

Poultrynz

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02 POULTRYNZ

OUR PRODUCT CATALOGUE

03 RECIPE

ROSEMARY & THYME LAMB RUMP
WITH COUSCOUS



04

THE PEKIN BANTAM



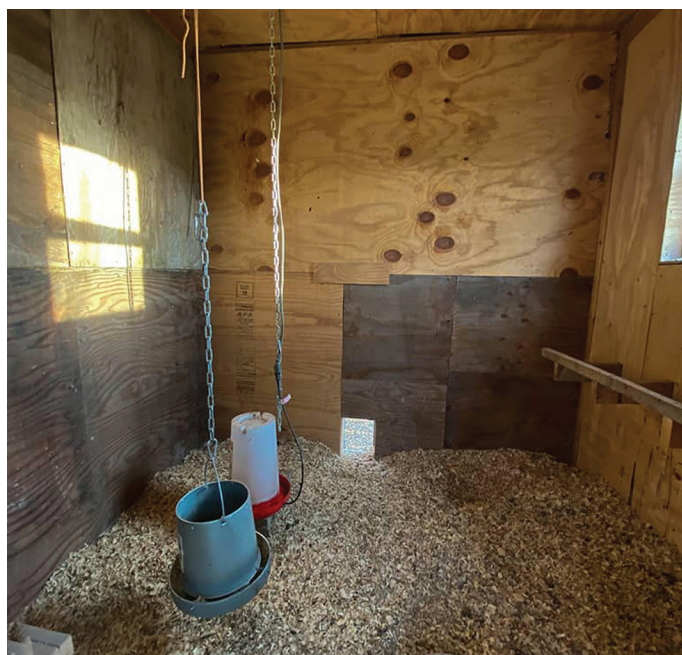
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THE MOULT



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FIRST FEATHERS CAN BE
MISLEADING



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COOP CLEAN-UP GUIDE

Poultrynz Editorial

Don't be surprised that this time of year there is a drop-off in egg production. It is also the natural time of the year that our Fowls and Bantams go into their yearly moult. It is important to give your birds quality a feed too as with the new growth

in feathers that is the birds clothes for the harsh winter months. So protein is more important in the winter along with plenty of fresh water. Again keep them dry, clean and warm.

Until next issue.

Regards, Ian Selby.

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ROSEMARY & THYME LAMB RUMP WITH COUSCOUS

INGREDIENTS

Serves 4

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon each: fresh chopped rosemary, thyme
- 1 teaspoon each: cumin seeds, ground coriander, sea salt
- 4 mini lamb rumps
- ¼ cup lemon-Infused oil
- 1 red onion, peeled and finely diced
- 1 each: red, orange capsicum, finely diced
- 4 cups cooked couscous
- 1 teaspoon each: ground cumin, coriander
- 1 handful freshly picked herbs, eg, coriander, mint, parsley
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

METHOD

- Preheat the oven to 190°C. Combine the oil, herbs, spices and salt.
- Place the lamb rumps in a deep-sided, ovenproof dish and pour over the herb and spice mix. Cover and leave to marinate in the refrigerator for at least 20 minutes. Roast for 12-15 minutes (depending on size) until the flesh is pink but still juicy. Let the meat rest before slicing it on the angle.
- Meanwhile, to make the couscous, heat the lemon oil and sauté the red onion, capsicums and spices until the onion and capsicums are soft and fragrant.
- Place the cooked couscous in a large bowl and toss through the onion mixture and the fresh herb leaves. Season to taste.
- Divide the couscous between serving bowls and top with the sliced lamb.

TIP

Dried rosemary and thyme could be used on the lamb rump instead of fresh herbs, but use less.



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THE PEKIN BANTAM

by W. A. Bugden. Australia 1949

Pekins are a well known feathered-leg bantam.

The breed was discovered in the ancient city of Pekin in China by the English soldiers who raided and looted the City, over 200 years ago. The soldiers were amazed to find tiny, fowls very cheeky, and very busy and resembling balls of fluff. It is amazing just how much feather there is on a good Pekin.

The breed is so called from the name of the city, but it is really a miniature Cochin, a breed found in China and originally known as Cochin-China. Indeed they are known as Cochin Bantams in America, in England Pekin or Cochin, while in Australia and New Zealand Pekin, although I would prefer them to be known as Cochins, as they really are. Still it is hard to change a name once it has been established.

In Australia and New Zealand in 1949, we find them in five colours namely: Black, White, Buff, Blue and Cuckoo. England has Mottles and Partridges as well, while in America many more

varieties have been made.

The hens lay well and sit even better. In fact, the Pekin is about the best bantam broody, as there is so much feather that the chicks would find it very hard to get cold under the hen. Fertility is good if the birds are clipped round the vent, while the chicks are not hard to rear. The heavy foot feather prevents them doing much damage while scratching in the garden, but at the same time it prevents them dusting properly, hence one must watch for Lice and Mites.

The Black

This is the most popular show Pekin and the one nearest to perfection. It is probably one of the two original colours found in Pekin. The variety has its colour problems and many breeders double-mate. The feather colour is black, including undercolour. The surface colour must have a bright beetle-green sheen and be free from red or white in feather. Undercolour too should be free from white although this is



Black Pekin Cockerel



Blue Pekin Pullet

hard to get. Care must be taken to see that the sheen is green, not purple, or green and purple barred.

The colour problem is this: Besides the black feather described above, red eye and yellow legs are asked for. The natural thing for a black fowl is black eye, legs and feet; and for a white fowl red eye, yellow legs and feet. To put what is natural for a white fowl onto a black fowl is a test of skill. If you get a black with bright yellow legs you will find him weak in undercolour, white will show through, especially in the tail and neck hackle. When the undercolour is black to the skin the legs becomes dusky, black appears. So the battle goes on. Pekin fanciers have made a compromise and now the legs may be dusky provided the soles of the feet are yellow. Still at all times a bird with yellow legs and black undercolour would be preferred.

When examining the breeding pens of the “double mater” you will find that the pen for males contains a male as near to perfection as possible; rich yellow legs, red eye, sound undercolour; his hens will not have much sheen, but they will be black to the skin and ‘possessing dusky leg colour. The female pen, however, will contain a male with plenty of white in his undercolour, and a little red in hackle helps, as a bird with this breeds females with good sheen, his mates are exhibition females. Most Pekins seen tend towards the female mating. Please note that the pen is to produce show females and not only birds of the female sex. Both males and females are bred but the males are not show standard.

The White

Whites are most likely “sports” from Blacks. They will breed blacks when mated to them, but of course, with weakened undercolour. Still it is a good mating for a change of blood, and the Whites can be improved the same way.

The variety is a lovely sight in a flock, especially in a well cleaned pen. They soil their feathers quickly and therefore require washing for show. The rich yellow legs and red eye stand out. Care must be taken to select “stay white” birds for breeding. These do not go yellowish in feather when running about in the sun, whereas a bird which is not “stay-white” will tarnish quickly. Of course the sun’s rays will rob the feather of much of its lustre and dry it quickly, both undesirable conditions.



White Pekin Pullet

The Buff

When bred to perfection this would be the outstanding Pekin. The variety, one of the original

A Guide To Poultry Breeding

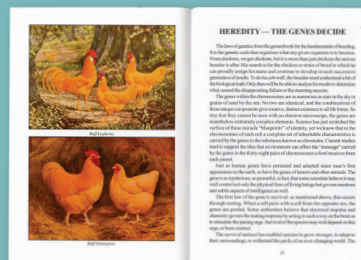
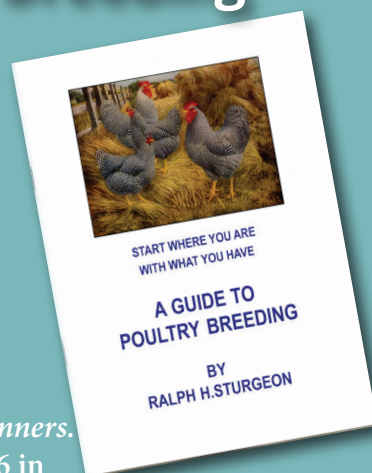
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from China, has the most appealing colour and the Buff Bantams seen around the countryside have degenerated from them. The problem is however, how to introduce the much-needed new blood. Blacks may be introduced into Whites, Blues, and Cuckoos, as all belong to the same family, and are improved in consequence. The Buff, however, does not readily blend with them and so suffers. Blacks have been tried as a cross, but it is hard to breed out black once it gets in. One well known breeder succeeded but when he mated the Buff bred this way with other Buffs he bred Blues and gave up in disgust; in my opinion, just the time when he should have continued the experiment. I have the idea that the buff bred Blue mated back to the pure Buff would have given him what he wanted. Several breeders try the Blue X Buff mating. From early experiments it would appear that the Blue male to Buff hen mating is useless and that the Buff male to Blue hen will have to be used.

When Whites are mated to Buff the colour is considerably weakened. The strength of colour must be maintained. Birds losing colour lose it first in the flights and quill of the feather.

Our Buffs must be even coloured. That is, one shade of buff from head to toe, undercolour included. The actual shade does not matter, you may have Lemon Buff, Cinnamon Buff, Orange Buff, Silver Buff, Gold Buff, etc., as long as the shade is even throughout.

Silver and Lemon Buffs are light shades, Orange and Cinnamon dark. The standard prefers "Golden Buff" which would be a medium shader, the shade to aim for. All Pekins have red faces, comb, wattles and earlobes. Buffs have red eyes and rich yellow legs and feet.

NOTE: This article comes from 'Bird World and Pet Digest' Australian 1949. While it is an old article it does give some background to Pekins of yesteryear, in particular Blacks. An article well worth reading especially by Pekin breeders. *Editor.*



Buff Pekin Pullet

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THE MOULT

Author unknown

The moult is of considerable importance for several reasons. Firstly, it has its economic aspect; secondly, the time and manner of dropping the feathers are indicative of a bird's production and state of health; thirdly, the management of a flock during this period has an important bearing on its future performance.

While there are exceptions to every rule, generally speaking we may conclude that:

- (1) An early moulter is a poor layer.
- (2) She moults slowly.
- (3) Conversely, a good layer moults later in the season and more rapidly.
- (4) Hens moult later than pullets.

A poor layer ceases production at an early date. Food, therefore, is not required for egg production. Instead it goes to nourish the feathers, hence the early moulting and wealth of feather associated with the poor bird. Since she also lacks the urge to lay she takes her time over the job of growing a new coat; consequently, she rarely has a ragged appearance or shows bare patches.

Good layers moult later because food is required to maintain ovarian activity. There is little surplus to nourish the plumage and, as a result, the feathers are retained usually until production must cease in the autumn.

If the onset of the moult coincides with a cessation of production a good layer will moult rapidly and show more or less bareness. On the other hand, the very best birds continue to lay, though at a slower rate, for some time after moulting commences. This has the effect of slowing down the process because these birds are doing two jobs simultaneously. Occasionally a bird will lay throughout the moult.

The culling of early moulters and the retention of late moulters, therefore, is sound practice; but the majority of birds will fall somewhere between the two extremes. Even so, it should not be difficult to decide which are the best by noting the rate at which the feathers are being replaced always bearing in mind the fact that while a bird is in lay the process is likely to be slower. Other factors being equal, a bird which continues to lay for some time after commencing to drop her feathers should be preferred to one which does not.

In case of doubt, indication of rate of moulting may be



A moulting Wyandotte hen

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obtained by an examination of the wing. When fully extended the small axial feather which lies between the primary and secondary flight feathers will be seen. The primaries, of which there are ten, extend from the axial to the four small (finger) feathers at the wing tip.

The primary feathers are dropped in regular order commencing with No.1 (adjacent to the axial), then No.2 and so on to No.10, which lies next to the finger feathers. The secondary feathers need not concern us.

If the wing of a rapid moulter is examined it will be seen that she is replacing several primary feathers simultaneously or at least in quick succession. Consequently the difference in the length of the new feathers is not great. The wing of a bird moulting slowly, on the other hand, will show a marked difference in the length of the new feathers.

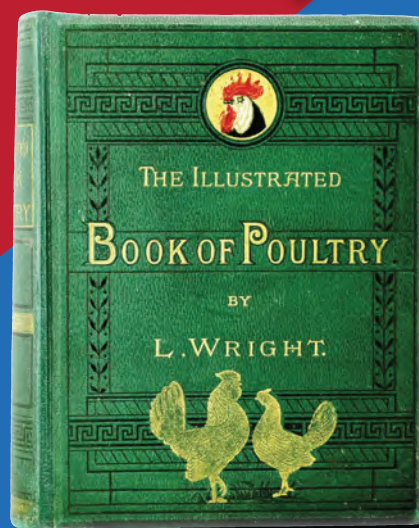
Any apparent irregularity in the order of dropping the primary feathers is due to a partial moult earlier in the season. Should a bird moult a few feathers in the winter or early spring, then cease moulting and start to lay, she will start moulting in the autumn at the point where she left off, then, as a rule, proceed to replace the feathers grown during the partial moult. Feeding, management, weather and other environmental factors have a material effect on the onset and duration of the moult. A flock that has been badly managed, or is in poor condition, will moult earlier and slower than one that has been well managed and is in good condition. Overcrowding, lack of water, insufficient food or sudden change in feeding or environment may cause an early moult as will also an epidemic of colds. A spell of hot weather, more particularly if the birds cannot obtain shelter from the sun, will cause them to moult earlier than would be the case were conditions more favourable. A healthy bird, if in good condition, will moult readily and if she is a prolific layer will commence production again in about eight weeks, though the actual time she is out of production is very variable.

It is a question of having the birds in the right condition and of maintaining such condition throughout the process. This can be done by the ordinary methods of feeding and management so no bird is so fat that their return to production is delayed, or so underfed that it takes weeks of special feeding to build them up again.



A moulting Brown Leghorn Hen

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FIRST FEATHERS CAN BE MISLEADING

Just as down colour in newly hatched chicks gives little indication of the feathers that adult Fowls will wear, so the first feathers which are assumed in Fowls do not always bear directly the shades which will come later. Beginners, and those who have not had experience of a newly acquired breed, are often puzzled. Often, too, they are unnecessarily worried.

Certain breeds have well established traits while strains within a breed may differ. An experienced breeder knowing the signs of a particular strain can assess chicks at quite an early age.

Take a pencilled or double-laced variety. When hatched they will be what is often termed "pansy coloured." This very pretty and vivid description seems to fit the colour pattern. Deep brown with almost violet black markings, there will be little resemblance to later markings. As the first feathers are grown they will, as likely as not, be



Down colour of Wheaten Chicks

uniformly drab.

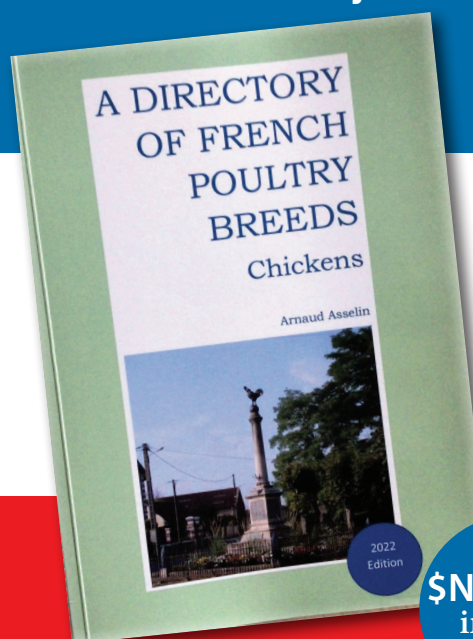
When adult feathers are being assumed, experienced breeders look eagerly for that soft and attractive ground



Wheaten colour as an adult

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colour in the one case or rich chestnut in the other and then examine feathers closely for the ultimate beauty. Even so they sometimes have to wait a full year for an adult moult, to bring the coarsely marked, rather "barred," feathers to that regularity of marking which is hoped for.

So the other varieties have their own peculiarities. Buff breeds are often peppered in wings and tail when chicks, but the new feathers clear out and show specimens come along. Sometimes they are smoky in under-colour. This, again, may clear and all may be well with the finished Bird.

The great thing is to be observant with chicks and growing stock of a variety which is not thoroughly understood and to make a note about them in their early days. When the matured adults are checked against details already recorded, the breeder will have basis on which future selections can be made at an early age. But no breed should be hastily condemned on its appearance while in baby feathers.



Down colour of a Black Red Chick

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COOP CLEAN-UP GUIDE

Author Unknown

You can control the presence of malevolent organisms by periodically cleaning and disinfecting your chicken coop. Cleaning alone is not the same as disinfection, but if done thoroughly makes disinfection more effective. Choose a warm day for clean-up to help the coop dry out quickly afterwards.

1. Lightly spray the interior of the building with a disinfectant to settle the dust and prevent the scattering of micro-organisms while you work.
2. Remove all portable equipment and fixtures.
3. Clean out litter. Compost it or spread it on land where chickens will not be allowed for at least a year.
4. Using a hoe or scraper, clean off accumulated crusted dirt on droppings boards, walls, pits, perches and all equipment. When done, don't forget to clean the scraper, too.
5. Use an old broom to brush down the walls, paying particular attention to corners, crevices and cracks.
6. Again with a broom, scrub down the coop and all equipment with boiling water, a fairly effective disinfectant even without additional chemicals. Cleansing power and decontamination efficiency can be increased by mixing in a little detergent.
7. To be certain of a good job, or if any disease or parasitic infestation is suspected, apply a disinfectant to every portion of the building's interior, its fixtures and all equipment. Use a hard bristle brush or a hose attachment designed for spraying fruit trees. Be sure there is good ventilation while you work, and wear a protective face mask and rubber gloves.
8. Allow plenty of time for the coop to air out and dry before returning the birds. When not completely dried, some disinfectants are injurious to the bird's feet, the fumes may hurt their eyes, and the odour may be absorbed by eggs.

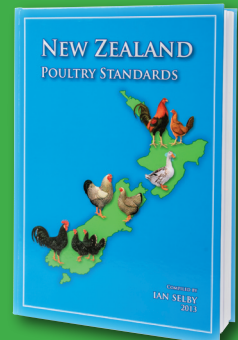
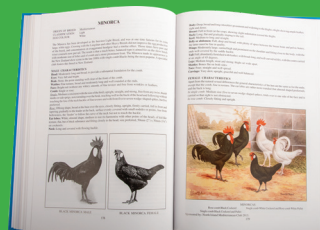


Nicely cleaned shed with plenty of room to access walls etc

NZ POULTRY STANDARDS

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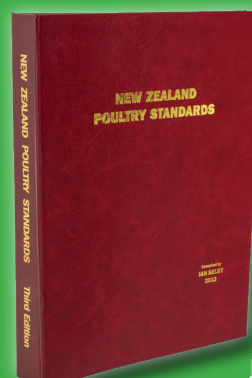
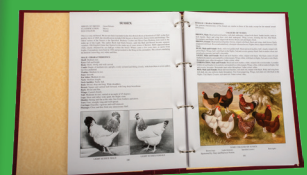
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