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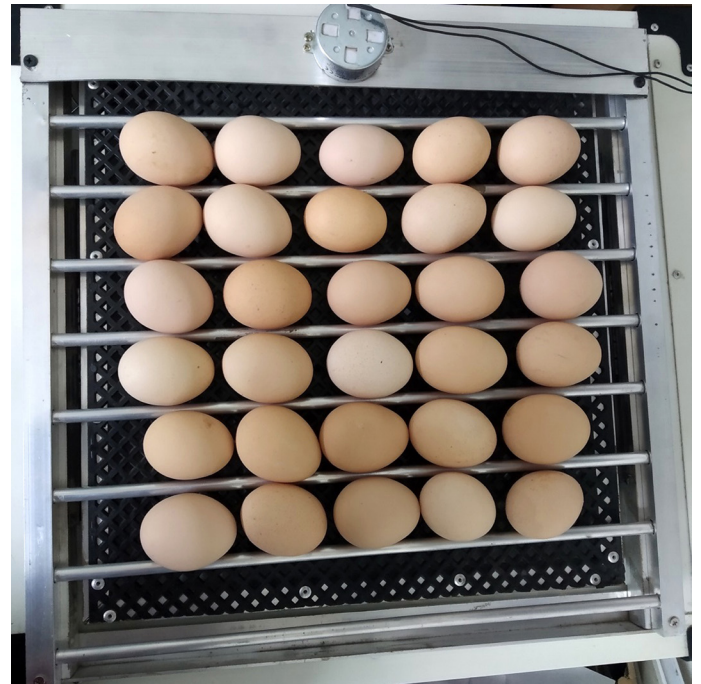
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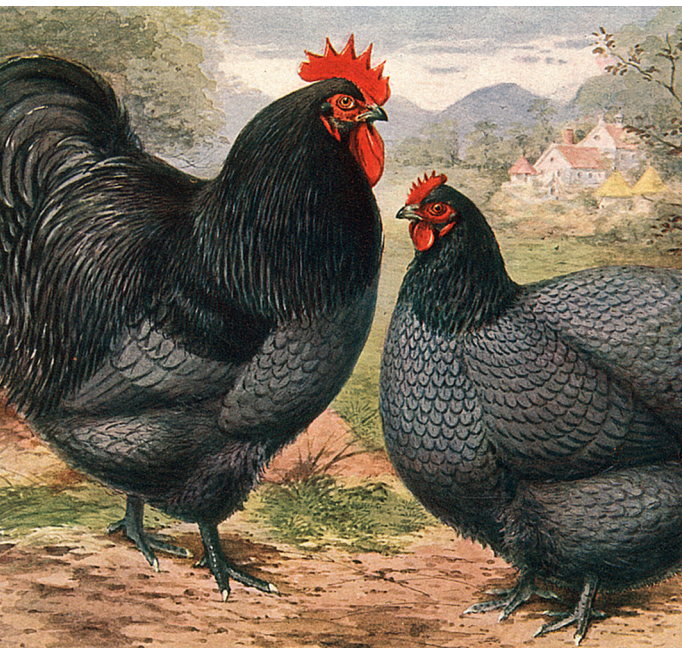
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## Poultrynz Editorial

It was with sadness that we and another 250 people attended Ian Dukers funeral last week. Ian was the President of the Central Districts Poultry and Pigeon Club. Ian was a good friend to me and was the first person to encourage me to hold a stand at Poultry Shows. Our thoughts are with Sarah and the Family and he will be missed

around the North Island Poultry Shows. I hope the fanciers support the C.D. Club in the future and make sure this Club survives in the future.

Until next issue.

Regards, Ian Selby.

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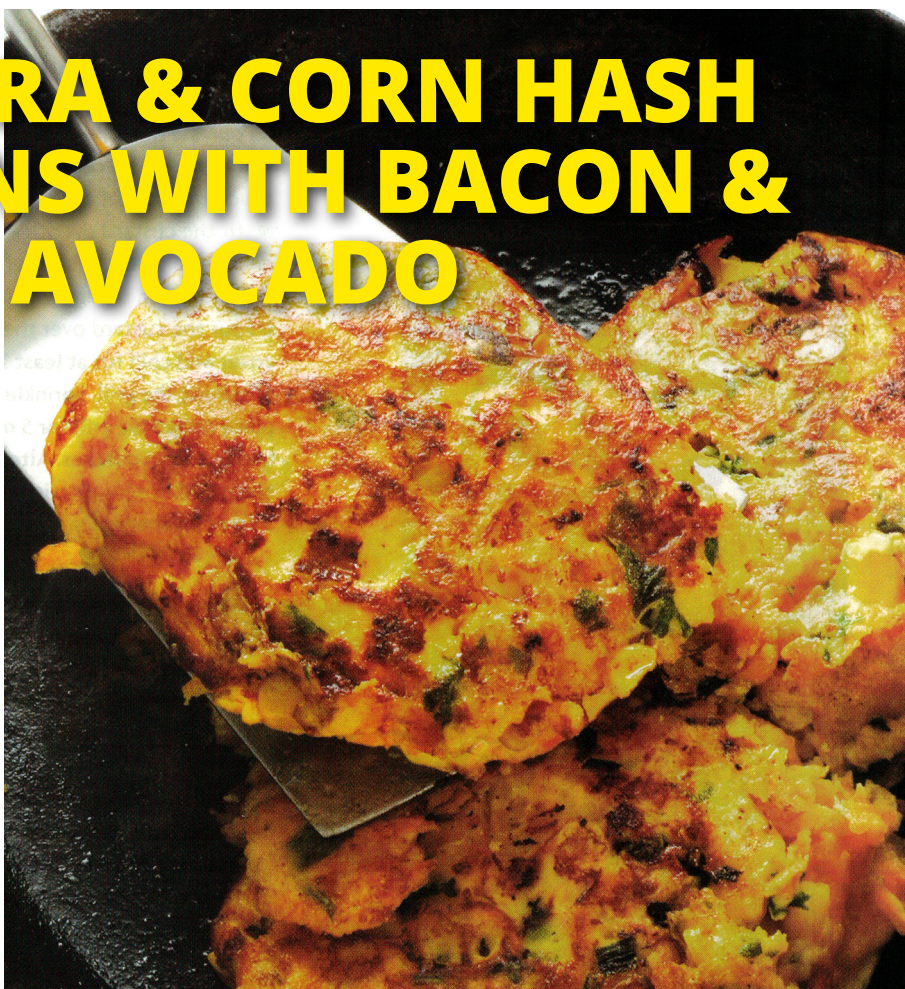
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# KUMARA & CORN HASH BROWNS WITH BACON & AVOCADO

## INGREDIENTS

Serves 2

- 1 cup each: peeled grated golden kumara, sweet corn kernels
- 3 eggs
- ¼ cup crumbled feta
- 2 tablespoons each: chopped spring onions and coriander
- 2 tablespoons rice flour or cornflour
- 4 rashers of bacon
- 1 large avocado (or 1 cup guacamole)
- Salt and pepper
- Sweet chilli sauce



## METHOD

- Turn the oven or warmer to a low heat (for keeping the hash browns warm after cooking).
- Place the kumara, corn, eggs, feta, spring onions, coriander and flour in a bowl and mix well. Form the mixture into 6 hash brown patties.
- Cook the hash browns in an oiled non-stick frypan over a medium heat for 2 minutes on each side or until golden brown. Do this in batches and avoid crowding the pan. Place the cooked hash browns on paper towels and keep them warm in the oven, along with 2 serving plates.
- Meanwhile cook the bacon, either covered for 3 minutes in the microwave or under a grill. Remove the rind and excess fat.
- Mash the avocado and season with salt and pepper.
- Stack the hash browns on to the warmed plates, with the bacon and spoonfuls of avocado or guacamole in between. Drizzle some sweet chilli sauce around the edge of the plates.

## INGREDIENT SUGGESTIONS

- Sour cream or finely diced camembert can be used instead of feta in this recipe if preferred. The corn can be tinned, frozen or freshly cut from the cob and blanched for 2 minutes.

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# RED PILE OLD ENGLISH GAME BANTAMS



by Frank A. Hassell, USA.

While attending The Old English Jamboree in Concord, North Carolina, as part of the judging staff, I had the opportunity of talking with Mr. Fred Jeffrey at length. He asked me to write an article on the Red Pile Old English Game Bantams, as I have developed and show a Red Pile strain of my own. Writing is not my strong suit, but I promised to do what I could to compile my findings, in hopes that it will be of help to someone that is working with Red Pile.

I have more orders and requests for Red Pile than I can fill. Selling is not my main interest in the fancy. I generally raise quite a few, but I start culling at about six weeks and cull heavily until maturity. This assures me of having quality birds at the start of the show season, and I haven't fed a lot of unworthy birds. My culls are destroyed. I do not sell or give them away. I agree with Mr. Wallace R. Leverett in his fine article in the 1982 Year Book, on the Red Pile Modern Game bantams. If the cockerels don't have colour showing on their shoulders and wing bays in four or five weeks they will never have it.

Breeding pen of Old English Game Piles

There are a lot of throwaways in Red Pile as there are in other varieties made like the Red Pile. After all if you come up with a few good Red Pile it is well worth the effort.

A Red Pile is made by crossing a Black Red male with a White female. This takes several years of select breeding. About fifteen years ago I tried to make Red Pile by using a White male with a Black Red pullet. I had Red Pile alright but this effort was a failure as the colour did not hold fast. In a couple of years it had faded back to white. About eight years ago I was fortunate enough to acquire a very typey little Red Pile pullet. At that time I don't believe there were any Red Pile in our section of the country. I had no Red Pile, but I happened to have a very typey, brilliantly coloured Black Red cock of other origin, so I began my Red Pile strain.

My type was excellent from the beginning. I raised beautifully typed and coloured females. I didn't get good coloured males for about four years. Then the Black Red genes started to become active and I began to get a few Black Red sports. These are Red

Pile bred thickens that have revetted back to the Black Red male in colour or near Black Red colour. I don't understand why it took that long because I am not completely educated in genetics. I wish that I were. I used the sport pullet back on the washed out Red Pile male, her sire. I then got my first real good coloured Red Pile males. But there was trouble again. The cockerels had a lot of ticking in the flight feathers and maybe a black or half black main tail feathers and black feathers showing up here and there in the breast and thighs.

Then on the fairly decent males the white breast and tail was a gray, or what I call a dirty white. What to do about this? I didn't know. Then while judging the Elmo summer show at Highland, Ill, one year, I got to talking with Mr. Irving Beard about genetics; he is an authority on the subject. He explained about white genes. It so happened that year that I hatched several white cockerels which I was ready to destroy when I took a good look at them again. I picked out one that was vigorous, had plenty of type and strong red ear lobes. His wing flights were of good width and short and round on the ends. He was pure white with not a speck or a black feather on him in any section. Until his first moult he would have passed for an excellent White Old English Game. After that he came back with a light yellow or creamy gold hackle and saddle, but still clean white, even where his bays were supposed to be.

I told myself that this had to be the answer. I mated him to the old sport hen, Black Red in colour. Remember they are both Pile bred, out of Pile male and female. I also put with them a typey rusty or rosy winged Pile pullet. They were all three excellent Old English Game type. Never forget type. Colour can always be worked on later.

Out of this trio came six of the most beautifully coloured cockerels I have ever seen, with type to burn. Everyone that came by my place admired them or wanted one. I had great success that year in the shows. I have sold a lot of Red Piles and really too cheap because I wanted to get them popular



Old English Game Red Pyle Bantams

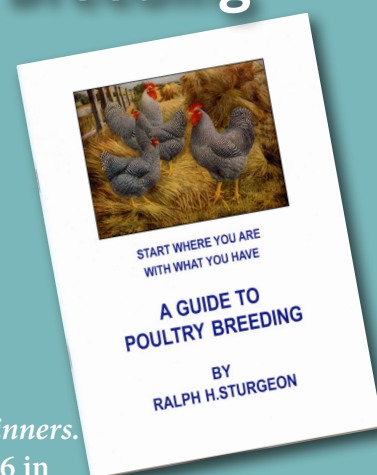
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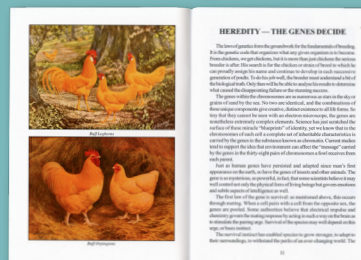
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Red Pile crossed with a Partridge Hen

and to have some competition. The old white cock is still standing stud and is going on four years old. I am hoping I can raise another one just like him. He is most valuable as long as I am raising Red Pile. Mated to good clean hens he also throws good exhibition pullets.

I think a word or so on female colour should be added here. It is an accepted fact that the rosy winged females are only good for breeding exhibition males. The bantam standard calls for the exhibition female to have a bright orange head, white hackle laced with bright orange. The breast a rich pinkish salmon; all other sections white.

Now there are several shades of salmon. I feel if the female has the type and is clean in the white that the shade of salmon could vary a shade or two; except where it verges on chestnut. I have seen hens and pullets placed with the breast so pale that it almost looked lemon. To me this is as serious as a cock or cockerel with washed out bays.

Type is most important and unless there are two birds almost identical, and then only should the shade of salmon breast be dealt with sternly. And of course the bird that complies closest to the salmon shade that our standard describes should be placed. I hope I have not left the impression that I do not embrace the standard. But I feel that shades

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of breast colour be a matter of the judge's careful and sincere judgement. I do feel that at some future time an allowance of a point or two could be added to the standard for the parti-coloured bird.

I believe that many times a very worthy parti-coloured bird is not considered for championship row because of the black that might come from placing a good parti-colour or a minority variety, over a white or such as the Black Red variety. After all how much criticism can you give a judge for playing it safe by placing a good type black, with a nice sheen, or a white that is first rate, over a minority variety. Some day I would like to see the Red Pile Old English Game as stable as the Red Pile Modern.

But then I believe the modern breeders have raised their Red Piles longer and with more patience and consistency than we Old English Game breeders. A word of caution, do not use your Black Breasted coloured sport female too often, or you may defeat your purpose. If you do your Pile pullets will begin to get Black Red feathers in the back and occasionally off coloured feathers in the main tail or flights.

I have never used a male sport. The old timers say the male gives colour and the female type. I believe

this may be true to a point, but I also believe that you must have type on both sides. I have never added a Black Red in my Piles since the original Black Red cock. I believe a Black Red male sport would be impractical. If you feel the need to add colour go back to a pure bred Black Red male. Be sure he is related to your Red Pile. If you raise Black Breasted Reds and Red Pile, be sure to hatch your Red Pile chicks in a basket and toe punch every Black Red sport. If you loose track of them, or by chance they get mixed up, they will surely ruin your Black Red strain.

If you are thinking about building a strain of Red Pile, remember, type, red ear lobes, and to cull heavily. Destroy your culls; don't flood the fancy with inferior birds as this discourages new fanciers and doesn't do your reputation as a breeder any good. I have raised bantams for forty-seven of my sixty years and I learn something new from nearly everyone I talk to about raising and exhibiting chickens.

I hope this has been pleasant reading and maybe a help to someone wanting to raise a most beautiful and rewarding bird, the Red Pile Old English Game Bantams.

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# PHYSICAL CONDITIONS REQUIRED FOR HATCHING

*Courtesy of the American Bantam Association.*

## **TURNING**

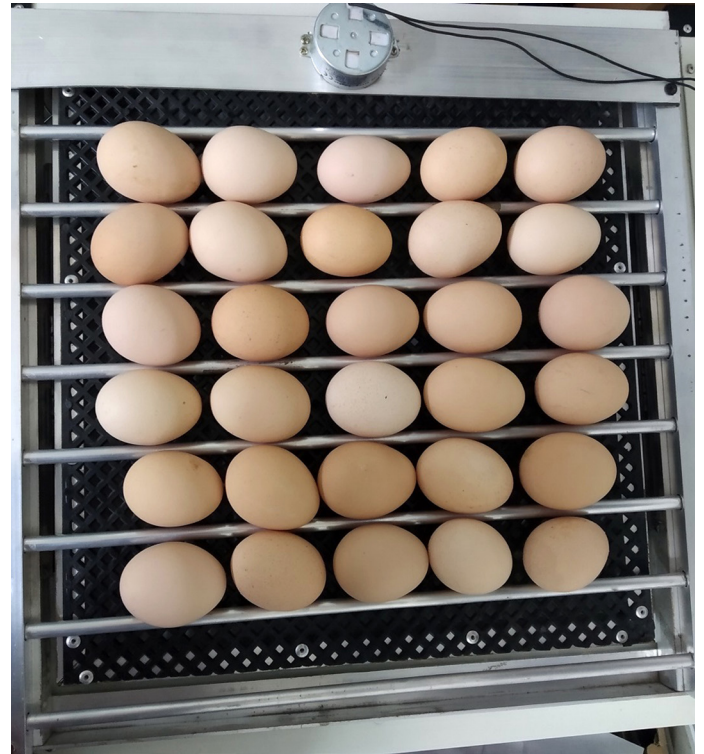
The monitoring of natural nests by electronic eggs has shown that the incubating bird rearranges and turns her eggs about every 35 minutes. The only eggs that do not need to be turned are those of certain near-tropical species, such as the Mallee Fowl and Brush Turkey of Australia. The cock bird makes an enormous mound of vegetation, which heats up as it decays. Into this he persuades the female to lay her eggs and she then takes no further interest in the proceedings. After the eggs have been laid and buried in the compost heap, the cock bird continually scratches sand on to the top of the heap and off again. It would appear that his feet are temperature sensitive, and he regulates the temperature of his mound by covering it up if cool or uncovering it if too warm.

At no time does he turn the eggs, but it has often been noted that only those eggs hatch that are placed vertically, with the air cell at the top. Those that are not exactly vertical and those with the air cell at the bottom never hatch.

In all other species of birds, the eggs that are not turned regularly do not hatch. Turning twice a day is adequate for the hardy chicken which has been selected by many generations of incubator hatching, but all other species need their eggs turned at least three times per day, preferably more. Most incubators with automatic turning, turn the eggs hourly. Turning is most essential in the early stages. To give an example, a game farmer, who usually gets over 80% hatches of his pheasant eggs, failed to notice that the automatic turning gear on his large incubator had broken down. He estimated that it had been out of action for about three days before being discovered.

He sets his eggs at weekly intervals, and the first hatch off after the failure of the turning gear, was down to 73%. The second hatch was only 51%, and the third was under 20%. Subsequent hatches, which had not been affected by the breakdown, were back to his usual rate of over 80%.

The eggs had not died at the time of the breakdown. They had all died just prior to hatching. Many of the embryos were incorrectly positioned in the eggs, and none had pierced the air space before they died. At routine candling before being transferred to the hatcher, all the eggs had appeared live and well.



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For the last three days of incubation, when the chick is moving round the egg and getting itself into the hatching position, turning is not necessary.

### THE EFFECTS OF TURNING WITHIN THE EGG

That part of the yolk that is in contact with the germinal disc is lighter than the rest of the yolk, so at all times it tends to float to the top, rotating the yolk about its suspensory ligaments. Each movement of the egg therefore tends to bring the germinal disc into contact with fresh nutrient, which is essential before the embryo has developed blood vessels to bring the nutrient to it. Failure to turn can thus deprive the embryo of nutrient and oxygen at a very critical stage in its development.

The yolk as a whole is also lighter than the albumen and tends to float to the upper surface of the egg. It is only the suspensory ligaments that hold it in the centre of the egg and these delay but do not stop its movement to the top surface of the egg. If not turned to a fresh position frequently, the developing embryo torches the shell membrane and sticks to it, causing abnormal growth and distortion of the embryo and its membranes. This is rapidly fatal.

Until such time as its own kidneys and lungs are fully functional, the embryo is totally dependent on the

extra embryonic membranes for the exchange of respiratory gases, conservation of water, and excretion of waste products. These membranes, the amnion, chorion and allantois, are all formed in the first week. The amnion surrounds the embryo, and contains the vital fluid that bathes it, while the allantois grows to line the entire inner shell surface. If the egg is not turned frequently enough, these membranes bunch together and do not grow properly. During the early stages of incubation, their consequently limited function is adequate, and the chick continues to grow, but when growth is almost complete, and demand on the membranes at its greatest, the chick dies, poisoned by its own waste products.

### POSITION OF THE EMBRYO WITHIN THE EGG

Throughout all the stages of incubation, the embryo takes up a definite position for that stage. Turning of the egg is a necessary aid to these movements within the egg, and without it malpositions arise that are incompatible with successful emergence from the egg at hatching time.

## OUTCROSSING

*Author unknown*

Outcrossing is well known to be a haphazard exercise; it cannot produce the purity of blood obtained by good line breeding and is usually scorned on by the purists as nonsense. It is usually referred to as “breed from the best and hope for the best.” No attempt will be made here to defend this haphazard sort of breeding, but to attempt to show that when carried out carefully it can produce good fowls with regularity and certainty. The same care in mating and marking will of course be necessary – in fact this will even be more important as will be shown later.

Whatever may be said against outcrossing and there is certainly much that can be said against it, there are also known advantages. It produces a vigour and strength that does not seem to appear with line breeding unless this is very carefully managed. This is hybrid vigour. It is best seen where two strains of fowl are kept pure and the crosses made from time to time, one pure strain with the other.

Now if fowls are crossed in a random manner and the results carefully recorded, it will be found that a spectrum of quality appears, anything from real bad to real quality. The two birds that give good off-

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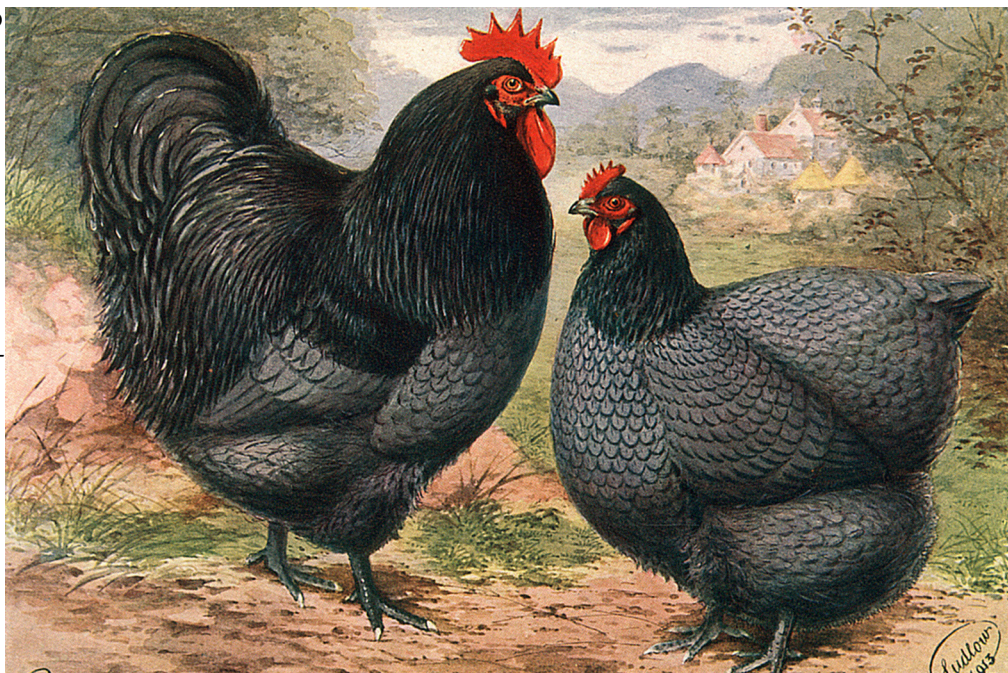
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spring repeatedly are said to 'nick.' This system depends on 'nicking'. All efforts are made to find these crosses and only to continue to breed from these hens. It may be called a system of continuously selected nicking. The nicking may refer to the quality of the individuals or to the uniformity of the brood. Both are necessary. It is very important to rid the yard of duds as they carry away the profits and prestige that the others build up.

Now no one can look at a hen and say what her sons will be like. Sometimes the best looking hens produce the worst results and vice versa. Remember this refers of course only to outcrosses, not to line bred stock. When breeding the hens of the nicking outcross it is assumed that as their brothers were uniform in their quality, the same uniformity has occurred in the hens. It is hoped that they will pass on to their sons the same quality that was seen in their brothers; how they do it is their business, and how they look matters not at all, they are utility fowls.

These hens are introduced in their turn to another champion - another outcross. The hens from the indifferent crosses find their way to the chef, as did their brothers before them. Now when these special hens are crossed with the new champion cock, the results will vary again. One hen will be found to give consistently better results than her sisters. It is this progeny tested hen whose daughters are used in turn to carry on the blood line, after a trial with several cocks and subsequent progeny testing. This system then depends on the recognition of a nicking cross giving consistently good cocks, then on the progeny testing of these hens to find the same uniformity of results that was sought in the cocks. It is clear and has been shown that this kind of very careful selection can produce fowls of top quality with a certainty and regularity that few followers or stands and line breeding would believe.

There does not appear to be any reason why it should not be applied to show birds. It does, however, depend on the regular introduction of top quality new blood. This may well prove to be a limiting factor. It does depend on a very careful and exact breeding and marking programme and



If you are going to outcross always introduce birds of quality like these Blue Orpingtons

especially in the progeny testing of the hens. In line breeding this is not so important as after a few generations the hens become genetically similar and will give much more consistent results, so any one from a brood can be used without all these troubles.

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# ROYAL CHESHIRE COUNTY SHOW CHAMPIONSHIP EGG SHOW 2023



Report and photos by Chris Parker.

Despite poor weather which is uncommon in recent times at Cheshire, it was a great feeling to walk into the egg marquee at Royal Cheshire on the 20th June and see such a colourful tent with a tremendous entry of 681 eggs on display. This huge total must be a record and in actual fact was an increase of 123 on the previous year's very successful event. Although the poultry were sorely missed, those present had a memorable day, catching up on all the news with fellow fanciers. During these difficult times for the fancy it is so important for us fanciers to keep in touch with each other and try to find some positivity in the doom and gloom of Avian Flu. Egg shows are certainly

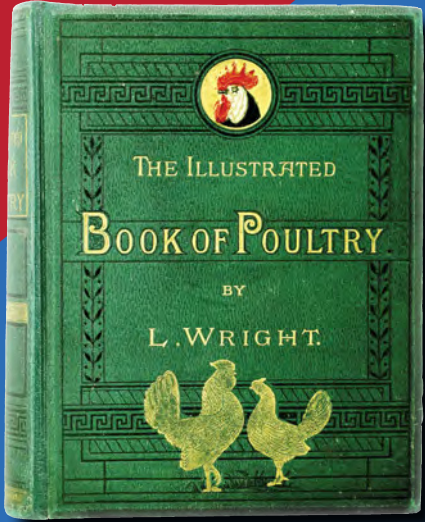
The egg tent at Royal Cheshire Championship Egg Show

helping just as the digital events helped during COVID lockdowns but of course we all long for the return of a real poultry section and view the return of these events in Ireland with a great longing. I did gain some consolation on hearing that most of the fanciers pres-



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Colin Booth receives the top award from Lord Grey.

ent had bred enough chickens to maintain their strains which to me is vital for the future of the fancy. Our choice for the top award came from the Marans section being a lovely plate of three Marans bantam eggs exhibited by Colin Booth. A special rosette was also awarded to Colin from the Association of Shows and Agricultural Organisations. The association is celebrating its centenary this year and 100 special rosettes are being distributed around the country to mark the occasion. Royal Cheshire were delighted that their egg section had been chosen for one of these awards. Most of my judging involved three breed sections all of which were very well supported. The Araucanas had

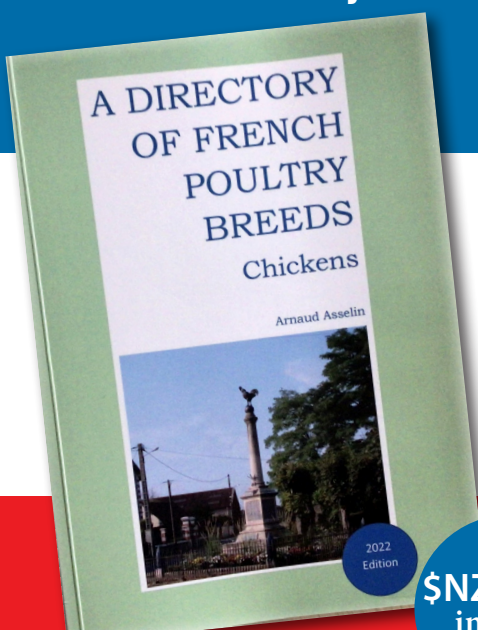
73 entries, the Marans had 68 entries and the Welsummers had 52 entries; all of very good quality. Being a member of the Welsummer Club, it was indeed a pleasure for me to judge this breed club show and my choice for the best in this section was a plate of three large fowl eggs exhibited by Paul Kerfoot. Reserve best Welsummer eggs went to the very successful Christopher Bennett who also won best Welsummer contents. Finally the largest class in this section was the single large fowl egg which was won by Garnett and Neale, who also won the class for the plate of six eggs.



Colin Booth's plate of three Marans bantam eggs which took the championship at Cheshire.

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