

# Poultrynz

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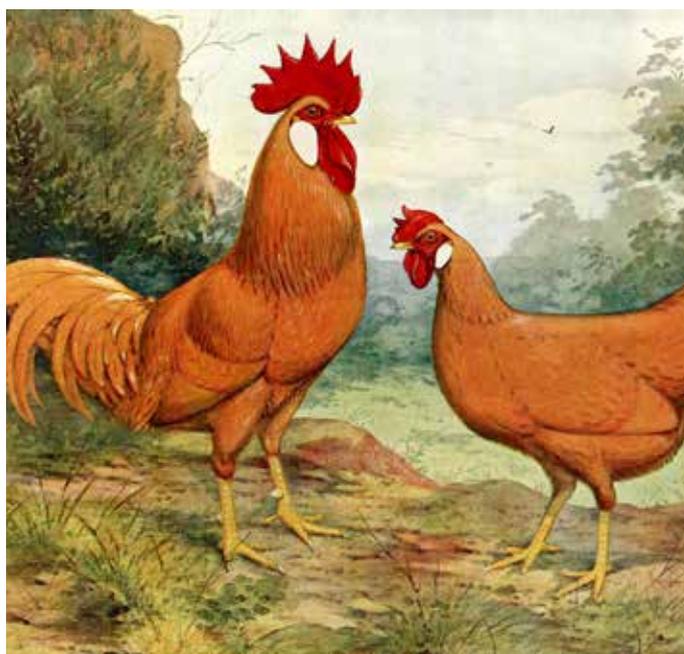
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## Poultrynz Editorial

Another year has almost gone and by all accounts this Summer is going to be hot. While this is OK the Fowls may not be too keen. We will need to be aware that the drinking water will need to be made available 24/7 making sure that it is always kept clean. With the heat the chicks are always the vulnerable ones

so shade is important too. The mite problem will need to be looked at as well, as mites just love the summer heat. It is the mite season right now and with the summer break coming up it is wise to give a day or two to sort this out.

Until next issue.

Regards, Ian Selby.

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# LIME & PAWPAW CHEESECAKE



## INGREDIENTS

### Base

175g ( $\frac{3}{4}$  packet) digestive biscuits  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup toasted almonds  
100g butter, melted

### Filling

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup water  
4 teaspoons gelatin  
500g light cream cheese  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup caster sugar  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup lime juice  
1 teaspoon finely grated lime zest  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup cream

### Topping

$\frac{1}{2}$  pawpaw, cut into thin wedges, pulp  
of two passionfruit

## METHOD

- Place the digestive biscuits and almonds in a food processor and process until crumbs form. Place the crumbs in a bowl, add the melted butter and mix well.
- Press the mixture into the base of a 22-23cm springform cake tin. Place in the fridge and chill while preparing the filling.
- Place the water in a small bowl and sprinkle over the gelatin. Place the bowl over a saucepan of boiling water and stir until the gelatin has dissolved. Allow to cool slightly.
- Beat the cream cheese and caster sugar until smooth, then beat in the lime juice, lime zest and cream. Stir in the gelatin mixture.
- Spoon the mixture over the base. Cover and refrigerate for 3-4 hours, or until set.
- Arrange the sliced pawpaw and passionfruit on top of the filling. Serve immediately, as enzymes in the pawpaw will break down the gelatin.

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# AILMENTS OF EGG ORGANS IN FOWL

*From the American Bantam Association*

Ailments of the egg-producing organs are found more frequently in pullets than in older hens, and the ailing birds are more frequently met among the birds of the beginner than in the flocks of older and more experienced breeders. The reason for this is easily found, the beginner generally keeps his birds on a limited area of land and the quantity of food given to them is far above, rather than below, the quantity requisite to maintain normal health and development.

The young pullets are fed with a too generous hand, and consequently their egg-producing organs are stimulated into action long before the muscular system is fully developed. It requires muscular power to produce eggs and when it is lacking, birds are liable to suffer when vainly endeavouring to deliver their first egg.

Egg binding is not so prevalent among pullets as among the older birds, owing to the disposition of the latter to produce internal fat and abnormally large eggs, still, the ailment is occasionally found among the younger birds, and it is more often than not traceable to immaturity and lack of muscular power.

In a well developed and properly fed pullet the oviduct or passage through which the egg passes on its way from the ovary to the vent, is sufficiently expanded to allow the passage of the first egg without its inner walls being ill-affected by much pressure and when the egg reaches that part of the oviduct from which it

is expelled, there is sufficient muscular power available to insure a safe and easy delivery. In the case of an immature pullet whose ovary has been stimulated to activity by injudicious feeding, the delivery of the first egg is always attended with danger.

## **EGG CRAMP**

What is commonly known as egg cramp is frequently met among immature stock that has been forced along with a view to early egg production. In the case of cramp or paralysis the affected birds lose the use of their legs and squat about the ground. There is no doubt that the ailment results from the resistance of the walls of the undistended oviduct to the passage of the first egg produced. Not only are immature pullets liable to suffer egg cramp, but the fully developed birds are equally liable to contract the ailment if the walls of the oviduct are coated with fat, the result of erratic feeding. Anything that causes great pressure on the walls of the oviduct is liable to cause paralysis. So pullets should be carefully fed with a view to perfect maturity before they are placed in laying pens.

What is required in the pullet intended for egg production is a well developed frame padded with hard muscular flesh. Such features can be obtained only by rational feeding and exercise, and the bird possessing them will enter the nest well fitted to pass through the initial laying stage with safety.

All that can be done for a bird suffering with egg cramp is to keep her perfectly quiet, and to dose her with castor oil with the object of clearing the system. The success of the treatment depends upon its timely application when the bird is first attacked. If the bird is left to recover as best she can nature may right itself for a time only, and other and more serious attacks may follow owing to the debilitation of the nerves surrounding the oviduct.

The best remedy for egg cramp or paralysis undoubtedly lies in its prevention, and, therefore, the young pullets should be fed and exercised as to insure good growth. Once in possession of good physical development the birds will have no trouble in delivering their eggs.

## **EGG BINDING**

Well developed and rationally fed pullets are seldom troubled with egg-binding. It is the over fat hen or the immature and over-stimulated pullet that is liable to



Egg Bound Hen

suffer with this ailment. When birds that apparently are in good laying condition become egg bound it is a sign of over activity on the part of the ovary, due to an excess of animal or other stimulating matter in the rations. The birds produce eggs so rapidly that their egg organ; from overwork become debilitated, and their muscular system is weakened so much that they eventually cease to perform their functions, with the result that fully formed eggs remain in the oviduct. Sometimes the ovary develops yolks at so rapid a rate that two yolks enter the oviduct simultaneously and become enclosed in the one shell, thus forming an egg of abnormal size, and one that is not easily delivered.

When a bird becomes egg bound there is evidence of much distress; she wanders to and from the nest and sings in a plaintive manner, or else she stays for hours at a time on the nest and she may seem to rise occasionally and strain herself in an endeavour to be rid of the cause of her trouble. When a bird is known to be egg bound its vent should be exposed to the steam arising from the mouth of a hot water jog and the inner walls of the egg passage should be well lubricated with sweet oil by aid of the forefinger. The bird may then be left to herself for a few hours when, if the egg is not delivered, the steaming and oiling operation should be repeated. By the above simple operations the majority of egg binding cases can be successfully treated. When death results from egg binding it is generally the result of impatience and rough handling on the part of the operator, who, as likely as not, is ignorant of the fact that nature with rest and a little gentle assistance is capable of effecting all that is needed.

**PROLAPSE OR DOWN BEHIND**

Prolapse or down behind, as it is commonly termed, is a condition in which a portion of the intestines protrudes from the vent. It is a condition that affects very heavy layers, and is caused through-straining. It is useless to endeavour to cure a subject of prolapse and at the same time secure a continuance of eggs.

The treatment likely to effect a cure lies in well oiling the protruding intestine and gently re-inserting it. The patient should then be placed in a small pen well littered with soft straw, and should be put on half rations with the object of checking egg production. During the confinement of the bird a few eggs may be laid and the weakened part may protrude again, when it will be necessary to perform again the aforementioned simple operations. When laying ceases the patient should be kept quiet and alone and fed sparingly for a couple of weeks before being turned into the breeding pen again.

Sometimes prolapse follows the production of an abnormally large egg, owing to the fact that the egg



Only one of many types of misshapen or deformed eggs

passage becomes so much extended as to be unable to settle properly into place again. As a rule timely assistance, an unstimulating diet and quietude will effect a cure.

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## DEFORMED EGGS

A few words on the production of deformed eggs may throw some light on the subject. There are many reasons why fowls produce eggs of abnormal shape and form. It is commonly supposed that lack of shell forming material accounts for the production of shell-less eggs, but in the majority of cases internal fat and not a deficiency of shell making material, is the cause of the mischief. Fowls whose oviducts are coated with fat cannot possibly shell their eggs. The lime substance may be secreted in the walls of the oviduct, but it can have no effect on the eggs so long as the pores from which it naturally should exude are choked with fatty deposits, the result of feeding on oily foods.

The too free use of stimulating foods sometimes forces hens to produce two eggs in one day, one of which usually is shell-less or encased in a very thin shell. The ovary is capable, through stimulation, of producing more eggs than the shell forming machinery can deal with.

The too free use of iron tonics added to the drinking water is liable to cause inflammation of the walls of the oviduct and so render that organ incapable of performing its natural functions. The bird suffering with inflammation of the oviduct is liable to be treated for cramp, owing to its inability to use its legs properly.

There are cases of pullets that laid shell-less eggs through shock caused by sudden fright, and this should show the beginner the necessity of quietude among nervous young birds. Worms in the intestines will sometimes account for the production of shell-less eggs. There is much abdominal straining on the part of a bird suffering with intestinal worms and this straining is likely to hurry the egg along the oviduct



This is a prolapse, looks bad.

and cause its delivery long before it is properly shelled.

Before one can prescribe a remedy for the prevention of deformed eggs it is necessary to know the cause that produces them. Fat fowls should be given an occasional dose of Epsom Salts and less fat forming foods should be fed, while birds apparently in good condition that lay thin shelled eggs should have less stimulating food or more shell forming material, as the case warrants, worms can be detected in the droppings and if found give a remedy.

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# PREPARATION FOR THE ARRIVAL OF CHICKS



From *Fanciers Gazette*, 1999.

Heat is the first essential of successful brooding. One should therefore get the brooder ready and heated up some days before the chicks are due to be put in. It takes some time to warm and dry a brooder after it has been stored for a season or has been washed out and disinfected after a brood has been taken out.

Even though the last lot of chicks were free from disease it pays to disinfect the brooder after each brood. Such things as curtains and other cloth material should be fumigated if they cannot be washed. With all brooders that have solid floors the litter should be put down when the heat is put on so that it will also dry and warm beneath the brooder proper.

Heat should be measured on the floor and six inches away from the heater. If the heat is coming from above it is little use having the thermometer several inches above the floor. The chicks rest on the floor and the temperature two inches above them may be much warmer than where they are. So chilling may occur even if the thermometer reading is correct should it not be in that part of the brooder where the chicks may be.

The temperature should be from 35° to 37°C. in most brooders before the chicks go in. One can generally tell if the heat is right by the appearance of the chicks after they are placed in the brooder.

The beginner may wish to keep his thermometer in use and it can be hung on the side of the brooder with the bulb half an inch above the floor. Here it

Happy chickens in a warm open brooding area.

may read a little or much lower than when on the floor and near the heat. You can easily note the dif-

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Indoor Brooder in a cage to stop cats, dogs and vermin

ference and allow for it.

Roughly one can drop the heat about ten degrees at the end of the first week, ten degrees after the second week five degrees after the third week and five after the fourth week.

If the heat is correct and the chicks have not been taken out of the incubator too soon they will come out to feed and drink very soon after they have been put into the brooder.

Chicks should always be put straight into the heated part of the brooder and be allowed to find their own way out to feed. If they do not come out they are either too young or more properly, the brooder is too cold.

They do not mind about the outside temperature; that may even be freezing, but if warm enough in the brooder they will come out to feed and will usually go back again to the heat when they feel cool.

For babies, chicks are very sensible; but they are babies and just be treated as such. Do not expect them to go into what is to them a very big place and always find their way back when they have strayed some distance away from their brooder.

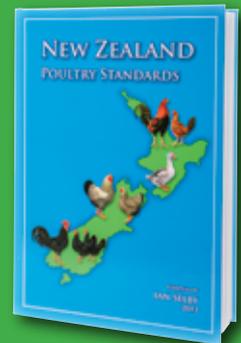
At a day old, chicks have a limited sense of direction so that they should only be allowed to go a few inches from the brooder into their feeding run. This can be arranged by having some kind of fence to keep them from going too far at first. The fence is moved a little farther away each day, until at about four to five

days of age they can have the full run of the feeding section of the particular brooder up to as much as

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fifteen feet or so.

Do not be in too much of a hurry to get the chicks out of doors on the ground. Make certain the weather is warm and the ground dry otherwise the chicks will be in for a siege of illness—colds and other chick ailments.

Before the chicks arrive see that the supply of your favourite chick feed, chick grit water fountains and chick feeders are on hand. Water fountains and feeders should be scrubbed in hot water and dried thoroughly.

The art of rearing the chicks will be an easy task once all the necessary preparations are made before the chicks arrive. What, how and when to feed is a subject in itself however feed often and in small quantities for best results. Get the chicks on the good earth as soon as the weather is warm and dry for there is nothing better to build vitality than the elements taken from the earth and combined with the warm sunshine.

For cleaning Incubators and Brooders it is recommended to use a solution of Poultry Shield. Poultry Shield cleans away Bio-films that build-up during and after use. Best practice is to use Poultry Shield as a cleaner before and after use of Incubators, Brooders and Feeding & Drinking utensils.



Brooder showing heat lamp too hot with chickens to the sides

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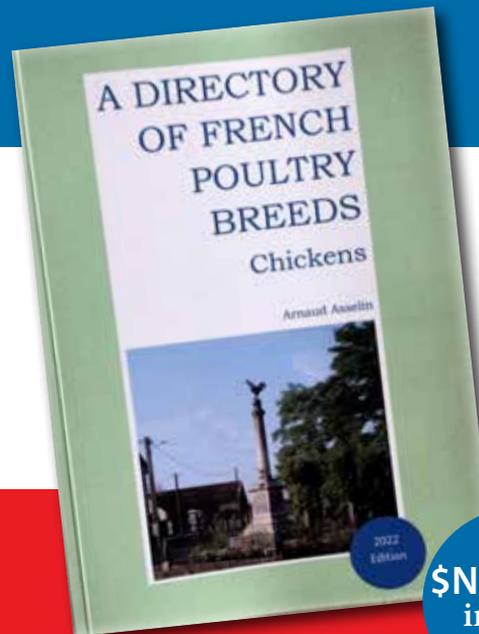
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# THE COLUMBIAN WYANDOTTE BANTAM



Author unknown

A Trio of Columbian Wyandottes

Special attention must be given to correcting defects of shape and colour in the mating of the Columbian Wyandotte Bantam. To improve shape, males and females of the best Wyandotte type should be selected for breeding. In selecting Columbian Wyandotte breeders, avoid as far as possible, those that have the heavy tail of the Brahma. Select those that are broad and full across the back and saddle with a cushion fully equal to the demands of the Standard for the shape of the Wyandotte. Even though they have more cushion than is suited to the Wyandotte, this will not cause trouble, because a large percentage of the offspring from the best males are likely to be narrow across the back and saddle. It is difficult to breed colour in this breed equal to that of the best Light Brahmas.

For the male, the Standard demands a white neck with a black stripe on the hackle feathers. To breed this in the offspring, there must be as much of it as possible in the male selected for the breeding pen; his wing flights must be black, with an edge of white about the lower web; the small, or pinion feathers, should be edged with white; the main tail feathers, black; the tail coverts black, the lesser coverts edged with white; the under plumage white or slate colour. The light slate undercolour is stan-

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dard.

The female should have a hackle of black with a narrow lacing of silvery white. The wing flights should be black and both the primaries and secondaries should be edged with white. When the wings are folded, the white should hide the black in the secondaries, the main tail feathers should be black except the two top feathers, which are slightly laced with white. The tail coverts black with a narrow lacing of white. Back is white.

Common to both male and female, the comb, face, wattles and ear lobes should be red; beak is yellow; eyes are reddish bay and the shanks and toes are yellow.

To breed exhibition offspring that will be strong in colour, a light bluish slate undercolour will be best in the parents. Clear surface plumage will come from females having pure white surface and undercolour throughout. An extreme mating consists of a male that has intense black in the main tail feathers and coverts edged with white. The undercolour should have so much blue or slate as almost to show through the surface plumage. The wing flights should be black. Such males mated with females that have perfect black markings in neck, tail coverts, and wings with strong colour in the

under plumage, very dark wings and an intensely black tail, will produce dark coloured chicks, many of which will be culls and a few will be high class exhibition birds. It is important that the rose comb on both the male and female be standard in all respects and certainly not beefy. The comb should be low, firm on head and curving to conform to the shape of the skull and a well defined point at the rear.

The Columbian Wyandotte, like all other colours of the breed must be Wyandottes in shape as well as colour. Regardless of how good the colour might be, if the bird lacks type you do not have a Wyandotte. The necks of male and female should be short, well arched and an abundant hackle flowing well over the shoulders. Watch for defects in the neck carriage and the plumage. Another important point is the tail; this should be short and well spread at the base and this means the saddle should be broad, full and rising with sweep to the tail. Many Wyandotte Bantams carry their wings down and this must be avoided as the wings should be well folded and held not too close to the body, without drooping. A Wyandotte is a bird of beauty.

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# BUFF LEGHORNS

by G.C.Blanch. Australia.

The Buff is one of the most beautiful of the Leghorn family; there is not a prettier sight than a flock of well bred Buff Leghorns out on the range. I feel that after twenty five years specialising in Buff Leghorns that I must pass on a few hints, I hope they will be of interest to the young Poultry Fanciers in the years to come. When breeding Leghorns always breed for type, colour is always secondary.

Size is a must, never breed from a good little bird. Even from your best Standard pen there will always be a few small ones which you must cull, even if they are of good colour. I never strive for any fixed colour in Buffs, they will come dark orange to light lemon. But whatever colour the Buff is it must be uniform, neck and saddle hackle to tone with the body. I never breed from a male bird with a two toned hackle, that is, neck darker than saddle. Another point of interest is that the females are never as good in under-colour as the male birds. We have to settle for a nice cream under colour. But the feather shaft must be buff, not white.

When mating clear buff to clear buff, after a couple of seasons the females from such matings will come light (white) in main tail feathers. I find the best way to get good pullets is to have a male bird that has proved he will breed clear buff chicks and mate him to females with ticking in the tail. You will not get good sound buff pullets from this mating but the cockerels as well will be extra good in under colour.

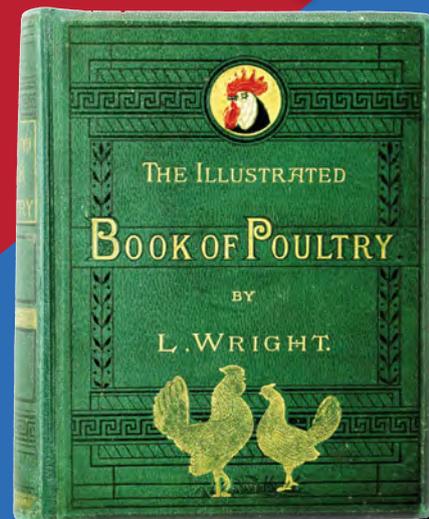
I have read where the old hands have said that a good buff bird will not bleach in the weather. This statement is quite false. To keep good exhibition Buff Leghorns in top feather condition you must keep them under a roof at all times. But you must have the pens facing North so that the birds get sufficient sun which is a must. I always pen the pick of my young stock under a roof at four



A Pair of Buff Leghorns.

months, then by the time they are six months old they will have come into their adult plumage, which will be lovely and uniform, no sun bleached feathers to spoil that lively soft buff shade. I have also found that, when breeding from your mated pen, if you do not get two or three exhibition birds from the first dozen chicks you rear you can hatch a hundred and still will not get any. So you then have to cull all from this mating and try a different male bird at the head of the pen. When you have your stud established and the stock are growing up true to label never be in a hurry for new blood. That is the biggest downfall of breeding poultry. Line-Breed or In-Breed, whichever you like to call it. There is no other

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