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Poultrynz

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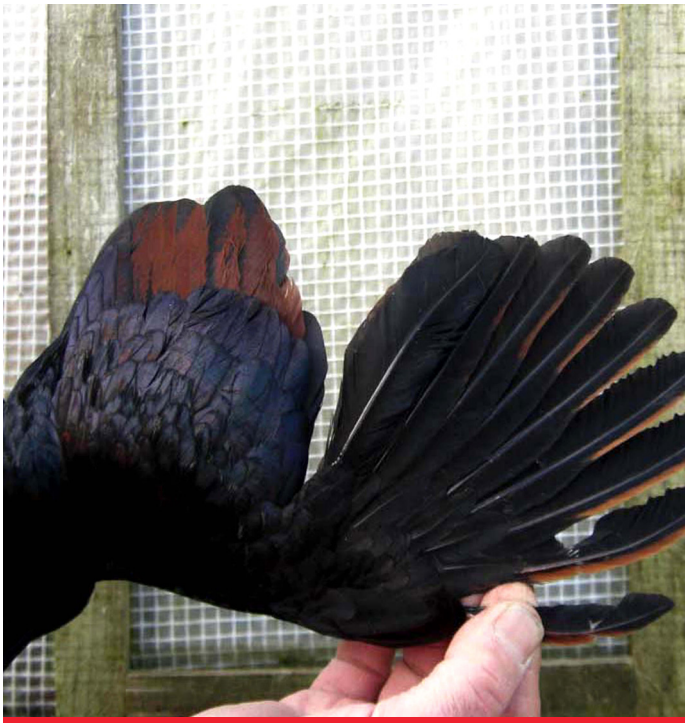


Poultrynz Editorial

Wow!!! This is issue number 300 of the Poultrynz Newsletter. The first issue was September 2013, so that is 10 years worth of Poultry related articles. The new format began with issue 206. It has been a pleasure to bring these to you and it certainly cements the thoughts that we are always learning year after year. There are many people to thank but the most important are the 1200 who subscribe to the Poultrynz Newsletter and those who purchase from Poultrynz. Without them this newsletter would not exist. So thank you to them. I'm sure you will all enjoy the ones in the future too.
Until next issue.

Regards, Ian Selby.

It's live!

All the advertisements that have an underline under the email address or url are hyperlinks.

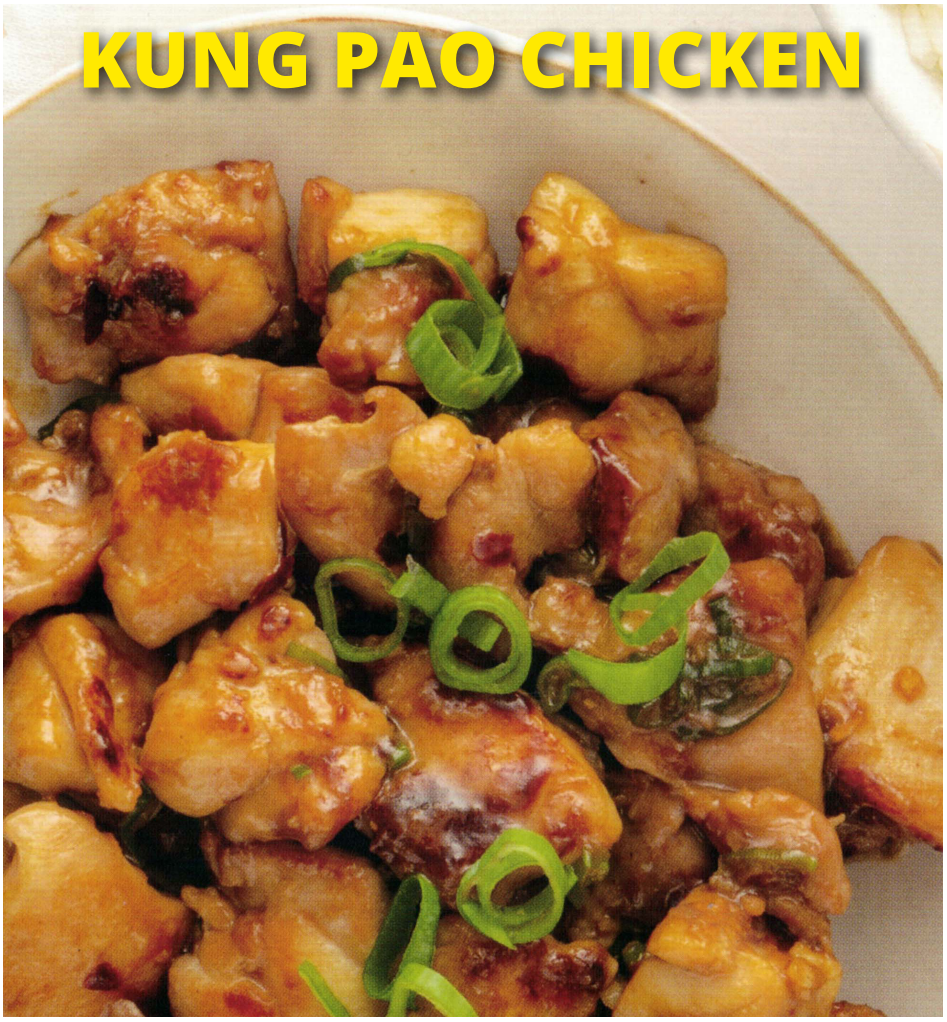
Clicking the link will open your email with the Poultrynz destination in the recipient box.

POULTRYNZ Products

Product	Quantity	Unit Price	Courier Postage	Rural Delivery
Poultry Shield	1 Litre	$30.00	$12.50	$20.00
	5 Litre	$100.00	$15.00	$25.00
Poultrynz DE (Diatomaceous Earth)	300gm puffer	$16.00	$10.00	$12.50
Poultrynz DE	300gm refill	$10.00	$7.00	$12.50
Poultrynz DE	1kg	$20.00	$10.00	$20.00
Poultrynz DE	2kg	$35.00	$10.00	$20.00
Poultrynz DE	4kg	$70.00	$15.00	$25.00
Poultrynz DE	8kg	$120.00	$15.00	$25.00
Poultry Leg Spray	500ml	$20.00	$10.00	$20.00
Poultry Leg Spray	125ml	$10.00	$5.00	$12.00
Epsom Salts	3.5kg	$15.00	$12.50	$20.00
Combo's				
1 litre Poultry Shield + 300gm D.E.		$40.00	$12.50	$20.00
1L Poultry Shield + 300gm D.E. + 500ml Leg Spray		$56.00	$12.50	$20.00
5 litres Poultry Shield + 4kg DE		$150.00	$15.00	$25.00

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

KUNG PAO CHICKEN



INGREDIENTS

Serves 4-6

- 600g boneless and skinless chicken thighs
- 1 Tbsp soy sauce
- 1 Tbsp rice wine
- 1½ tsp cornflour

Sauce:

- 1 Tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tsp hoisin sauce
- 1 tsp sesame oil
- 1 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 tsp cornflour

To cook:

- Vegetable oil
- 1 tsp minced garlic
- 1 tsp minced ginger
- 2 tsp chilli flakes
- 2 spring onions, thinly sliced

To serve:

- Hot cooked rice

METHOD

- Whisk the soy sauce, rice wine and cornflour in a large bowl.
- Cut the chicken into bite-size pieces, then add to the bowl and stir until well coated in the mixture. Set aside.
- Sauce: Whisk the ingredients in a small bowl.
- Heat a tablespoon of vegetable oil in a wok or frypan on a high heat. Add the chicken and cook for 3-4 minutes, turning/tossing regularly, until golden brown.
- Add the garlic and ginger and cook for a further minute.
- Add the sauce, chilli flakes and spring onions, toss until everything is well coated in the sauce and then cook for a further minute or two until the chicken starts to get dark and sticky.
- To serve: Transfer to a serving plate or add to bowls of steaming hot rice.

THE VALUE OF COMFREY FOR POULTRY

by Glenys O'Byrne From New Zealand Poultry and Game Birds, March 1990.

The value of feeding comfrey to poultry and other animals has been debated for many years. I have been doing some research into this subject and the following is a summary of the many books and articles I have read.

Comfrey Plant in Flower

Comfrey is a herb, the origins of which appear a little hazy, but the comfrey used throughout the world today is a hybrid rarely producing fertile seed. There is a native comfrey growing wild in Britain and Europe, including Russia and in the 1800s what was called Russian Comfrey was producing yields of 80- 100 tons per acre. The Henry Doubleday Research Association in the U.K. has been studying the various comfrey types since the 1800s, and they have established several Bocking strains which are sold commercially.

These strains are still hybrid strains, sterile, and therefore need to be propagated by root division. Any seed that is obtained from these plants will revert back to a mixture of types from the parent hybrids, the same that occurs to hybrids of any plants and animals. Mendel's Laws of Inheritance apply to the plant kingdom as well as to animals.

Bocking 4 and 14 strains are available in New Zealand. Bocking 4 is the strain generally preferred by livestock and poultry. Bocking 14 is recommended for gardens and this strain should produce approx. 33 tons per acre.

Comfrey has been used for centuries in homeopathy and as a livestock feed. It has been used by organic farmers in recent decades: those who have realised the benefits this plant offers. For centuries reports have been made about increased stock health, fertility and high production from animals fed comfrey. Some top racehorses have been fed comfrey diets. However, critics have been sceptical, usually referring to the presence in the plant of a toxic alkaloid.

Henry Doubleday Research Association has carried out a great deal of work on the toxicity of comfrey and it seems that comfrey is quite safe to feed to animals and for use as a homeopathy medicine.

Alkaloids are organic substances (similar to amino acids) associated with proteins. Alkaloids are present in about 5% of plants, being either poisonous or medicinal. (Green potatoes produce poisonous solanine, some poppies produce morphine, nux vomica produces strychnine, tobacco produces nicotine, foxgloves produce digatalis). Many toxic alkaloids are contained in plants considered safe for food, as the amount is considered too small to be harmful.

One group of toxic alkaloids, the pyrrolizidine group, is considered highly toxic, causing acute liver and tissue damage. One example of this is the ragwort family.

Although comfrey belongs to this group, having a toxicity of about .03% per plant, comfrey-fed animals for centuries throughout the world have shown no acute reaction to the alkaloid. The highest concentration of alkaloid is contained in the comfrey root, so if in doubt, the feeding of roots could be avoided.

The Chemistry Department of University of Exeter,

Typical Comfrey leaves ready to feed to Fowls

The Toxicology Unit of the Medical Research Council at Carshalton, and Michaelis Nutritional Research Laboratory at Harpenden, all in the U.K., have jointly studied the toxicity of comfrey. Their tables indicate Bocking 4 to have a tertiary alkaloid content of .015% and a total alkaloid content of .029%; Bocking 14 a tertiary alkaloid of .022% and total alkaloid of .024%.

The toxicity in rats is considered similar to that of humans, and in an experiment with rats, 50% died after an injection of 300mg. of purified alkaloid per kg of rat tissue. At this level, humans would never attain the lethal dose of 300mg/kg: it would take a man weighing 150lbs drinking four cups of comfrey tea per day 140 years to receive this dosage. As sensitivity to the alkaloid decreases with age, sub-lethal doses over a prolonged period would need to be higher.

The alkaloid proved to be an unstable compound and easily oxidised. It would appear conceivable therefore that apart from its low toxicity in purified form, a considerable portion of the alkaloid would be destroyed in cooking. With fresh leaves only a small quantity would be eaten by humans and the amount of alkaloid amount therefore limited; there would also be catalytic enzymes present which would hasten alkaloid destruction.

Livestock consuming large amounts of comfrey frequently eat it when wilted, after enzymatic breakdown would have begun.

Prolonged and extensive use of comfrey as livestock feed has failed to reveal any detrimental defects, but rather considerable health benefits to stock.

Feeding to Poultry

Comfrey is a rich source of vegetable protein and minerals but is low in fibre, making it ideally suited

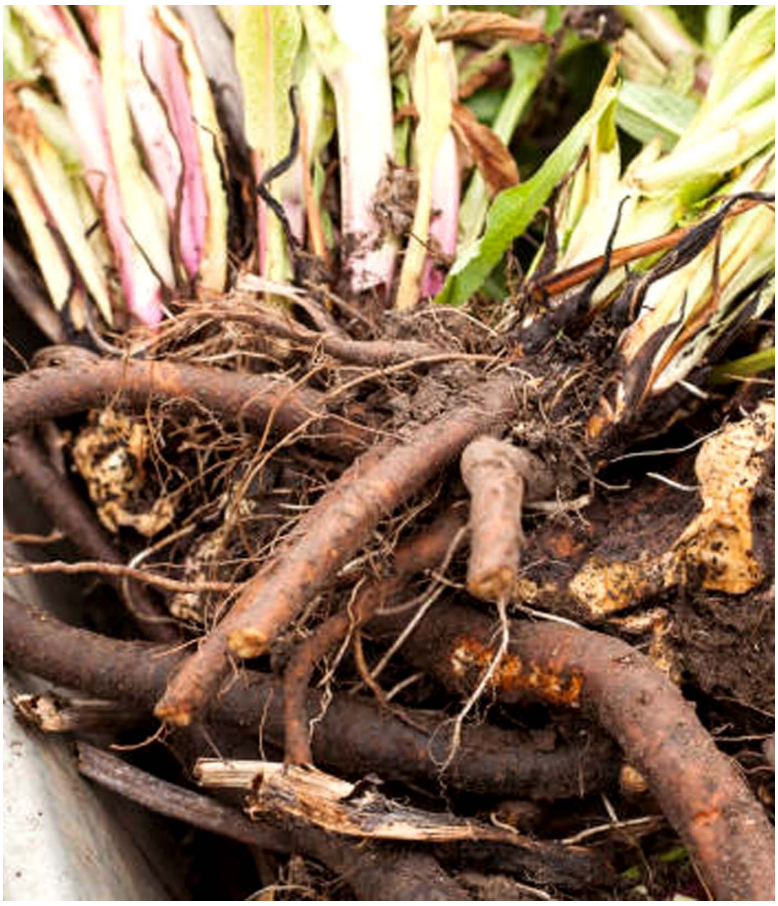
to the digestive system of poultry and game birds. As a high protein plant, comfrey is very suitable for turkeys, ducks and game birds, which need more daily protein than hens. As well as higher egg production, comfrey will assist faster feathering during a moult.

If 30 plants are kept, one can be cut each day for feeding. One plant can feed 8-10 hens early and late in the growing season, but in the flush of growth, one plant could probably feed 20 hens. Regular cutting helps to keep the fibre content low.

Cut the complete top off the plant and feed to hens:

It is often preferable to hang the bunch up and let the hens jump for it. This gives them valuable exercise, and does not allow the leaves to be trampled into the litter. Comfrey can otherwise be chopped up and added to mash. Young chickens need to have it cut finely to avoid crop problems caused by stringy midribs. If hens have not previously been fed comfrey it will need to be introduced gradually by adding to their normal feed.

If only a few plants are kept, 2-3 oz per hen per day can be fed supplemented with half rations of mash.



Roots of a Comfrey Plant

It has been recommended by a commercial poultryman feeding comfrey that it be fed early in the day before the hens have filled upon less nutritious grass. To attain the full benefit of higher egg production, or faster fattening birds, they must eat a daily supply of comfrey.

Bocking 4 can be fed fresh, but Bocking 14 needs to be wilted and fed chopped.

An easy way of feeding comfrey is to plant a fenced area and allow the hens in for about half hour's feeding per day. Comfrey can be planted along the outside of a wire netting fowl run. This enables the plant to grow profusely from roots reaching into the run, and the hens can put their head through the netting and eat one side of the plant.

Ducks and geese can be grazed on either Bocking 4 or 14, but will leave the coarse stems and midribs. Comfrey leaves can be added to drinking water. Shredded comfrey and maize or maize meal will quickly fatten birds, which results in a less greasy goose. It is generally felt that geese can be fattened on an almost total comfrey diet.

SPLIT WINGS VERSUS NARROW FEATHERS

by the late John Wunderlich, USA.

I've been encouraged and inspired to write this article because of what I've seen happen in some 56 shows over the past couple of years. Also because I've had telephone calls, five letters and three fanciers to bring birds to me for help and information on split wings – and I might include split tails. These fanciers were disturbed over what had happened at shows and what some judges had told them. Exhibitor A won Best Variety and Best Bantam at a show but two weeks later she was disqualified (card marked split wing), then the next week she was Best Variety again. These shows were under three different judges. The judge who disqualified her has only been judging 3 or 4 years. I've handled this bird myself as I was judging on the opposite aisle and could not help but admire her – a winner. When a judge hasn't had a lot of experience, he or she seems to want to find something to eliminate a bird. So he disqualifies for some reason, in this case a split wing. This bird does not have a split wing. She had all her primary and secondary feathers and a nice axial feather separating them. Let's say the wing feathers were a bit narrow, but both wings were good solid wings.

View showing a Split-Wing

A twisted wing can be seen from the aisle. The feathers are twisted and the wing does not fold up, the wing doesn't close or fold up and you have an open space in the wing. A slipped wing is a disqualification – that's when 4 or 5 primaries hang down but don't fold up. Many times, you'll find a split wing along with it.

The Standards says in instructions to judges a bird should be given the benefit of the doubt. A narrow-feathered wing in a bird should not be considered a split wing. As birds get older, their feathers may get narrower but this is not a split wing. One bantam fancier brought me 15 birds that had been shown. I examined all of them carefully and only one had 2 weak wing – feathers very narrow, yet I was told that 5 of them had been disqualified by various judges. When questioning owners I found all the judges were fairly new and inexperienced. Exhibitors should not have to pay for their experience in judging. I have tried to help a lot of our

1. Shoulder butt or scapulars
2. Wing bow coverts
3. Wing bar or speculum (lower wing coverts)
4. Secondaries
5. Wing bow coverts
6. Axial feather
7. Primary Coverts
8. Primaries
9. Flight coverts

Wing Feathers

new Judges. Some judges have passed up fine birds because of toe nail colour. It is a shame to pick on something like this. I try to tell them to judge and look for all the good points, the over all bird, the shape, type, quality of colour and feather, condition and how they show. The highest scoring bird is the winner. It takes years of experience, study and knowledge of having breed characteristics in mind to really judge. Judging to me is a serious thing. One must know the cutting points because they must be considered and evaluated in making awards. One should continually study the standard. More on split wings – Nearly every bird at some time or other during the moulting period will show what seems to be a split wing. This is because one or more feathers are out and the wing won't fold up naturally so it looks like a split wing. When these feathers come in, the wing will look normal again. A narrow-feathered wing will show up faster. If one continually breeds narrow feathered birds together, you can easily develop a split-wing family of birds. Any short and hard-feathered bird can develop a split wing but you will find split and weak wing in any breed. Selective matings can help overcome this.

KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A PROMISING YOUNGSTER

From "Poultry World" England. Abridged.

Keeping your Young Fowls on a Free Range

The real enthusiast derives a great deal of interest looking through his growing stock for the most promising individuals. These are marked by some and memorised by others, so that their progress can be watched from time to time.

It is a practice to be encouraged even among beginners because it sharpens powers of observation and increases knowledge gained from trial and error. What is more, the actual handling makes the birds docile and friendly, which is of some importance under intensive methods.

There is no reason whatever why Chickens should be wild and excitable, and why the proud owner should lose patience over them. Where they are handled often to see how they are progressing they soon become quiet and approachable.

It is when the birds are on the ground that a promising youngster can be spotted. It may be its type and carriage which first appeals and catches the eye, particularly in a cockerel which may also appeal for character. A pullet may fill the eye because of its smart appearance besides its type outline; while observation is much easier and comparisons better when the ideal type of bird is well in mind. Plumage colour and markings, of course, always come into the picture because, whatever the objective, the enthusiast tries to have his birds well up to standard requirements. Here defects must be looked for closely, because some of them depart with the next growth of feathering. Every chick starts in the down which is lost when replaced by chick feathering; the latter then is replaced by adult plumage.

Take a simple lesson by examining the wing feathers of a ten or twelve-weeks youngster. Stretch out the wing and notice the two kinds of feathers there. The last five feathers, at least, in the outstretched wing will be thin, pointed and soft at the top. These are the chicken feathers which will all be dropped and changed for the adult ones.

Take a good look at the feathers above them, and nearer to the body, and which will be broad, rounded and stiff at the top: these are the adult feathers. It may be a black-plumaged pullet in which white in the chicken feathers is causing apprehension, but remember that these have to drop out. It is the broad adult wing feather that is looked at very closely, for if there is white there it will remain to maturity and until the full moult the next year.

Next examine the tail feathers where, again, both kinds will be found. In fact, all over the body there will be soft chicken feathers and adult ones: the latter are those to watch and judge for ultimate colour or

markings.
Many become quite alarmed when they see these chicken wing feathers in the litter, but it is natural for them to drop out continuously. What is of some importance is that they should be removed now and then with a fine rake. There will be less feather-plucking if the litter is raked clear of chick feathering; in fact, if temptation is regularly removed!
Well-fed youngsters are always more contented and docile than those which have to fight for their places at the trough. Therefore, see that sufficient trough room is provided for each batch of young chickens. Then, should a bully in the flock peck at those which approach the mash, they have another container of food to go to.
Occupation and exercise also help to give intensively kept birds something to do: thus a good depth of litter will provide exercise for all.
Well-fed chickens make most rapid growth and in the end are the smallest specimens. This is one reason why I prefer to let the growers have their fair share of mash at the troughs. Underfed growers seem to me to finish on the leggy side and to put on weight when they approach maturity. There is always a tendency, too, for underfed birds to go down with worms or even coccidiosis.
Opinions vary on giving green food: but I have my views gained from full experience. Many advocate that green food should be suspended for chickens to jump at, but if there is a bully in the flock which happens to like green food then it will take the opportunity of pecking all which approach to take some of the green leaves.

A good idea is to observe and be close to your growing chickens

Inside House for Chickens

THE WYANDOTTE BANTAM

by BILL HOLLAND. USA.

The Standard Wyandotte apparently originated in the state of New York and the Silver Laced variety was admitted to the Standard in 1883. Other varieties were subsequently admitted in later years.

The Wyandotte Bantam however, originated in England in the early 1900's. This little Bantam, one of my favourites, is a delight to behold. They are a docile Bantam and easy to raise and make excellent pets.

It is my opinion, and the Standard bears this out, that the type on the Wyandotte Bantam should be exactly the same as the Large Wyandotte. This is not always the case however. Apparently in their early development, much Pekin blood was introduced, and some of these traits still persist. The tail of a good Wyandotte

White Wyandotte Bantam Pullet

Back View of a White Wyandotte Male

Bantam should show a tepee shape when viewed from the rear with seven stiff main tail feathers on either side, but too often we see the so called Bunny or Pekiny tail. The back of a good Wyandotte should be medium in length, but broad all the way back with no pinching at the tail. The tail should be well spread and the back should slope evenly up to the tail with a 40 degree tail angle in the male and 30 degrees above horizontal in the female.

The Wyandotte Bantam should show a good front; broad, deep and round. We don't want a Wyandotte too pantsy or with too much fluff. The Wyandotte should show a broad skull and the head should be short and round with a short well curved beak. Birds with narrow snake heads or coarse oversized and beefy combs are not desired. Wing carriage in some Wyandotte Bantam males is sometimes much too low. This is a problem we all encounter.

In short let's raise Wyandotte Bantams that are the exact replica of the large fowl. These little beauties are worth the effort.

WORMS IN CHICKENS

by William L. Kornhaus, USA. American Bantam Association Yearbook 1984.

My chickens have no worms – they've had none for over two years now. I am convinced that the reason is the use of Diatomaceous Warth (Diatom) as a control agent.

Diatomaceous Earth (Diatom) is a soft, chalky rock that is mined and processed into a talc-like powder that can be eaten safely. It is not a poison. It contains tiny, razor-like particles which attack the exoskeleton of parasitic animals. The internal and external tissues of warm blooded animals are not affected.

Unlike the use of piperazine to control roundworms, the use of Diatomaceous Earth (Diatom) controls roundworms, tapeworms and cecal-worms as well.

I apply a small amount of Diatomaceous Earth (Diatom) on top of a gravel and shell mix, using one part of diatomaceous earth (Diatom) to two parts of shell-gravel mix.