3 - 4 golden kumara peeled and diced (approx 1300g)
30g butter
1 onion, peeled and diced
2 tablespoons grated fresh ginger
1 clove garlic, sliced
2 litres chicken stock
300ml cream
100g blue cheese
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
Freshly ground black pepper and fresh chopped parsley to serve

METHOD

- Heat the butter in a large saucepan and sauté the onion, ginger and garlic until they are fragrant and have softened.
- Add the chicken stock and kumara and simmer for 30 - 40 minutes until soft.
- Blend the kumara mixture in a food processor or with a stick blender until it is smooth.
- Stir in the cream and crumble in the blue cheese, reserving a little to garnish the soup. Season to taste.
- Serve hot in bowls garnished with the reserved blue cheese, extra freshly ground black pepper and parsley.

TREATMENT OF SITTING HENS

A typical sitting hen

Author unknown

TESTING BROODIES

Every hen which it is intended to set should be tested for two or three days prior to placing the eggs under her. If the hen sits properly during this time it is an indication that she is a good sitter, and will continue for the whole period of incubation.

During this testing period the hen should be fed and watered, she will be when sitting properly.

At the beginning of this testing period the broody hen should be thoroughly dusted with Poultrynz D.E. If she is troubled with insect pests she will prove a restless sitter, and, moreover, care should be taken to keep the Poultrynz D.E. in the dust bath - a thing which should be provided for every sitting hen. If the hen be infested the chickens will quickly suffer in the same way when they are hatched out.

BREAKING HENS OF BROODINESS

Broodiness has been largely bred out of many strains of heavy breed layers, breeds which were natural sitters. But even in these strains a proportion of the birds will go broody in the spring. During the time that a hen is broody she is non-productive, and, therefore, unless she is wanted for hatching purposes, she should be broken of the habit. The best method is to place the hen in a specially constructed cage, having a grill-bottom, an old commercial laying cage is just ideal for this purpose, which is kept suspended above the ground. The bird is unable to sit, and in a few days she will have been completely cured, when she should be returned to the ordinary laying house.

Broody hens should have free access to green food

Candling an egg to see if it is fertile. Fertility indicated by the veins in the egg.

and water.

DAILY TREATMENT OF THE SITTING HEN

The hen must be fed and watered once every day. While she is off the nest the eggs are being cooled, a process which appears to be of great importance in successful hatching.

The best food is maize or a mixture of maize and wheat, while an abundance of fresh water is essential. Only one feed per day is given, and this should be at a same time each day.

If the earth of which the nest is composed shows signs of drying, a pint of warm water should be poured on the ground surrounding the sitting box every day. This water will soak into the earth and ensure the air surrounding the eggs being properly moistened.

If the nest becomes fouled, or an egg gets broken the nest should be cleaned when the hen is off feeding.

It occasionally happens that a sitting hen becomes restless and stands up on the eggs instead of covering them properly. Unless this be noticed at once there is a danger that the eggs will be spoilt. It has been proved, however, that eggs which contain good strong germs will stand a considerable amount of cooling without taking any harm. Eggs have been known to hatch out well after forty eight hours.

TESTING EGGS FOR FERTILITY

When the eggs have been under the hen for seven days they can be tested for fertility. This should be done, since if a number be infertile the remaining

Chick hatching from an egg

eggs can be placed under a few hens and the other hens liberated, when they can be set again. When hens are scarce this is a good plan to follow. Testing for fertility is more important, however when incubators are employed.

To test, hold each egg between the first finger and thumb of each hand before a lighted candle, or a specially made lamp, in a darkened room. Infertile eggs appear clear, while fertile eggs, which are developing properly, show a dark spot a little nearer the broad end of the egg than the centre, from which radiate numerous red lines. If held steadily the dark contents can be seen to move.

EARLY AND LATE HATCHED CHICKENS

When all of the eggs placed under a sitting hen are the same age they generally hatch out within a matter of twelve hours. In the early part of the season, however, it is occasionally necessary to hold over some of the eggs until a sufficient number has accumulated. This sometimes leads to a slow hatch. When a very large heavy hen is employed there is danger that she may crush the earliest hatched chickens, and therefore these should be removed to a small wood box which has been littered down to a depth of 3 inches with warmed hay. A piece of thick flannel - rather larger than the size of the box - should be placed over the top, and then the lid rested thereon. The box should not be more than 8 inches deep and 2½ inches. ventilation holes should be bored on each side. The chickens can remain in such a box for twelve hours without suffering in any way. Those eggs which fail to hatch out within twenty four hours of the appearance of the first chicken are not worth troubling over. On no account should the chickens be helped out. A Chicken which is not strong enough to break through the shell itself will be found difficult to rear, and of little utility value.

DON'T SHIRK THOSE CLEANING DUTIES

Good clean litter used by this chicken

A sometimes unpleasant task, cleaning is frequently delayed or shelved and at this time of year it is especially needed. With the breeding season under way chickens will soon be emerging and attention especially to their rearing appliances and housing is paramount if a good rearing season is to be enjoyed.

Many items from the previous season are probably still in the same state as they were at the end of last season. This means that the empty incubator, the brooder coops etc. are is desperate need of a thorough cleaning and disinfecting.

All the old litter, dust etc. encourages germs and pests, or at the very least reduces the efficiency of the equipment and appliances. So tackle this task now and enjoy the satisfaction afterwards of knowing that, when another season's rearing begins the means of carrying on are there, ready and waiting to go.

The incubator should be your first port of call being the most "sensitive" piece of equipment and integral to the success of the season. First remove all the delicate parts such as thermometer and wafer if it has one. Many of the newer models have electronic sensors and these will not need removing. Just a go vacuum should do the trick. Next water trays, setting trays and hatching compartment should be removed and given a good scrub in hot water with a little disinfectant added.

The internal of the incubator should be done likewise, with a cloth soaked in hot water and disinfectant giving the entire area a good wipe down. Most fanciers these days have large incubators and it is a good idea to

A range of Utensils that alway need a good clean

fumigate the insides with a suitable product of which several are available.

With the incubator now ready to roll it is time to check the next stage of breeding - the brooders. These come in various shapes and sizes and many fanciers have devised some ingenious systems for this purpose. No matter what your particular arrangement is it needs to be comprehensively cleaned and all electrical parts checked before use.

It is especially recommended that all cabling be checked especially if you have had mice or rats present in the past year. If unsure get a qualified electrician or small appliance technician to check it all out for you. The expense is worth it.

Lastly to the rearing pens which invariably need a good dusting. The amount of dust generated by growing chickens is remarkable and the wire mesh walls etc. need a good wash down, or brush down for those water-conscious people and the litter completely removed and replaced with fresh clean material. Now might be an opportune time to give the whole pen a spray with Poultry Shield to kill pests such as red mite, lice etc. Painting a slurry of Poultrynz D.E. on the cracks in the walls as well as on and under the perches will help too. Once this is completed fresh clean bedding in whatever form you prefer be it wood shavings etc. can now be placed back in the pristine premises.

Make sure all drinkers and feeders receive a good soak in a hot tub of water and detergent before drying in the sun and placing back in the pens in readiness for the much anticipated youngsters.

You're now ready to commence your new season progeny confident you have done everything possible to ensure they get the best start in life.

Two Poultrynz products that help protect your Fowls

COCCIDIOSIS IN POULTRY

Signs of coccidiosis in chicks

From the 'Fanciers Gazette.'

Coccidiosis is a large group of diseases affecting many species of animals, both wild and domestic; and is especially severe in poultry. It is generally found wherever fowl are produced. The disease is caused by parasites that attack and destroy the walls of the intestines.

Ccccidiosis is transmitted from one bird to another by means of a microscopic egg-shaped body called an oocyst. This oocyst is the resting stage of this parasite. This tiny cyst (if placed end to end, it would take 1000 oocysts to measure one inch) is the final stage in the life cycle of coccidia. The oocyst develops in the intestinal tract of the infected bird, then is eliminated in the droppings and falls into the litter.

Two days afterward, under satisfactory conditions of moisture and temperature, this free living oocyst is ripe. When a bird picks up this oocyst it is on its way for another reproduction cycle. Thus, one oocyst can produce one million oocysts in eight or nine days.

It should be remembered that the oocysts may remain dormant in the litter for very long periods of time and further, if eaten before it has ripened, will cause no trouble, however, with its ability for rapid build up it is inevitable that sooner or later any chick will be exposed to coccidiosis.

It is during the reproductive cycle when the organism is

dividing some 1,000,000 times that the small one-cell parasites invade intestinal walls and cause the cell breakdowns which result in the haemorrhages associated with the disease.

There are at least eight kinds of coccidia that inhabit the intestinal tract of the fowl. Actually, only three cause us any concern. One of these we know as bloody (E. tenella), another as chronic or middle intestinal (E. necatrix) and the third as upper intestinal (E. acervalina).

Inasmuch as exposure to coccidiosis is inevitable, we would like to establish an immunity to these parasites without all the usual headaches involved. This is the reason for the development of the practices of using a low level coccidiostat in our starter feeds. These levels hold down the buildup of oocysts by checking their growth and reducing the size of their families, thus enabling the bird to build up an immunity by small doses of the infection.

Signs of coccidiosis in adults

Often, in extremely dry weather, we do not get enough mature oocysts eaten by the bird to give him this series of light outbreaks so as to establish an immunity. Later, when be does encounter a large dosage, it has no immunity to carry them through. We see this once in a while in a group of young birds approaching adulthood. This can be disastrous if not checked at once by the use of a sulfa drug.

At other times, too, we see such large population of mature oocysts built up that the low level coccidiastat carried in feeds will not be able to offset the damage done. Here again the alert fancier will recognize the condition and use a sulfa drug as supplementary help.

This lesson is to point out and call your attention to the fact that coccidiosis is like a snowball. That under favourable conditions a tiny snowflake way build up swiftly to the size of a destructive avalanche.

Likewise, the pollution of litter with oocysts may lead to disastrous results, if the buildup is very rapid. If the rate of increase can be retarded, the birds will develop an immunity or resistance in time to prevent serious loss.

Check your feed dealer about a mash with a coccidiastat added and your favourite laboratory to supply the needed sulfa drug. Also remember that many flocks do not have and are immune to coccidiosis because of their high rate of vitality.

(Editors Note: The best coccidiostat I have used it Baycox.)

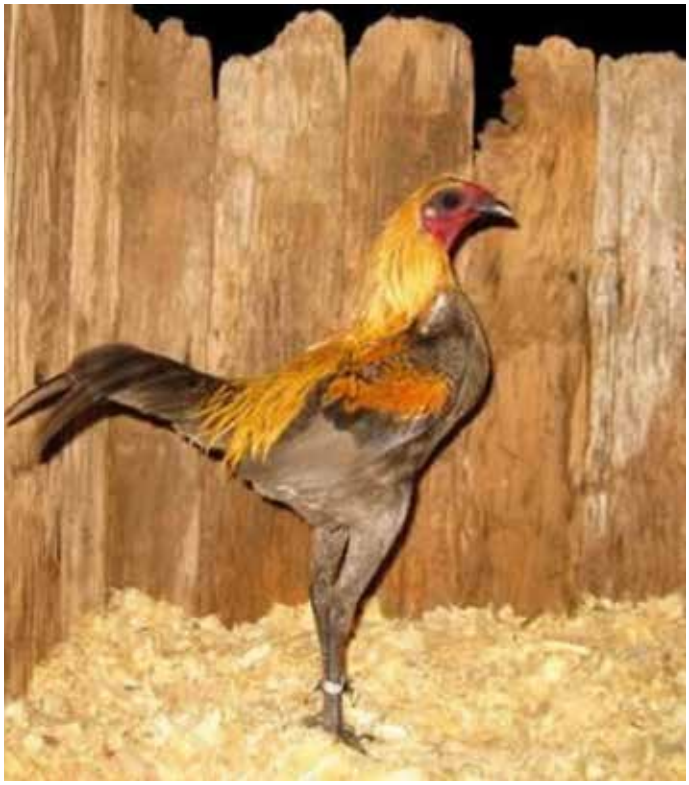
LEMON BLUE MODERN GAME BANTAMS

by Charles Scullen, 1965

The history or the origin of the blue coloured fowl is rather obscure. Many experimentalists with chickens other than Game have been bewildered with the product of their various crosses; all types and colours and other characteristics have been crossed and re-crossed and they have such Heterozygons mess that it is impossible for them to predict what the next matings will bring.

With the Game fowl such is not the case and while there are many colours in the variety, there have been no crossings with various other breeds of fowl, hence our problem of fixing colour and type characteristics is simple. From time Immemorable there have been Blue Game. In fact, according to reliable historians, there has existed and still exists, a Game fowl in Indian known as the Blue Madras and peculiarly it is said that this Blue Fowl never sports any white game but occasionally does sport a black game, almost pure in the male only, the female always being dove Blue except the hackle and sickle feathers show a brassy hue. Now I think we can begin from here for possibly this brassy black was the progenitor of our Modern Brown Red Game Bantam. Where the gypsy face came from, I would like to know, but the gypsy face must be dominant, for when the Birchen was produced by crossing a Brown Red with a Silver Duckwing, the Birchen came also with a gypsy or mulberry face,

Bantam Modern Game Lemon Blue Female



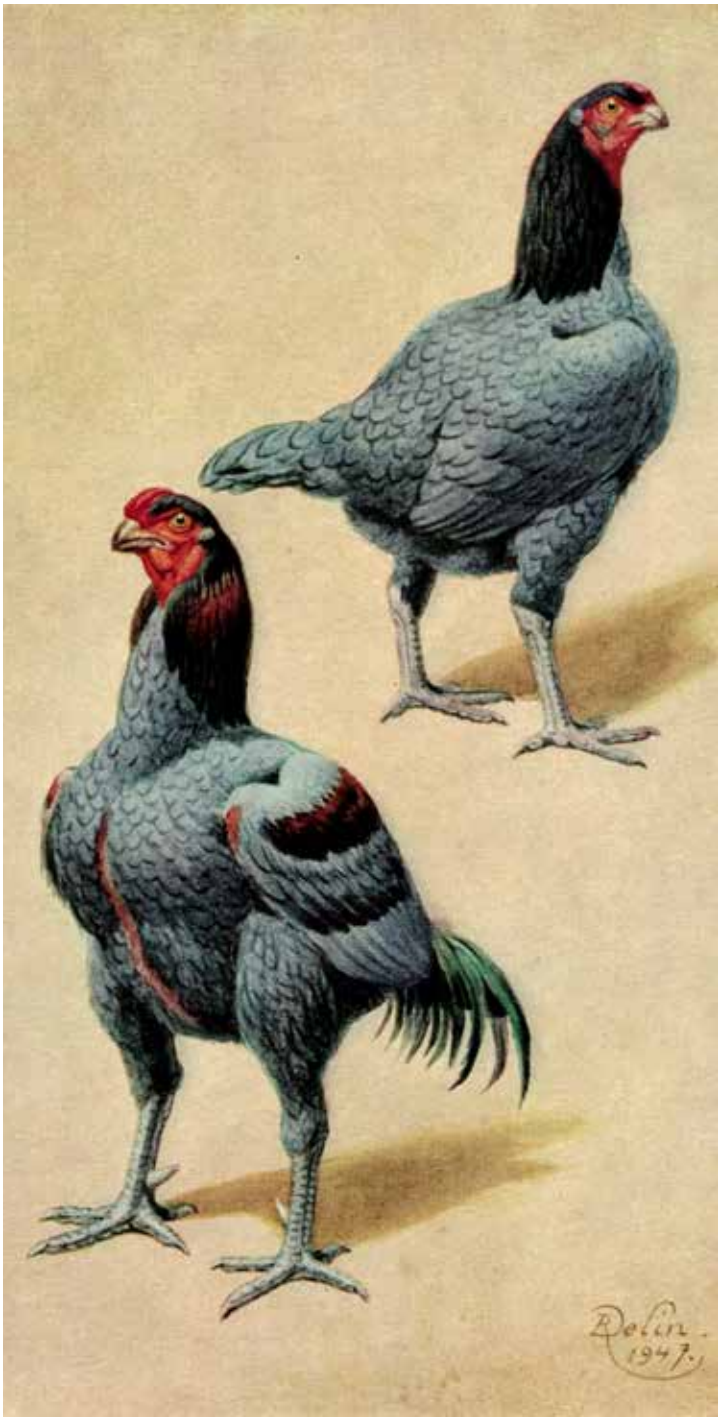
Bantam Modern Game Lemon Blue Male

also black legs and eyes.

Now the Lemon Blues came in as far as I know, England's best breeders of Brown Red Game Bantams also reared Lemon Blue Game Bantams and used same to improve the lemon top colour of their Brown Reds, for a Lemon Blue mating will produce two blues, and one black and one white which is due to Mendel's Law. These Blacks from the Lemon Blues will be laced with Lemon in the hackle and wing bow; therefore, you of course must define these Lemon Blacks as Brown Reds.

So far I have given you only history and now for the mechanics or the case in question. A Brown Red Cock mated with a Self Blue hen will produce Lemon Blues, also Lemon Blacks and the best type of these can be mated back either way: Brown Red cock to Lemon Blue pullets or Lemon Blue cockerel to Brown Red hens, using best type, of course. There are two precautions to bear in mind: first be sure to use only Lemon blues that have finely etched lemon on the hackle and wing bows and never use a Lemon Blue cockerel or cock possessing dull top colour and never never use one whose top colour is not even, brilliant shade or lemon in hackle and wing bows. There are only two colours Lemon and Blue.

The Lemon Blues produced from the Brown Red cross are not any better in type and thinness of feather, especially tail and wings, than the Brown Red used and toimprove these qualities one must



A pair of Blue Madras Game Fowls

go to a mating that seems incongruous except that Blue colour has a nice habit of washing out all other undesirable colours.

Select from a strain of Red Pile Game Bantams that is outstanding for type and fine feather one of the cockerels that comes a lighter shade or a Lemon Pile as they are sometimes called, being cautious to select one whose top colour is one even shade of lemon from stem to stern and if possible, a Lemon Pile with dark legs and eyes. Do not worry about wing bay or diamond for the Blues will wash that away. Cross this Lemon Pile cockerel with your best typed dark hackled Blue hen. This mating will produce Lemon Whites, Blues and Lemon Blues. Destroy all that come with yellow legs no matter how good in anything else. Mate the Lemon white and Blues together, brother and sister, once and their produce will give you one or two good ones to mate back to the blue mother and from there on it is easy sailing except from the number of Whites you will always get in Blue to Blue mating.

If you are worried about the loss of gypsy face and wish to restore same, then the procedure is to arrange with some of your Birchen fancier friends whose strains are superlative in gypsy face and black legs and eyes to reserve for you all his White sports. These Birchen White sports crossed to your Blue strain will fortify the mulberry face and the black legs and eyes.

Perhaps you rather fancy the Self Blues and if so, then you mate your splashed White Blues to your best coloured Blue cock and this mating will produce cockerels and pullets of that beautiful even shade of Self blue.

How can I mate Blues to eliminate so many wasters in Blacks, Whites, Splash white and Blues, etc.? Do what all Blue breeders have always done - take the black wasters and mate them to the Splash white Blue wasters and all the progeny from this mating will be Blue. Keep type in mind always.