

Poultrynz

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02 POULTRYNZ
OUR PRODUCT CATALOGUE

03 RECIPE
CHOCOLATE & ESPRESSO
BABY CAKES



04 MODERN GAME BANTAMS



**07 REDUCE YOUR FEED BILL
UP TO 35%**



10 OVERCROWDING



12 THE CAUSE OF POOR FEATHERING

Poultrynz Editorial

Recently I have been releasing some of my poultry books. Currently there are quite a few on Trademe and I will be putting more on as time goes by. Coming up to Christmas it could be timely to purchase one or two. There will be quite a number going on a few facebook pages too. Some rare and some not so rare but still all necessary for learning the art of poultry keeping. Take a look.

Summer is coming fast too and all indications is that it will be hot-hot. So it will suit the Red Mites, you need to start now with a program to reduce the numbers especially those who have bred plenty of chickens. Red Mites love these so they need to be protected. Motto: Keep them Dry, Clean and warm. Until next issue. Regards, Ian Selby.

It's live!

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Product	Quantity	Unit Price	Courier Postage	Rural Delivery
Poultry Shield	1 Litre	\$30.00	\$10.00	\$20.00
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Poultrynz DE (Diatomaceous Earth)	300gm puffer	\$16.00	\$10.00	\$20.00
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	1 litre Poultry Shield + 300gm D.E.	\$40.00	\$10.00	\$20.00
	1L Poultry Shield + 300gm D.E. + 500ml Leg Spray	\$56.00	\$10.00	\$20.00
	5 litres Poultry Shield + 4kg DE	\$150.00	\$15.00	\$25.00
Starter Pack	500ml Poultry Shield, Poultrynz DE 300gm, 125ml Leg spray	\$36.00	\$10.00	\$20.00

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CHOCOLATE & ESPRESSO BABY CAKES



Transform croissants into more-ish little cakes.

INGREDIENTS

Makes 12 baby cakes.

- 8-10 croissants (stale)
- 200g dark chocolate, grated
- ½ cup raisins
- ½ cup brown sugar, tightly packed
- 4 free-range eggs
- pinch salt
- 2½ cup milk
- ½ cup cream
- 100ml strong espresso coffee (ready brewed)
- 2 Tbsps coffee liqueur
- 2 Tbsps caster sugar
- Butter, for the muffin tin
- Icing sugar, to serve

METHOD

- Lightly butter a standard size muffin tin (12 capacity).
- Preheat the oven to 180°C (or 160°C fan bake).
- Slice the croissants and place one layer into the muffin tins, then top with a little grated chocolate, raisins and brown sugar. Repeat with alternate layers, then press down well.
- Beat eggs, salt, milk, cream, coffee, liqueur and caster sugar to combine. Carefully drizzle the liquid over the cakes. Cover the tin and set aside for 30 minutes until most of the liquid is absorbed. Bake in a preheated oven for 30 minutes.
- Cool a little before removing from the tins. Serve warm or cold, dusted with a little icing sugar.

TIP: Serve with iced coffees to complete your festive brunch.

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MODERN GAME BANTAMS

by Cecil R.Thompson. Australia.

It is with great diffidence that I take up my pen to give a few hints on mating, rearing, etc., of the Modern Game Bantam, and trust it will be clearly understood that the following remarks are not intended for the older hands.

My intentions are to write a few words from my experience, which may be helpful to comparative beginners. This breed of Bantam is usually recognised as the aristocrat of all Bantams, and, seen in anything approaching perfection, the markings, type, etc., are marvellous. They should be the exact counterpart, in miniature, of the large Modern Game.

To begin with, the person who is desirous of taking up the breed should know exactly what is required, and this can only be acquired after a careful study of the standard, and then buy the best you can afford. By this I mean not necessarily the best exhibition birds, but the correctly bred birds, for unless you have good foundation stock you cannot expect to succeed.

All our best Modern Game Bantams were inbred (not by chance breeding), father to daughter, mother to son, a cock to pullet, cockerel to hens, and above all, use healthy birds; and if a breeder wishes for a change of blood, great care must be taken or your strain of wee ones may be destroyed. With care one can breed for years without introducing fresh blood. To breed first-class exhibition birds you must mate two separate



Photo: Chris Hardman

Modern Game Black Red Cockerel

pens. It is very seldom you can breed both from the same pen to win in strong competitions. I have done it myself, and also seen it done with other breeders, but it is mere chance.

In breeding Modern Game Bantams style is considered to be of the greatest importance. By style, I mean general carriage, which should be tall and racy with head and tail carried at a nice angle; long lean head, (narrow and gracefully curved), bright red and bold; prominent eye; and the neck should be long and slender, with hackle close fitting. This tends to bring out the shoulders to much greater advantage; the shoulders stand out squarely and the wings short and nicely curved, and just meeting at the stern, fine and small at the tail roots; the chest broad, but not too full or turkey breasted. The tail should be fine and short as possible, whipped closely together. The thighs should be well set apart, this adds greatly to the game-like look of the bird. The shanks long, round, straight and fine, clear and smooth; the feet and toes straight and sound, the hind toe to be exactly opposite the middle toe, the point of which is to just touch the ground. But where the back toe is carried sideways, this is a serious defect as the breed from a Bantam, faulty or duck-footed, means the majority of the progeny will have the same fault.

They are bred in variety of colours, the principal being Black Reds, Piles, Duckwings, Birchens, Brown Reds, and Wheatens. Self colours are seldom seen.

Now, with regard to housing, etc, of the stock birds.



Photo: Chris Hardman

Modern Game Duckwing Cockerel

I have the floor of my scratching shed covered with straw chaff. The birds then can obtain exercise and will develop their muscles and keep them in good health and vigour during the breeding seasons. I prefer to use soft food (bran and pollard) in the morning, then a midday meal of greenstuff, and in the afternoon good, sound wheat. One male and four females are quite sufficient for a breeding pen. Personally I do not start to breed until September, as I find the chicks do much better during the warm weather.

Never use incubators for hatching Game Bantam eggs, I find the Silkie-Pekin cross to be ideal mothers. They must be well dusted with insect powder a few days before the eggs are due to hatch, for it is important that the chicks get a free start from insect pests. It is essential for the chicks to be kept dry and warm; wet and cold are fatal to them.

A coop with a covered-in run attached for the first three weeks is best. The size for the ordinary brood being 2ft 6ins, wide, about 2ft high, and 4ft.6ins long. The front of the run and the coop should be small meshed wire netting, but the sleeping compartment is divided off from the run (to be closed at night.) The bottom should be boarded and covered with a nice dry band. The run need not have a bottom.

For the first 36 hours leave the chicks with the hen. The first feed, sprinkle a little dry rolled oats, and a liquid to drink consisting of milk, to which has been



Photo Chris Hardman

Modern Game Wheaten Pullet



Photo Chris Hardman

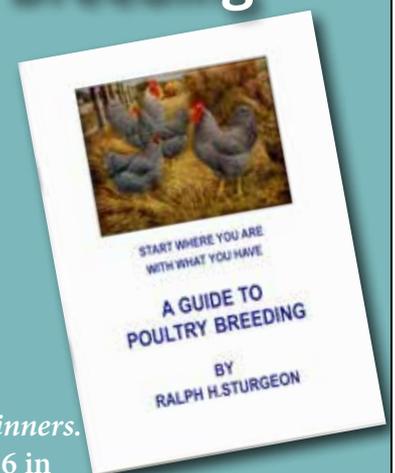
Modern Game Birchen Pullet

A Guide To Poultry Breeding

By R. Sturgeon

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added a whisked fresh egg – one egg to a quart of milk. After the chicks have had their first feed, mix a hard-boiled egg with bread crumbs and place it on a board before them. At a week old give them dry chick food and plenty of clean fresh water. Do not be afraid of feeding them. Feeding sparingly to keep down size is a big mistake. Give them as much as they will eat and get them matured quickly. Some will grown bigger than others no matter what you do or how you feed.

Youngsters will not thrive unless they have ample shade to resort to during the summer heat. If no natural protection is afforded them, canvas should be erected to provide shelter, but it is at the time of the final moult into adult plumage that most harm is done.

The ideal accommodation is a good-sized scratching shed, from which the sun's rays can be excluded. The birds should be confined during the daytime and when the sun has lost its power, say at 5 pm, let out into a good grass run, to which access maybe allowed them up to about eight o'clock the next morning. They

should be again housed in for the day.

Always examine your chicks for insect pests. Ailing chickens are generally troubled with them. Lice will generally be found under the wings and especially around the vent; the head and throat are also favourite places for them. A good plan is to dust the body with Diatom and in the coop or boxes. Repeat so as to make the eradication sure. Anything that provides a harbour for parasites, such as bark, or loose pieces of wood, etc., should be removed. Dust each broody hen before the chicks are due out, and avoid using hens which are suffering from scaly legs. Chickens that are being brought up with hens suffering from this complaint are sure to develop it also.

One must be prepared to spend a certain amount of time with the wee ones daily, and at the same time study the small details which, though small



Photo Chris Hardman

Modern Game Pile Pullet

in themselves, mean much to the general welfare of the birds.

In conclusion, I hope these few lines will help the novice who has taken up this interesting and beautiful variety of Bantams.



Photo Chris Hardman

Modern Game Brown Red Hen

Poultry Leg Cleaning Spray

- Cleans the areas where Scaly Leg Mites live and breed.
- Saturate the affected areas on the birds legs.
- Repeat in 2-3 days.

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REDUCE YOUR FEED BILL UP TO 35%



by Dr Chris Tempest from the North Island Poultry & Pigeon News Digest

Feed is the largest single cost in most poultry operations. Almost all birds will over-consume feed, so a tight control over allowances/wastage/ration selection can reduce feed cost 25-35%. Where feed comprises half of total costs, this can mean the difference between profit, loss or how many fowls you keep.

HOW MUCH FEED IS ENOUGH?

In feeding any group of birds, it is important to know how to estimate the minimum feed requirement for health/production/vigour. It can be assumed that birds will happily eat up to twice the amount of food they need. The result is over-fatness/poor reproductive performance/prolapse, etc.

Once birds become overfat slimming can only be done by drastic means, generally involving a full moult. Any attempt to put the birds on a slimming diet during lay will cause a dramatic fall-off in performance.

Most birds will eat a surprising amount of grass. I once had a group of first-moult Pekin ducks on grass which had been getting 12kg of feed/100 birds/day for some while and maintaining good condition. They were then shifted on to a bare yard and within a week their body condition became markedly poorer. A feed increase to 18kg/100/day was required to compensate for the pasture.

Gallinaceous species such as quail, pheasant, guinea fowl, chicken etc. will all eat surprising amounts of grass and benefit from being able to select roughage,

foliage and even soil.

So, back to the question: How much feed is enough?

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Ad-lib poultry feeding

The answer must be obtained by trial and error. Let us assume the birds are on “ad lib” feeding, i.e. getting whatever they will eat. This means if feeding time is 5.00pm, the previous day’s feed will have been completely cleaned up by about midday. Birds should never have feed left over at the next feeding.

At the same time, get a feel for how the birds are thriving. If they are laying, record daily egg production. If birds are being reared or moulted, weigh a sample of birds each week. Five to 10 birds weighed regularly will indicate whether they have a small but steady weight increase, which is our aim; or are losing weight.

Lastly, handle birds at least weekly. Feel for the “condition” of the breast muscles, abdominal fat (thickness of the abdominal skin behind the point of the breast) and how sharp the pelvic bones feel.

Top performance will come from birds in lean condition.

A word here on rearing. Once chicks are established, i.e. 4-6 weeks, they can be kept very lean until 3-4 weeks pre-lay. Evidence in meat breeders shows that the best subsequent egg production comes from birds which have been reared in hard condition.

Once the performance or condition of the group has been established, start to gradually cut back on feed. Determine how much feed the birds are eating ad lib. Then, for the next week, reduce the daily feed allowance by 5%, i.e. if the group has been getting 10kg/100 birds/day, now feed 9.5kg/100 birds/day.

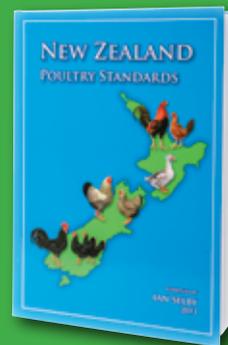
Watch egg production carefully, especially egg size

which will be affected before egg numbers and is a useful indicator that feed intake is marginal. Don’t

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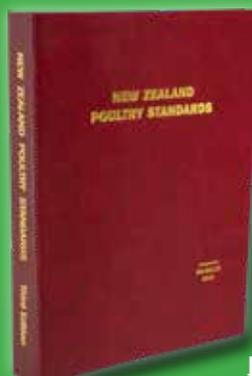
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\$70

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forget to handle birds at least weekly.

If the reduced feed produces no ill-effects, repeat. But monitor the flock carefully. Remember that during the first half of lay, a bird needs more food than during later in lay.

WHICH RATION OR FORMULATION TO USE?

Formulating and milling modern compound feeds is a high-tech business. Research has carefully defined the nutrient requirements for most domesticated bird species and for each phase of their life-cycle. The commercially-important species, hens, broilers and turkeys have been most intensively researched. Choosing the correct ration not only ensures a balanced diet for the birds, but saves money. A ration must not be chosen because it is cheaper to buy. A "cheaper" ration, e.g., a pullet grower, will cause growing broilers to exhibit poor growth, high feed conversion, and develop excessive carcass fat. The appropriate ration, broiler starter, will cost more per bag but less per finished broiler along with a higher quality.

So, check with your local feed mill or merchant.

FEED WASTAGE?

In the top commercial operations, 5% wastage is considered normal. Once spilled feed becomes obvious, especially on litter, then wastage is probably over

20%.

The physical presentation of the feed is important in reducing wastage. A hard pellet with minimal dust allows little wastage, compared with mash. Most larger meat producers pellet all feed as part of Salmonella control programmes then crush the pellet to whatever size is required. Even a fine crumb will not be wasted as much as a mash.

The key to minimal wastage is feeder design. Outdoor feeders should be weatherproof, and have a lip high enough to prevent spillage. Wild birds not only waste feed but also constitute a disease risk.

Indoor feeders should also be designed to prevent loss.

SUMMARY

1. Careful feed management can reduce feed costs by 25-35%.
2. Set up a system so that birds are being fed only what they need for health, production and vigour.
3. Remember pasture can make a significant contribution.
4. Get expert advice from your feed manufacturer or merchant on the appropriate ration. Don't buy the cheapest. Look carefully at feeder design.

EPSOM SALTS

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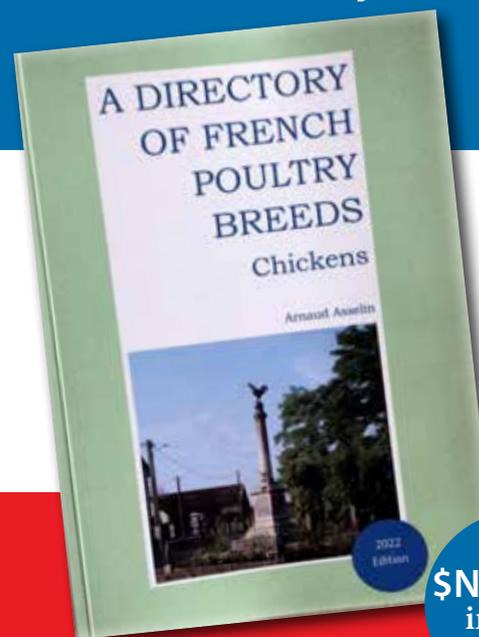
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OVERCROWDING



by Fred P. Jeffrey, USA

Over-crowding results in poor rearing of chickens

The ability to grow healthy and full feathered birds is the requirement for success. Not even the best conditioner in the world can take a poor feathered or non-vigorous birds.

Breeders use countless ways of rearing good birds, so the first rule is to never change a system if it works. For those breeders, however, who are not satisfied with the quality of birds they are raising, a look at how the mother hen does the job might be worthwhile.

I am not suggesting that all breeders return to natural incubation, but even so, they might do worse. Many breeders still depend on the mother hen for incubation and rearing. I know of one fancier who for years has successfully hatched and reared 400 birds a year by this method.

It seems to me that the mother hen has given us two important principles which can be adapted to artificial brooding and rearing.

These are: (1) no crowding and (2) lack of aseptic conditions in the brooder house.

Many would maintain, including this columnist, that crowding is the major cause of the lack of quality in chickens. There is no crowding with the mother hen, because the size of her brood is determined by the number of eggs she can cover during incubation. How does one define crowding?

Much depends on the breed and age of the birds.



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- Keeps your chickens healthy and clean.
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Large birds require more space than small ones, and those with special feather requirements (Pekins and Japanese, for example) require more room than the Hardfeathered (Game breeds). There can be crowding with one bird for example a large bantam confined to a regular pen for long periods of time and often standing in its caked droppings.

A sure sign of crowding is undesirable odour laced with ammonia and another is caked or wet litter. Another indication of crowding is "feather picking" which is a vice of idleness and not having enough room for the birds to move around.

The sanitarian might not like to admit it, but baby chickens running with a mother hen do not enjoy aseptic conditions. It is inevitable that the chickens pick up and eat some of the dried droppings of the mother hen, particularly when one realizes that droppings from broody hens are different from those of the non-broody.

The hen during incubation holds her droppings for several days and when excreted frequently show undigested particles of grain which appeal to the baby chickens who are scratching around for food. I have no proof but do believe that the droppings of broody hens carry factors conducive to producing immunity in the chickens to many diseases, including Coccid-



Over-crowding

iosis.

You see, with no crowding, the chickens develop a GRADUAL immunity which is so important to the healthy bird.

My conclusion: never crowd your birds and never clean the brooder house too thoroughly.

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Avoid inhalation of dust. Wear a suitable dust mask when using large quantities of *Poultrynz D.E.* or operating in confined spaces.

THE CAUSE OF POOR FEATHERING

FEATHER WIDTH HAS A GREAT BEARING ON THE PROPER CHOICE OF YOUR BREEDING PENS.

From The Feather Merchant

In viewing the problem at poor feathering, many breeders incline to the view that it is exclusively an inherited fault. If this were wholly true, how soon the trouble could be rectified by selecting breeding stock which gave quick feathering progeny.

Take a look at the next Silkie which comes your way and to note the ragged look about the ends of the wing feathers. Then look through your cockerels to see which of them has identical ragged wing feathers. Pay particular attention to the top secondary feathers, near the body.

Breeding males with these ragged feathers are the most likely sires of poor feathering progeny. It is a definite sign of freak feathering, a fault which seems to have developed in many of the strains of large fowl.

Any breeder can insist upon breeding males which have well formed wing feathers, broad and firm in the end secondaries. The faulty hen or pullet is easily noted, even without handling the back and body feathers. These are soft and silky, almost like the soft pointed back feathers of a young cockerel and identical to those seen on the Silkie female.

It is clear enough that one should select breeding females which possess broad defined feathers, as if the edges had been cut out with a pair of scissors. Narrow feathered birds are never strong in constitution, another reason for selecting on breadth of feather.

Poor dry feathering is common to the progeny of aged breeding stock, male and female, past their allotted span of reproductive usefulness. They are easy enough to eradicate, for their chicks look like poor specimens.

The third group of poor feathering Bantams have inherited the fault, while a fourth batch of chicks are dry and poor in feathering train faulty brooding.

Often one will find a breeder blaming his breeding stock, when he should be looking at his unsatisfactory brooding methods.

Early chicks are usually well feathered, later batches of chicks are poorer and drier in plumage, for the simple reason that the earliest get the cold and moist air, while the late ones have to contend with a warm and dry atmosphere, also it is quite plain that weakly chicks which always huddle the lamp and stay too much in the heat have brittle dry feathering.

Most chicks are subject to too much heat. They should be encouraged to generate some of their own. Key to ideal and natural feathering is for the body to grow in priority to the wings. Proper brooding ensures that. Overheated brooding ensures the wings to grow first at the expense of the body, noticeable in light breeds of Bantams, which naturally

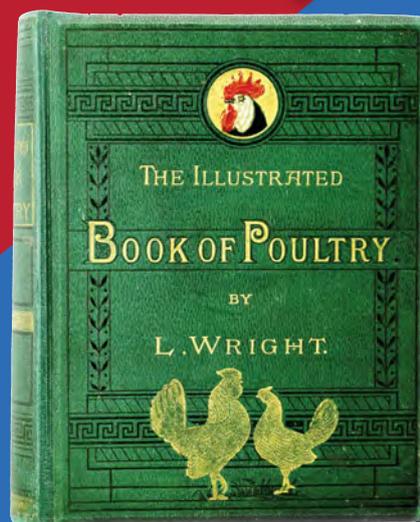


Poor wing feathering

feather more rapidly than those of heavy birds.

So pick your best feathered birds for breeders. Don't overheat your young birds and see if when show time rolls around, you don't take home your share of the ribbons.

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