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Poultrynz

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Poultrynz Editorial

This time of year is always exciting to see the newly hatched chicks arrive. Sometimes you can tell if you have a Champion or not and often the whole hatching looks good. With plenty of Chick Starter feed with a Cocidiostat and plenty of fresh water the whole flock will survive. However the best practise is to keep then Warm, Clean and Dry. No matter if you use a brooder or a broody hen you should have a rearing management program for best results which should also have in the program something to counter the unexpected, i.e. hens not looking after the chicks or the brooder light going off in the middle of the night. It has cost a lot to get to the hatching stage so you need to look after your investment.

Until next issue.
Regards, Ian Selby.

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PIZZA MARINARA

INGREDIENTS

Makes 2 large pizzas

Base

2 teaspoons instant yeast granules

1 cup lukewarm water

2 teaspoons sugar

3½ cups high-grade flour

1 teaspoon salt

2 tablespoons olive oil

2 x 400g cans tomatoes

1 onion, peeled and roughly chopped

3 cloves garlic, chopped

1 tablespoon pesto

1½ cups pizza or melting cheese

400g marinara mixed seafood, rocket leaves, olive oil, and lemon wedges to serve.

METHOD

1. Gently stir the yeast into the warm water and mix in the sugar. Set the mixture aside for 5 minutes, or until it is frothy.
2. Place the flour and salt in a bowl and make a well in the centre. Pour the frothy yeast mixture into the well, mix to combine, then add the oil. Mix until combined, turn out the dough on to a bench surface and knead until it is smooth and elastic.
3. Place the dough in an oiled bowl, cover and set it aside in a warm place for an hour, or until it has doubled in size.
4. Meanwhile, place the tomatoes, onion, garlic, sugar and pesto in the bowl of a food processor and pulse to create a sauce. Transfer the tomato sauce mixture to a pan over a low heat and simmer for 20 minutes. Set the sauce aside to cool. Preheat the oven to 200°C. Divide the dough in 2 and lightly knead each ball. Roll each ball out into a disc, about 30cm in diameter. Place each pizza base on to a baking tray or pizza stone.
5. Spread tomato sauce over each base, sprinkle over half the cheese and top evenly with marinara seafood mix. Sprinkle the remaining cheese and bake for 12-15 minutes until the crust is golden. Serve topped with rocket leaves, a swirl of olive oil and a squeeze of lemon.

THE INTRODUCTION OF BREEDING STOCK



From the Australian Poultry World, 1930

Robust constitution of a backyard flock of Chickens

The introduction of new breeding stock is a very important matter, as it depends upon the suitability of the birds introduced whether improvement is effected or even the existing quality maintained. In purchasing birds, it is advisable to determine in good time what "new blood" is required for the breeding season and not to defer it until all the best birds have been picked over; the matter of quality and physique as well laying characteristics should be kept in mind with a view to all-round improvement. For this reason it is best, where practicable, to visit the fancier from which the purchase of stock is contemplated instead of relying upon pedigree alone, which, without the necessary constitutional foundation, only leads to deterioration.

Physique and Health

The first consideration is the general physique and health of the flock, and particular attention should be paid to the young stock to see if they are well developed and free from sickness. It should be noted whether the birds as a whole are of fairly uniform type, and in summing up the qualities, apart from any records, observation should be made as to whether there is a large number of birds showing coarseness, as indicated by surly birds with overhanging eyebrows, small sunken eyes, and wrinkled and feathery faces. This, of course, applies chiefly to the birds under two years old, because the older ones naturally tend to become coarser.

Signs of Impurity

The careful buyer who is aiming at purity of breed and general improvement of quality will look for signs of impurity such as coloured feathers in white birds, or foreign feathers in black or other coloured breeds, or again willow-coloured legs in breeds which should have black legs. These and other faults such as numerous rough and sprigged combs, light-coloured eyes, etc., are indications of carelessness in breeding or the introduction of impure stock.

It should not be imagined that impurities are easily bred out, because many birds which appear pure may be tainted with the foreign blood of a previous cross,



Poor constitution of a flock of Chickens

and for this reason it may take many years of careful selection to get rid of the impurity This is one reason why those who use only "flock" matings can never hope to maintain a high standard of quality.

Another Factor.

There is another factor which should be taken into consideration when buying stock if good quality is desired: it should be noted whether provision is made for breeding from single matings, that is, one male and his complement of females in a separate pen. For quality and, the use of sufficient single breeding pens to enable the breeder to use only those bred from such pens for stud purposes is essential to secure the best results.

Necessity for New Blood

Some breeders hesitate about introducing new birds for fear that by doing so they will suffer loss of production, and so they keep on breeding from too closely related or degenerate stock until they find that they are unable to rear the chickens successfully. This is soon followed by a general lowering of physique of the resulting birds, with the consequent production of a large percentage of small eggs. When this stage is reached it is too late to build up again by simply introducing new blood the next season. It would require several years of careful selection and infusion of new blood to resuscitate such a flock, and sometimes it would pay better to work up a new flock rather than attempt to build up again from the run down birds.

Correcting Weakness

In many instances where weakness has become apparent new blood has been introduced without any improvement, simply because the birds purchased have been no better bred than the home flock. The careful breeder, however, who understands his business, is ever on the alert for any weaknesses,





Feathers on the face of a Fowl

and does not wait for a general "breakdown" before taking action. He makes a practice of introducing a new bird or two each season, and if in doubt as to whether the new blood will blend with his flock and produce the desired result, he tries it out on a small number first. By bringing in new stock each year a gradual blending of the new blood is possible and so the physique and productivity of the flock is maintained.

Age and Weight

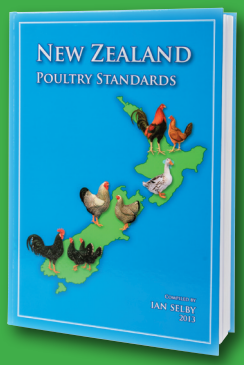
When purchasing birds, age and weight should be kept in mind, and in the case of birds of last season's rearing they should be at least ten months old by the time they are required to breed from, and at that age cockerels of the light breeds should weigh not less than 5 lb. and pullets 4 lb., while the heavy breed cockerels should scale 7 lb. and pullets 5 lb. Birds a year older should weigh at least 1 lb. more if they are of good physique.

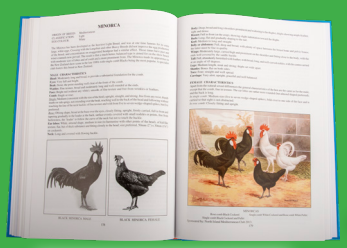
Many breeders, when desiring to purchase birds are in doubt as to whether they should obtain young birds or those a year older. In this connection, there need be no hesitation in choosing the young birds, provided they are up to the standard outlined as regards age and weight. As a matter of fact, in the heavy breeds particularly the young birds will usually be found the more satisfactory as there is always a risk with the older birds that fertility may be low, especially early in the season. Another advantage with young birds is that in the light breeds they can frequently be used for several seasons and often the heavy breed cockerels are suitable for another season or two.

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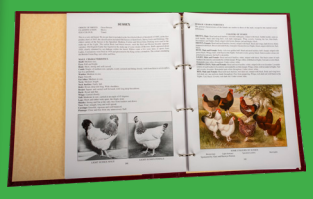




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MEXICAN ADVENTURE



The beautiful setting of the poultry marquee at San Miguel de Allende.

by Chris Parker - Photos courtesy of Congreso Internacional de Aves

Part 1 - THE POULTRY CONGRESS

The welcome at Mexico City airport arrivals hall was truly memorable. Arriving from a few days of exploring Guatemala I did not expect a fuss, but my hosts had different ideas. A welcome party of officials was waiting for me and immediately took me for refreshments whilst we waited for more arrivals from Costa Rica. It was a unique moment and opportunity to get to know my hosts, but I was also to learn about their problems encountered in the run up to CONAV 2026; their very first ambitious event encompassing a congress with a poultry exhibition.

Five international judges were expected at the event but in the few days before the big day I was shocked to learn, as we drank our coffee, that three of these judges had given backword leaving just Engin Kut from Turkey and myself from the U.K. To make matters worse the three judges missing were all Spanish speaking being two from Argentina and one from Spain so I could immediately understand their difficulties. The one request to me was could I double the length of my talk at the congress the following day? Of course I agreed to this without hesitation, as my friends will tell you that once I start talking about poultry and particularly Sebrights, I can be difficult to stop!

Arriving at the venue for the Poultry Congress the next day I found the setting to be very impressive indeed. The facilities of the University of Veterinary Medicine in the heart of Mexico City provided the perfect location complete with a purpose built lecture theatre with seating for about 70 students together with more than adequate catering facilities. My talk went well being able to cover the development of the Poultry Club of Great Britain and the Sebright Club as well as the judging of Sebrights and eggs. They were fascinated by the age and history of our clubs as well as our egg shows in the U.K. In fact I did not know at the time but a surprise was to come later in the visit regarding showing eggs. The whole event was organised in a most professional way complete with entertainment and a small show of fighting cocks in the grounds outside the lecture theatre. Also, very importantly for me, I had the services of an excellent interpreter and my grateful thanks go to Dr. Ruben Merino, a most charming gentleman, who had worked in the United States and spoke



Discussing the correct type of a Sebright Bantam at the Poultry Congress in Mexico City.

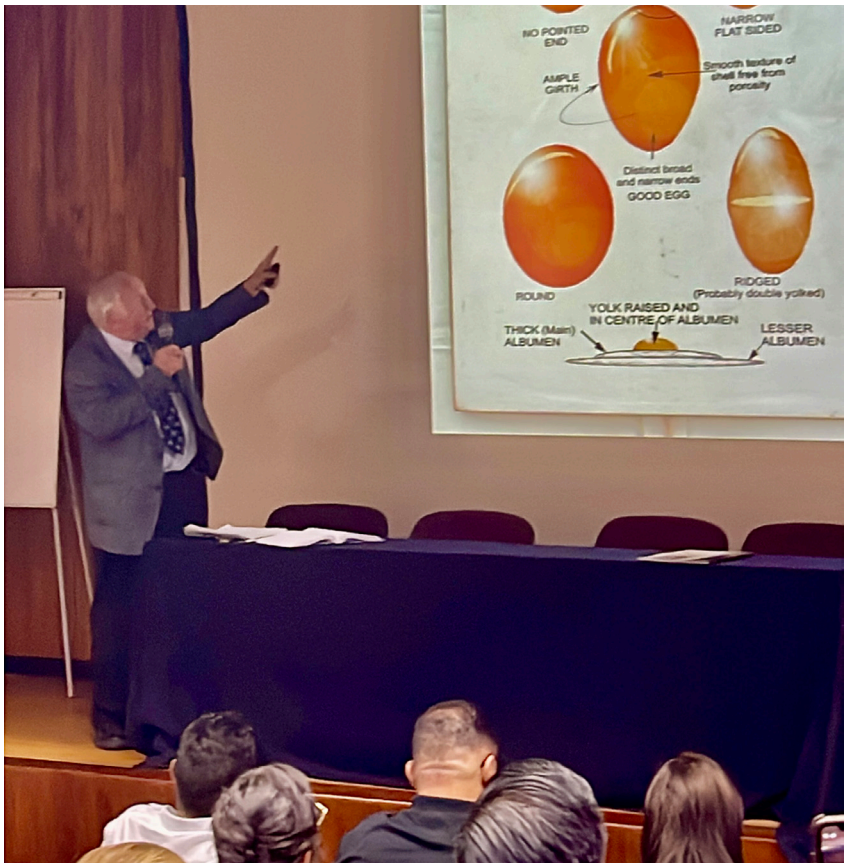
perfect English. I also thank Abel Gonzalez Tapia, Hernando Ramirez and Idalid Vargas for whom nothing was too much trouble to make my visit so memorable.

All too soon it was late afternoon and time to set off on the five hour journey to San Miguel de Allende where the poultry exhibition was to be held. It was a fascinating journey for me in a minibus full of fanciers from Columbia, Costa Rica and Mexico. Leaving Mexico City by road, heading north, it dawned on me just what a huge city it was, being the largest in the whole Continent of North America and following on from these thoughts I realised just what an ambitious programme of events had been planned. Especially so when considering the distance between the events. Eventually we arrived at our destination and my senses could not believe what a beautiful and enchanting place at which I had arrived. Walking on such dry and springy grass bathed in moonlight with the sound of crickets echoing around was quite magical.

Part 2 - THE POULTRY SHOW

The Hacienda Rancho Los Jacales was indeed a magical place. Run by the very talented Lopez family it is a special function suite set in beautiful gardens that young couples would dream about for their perfect wedding venue. I also seemed to be in dreamland for as a venue for a poultry show it was out of this world.

Situated on the outskirts of the beautiful town of San Miguel de Allende, where I stayed, I wandered around the magnificent gardens on the



Talking about the judging of Eggs.



The Gold Sebright Cockerel was the Best True Bantam.

first morning which looked at their best, bathed in the warm morning sunshine. The marquees looked immaculate with open sides designed to make the best of the beautiful weather and so as the morning progressed more helpers arrived and the show itself soon began to take shape. Whilst preparation work was going on outside some talks were held in the function suite which again looked magnificent decked out in flags that represented the various nations involved. I found that the United Kingdom was included in the decorations making me feel extremely welcome indeed. Also included were Argentina and Spain but I could not help but wonder how much the three judges from these two countries had missed out and probably would regret their decisions to stay away if they could have known how well the amazing weekend would turn out.

Judging day at the Hacienda was on the Sunday and the morning of the 1st March was as sunny as ever as I arrived back at the showground to await my instructions. The surprise waiting for me was that after speaking about our large egg shows in the United Kingdom at the Congress, my hosts had organised an egg show of their own and I was to have the privilege of judging the first ever egg show in Mexico. What an honour for me and when I completed my decisions an interpreter with a microphone appeared so that I could explain how I had reached my judgements to the watching fanciers. My choice for the top award went to a plate of three Americana eggs with a similar plate from the same owner in second place. Third place went to three Brahma eggs exhibited by Idalid Vargas and although the entry was small as you would expect the interest was amazing taking me by surprise. I was also pleasantly surprised to discover that the champion eggs were exhibited by the daughter of the owner of the Hacienda who was a keen poultry fancier. Interestingly, just as I had found in Peru, the Mexican fanciers were thirsty for knowledge about their poultry breeds and I was fascinated to see every judge, at the end of their stint, prepare a row of their top birds and then take a microphone and talk through their decisions, ending with the announcement of their section champion and the placing of huge rosettes on the winners. The first Judge I saw doing this was the game judge, Luis Miguel Hoyo Garcia, from Mexico City. He entertained a large group of fanciers with his talk about a



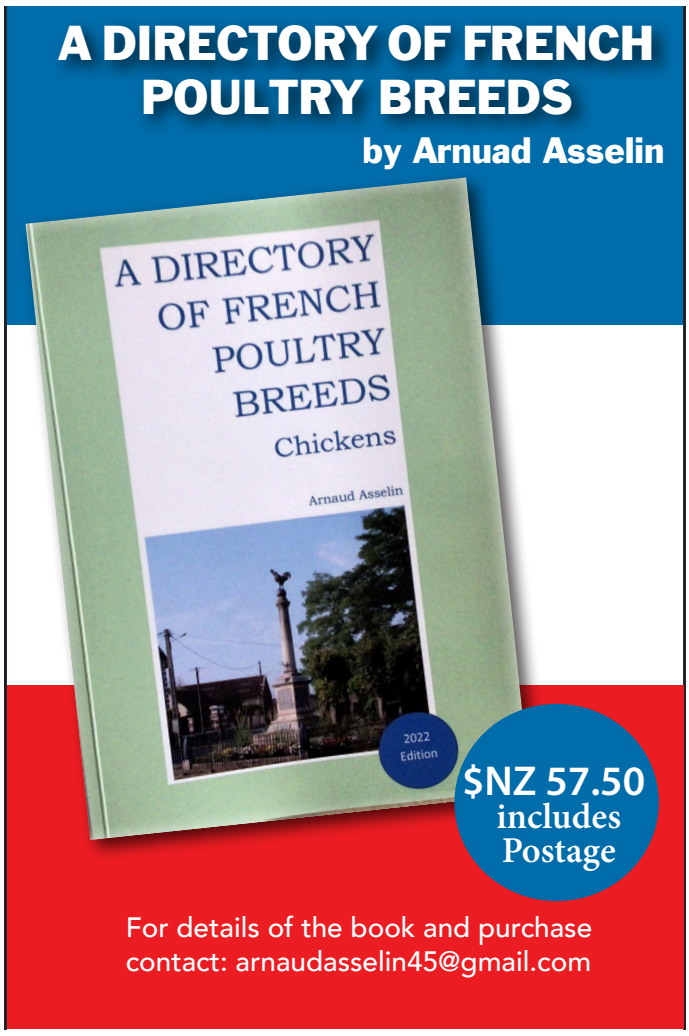
Amongst the game birds in Mexico City with Luis Miguel Hoyo Garcia, Jairo Acavado and Ruben Monfil.



Serious discussions about Silkies.

good selection of game birds, different in style to ours in the United Kingdom. I was informed that they originated from Spain with an introduction of North American blood from the United States Also present were a few Asian game breeds and at the end of the talk there were joyous celebrations for the champion of the section together with the reserve champion and other winners. The whole occasion was held in such a friendly atmosphere of achievement and learning which impressed me very much and was a great pleasure to witness. Another popular breed in Mexico is the Brahma which had a very large section judged by Engin Kut who had travelled all the way from Turkey. Engin had judged in Mexico the previous year so he knew his way around the judging system and announced all his prize winners with the help of an interpreter. With the Brahma breed taking the overall show championship together with the reserve championship it is fair to say that the breed is very important in Mexico and was the strongest in numbers and quality at this event.

One of the breeds I was looking forward to seeing and judging was the Sebright, of course, but I was warned that they are only present in Mexico in small numbers. Therefore, I was delighted to find that four were present in three different colours with two Golds being the only standardised colour as far as the Sebright Club of Great Britain is concerned. These two were far superior to a Brown Laced Cream Sebright, which in Europe were made in the Czech Republic and in Mexico are called Porcelana Sebright and a Chamois or Buff Laced Sebright, both of which had poor tail lacing and were of poor type. The winning Gold male was of excellent type with good ground colour and had a neat comb. Writing up his pen card in the style of continental Europe my only wishes for improvement were to be more even and finer in the lacing on the breast and back. The remaining true bantams were judged by Ruben Monfil from Columbia who was very good to work with and great respect to him for agreeing that the Gold Sebright should be best in the section. Many other breeds were present such as Americanas, Modern Game, Orpingtons, Rhode Island Reds, Silkies, Sumatras, Wyandottes in several colours and Yokohamas so the remaining two judges had plenty or work. Both travelled a good distance from Costa Rica and as they arrived just after me at Mexico City airport we knew each other well by the time of the show, despite my



lack of Spanish. Francisco Lopez and Rene Mata Quintana are well known in Central America having judged in several countries around the region.

The whole day was a great spectacle in such beautiful surroundings with Mexican musicians performing amongst the pens and the opening ceremony was breathtaking with presentations, speeches and the releasing of doves and pigeons in a spectacular display by the water fountains. I will always be grateful to my hosts for a wonderfully memorable visit and my thanks go to Idalid and Yaretzi Vargas, Abel Gonzalez Tapia, Hernado Ramirez, the Lopez family and everyone present for making my visit so remarkable. So many happy memories of meals and picnics at the Hacienda throughout the weekend and a very eventful journey back to Mexico City the day after the show, topped off with a visit to see game judge Luis Miguel Hoyo Garcia. Thank you very much to him and his family for more Mexican hospitality and to Ruben Monfil and Erika Giraldo for a brilliant tour around Mexico City itself. My journey home via Chicago was uneventful but my head was in the clouds for days after my return home.



Since my return from Mexico I am honoured to see myself helping to promote egg showing in Mexico in the future.



Winners in the Brahma section



Idalid and Yaretzi Vargas with one of their successful large Brahmas.

FROM HERE TO MATURITY



by Gary Phillips–Australia

A nice pen of Silver Laced Wyandotte Pullets

January is a time when most fanciers will have young stock of various ages and it can be a difficult time for the inexperienced, as many potential show birds can be ruined by mismanagement. By this I mean the birds do not reach their genetic potential.

BIRDS OF VARIOUS AGES

The hardest thing for any fancier to do is not set those few extra eggs, or just try another mating, turning off the incubator is just to hard for some and herein lies the problem. Too many chickens hatched over an extended breeding season and not enough pens to house them in comfort to avoid the sweating, feather picking and cannibalism conditions you have created by breeding more birds that you can comfortably house.

It is important that you keep the ages separate, if you have 2 weeks or more between batches the younger ones are not going to catch up to the older ones you have put them with and there will be to great a difference in size. Stunting of growth will follow and you will end up with a lot of culls. The younger ones will be bullied by the older ones and will not be free to feed, as they should. Separation of sexes is also important to avoid early maturity especially in the cockerels.

The placing of some kind of material such as tin, fibreglass or fine mesh in the corners of your pens to make them round rather than square to avoid suffocation is essential. The larger ones smother the chickens that are first to camp down for the night and sure enough they will be dead the next morning if you don't take the measures I have suggested. Early perching is the secret to good rearing and the earlier you can get the birds to perch the better.

Be aware of the number of birds that you have in a pen and continually thin them out by culling or moving them into larger quarters as they grow. The more space you can give them the better. Those who have access to free range can undo all the good free range can do for growing stock by crowding them into cramped quarters at night.

SUSTAINED GROWTH THE KEY

The old saying of 90% of the breeding is in the feeding. You are what you eat and this can be applied across a wide spectrum of raising livestock

The modern day rations that we use are formulated for the commercial man who wants his pullets to lay at 18 weeks and have a shortened life span as a result. Broiler rations high in protein put massive weight gains onto stock, so heavy that some never stand as they have not had the opportunity to make bone.



Keep Cockerels and Pullets seperate when rearing them

If you are a breeder of bantams don't force them into early maturity with high protein feeds. The first 6 weeks on Chick Starter is enough. Feeding of grain such as 2 parts wheat, 1 part Oats, 1 part Barley and 1 part Corn mixed with some growing crumbles is a good way to continue even growth without setbacks and without forcing. The feeding of Turkey Crumbles to bantams as I have heard to me seems ridiculous. There is no better feed than greenfeed and as much as you can give them is still not enough. Let grain be your hard feed and greens your soft feed.

For those who breed standard Wyandottes sustained growth is even more important as you are looking for size in your stock. Avoid early maturity at all costs by not forcing your birds during the latter stages of development is the only way you are going to get the results you are seeking.

By now you will have all your birds on growing rations of some kind. Try to stick with the one brand once you have started if your birds are doing well on the feed. Variety is the key to keep the birds eating and not becoming stale on the same ration.

I have always favoured a simple mash of 2 parts Pollard, 1 part Bran 10% Meatmeal, 1% Salt as a basis you can add to this Lucerne Meal or chaffed up greenfeed. The birds' relish growing crumbles mixed up with some hot water and added to the above mixture to make a crumbly mash. Grain feed at night is the key as the birds then go to roost with a full

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Overcrowding causes bullying, feather pecking and affects the feeding of the chicks

crop this takes many hours for the bird to digest and receive the benefit. Birds fed grain always have good body weight and handle well.

If you are trying to hold back pullets from laying you can move them to new quarters, cut back on your protein and just feed plain grain with plenty of greenfeed. This however has it's dangers as too sudden a change and you could force your birds into a false moult. Be observant of your stock and experience will teach you what to do, when to increase feed, when to increase protein the time for additional treats in the bringing up process for show time.

Beware of the sun and rain even dew on the feather followed by sun will do damage to the final feather. Perfect plumage is important in a show fowl and letting birds out in wet conditions or full sun will do damage that is very hard to rectify.

Any judge worth his salt will be able to detect birds that have suffered setbacks during growth, as it is quite evident to the observant adjudicator and should be able to advise the exhibitor on how to rectify the problems in his/her husbandry methods.

SELECTION FOR FAULTS

Never think that all your "Geese are Swans" or you will never get anywhere in the breeding of stud stock. Be critical of your birds and progress will be made without disappointment at a later stage.

As a judge I see very obvious defects even bordering on disqualifications at times, and I wonder how these birds ever made it to the show pen. Faults such at crooked toes, duck heels, missing toe nails males not spurred, in-kneed or cow-hocked, bowed hocks, wry tails, crooked breastbones, enamel white lobes, crooked beaks, non standard eye colour and odd eyes, small pupil one side and normal the other, roach backs, deformed hips, over-grown and ugly combs ingrown leaders, these are what we call structural faults and are usually inherited from faulty parents. You don't want these faults in your stud so get rid of the birds carrying them and not to other unsuspecting fanciers. Unless you have the structure of the fowl right no matter how wonderful the colour or type the bird is useless to you. Faults don't show up on the dinner plate.

Colour defects are another thing and you must wait till the final moult for these to show up. Remember a fowl goes through 7 changes of feather and can look quite different at 18weeks as against 6 weeks. With regard to colour defects, selective mating more easily rectifies these so be patient.

SUMMARY

Common sense things like cool clean water access to grit and a regular worming programme once every 6 weeks or when you think it is needed, but bear in mind any worming sets the birds back as does a worm burden.

As for vaccination I will leave it to you to decide. I was badly hit by Mareks disease last year and wiped out all but 3 of 47 Silver Laced Wyandottes and I had not vaccinated for many years but feel the need to do so as I can not go through the terrible disappointment of seeing so many birds die just as they are starting to look good. Remember vaccination does not stop them from getting the disease it stops them from showing the symptoms.

I have always tried to offer sound simple advice gained from a lifetime of breeding and pass it on to assist our members. I am always very conscious when I put pen to paper as I have heard it said by doing so you are trying to promote yourself, what a sad reflection on the fancy if we had to send out blank pages in the newsletter, so here I go again. These articles are not directed to the experienced breeder but to our new breeders joining all the time and this article was written in response to these requests.

HATCHING BANTAM EGGS UNDER HENS



Broody Hen on the nest

by Herbert H. Price – USA

Having incubated 4000 bantam eggs in various types of incubators, and 400 bantam eggs under hens during the last 10 years, it can be understood why Bantam breeders are building up a case against the incubator. In that 10 year period the writer obtained a 22% better hatch from eggs set under hens than from hatches of incubators. In the same period the livability of the bantam chicks up to one month of age, hatched by the two methods, shows 70.6% of the chicks hatched under hens alive in one month, while the livability record for incubator hatched chicks was 61%.

During the late War when electric incubators and brooders were off the market, many Bantam breeders were able to buy bantam hens that were not considered desirable for breeding, from neighbouring fanciers to be used only as brood mothers. The writer among others was so impressed by the success of hen hatching, then enforced upon us, that the system was never completely dropped. The most desirable breeds of Bantams to use for this purpose are: Silkies (which when in good condition are broody 50% of their time), Pekin (broody 6 times a year as an average), Japanese hens (5 times a year), and Wyandotte Bantam hens (twice a year). However, any Bantam hen will eventually get broody if properly managed.

The advantages of hatching under hens are many. Frequently the breeder is not getting enough bantam eggs to set his incubator at a certain desirable date. But there is usually a broody hen or two present at that time which can be set. Most small incubators are kept in unheated outbuildings or cellars where they can not be operated until late spring because of the severe weather, particular the cold nights. But many bantam hens become broody from Dec. 15th on through the year, and good January and February hatches may be had from setting hens at this time. Again in a hot climate the incubator can not be used successfully when the midsummer temperature is daily up to or above 101 degrees F. But hens may be set at that time, because they instinctively leave the nests when the eggs get too hot and they remain in their dust-bath until their eggs cool to a safe temperature. Besides getting a higher percentage of chicks hatched under hens, and those hen hatched chicks having a higher livability rate than incubator hatches, it has been noted that hen hatched chicks never have pasty-vents, and are seldom sick or weak.

Some of the disadvantages that have been recorded against setting hens are: nest abandonment; staying off the nest too long; carrying muddy or wet feet to the eggs; refusing to turn their eggs because the hay is mildewed or containing louse powder; afraid of mice or insects; and some hens are always hungry an off hunting food. Most of these things can be overcome by good management.



Plenty of food and fresh water for the Broody Hen

The procedure of setting the hen begins by having nest boxes ready. They should be large enough to have a flat bottom nest for eggs to lay upon, and have enough hay that the hen is not likely to burrow to the floor in trying to shape her nest. In summer the bottom of the nest box should contain 1½ inch depth of earth, or a piece of sod laid in grass-side down. This is to hold humidity and prevent the eggs getting too hot in summer. Many hens object to being removed from their home breeding house. In such a case, they may be left there but a meshwire covered frame should be made large enough to set down over the hen and her nest, to prevent other hens laying in her box. When a hen becomes broody and stays on the nest at night, give her one or more artificial nest eggs to keep her contented for a couple days to see if she is in earnest about setting. Also it is advisable to hold a single broody hen on artificial eggs until another hen is broody. It is best to set two or more hens at the same time, and as the hatch comes off, all the chicks can be given to one hen and the other re-set. The average bantam hen should be given 13 eggs in cold weather, and 15 eggs in summer. There is nothing gained by giving a hen more eggs than she can fully cover at all times. If feather-legged hens are to be used, it must be remembered that the broody frequently drags an egg from the nest with her long foot feathers. Such hens should have the long stiff leg quills cut off near the leg or foot with fingernail clippers. Delouse the hen at setting time and again two or three days before hatching is expected. Never put louse powder in the nesting. The setting hens should have food and water available to them.



Never use a hen with Scaly-legs to hatch your chicks

NEW PRODUCT

POULTRY LICE POWDER

For effective control of Poultry Lice

Sprinkle Poultry Lice Powder around the vent, under the wings, and around the neck hackles of your birds.

Regular application is essential to prevent lice from re-establishing.



200gm only $16
Courier not included

This powder is organic and has no egg withholding period, making it safe for use in your flock.

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