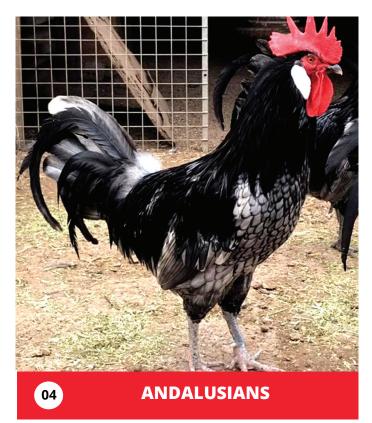
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Ian Selby Ph: 06 754 6262

www.poultrynz.com

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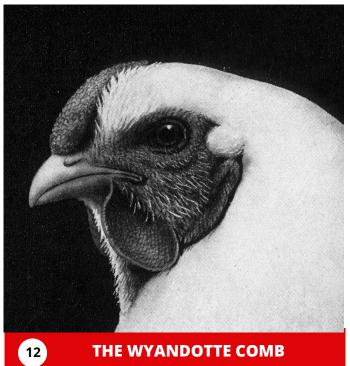
02 POULTRYNZ **OUR PRODUCT CATALOGUE**  03 RECIPE **RUM & RAISIN HEDGEHOGS** 







YOUR NEXT SEASON'S BREEDING STOCK 07



**10** SOME CHICKEN BEHAVIOUR

# **Poultrynz Editorial**

The trend of rising prices has caught up with the Poultrynz Products. Apart from 2 products that have only risen by one dollar the main contributor has been in cartage charges. It is very unfortunate that Postal and Courier charges are a major factor but we hope to be able to stabilise the pricing of products themselves. It is pleasing to note that

Poultry Shield and D.E. have held. Poultrynz Leg Spray may be the next to rise but it will not be much compared to other products on the Markets today. I will keep you informed of any changes.

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**

<del> </del>				
			Courier	Rural
Product	Quantity	Unit Price	Postage	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	\$9.00	\$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 <u>poultrynz@xtra.co.nz</u>



### **INGREDIENTS**

Serves 16

½ cup raisins

½ cup rum

400g dark chocolate, chopped

50g butter, chopped

200g Digestive biscuits, crushed

1 cup hazelnuts, toasted, roughly chopped, plus extra to serve.

### **METHOD**

- Lightly grease and line a 20cm square cake pan with baking paper.
- In a small bowl, combine raisins and rum. Set aside to soak for 3-4 hours (see tip).
- In a large, heat-proof bowl, combine chocolate and butter. Place over a saucepan of gently simmering water (ensure water does not touch base of bowl). Stir gently for 4-5 minutes until melted.
- Add biscuits, hazelnuts and raisins to chocolate mixture, stirring well. Spoon evenly into pan, smoothing surface.
- Sprinkle top with extra hazelnuts. Chill for 1 hour or until set. Cut into squares to serve. Store in an airtight container in the fridge.

## Top Tip

 You can speed up the soaking time by heating the raisin mixture in a microwave oven on HIGH (100%) power for 30 seconds.



• For best results, use in conjunction with *Poultrynz D.E.* 

poultrynz@xtra.co.nz

# **ANDALUSIANS**



Author unknown

The Andalusian is a good example of a breed ▲ bearing the name of one country or district, but virtually made and improved, almost beyond recognition, in another. As in the case of other breeds, such as Hamburgs, Indian Game and Langshans (Modern and Croad) the country of development was Britain - despite the foreign names. Writing in "Our Poultry" Harrison Weir says, "I journeyed to Andalusia in February of the year 1879, and when there, made every enquiry respecting the blue variety round about Cadiz, Gibraltar, Algeciras, Malaga, etc, but although I visited several places where choice birds were kept, the so-called Andalusian appeared to be quite unknown". By the same token, today, I doubt whether the traveller would find any Minorcas on the Island of Minorca, nor would I bank on finding Polands in Poland.

It appears that some alert, active birds of slateblue colouring, with very little lacing, and with smaller combs than modern Andalusians have, were imported into Britain, from the province of Andalusia in Spain in the middle of the nineteenth century. They were somewhat "gamey" in appearance. British fanciers got to work on them, and in a few decades evolved the presentday Andalusian, with excellent lacing and more

Andalusian Trio

Mediterranean type heads. No doubt the then popular Spanish and the Minorca were used in the process, which would account for the increased size of comb (though it remains smaller and finer than that of the Minorca), and also its excellent laying power and egg size. The type has remained more lacy than that of the Minorca, but no longer "gamey". It is interesting to note that Andalusians in Germany have smaller combs and lower tail carriage than ours in England.

All popular varieties of fowls today, in both the show pen and poultry yard, must pay their way, earn a good profit, and possess attractiveness that will appeal to the most exacting. As a prolific layer of large white, well-shaped eggs, the Andalusian ranks among the best and, like several of the old fashioned breeds, it won its popularity by sheer merit and it is universally acknowledged to be one of the most beautiful and fascinating of our breeds of poultry.

There is not much doubt that the Andalusian and the Minorca had a common ancestry and it is not difficult today to see the resemblance in the graceful shape and head points, and the character of the Minorca. Probably due to the difficulty of breeding true to colour the progress of the breed has remained somewhat stationary.

No other exhibition bird presents such difficulties. The breeding of good Andalusians is really an art and should be done in a systematic way. A definite standard should be had in mind toward which to work with the ultimate expectation of breeding better type, colour and size in the next generation. If a novice undertakes Andalusians he would do well to get an experienced fancier to put a breeding pen together.

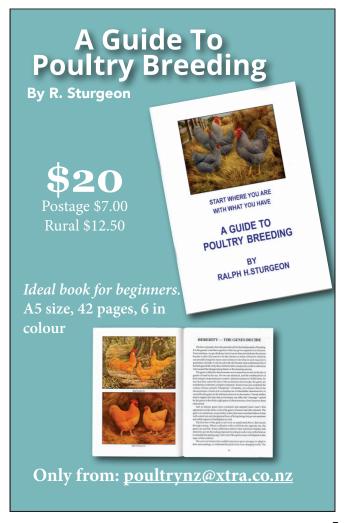
Since blue is not a natural colour the chief difficulty in breeding Andalusians is the one of colour. Far too many off coloured birds are hatched and this is very discouraging to the amateur fancier. If Andalusians are not properly mated in colour

the progeny will not be satisfactory. Many of our self coloured breeds are handsome, but a bird with a laced plumage presents difficulties which do not obtain among the self coloured varieties.

In mating Andalusians one has to remember that like does not produce like. I always found the best results were obtained from mating together males and females of as near standard colour as possible and by mating dark blue to light blue. The females must be of even ground colour throughout, free from smutty or dark feathers on breast and wing. Lacing should be carried down to the fluff. The breeder has, however, to learn to mix the shades of blue ground as well as the depth of lacing to produce the desired result. The cock's hackle should be of a dense lustrous black, the breast and wings of a clear blue edged with black lacing, not a mere suggestion of lacing. The tail also should be blue and the sickles much darker or even a glossy black. The colour and lacing of the hen from the beak down to the breast and on the back to the end of the tail should be similar to the breast of the cock, except for the glossy black on the upper part of the neck. The lower hackle which rests on the shoulders should be blue and well-laced, gradually combining with the feathers on the shoulders and back.



**Andalusian Pullet** 



In shape the Andalusian should be full breasted, legs moderately the long, the back wide, slightly rounded with shoulders tapering towards the tail which should not be carried high nor spread fanwise. Do not put sluggards, weaklings birds or narrow in build in to the breeding pen. Fanciers who are not seeking trouble should avoid excessive size in combs and earlobes. Another trouble is pencil spiked comb. Try to avoid this fault. Neatness in comb, not size, should be the aim. See to it that all birds have prominent red eyes. Even though colour and lacing take 50 points in the Standard, one has to remember not

to lose sight of the other 50. Double mating is not necessary. One pen, correctly mated, can produce both good cockerels and pullets.

The chickens are hardy and precocious and can be easily reared without special attention. Well matured pullets will commence laying at six months old. Andalusians are a long lived race of persistent producers. Despite the introduction and booming of many new breeds, Andalusians are still a breed to be reckoned with. Andalusians are alert, but not wild in the show pen. They need no washing, and the males, being black on top, need no shading in the summer and last well throughout their first year. After that one usually looks to the next batch of cockerels, with their lobes and combs at their freshest. Unlike some other light breeds, Andalusians are a full sized Large Fowl, and can hold their own, without looking insignificant, against all breeds.



**Andalusian Cockerel** 

# **EPSOM SALTS**

**MAGNESIUM SULPHATE** 



Great for the batheases tired muscles Ideal fertiliser for citrus, tomatoes and capsicums. Preserves cut flowers.

4kg \$15

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# YOUR NEXT SEASON'S BREEDING STOCK



by E.Haddlington, N.S.W. State Breeding Expert.

uring this month it is advisable to make a survey of the stock with a view to determine what "new blood" is required for the coming season. The breeding season may appear a long way off, but it is only a matter of six weeks or so before most of the birds should be in the pens becoming settled down ready for an early start in the hatching season. Therefore, it is time to look around, if any new birds are required, it is a mistake to leave the purchase of birds till the last moment, because all the best have then been picked over, and only mediocre or young birds are available. The introduction of new breeding stock is a very important matter, as it depends upon the suitability of the birds introduced whether improvement is effected or even the existing quality maintained, In purchasing birds quality and physique as well as laying characteristics should be kept in mind with a view to all round improvement. For this reason it is best, where practicable, to visit the person from which the purchaser of stock is contemplated instead of relying upon pedigree alone, which, without the necessary constitutional foundation, only leads to deterioration.

The first consideration is the general physique and health of the flock, and particular attention

A healthy pen of Rhode Island Reds ideal breeding stock

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Two old hens that might just need replacing

should be paid to the young stock to see if they are well developed and free from sickness. It should be noted whether the birds as a whole are of fairly uniform type, and in summing up the laying qualities, apart from any records, observation should be made as to whether there is a large number of birds showing coarseness, as indicated by surly birds with overhanging eyebrows, small sunken eyes, and wrinkled and feathery faces. This, of course, applies chiefly to the birds under two years old, because the older ones naturally tend to become coarser.

The careful buyer who is aiming at purity of breed and general improvement of quality will look for signs of impurity, such as coloured feathers in white birds, or foreign feathers in black or other coloured breeds, or again willow coloured legs in breeds which should have black legs. These and other adults, such as numerous rough and sprigged combs, light, coloured eyes, etc., are indications of carelessness in breeding or the introduction, of impure stock. It should not be imagined that impurities are easily bred out, because many birds which appear pure may be tainted with the foreign blood of a previous cross, and for this reason it may take many years of careful selection to get rid of the impurity. This is one reason why those who use only "flock" mat-

# **COMB DRESSING**

Show off your birds at their best.

A soft polish to improve the look of combs, face, lobes and wattles.

250 mls **\$20** 

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ings can never hope to maintain a high standard of quality.

There is another factor which should be taken into consideration when buying stock if good quality is desired; it should be noted whether provision is made for breeding from single matings, or one male and his complement of females in a separate pen. For both quality and egg production, the use of sufficient single breeding pens to enable the breeder to use only those bred from such pens for stud purposes, is essential to secure the best results.

## THE NECESSITY FOR NEW BLOOD

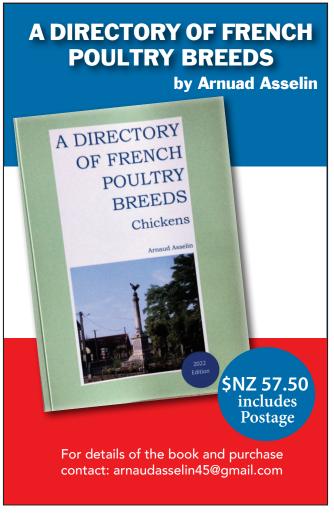
Some poultry breeders hesitate about introducing new birds for fear that by so doing they will suffer loss of type and production, and so they keep on breeding from too closely related or degenerate stock until they find that they are unable to rear the chickens successfully, which is soon followed by a general lowering of physique of the resultant birds, with the consequent production of a large percentage of small eggs. When this stage is reached it is too late to build up again by simply introducing new blood the next season. It would require several years of careful selection and infusion of new blood to resuscitate such a flock, and sometimes it would pay better to work up a new flock rather than attempt to build up again from the run down birds. In many instances where weakness has become apparent new blood has been introduced without any improvement, simply because the birds purchased have been no better bred than the home flock. The careful breeder, however, who understands his business is ever on the alert for weaknesses, and does not wait for a general "Breakdown" before taking action. He makes a practice of introducing a new bird or two each season, and if in doubt as to whether the new blood will, blend with his flock and produce the desired result, he tries it out on a small number first. By bringing in new stock each year a gradual blending of the new blood is possible, and so the physique and productivity of the flock are maintained.

Age and weight of breeding stock should be taken into consideration. For example, male birds carrying a great deal of age are not always suitable for mating unless artificially inseminated and one must check the capabilities of aged hens in relation to their laying capabilities.

Good combinations are often young cockerels with mature hens and mature males with pullets.



An old cock-bird that looks like he is past his best days.



# **SOME CHICKEN BEHAVIOUR**

#### **AGGRESSION**

Aggression towards the keeper should not be simply put down to dominance and bad temperateness; the behaviours of the keeper must also be considered. Is there a male in the flock and are its hens persistently being picked up? Is it a female only flock and the underdog is favoured and given more attention and treats than the others? This isn't jealousy on behalf of the others but competition; taking a mate, or giving something to a subordinate is not respecting the social structure of the flock. Such apparently insignificant interventions impact the social structure of the flock and can cause aggression.

## **BULLYING**

If there is constant aggression by one bird toward another subordinate bird then it is likely there is a bully present. In these instances the bully should be removed from the flock and placed in a quarantine cage for a week or two until the subordinate gets chance to settle. Do not remove the bullied (unless it's a permanent move) as its reintroduction to the flock will invariably result in a return of the bullying behaviour.



A bad case of over-crowding





### **PECKING ORDER**

This the social hierarchy of a flock of chickens and it can develop in a flock as early as six weeks of age. It will determine who eats first, who will have the best bathing spot, who will have the highest roost point, etc. It delineates the dominant from the subordinate, and is usually established through a degree of aggression (pecking). It does, however, create cohesion within the flock structure, which, whilst competitive in its concept, it is also there to minimise conflict.

#### **PICKING**

This is a condition that can occur at different stages in a chicken's life, and can be influenced by environmental stress factors such as excess heat, poor ventilation, constant bright light, and boredom. Picking differs from pecking as it will be targeted at a specific point on a specific bird. In the early days of a chick's life toe picking can be witnessed when one particular chick in a group will have its toes pulled by others. This is usually curiosity at work and in most cases it will be short lived. As the flock grows this can develop into tail pulling and feather picking which can lead to tissue damage and bleeding and, if left unchecked, it can develop into full blown cannibalism.

### MANAGING THE FLOCK STRUCTURE

Whilst chickens establish their own social structure, it is possible for the keeper to assist in keeping it stable, minimising stress, tension and unnecessary conflict. This can be done by:

1. Providing sufficient feeders and drinkers so that more have the opportunity to feed or drink at the same time;



A hen showing signs of cannibalism



Tail pecking or Feather pecking is a sign of bad behaviour

- 2. Ensuring there are always places to hide for the lower ranking birds;
- 3. Providing sufficient space; and
- 4. Minimising disruption to the pecking order by not adding or removing birds too frequently.



# THE WYANDOTTE COMB

by Bill Zeigler, USA.

We often fail to see typical Wyandotte combs on Wyandotte bantams. Most of these birds have medium sized rose combs and therefore get by. But many are poorly shaped and defective. The flat-tops, the high, wide and short, those showing an absence of the tapered rear point, and those having long spikes. Other detective combs are the hollow centres, those with coarse nodular points and some of those points having sprigs, and worst of all those have telescoped spikes.

The proper Wyandotte comb is what the older breeders called the 'Rocker Comb' and

it is the one described in the Standard of Perfection for all Wyandottes. This should be a low rose-comb that follows the curve of the skull like an inverted chair rockers This comb should be widest above the base of the beak and taper gradually to a definite point or spike at the rear, and be covered with a uniform set of fine points.

The defective combs mentioned are hereditary, and are subject to disqualification or severe cuts by the judge. The telescoped or invaginated spike defect is known among breeders as the 'swallowed spike'. In this defect the rear







Wyandotte - Male Head

point of the comb is pushed back into the comb body. It is definitely hereditary. The same is true of a 'side sprig' growing out of the side of a coarse nodule in a rose-comb. All these defects should be weeded out of the breeding pen. As the male controls the transmission of comb formation. It is important that he have as perfect a Wyandotte comb as possible. For this reason it is well to raise a liberal number of chicks and retain the cockerels until they are five or six months of age so that future breeding cockerels may be chosen from many candidates.

