

Poultrynz

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Poultrynz Editorial

With the higher cost of petrol we may see a decline in Poultry activity this year. However, we all hope that this crisis will not last long and will be back to normal ASAP. I don't think the petrol prices will come down much but that is a waiting game.

There are a couple of good articles on Pigeon Lung disease in this issue.

Pigeon Lung disease is not just limited to Pigeons as both Poultry and Cage Birds keepers have been known to be affected by this disease. Well worthwhile being aware of it.

Until next issue.

Regards, Ian Selby.

If you have friends or colleagues who might appreciate the Poultrynz newsletter please pass it on. Your friends can be added to the distribution list. Send their email and the word "subscribe" to poultrynz@xtra.co.nz

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Friday 5th June - Judging - Open to exhibitors 3pm to 5pm .

Saturday 6th June - Open 9am to 5pm.

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Saturday 6th June Dinner and Prizegiving 6.30 pm at Tasty Restaurant

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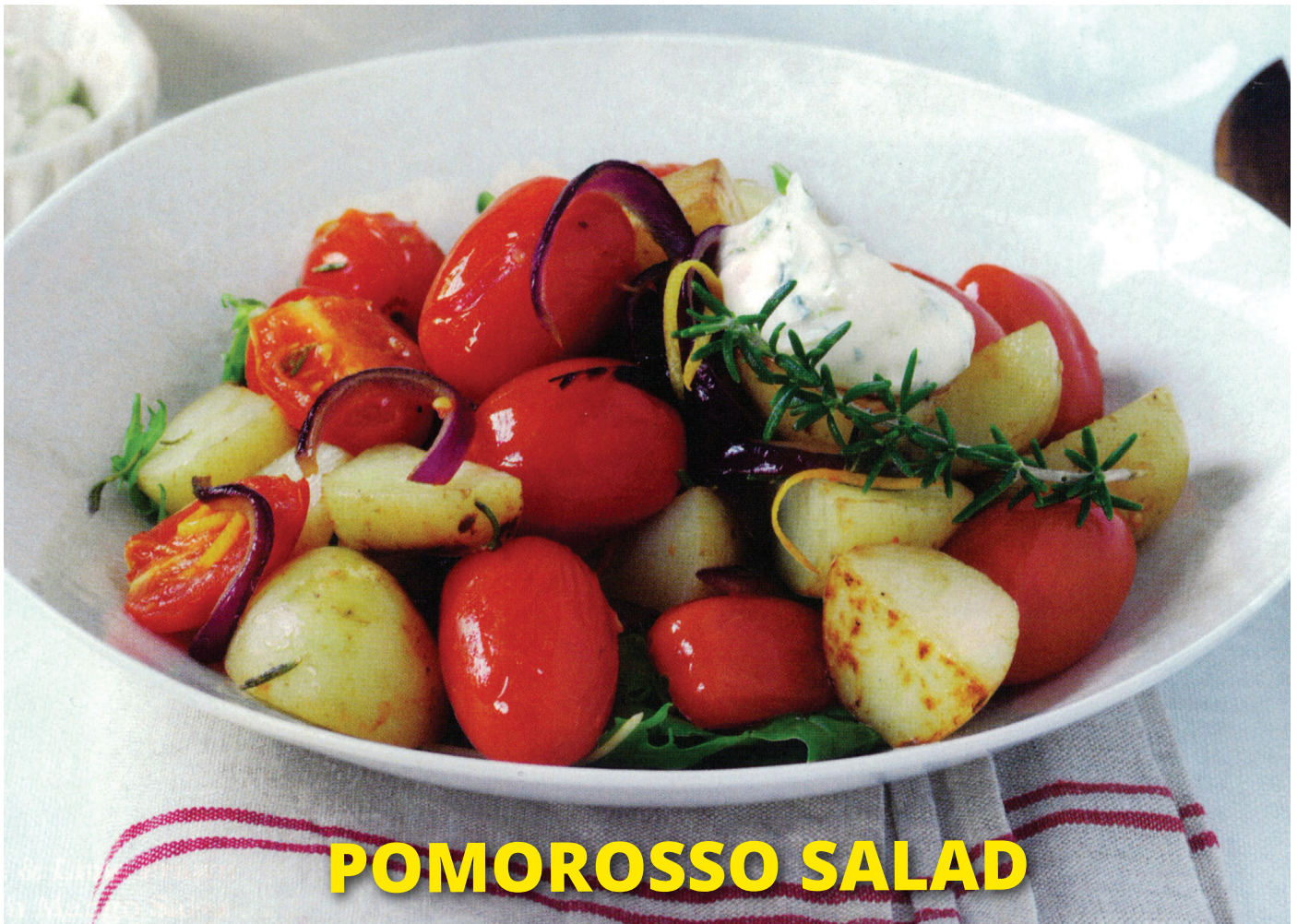
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POMOROSSO SALAD

INGREDIENTS

Serves 4.

2 Tablespoons olive oil

1 Clove garlic, sliced

1 Red onion, peeled and sliced into wedges

Leaves from 2 stalks of fresh rosemary

2 Cups cooked new potatoes, halved

1 Teaspoon lemon zest

250g Pomorosso tomatoes

Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

60g Wild rocket or baby spinach leaves

PESTO MAYONNAISE

2 Tablespoons pesto

$\frac{3}{4}$ Cup thick and creamy mayonnaise

2 Tablespoons lemon juice

METHOD

1. Heat the olive oil in a large frypan.
2. Add the garlic, red onion and the rosemary leaves. Sauté for 2-3 minutes, until the onion is softened.
3. Add the potatoes and cook for 3-4 minutes, until they are hot and coloured.
4. Add the lemon zest and the Pomorosso tomatoes. Toss the ingredients together to heat through. Season to taste.
5. Place the Pomorosso tomatoes on a bed of the wild rocket or baby spinach leaves. Drizzle over the pesto mayonnaise to serve.
6. To make the mayonnaise combine the pesto, mayonnaise and lemon juice.

TRUE-BREEDING BLUE POULTRY AND BANTAMS



by Dr. E. Renold, Switzerland. 1950

Blue Andalusian Pair

A few years ago many poultry-fanciers in Europe interested themselves in blue chickens; but in the last few years the numbers of birds of this colour has fallen away considerably. Apart from fashion, which influences poultry-breeding as well as many other things, this may be caused by the difficulty of breeding blue birds. It should be generally known that the ordinary blue of poultry breeds, the so-called Andalusian Blue, gets split up in the descendants and becomes 50% blue and 25% each black and white. Of this 50% only 25%, or $\frac{1}{4}$ of the progeny are a more or less perfect Andalusian Blue. The remaining blues are splashy and even the whites are not perfectly clean in colour. The true blue of the Andalusians is somewhat full and besides each feather has a dark lacing. This dark colouring appears also on the hackles and main tail-feathers.

Besides the full Andalusian Blue there is also, a lighter blue, which never shows any lacing and all the feathers, including the hackles, main tail-feathers and under-plumage are the same colour.

This lighter blue has not the fine sheen of the Andalusians. It is duller, but nevertheless very beautiful in its even tone. It is more like the lighter blue of pigeons and would perhaps be better described as blue-grey. From the point of view of a breeder this lighter blue has the enormous advantage of breeding completely true. It never splits up but always appears in the progeny like a true black or white. In contradistinction to the Andalusian blue it is recessive, i.e., it never appears in the F1-generation when crossed with white or black.

It has been well known for a long time, though much less as self blue, than when mixed with porcelain colour, as blue-porcelain colour, particularly in Belgian Bantams. It then shows itself in its biological colour particularities entirely different from the Andalusian blue. When crossed with porcelain the blue not only takes the place of the black, but also mixes with the brown of the ground colouring and becomes a light buff. However if the Andalusian blue is crossed



A Trio of Blue d'Uccle Belgian Bantams

with a Gold-Wyandotte, then only the black lacing becomes blue, whilst the golden brown of the rest of the feather remains unchanged. Blue-Gold Wyandottes never breed true, but their progeny split up into gold, white-gold and blue-gold, whilst the blue-porcelain Belgian Bantams breed true because they carry the true-breeding blue in their inherited factors. It is obvious that breeding from the true-breeding blue is much easier and more profitable than experimenting with Andalusian blues, which gives more than half sports. The breeder who has a particular liking for, or is particularly interested in blues can then turn his attention not only to the colour, but also to the type and other points, without having to produce innumerable progeny on account of the many wasters.

Six years ago I was fortunate enough to be supplied by a Belgian friend with the eggs of pure-bred blue Belgian Bearded Bantams. Four blue chicks hatched out from six eggs and from these I have built up my whole blue stock. I have tried in vain to find out in Belgium the origin, and development of true-breeding blues - nobody knows anything definite about it. Only this is

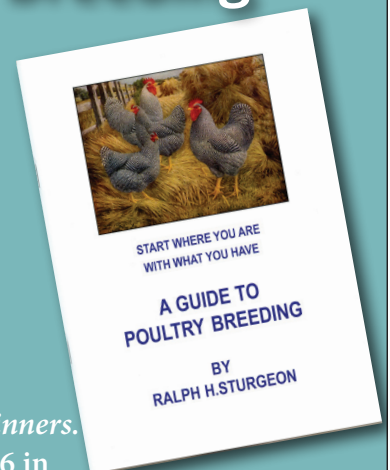
A Guide To Poultry Breeding

By R. Sturgeon

\$20

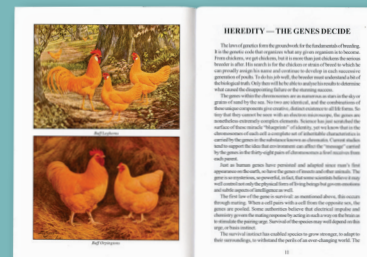
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Lavender d'Anvers Cockerel

certain that this rare colour is in the hands of very few, perhaps of only one or two breeders, who keep blue Belgian Bearded Bantams, Barbu d'Uccle. There is also a breed of Ducks of exactly the same colour in Belgium which is called "Canard de Forest gris" after the name of their breeders residence. Mr. Bertrand, the creator of the breed and the colouring was kind enough to send me sonic patterns of feathers from his grey ducks - these were actually a pale blue-grey. The breeder told me that this colouring bred true, whilst that of the darker blue birds split in the progeny just like Andalusian chickens. Thus exactly the same thing happens amongst ducks as amongst chickens. Mr. Bertrand gives the very interesting and useful information that formerly from time to time the small number of breeders of true-breeding blue Antwerp Bantams occasionally obtained blue-porcelain birds. I also have sometimes seen an indication of these markings amongst the progeny of my birds. I have often observed a slight tinge of buff on the hackles and the main tail-feathers of the cocks, which must be a survival of the building-up

of this colouring. I believe it is possible that the blue-porcelain was the original colour and that the plain blue was only achieved by breeding out markings and brown colouring by dint of much time and patience.

When I had bred a nice flock of Blue d'Uccle I tried to get the blue colouring in a related breed - the Black d'Anvers. I mated a Blue d'Uccle cock to two Black d'Anvers hens (Pen A) and a Black d'Anvers cock to two blue hens (Pen B). The progeny - there were over 50 chicks - they were all black. For breeding I chose as far as possible only those birds with no feathers on their legs and rose combs, i.e., with d'Anvers points and crossed those youngsters of Pen A as far as possible with Pen B. In the F2-generation I obtained a perfectly correct Blue d'Anvers cock, besides some other blue birds which showed only a few of the points: of the d'Anvers breed. They had either feathered legs or a single comb or both. The rest were black. Thus I had enough blue birds to start a blue pen with the above mentioned blue cock. In the F3-generation there were mostly blue and only a few

black chicks. Amongst about 20 blues reared at least half were correct, whilst the rest showed feathered legs or single combs. In the F4-generation 1 at last obtained complete colour homogeneity, as there were only blue chicks, which with very few exceptions had smooth legs and rose-combs. The fact seems worth noting that in all these crossings between blue and black there was not one white chick, again the opposite of what happens with Andalusian Blues.

Three years ago I began to try to breed blue Japanese bantams and for that purpose used two blue cocks with smooth legs and single combs which had happened to appear when breeding for blue d'Anvers. I mated them to a black Japanese hen. The first generation were again black as was to be expected - besides many chicks had feathered legs and all had beards, which were most desirable for Japanese Bantams. All the same amongst the 30 chicks there were a few with short and unfeathered legs. These served for breeding purposes. In the F2-generation there were about 70 chicks, including about a dozen blues; but of these, only 2 cocks and 2 hens were short-legged and beardless. Last summer I worked from two breeding stocks, mating the two blue hens to a blue-blooded black cock and the better of the two blue cocks to two blue-blooded black hens. Of the 100 resulting chicks I only kept those which were blue, low-set and beardless. Of these there are 3 cocks and 6 hens, strong birds, but all much too long in back and too flat in tail carrying. In order to get correct Japanese Bantams I shall be obliged to cross these again with pure-bred Black Japanese Bantams. The progeny will of course be again black, but in the end it will be possible to breed blues again from these birds, which will be real Blue Japanese not only in colouring, but also in type. It is most difficult of all to breed off the beards which recur with mysterious persistence. It is much easier to get rid of the feathered legs.

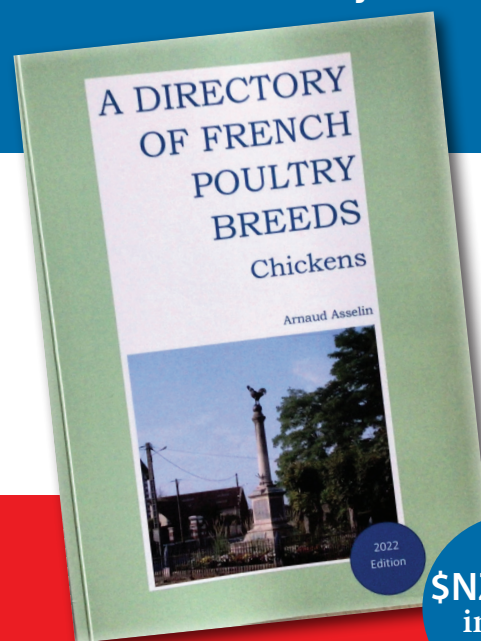
I hope that in my short description I have been able to prove not only the real existence of a true-breeding blue in poultry, but also to explain some biological and technical problems which arise in experimenting with this colour. For the increase of knowledge it would be most desirable if other breeders, having the necessary patience, would occupy themselves with this beautiful and interesting colour. Breeding blue chickens of all kinds of breeds would thus become simpler, pleasanter, easier and more worth while, because there would be no more wasters than in other self-coloured breeds, to say nothing of breeds

with special markings. The true-breeding blue would also be more suitable for breeders with soft plumage (Pekins. Orpingtons and Wyandottes) as it is well known that it is very difficult to get complete lacing of such feathers.

I should like to warn breeders particularly against the experiment of crossing with Blue Andalusians in order to try and make sure of a true-breeding blue. The two blues must never be mixed unless one wishes to risk a complete chaos of inheritable factors; which can never be straightened out theoretically or practically. It is therefore perhaps indicated that the two blues should have different names. The description Andalusian blue could be kept, whilst the true-breeding blue could be called Pigeon-Blue or the latter might be described as Gray and only the blue-laced Andalusians should be called Blue.

A DIRECTORY OF FRENCH POULTRY BREEDS

by Arnaud Asselin



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BREEDING BLACK PEKIN BANTAMS



From 1961 ABA Yearbook

Black Pekin Pullet

It will always be found that blacks with a really good surface colour, combined with good yellow legs, show more or less white at skin; and if black be continuously mated to black, the richness and density of colour, as well as the sheen, are liable to be lost. This is true with all yellow-legged black breeds.

In breeding blacks, double mating is necessary if one is to be really successful. It has been said that it is possible to breed exhibition specimens of both sexes from the same pen; no doubt it would be if males with light undercolour were allowed to win; but a Pekin that is partly white can never be a black one.

To breed the best cockerels it is essential to have the soundest-coloured male you can find; with him mate three or four hens that are ideal in shape, and if they are bred from cockerel-breeders you should obtain from such a pen absolutely sound cockerels. In

the pullet-breeding pen have a cock ideal in shape, excelling in yellow legs, with brilliant green top colour; his undercolour should be light in the fluff, but not in the shaft of the feather.

Herein lies the secret of breeding first class exhibition females, providing you have mated to such a male exhibition hens that are pullet-bred. Always remember that too much green sheen on both sides produces bronze and purple shades in the progeny a mistake usually made by a beginner.

At some shows I have noticed several specimens showing bronze coloration, which detracts from the rich, beetle green effect of the plumage. I would not by any means suggest discarding such males, but they should be correctly mated.

The best results are obtained by mating a male showing bronze to females of a dull plum shade of colouring (not of course, the purple

seen in purple barring). This counteracts the bronze, and the bronze also counteracts the dull plum colour, the result being sound, rich, beetle green sheened offspring.

Perhaps a few notes on the greatest faults in blacks at the present time will be helpful. Light under-colouring seems to be becoming more common each season, especially in the neck hackle of the males. Watch the colour in the eyes; many fail in this point. Dark-hazel eyes are completely foreign to the standard and should be regarded as a serious defect.

One very prevalent defect is split wings and wings carried so low that the tips of the secondaries point to the ground. The standard demands that the wings be carried up close to under the saddle, the ends not to be seen. This fault greatly diminishes both the value and beauty of a Pekin and tells heavily in any good competition. There is also a danger of leg colour being ignored by Judges and Exhibitors. We know that a certain amount of latitude is permissible in blacks, however a rich, yellow leg and beak should be bred for.

Do not be afraid to handle your Pekins frequently, and to introduce them to the show pen at an early age. Whenever handling them just work the base of the foot feathers into position with your thumb and finger, keeping each feather free to prevent them bunching. These feathers should slightly overlap each other, as in a bird's wing, and should stand at right angles to the leg.



Black Pekin Cockerel

POULTRY LICE POWDER

NEW PRODUCT

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

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

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THE PROGENY TEST



by Fred P. Jeffrey, USA.

A flock of Buff Orpington Pullets for selection

To be a successful breeder one must understand and practice the progeny test. This may seem a strong statement but the author believes it and will attempt, in this short article to explain why.

DEFINITION

The concept of the progeny test is simple - breeders are evaluated on the basis of the performance of their offspring. Dr. F. B. Hutt (1949) puts it this way: "It rejects the notion that fine feathers make fine birds, and adopts instead the proverb "Handsome is as Handsome does" Putting it another way, the pedigree is important but should not be worshipped unduly because many birds with fine pedigrees do not earn passing grades when progeny tested.

APPLICATION

Progeny test breeding may be practised on any
10

trait that is heritable - body size, correctness of any of the body characteristics which go to make type, temperament, reproductive soundness, general vigour, plumage colour, resistance to disease and many more.

The first requirement is a system of identification so that the breeder is certain which chicks come from which parents. Poultry breeders, for the most part, toe punch for identification and later in life put on a permanent leg band. For some reason the practice of wing banding at hatching, even though used routinely by commercial breeders of large fowls, has never become popular even though it is practically fool-proof and offers a permanent identification for the life of the bird.

The second requirement is to not dispose of the breeders until sufficient time has elapsed



A group of Silver Laced Wyandotte Pullets for selection

for evaluation of the offspring. More than once I have heard the sad refrain of discovering too late the value of a pair of breeders.

When it is discovered that a pair of breeders produces superior offspring they can be mated for as long as they live and the breeder will be assured of superior offspring every year. Some breeders will admit that their whole strain, for the most part, goes back to one or two outstanding breeders. The effects of progeny testing are cumulative in that offspring from progeny tested breeders are “more likely” to be good breeders themselves when mated together or with other good birds of the line.

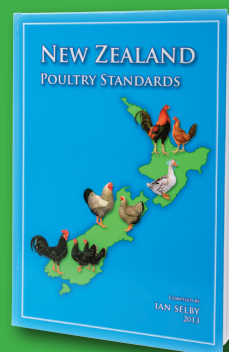
SOME END RESULTS OF PROGENY TESTING

Double mating to produce superior show birds is one of the end results of a long period of careful progeny testing. Papers have been written, and more should be, on precisely how to double mate for best results with a large variety of plumage colours.

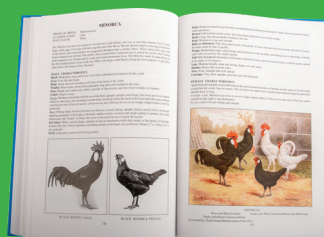
Poultry breeders who should know better are sometimes surprised that the expensive show birds they have purchased do not reproduce their kind, A little thought, and an understanding of double mating, soon clears up the subject –they have bought only half the mating.

NZ POULTRY STANDARDS

The definitive guide to standards for judging and showing poultry in New Zealand



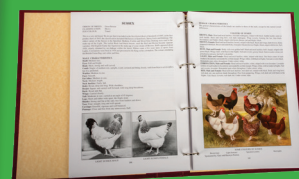
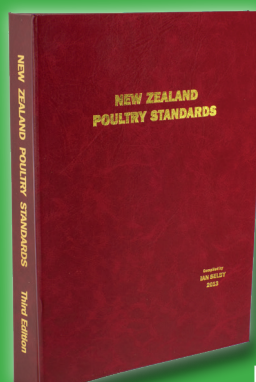
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Here are two articles I found very interesting that can relate to Human problems from our birds. Ian Selby.

PIGEON BREEDERS LUNG



by Roy Gurdler

Pigeon Lung Advert

What is pigeon breeders lung?

Briefly it is an allergic condition suffered by approximately 10% of Pigeon breeders. Why some people suffer more than others is not fully understood. What happens is that over a period of time, contact with minute particles floating in the air, stirred up by the birds at feed time, or when cleaning out the loft, irritates the lungs.

Then particles containing the dead cells of feathers from moulting birds, droppings and pen dryings are converted into dust and are continually inhaled. Normally with any foreign particles inhaled into the body, the body's antibodies will attack and defend themselves against the incoming foreign particles. The ensuing battle is quite vigorous with surrounding lung tissue becoming damaged, By-products from this en-

agement are released, which trigger the body to respond by exhibiting a flu-like substance. Other symptoms occur such as fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, and aching joints. These are commonly found after working with the birds. In severe cases, chronic bronchitis or emphysema, with acute asthma attacks will occur.

The above condition is not just isolated to pigeons, it is any foreign body in the lungs. It could be caused from just particles in the working environment. People working in the plastics industry or any fibre industry, or could come from mouldy compost in mushrooms farms, as well as other types of birds or poultry etc.

CURE AND PREVENTION

The obvious cure is complete avoidance of contact with pigeons. It is found that the lungs will



Covering your face when passing Pigeons

then return to normal within 12 months. In severe cases a course of cortisone is prescribed to aid in a quick recovery. I believe that fanciers should be aware of Pigeon Lungs disease and shall exercise preventative measures. Wear a suitable mask when feeding and cleaning out the lofts. You'll need one that blocks out particles as small as 0.5 microns.

Loft design is of most importance. I remember the old hands recommending the deep litter system. I myself used to sift the floor material, only removing the larger portions, didn't wear a mask and would become covered in dust after a day of cleaning out the loft. Imagine what was going into my lungs! In hindsight I know better now? I would now recommend that fanciers building a new loft should design the loft for minimum amounts of dust to be left in the loft.

A 25mm x 25mm x 4mm gauge wire mesh floor will allow droppings, feather dust, and feathers to fall through the loft floor. Ideally a sloping concrete slab to a 100mm drain point, approximately 300mm below mesh floor will allow you to hose the waste away. Remember to completely enclose under the loft to prevent cats, dogs and children from entering between the floor and waste area.

Pigeon breeding is a wonderful hobby and the same with Poultry Keeping. I wish all fancier successful breeding, but remember, preventing any problems occurring is better than the cure.

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- 200gms Poultry Lice Powder
- 125ml Poultry Leg Spray

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RESPIRATORY DISEASE



by Roger Allen

A good idea to wear a mask around Pigeon or Poultry dust

Bird fanciers are at risk of developing a number of diseases including an allergic disease called Extrinsic Allergic *Alveolitis* (bird fancier's lung). This is due to an allergy to the birds' proteins found in dust, droppings and feathers and may occur from exposure to pigeons, poultry, canaries, parrots, and less commonly, finches. Many bird fanciers develop antibodies to the birds they breed but this does not necessarily mean they have bird fancier's lung.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF BIRD FANCIER'S LUNG?

Patients usually complain of shortness of breath, chest tightness, dry cough, lethargy, sometimes fevers and night sweats. Occasionally nausea, weight loss, and appetite loss. The chest X-ray may be normal but usually shows widespread patchy infiltrates in both lungs like a pneumonia. The diagnosis is confirmed by detecting antibodies in the blood and by bronchoscope which samples lung tissue (done under local anaesthetic), as well as from the patient's history.

Tests will show stiff lungs and reduced capacity

to take oxygen. If not treated permanent scarring (fibrosis) will occur which may ultimately lead to death through respiratory and cardiac failure. Treatment consists of complete cessation of any contact with the birds in question. This may cause a gradual disappearance of the disease over twelve months. Sometimes cortisone is needed in severe cases to halt the disease process, as well as the cessation of contact.

This disease is relatively common and may occasionally cause slow onset of irreversible fibrosis (scarring) without any symptoms at all. This can occur with exposure to even one bird (for example, an old lady with one canary).

USING POULTRYNZ PRODUCTS



POULTRY LEG SPRAY

For Scaly Leg Mites use the Poultrynz Poultry Leg Spray regularly. Saturate the spray on the leg. Gently massage into the legs making sure all areas are covered. Repeat in 3-4 days and again in 7 days.

Do not pick off the debris as it can cause bleeding. The chickens will help by pecking the debris off the leg themselves. In cases where the chickens scales are lost they will not grow back. Even if your other chickens do not have signs of Scaly Leg Mites it is recommended that you do them as well so Scaly Leg Mites do not establish themselves in your flock. Check their legs regularly throughout the year.

The main ingredients are: Cotton Seed Oil and Eucalyptus. There is no egg-withholding period.

POULTRYNZ D.E. (Diatomaceous Earth)

Dusting your chickens with Poultrynz D.E. is a very good deterrent for Poultry Lice as well as Red Mite especially around the vent. Putting a handful of Poultrynz D.E. where they dust bath is also a perpetual way of keeping your chickens free of Poultry Lice.

For better Red Mite eradication mix Poultrynz D.E. with water to make a slurry. The amount of Poultrynz D.E. you use depends on how big your house or coop is. Mix the slurry to a consistency that is easily used with a paint brush. You then apply the slurry to the cracks, on the perches and nest box. Making sure that you apply a good amount under the perches. You can apply it to the walls and ceiling if you wish for a better affect. When you paint it on you are able to dab all the nail holes and cracks where mites live and in effect seal them off.

When the Poultrynz D.E. dries it will form a barrier that repels the Red Mites. Remember Red Mites can't fly so to feed they need to get at the bird and a lot will go under the perches. If they walk over the Poultrynz D.E. slurry you have got them, well within 72 hours. Avoid inhalation of dust using a suitable dust mask. Wear eye protection. There is no egg-withholding period.



USING POULTRYNZ PRODUCTS

POULTRY LICE POWDER

Control Poultry Lice by sprinkling Lice Powder around the vent, under the wings and around the neck hackles, repeat in 7 days.

It may be necessary to dose again for bad infestations. It is recommended that Lice Powder is used regularly to prevent Lice re-establishing themselves on the Fowls. Poultry Lice Powder is Organic.

The main ingredients are: Sodium Hydrogen Carbonate and Silicon dioxide. Avoid inhalation of dust using a suitable dust mask and wear eye protection. There is no egg-withholding period.



APPLE CIDER VINEGAR (ACV) WITH GARLIC

Apple Cider Vinegar (ACV) offers several potential benefits for poultry, including improved digestion, boosted immunity, and better feather health.

ACV can also help control internal parasites and keep the drinking water fresher by inhibiting algae growth. There is no egg-withholding period.

Here's a more detailed look at the benefits:

1. Improved Digestion: ACV helps balance the pH levels in the chicken's gut, aiding in digestion. It can help break down minerals and proteins, making them easier

for chickens to absorb. ACV can also help cut through mucus in the gut, ensuring it's cleared out and eggs are clean.

2. Garlic: Contains 33 sulphur compounds, amino acids, germanium, calcium, copper, iron, potassium, magnesium, selenium, zinc & vitamins A, B1 & C.

3. Enhanced Immune System: ACV possesses natural antibacterial and antiviral properties that can help boost the chicken's immune system. It can help fight off harmful bacteria, including E.coli and salmonella. ACV can also help reduce the incidence of coccidiosis, a common intestinal parasite in chickens.

4. Better Feather Condition: Some poultry keepers report that ACV can contribute to shinier and healthier feathers.

5. Other Potential Benefits: ACV can help control internal parasites like worms. It can help keep the respiratory tract clear. ACV can help keep the drinking water fresher by inhibiting algae growth. Some studies suggest that ACV may even increase egg production, especially in hot weather.

6. How to Use ACV with Poultry: ACV can be added to chickens' drinking water, typically at a rate of 1 tablespoon per Litre. It's best to use raw, unpasteurised, unfiltered ACV with the "mother." You can also add small amounts of ACV to chicken feed to improve palatability. ACV can also be used to clean and disinfect chicken coops, waterers, and feeders.

