

Poultrynz

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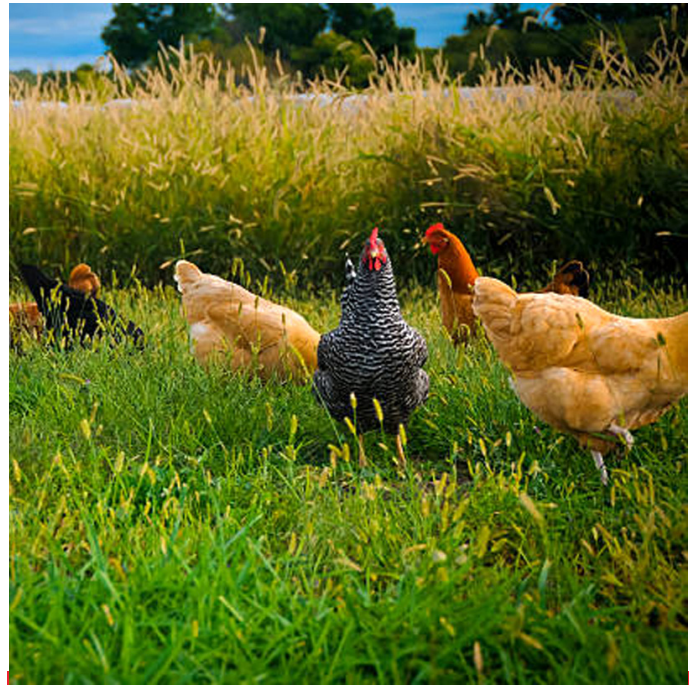
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Poultrynz Editorial

This is our Christmas issue and we want to thank everyone who supported Poultrynz over the past year. Without that support this newsletter would not survive. So here is wishing you and your Family a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year All the best for 2025. We need to remember

that early summer is the start of the new Red Mite breeding season. It is wise to halt Red Mite in their tracks. Using the Red Mite Management Program throughout the year is probably the best investment you can have for your Poultry wellbeing. Until next issue. Regards, Ian Selby.

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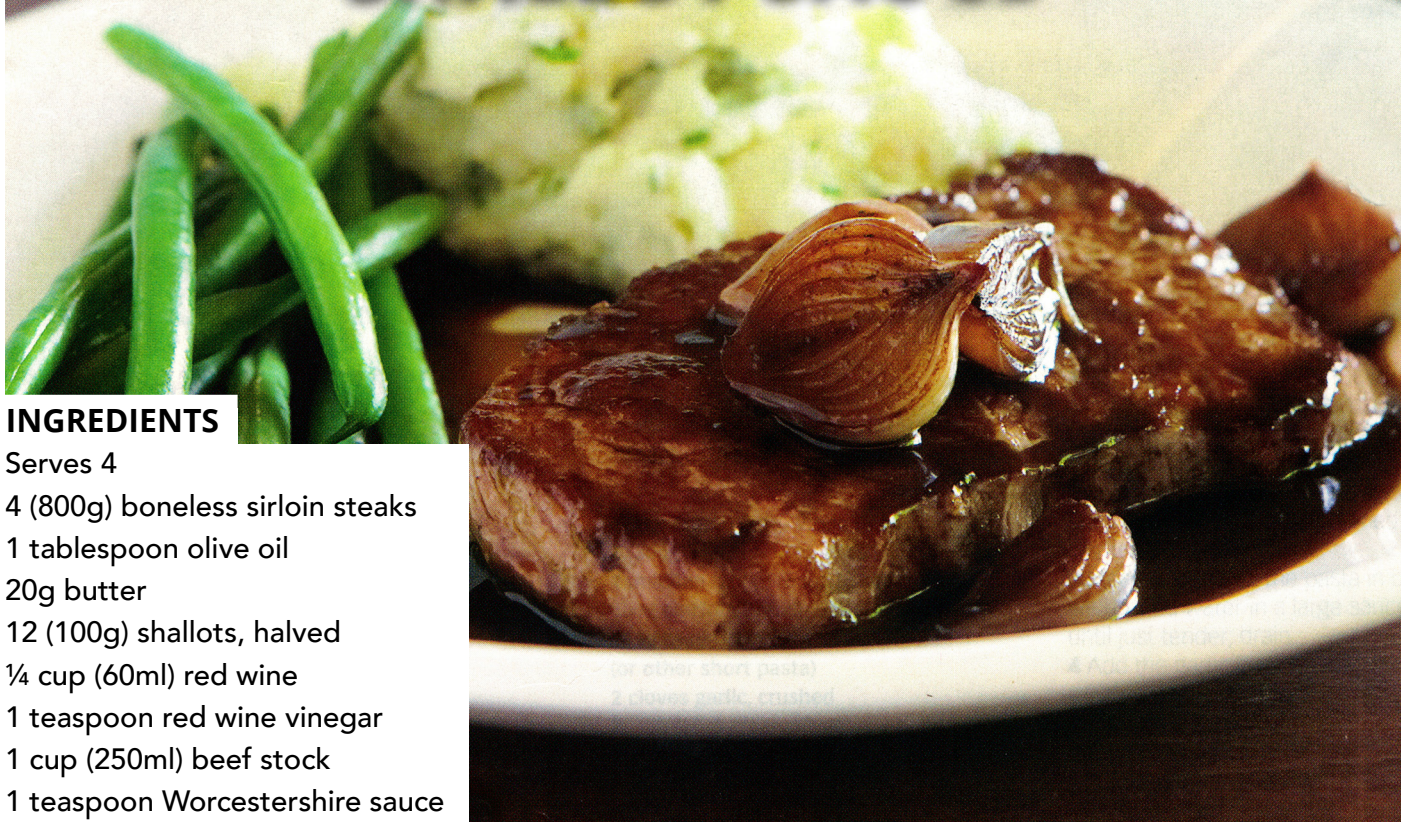


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Avoid inhalation of dust. Wear a suitable dust mask when using or operating in confined spaces.

STEAKS WITH RED WINE SHALLOT SAUCE



INGREDIENTS

Serves 4

- 4 (800g) boneless sirloin steaks
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 20g butter
- 12 (100g) shallots, halved
- ¼ cup (60ml) red wine
- 1 teaspoon red wine vinegar
- 1 cup (250ml) beef stock
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

HERB MASH

- 1kg potatoes, peeled, cut into 3cm pieces
- 40g butter, softened
- 1 cup (250ml) hot milk
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 teaspoons finely chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
- 2 teaspoons finely chopped fresh chives

METHOD

- **HERB MASH:** Boil or steam potatoes until tender. Mash with butter, milk and salt and pepper to taste. Stir in herbs; cover to keep warm.
- Meanwhile, heat a large, non-stick frying pan. Brush steaks with oil, cook until browned on both sides and cooked as desired; remove from pan, cover to keep warm.
- Remove excess oil from pan; add the butter and the shallots to same pan, cook, stirring, until soft. Stir in the wine and vinegar, bring to the boil.
- Add the stock and Worcestershire sauce; cook, stirring, until the mixture boils and thickens.
- Serve the steaks with red wine sauce, Herb Mash and steamed green beans, if desired.

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SILKIES ARE A QUAINT AND CHARMING BREED



by E. Nelson, USA

Different coloured Bearded Silkies

Of the many quaint and charming varieties of exhibition Fowls, the Silkie is undoubtedly one of the most attractive to the show visiting public. That it is not more attractive to the breeders of exhibition stock is regrettable, because it is an ideal show bird; a true representative of that class of miniature Poultry to which the term “fancy” is applicable. The Silkie is separated from all other breeds of poultry by two distinct characteristics, the down or hair-like texture of its plumage and the dark violet colour of its skin. The former peculiarity has shown itself but very rarely in the attire of other pure blooded fowls of Asiatic origin, but it resulted from a “sportive” rather than from a “fixed” genital action on the part of Dame Nature. As to the latter peculiarity, the dark violet skin is associated with no pure blooded fowl other than that to which this article is devoted.

In respect to the origin of the Silkie much has been written, little of which is founded on fact. One writer who has studied the breed informs us that the latter undoubtedly had its original habitat in the west and southerly portions of Asia; that Japan,

after considerable search, was found to contain few of the breed, and that Singapore seems to have been a favourite port wherein to obtain specimens of the breed. Be that as it may, it is safe to assert that many of the raw specimens obtainable abroad varied much in colour of face and texture of plumage, for the well nigh perfect exhibits seen today are the results of much skill and patience on the part of enthusiastic breeders, to whom the thanks of the Bantam-loving fraternity are due. In England the breed has “caught on” with fanciers of the feminine order, which is not surprising, as the gentle disposition of the birds is on par with that of the gentler sex. Of the several varieties of the breed, the White; the original variety is still the most popular, and little wonder, for a well bred and properly shown White Silkie is indeed an attractive and lovable creature.

THE BREED'S CHARACTERISTICS

Half a century ago the only Silkies to be seen had white plumage that is unless I am greatly mistaken. As a lad and a frequent show visitor I do not remember having seen birds other than those with



White Silkie Cockerel

white plumage. Today we have several off shoots of the original, each with its own distinct plumage colouring, but be it said, none with the same quality of plumage as the birds that are “clothed in white raiment” possess. The latest addition to the Silkie family is the Golden variety in respect to which I have had several letters from breeders who would like to import birds. I think, however that the variety should be given time in which to improve before stock is bought and shipped across the “pond.” When all round exhibition quality has been bred into it, it will be a charming variety.

The head of an exhibition Silkie is short and neat and carries a crest that is full and compact, as soft as down and not so large and loose as to cover the eyes which are black and very brilliant. The crest of the female resembles a “powder puff”, whilst that of the male has at its rear a dozen or so soft, silkie streamers. The beak is slaty blue in colour, whilst the colour of the face, wattles and comb is very dark purple, of a leaden blue colour are the shanks and feet, the latter being of the feathered and five toed kind. The lobes are somewhat round and of a turquoise blue or dark purple colour, the former being preferred. The body is built on broad and short lines, and is supported by legs that are well set apart and rather short. Reverting to the head appendages, the comb is of the walnut type with small prominences on the surface and a light indentation transversely across its centre.

The plumage of the Silkie is abundant and somewhat resembles the coat of an Angora rabbit. The neck hackle is full, silky in texture, and covers broad shoulders. The saddle hackle of the male rises well towards, and well covers the roots of the tail feathers, whilst the cushion of the female is so full as to near hide the tail. The main tail feathers are very “ragged” at their ends, and the tail itself well curved like that of the Pekin, the coverts being soft and silky. The wing plumage is also soft and silky, excepting flights, which are rather soft and are “ragged at the ends. There is an abundance of very soft and silky fluff under the stern and protruding from the thighs and there is a moderate adornment of soft feather on shanks and middle and outer toes. The plumage in general has a fluffy and silk thread-like appearance, and the carriage of its wearer is very graceful.

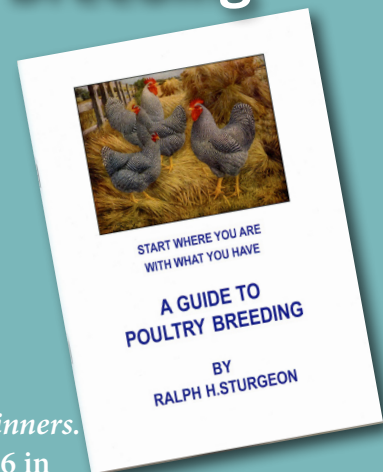
A Guide To Poultry Breeding

By R. Sturgeon

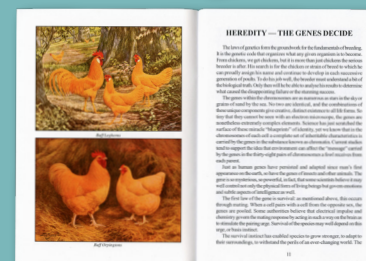
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White Silkie Pullet

HINTS ON BREEDING

Double mating is not necessary to ensure the production of exhibition Silkies, but line breeding is certainly essential. Breeding from distantly related stock, or worse still, unrelated stock, will soon bring about the reversion of beautiful silky plumage to that of a harsh and coarse kind. The silk-like plumage on present day exhibition birds is far superior to that carried by birds half a century ago, and the soft, thread-like quality of such plumage can only be fixed in a strain of birds and retained by relative breeding. Then there is the deep purple hue of the bird's combs, faces and wattles that relative breeding only can fix to a lasting extent. Redness of face, comb and wattles is latent in some strains of Silkies, and breeding from unrelated birds is apt to bring such an objectionable colour to the surface. However good a bird may be in other features, if it is red in face, comb and wattles it should be kept out of the breeding pen so that one of the chief characteristics of the Silkie may be fixed in the stock. A thing that is difficult to obtain, and especially as regards the male bird is the beautiful turquoise lobe, the next best to which is that of a dark purple colour. Those who are fortunate enough to pick from this year's young stock a male with good turquoise lobes should hang on to him, breed from him and in due course, mate him to his female progeny; that is provided the quality of his plumage is right.

The chief points to aim for when breeding

Silkies are: Silkiness in plumage texture; fullness and compactness of crest; duskiness of face, comb and wattles; blackness and brilliance of eye; purity of colour and smooth texture of lobe; leaden blue colour of shanks; depth and width of body, and as regards the White variety, snow-like purity of plumage. Needless to say that when the mating season arrives females with serious defects should not be "married" to males with similar defects. If one's stock fails in several respects as regards show points, the production of birds likely to "catch the judge's eye" must be left to chance, which, is a shaky foundation on which to base one's hope of a successful debut in the exhibition arena.

An economical and sure way to improve matters lies in the procurement of a tip-top male bird, the mating of the latter to one's best females, and subsequently, the mating of the

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Group of Silkie youngsters

female progeny back to their sire.

AN ACCOMMODATING BREED

Silkie are accommodating creatures, as they not only lay well during the colder seasons, but their eggs are of a passable size, are generally strong in fertility and when incubated produce chicks that are easy to rear. The birds stand confinement well, but are apt to get scaly in leg unless kept dry and clean under foot. As sitters and brooders they have no rivals, excepting their half-bred off-spring with featherless legs and feet. Crossed with the Wyandotte bantam, the Silkie will breed the best sitting and brooding fowls that any bantam breeder could own. Viewed from an artistic standpoint, a flock of White Silkies running on a well kept lawn makes a delightful picture.

As time passes, the Silkies, and especially those with white plumage, are slowly but surely gaining in popularity, only the White Silkie has pure blood in its veins. All other so-called Silkies, including the whiskered variety, have something in their make-up that is foreign to the breed. Such offshoots, nevertheless, are interesting and add attractiveness and variety in the show room to a very old and charming breed.

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CARE OF GROWING PULLETS



From New Zealand Poultry and Gamebirds

Pullets free ranging in a clean and fresh environment

By now the earlier hatched chicks will be well along the road to the pullet stage and the most anxious period of the hatching and rearing season will have passed. Though we may suppose that those that are left are normal birds and have satisfactorily come through the chick stage, they will, need good wholesome growing food and proper management.

CULLING

Although the obviously weak chicks and any that were deformed have been culled out, there is still good reason for watching out for any that, for any reason, should be further culled. The necessity for economical management precludes retaining any that will not mature to production stage and whose cost of keep is therefore unwarranted.

The number of cockerels that will be retained for breeding purposes or possible table marketing has already been decided upon, with a sufficient margin for possible requirements and they should have been separated from the pullets to allow the latter every facility for growing satisfactorily.

TO AVOID REARING LOSSES

In these times, when high cost of feeding prevails, it is essential that the chickens be given the

best possible conditions in order to avoid losses, not only by actual mortality, but also through setbacks, which result in lower production later on. Unless the chickens are kept growing properly it is only wasting food to try to rear them to maturity. Under present conditions no poultry keeper can afford to add to the cost of production by inefficient rearing, therefore close attention should be given to every aspect of this subject.

Strict sanitation is essential in all stages of rearing. After the chickens have learned to roost the more clean range they can be given the better, and the colony system with small houses, it is ideal from this stage. Housing young stock in large flocks, no matter how great is the capacity of the house, is a frequent cause of poor development and sickness.

CARE OF GROWING STOCK

It is essential to keep the young birds growing, and every effort should be made to prevent any check in their development, the chief causes of which are overcrowding, unsanitary quarters and stale ground. Before removing young stock to fresh coops or houses care should be taken to see that they are thoroughly cleaned, disinfected,



From chick to mature Pullet

and aired off in advance. To do this work properly, in the case of intensive housing, first remove everything portable, cart out the litter and deposit it where there is no risk of fowls working it over, and if the floor is of earth, a reasonable depth of the surface should be removed and carted away. The ceiling and walls should be swept down with a soft broom, and then the entire surface of the shed thoroughly washed out with a spray pump or garden hose, or with a stout brush, using plenty of water so that all dirt is removed from cracks and corners. This attention alone will give that fresh, clean, wholesome atmosphere which mere floor cleaning does not impart.

It is also advisable to give floor, walls and ceiling a good spraying with a strong solution Poultry Shield.

As the birds grow they require more perch room, and it pays poultry keepers to visit the roosting quarters regularly after the birds have gone to roost to make sure that they are not overcrowded. Overcrowding not only checks the desired development, but it is one, of not the chief cause of autumn colds amongst growing stock. Adult birds require 8-9 inches perch room each.

The first sign of a cold is usually observed when dust collects round the nostrils, then, later on, comes sneezing with a watery discharge from the nostrils and eyes. Everything possible should be done to prevent even a slight cold from making its appearance, and if the roosting quarters are visited regularly and care taken to see that plenty of perching accommodation and ample ventilation are allowed, much will be done to prevent an outbreak of colds, which may turn to roup if neglected.

The grading of the growing birds regularly, and the removal of any weaklings (even pullets) will go a long way towards assisting in the proper development of young stock. Feed for growing birds should be plain, but of good quality, and the aim should be to build frame and bone, but to avoid those substances that are likely to encourage prematurity.

IN HOT WEATHER

During the summer months that are ahead, the pullets must be kept growing uniformly and steadily, for upon this condition will largely depend the anticipated egg yield. Remember that birds perspire or sweat only through the breath and they cannot stand hot weather as well as animals. Provide them with shade of some sort and, by all means, do not crowd your houses too full. If you do not have natural shade, you can build up a frame about five feet high and cover it withessian sacks or similar material. Place your feeders and watering dishes in shady and cool places.

It is only natural that the pullets' appetites are down during very warm days. This should not alarm you and if the birds are quite early hatched, it is better if they grow slowly and avoid production during the hot summer. Give them plenty of green food and hard grit and not too much mash. The mash should not be of too high a protein level or else should be fed with more grain. Sometimes we hear discussions about holding pullets back from production because they are too young or small. Before you attempt such a plan, remember that when a bird hatches she has inherited from her parents a definite urge to lay at a definite age. The only way that date or age can be extended is to



A pen of growing White Leghorn pullets

either under nourish the bird or to have her receive a severe setback from diseases or mismanagement. However, by feeding high protein foods and other stimulating feeds it is possible to encourage premature production. Close confinement and lack of green feed and high mash rations also encourage early laying.

Looking at this, then, from a practical point of view you will probably find that it is desirable to buy or produce chicks with the urge to lay at, say about six months of age and then to feed and care for them so that they start at that age properly prepared for a long year of work. Pullets should not come into production before they are physically well matured and their feathers are well matured. Don't wait until they are about to lay before you balance their ration for slow maturity.

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DISEASES OF POULTRY



by C.Kidd

Coccidiosis in chickens

One of the major problems confronting the poultry industry is that of disease, which, in its numerous forms, is responsible for huge economic losses. While it is realised that a percentage of this loss is unavoidable, it can undoubtedly be greatly reduced by an understanding of the nature and cause of common diseases, together with their symptoms and lesions. By the early recognition of disease, effective measures of prevention, treatment, and control can be set in operation before losses become serious.

CAUSE OF DISEASE

Disease does not arise spontaneously; there is always a definite underlying cause, although it may not always be readily visible. More over, in addition to the actual or specific cause of disease, certain other factors contribute to the onset of an attack. These are known as predisposing, indirect, or accessory causes. By lowering bodily resistance, they prepare the way for an attack by the actual cause.

Among the most important predisposing causes

are:

- 1. Malnutrition:** Includes such factors are unbalanced diet, lack of protein, vitamins, minerals, etc. When the effects of malnutrition are advanced, they set up well-marked clinical symptoms and lesions and appear as a distinct disease. More often, however, their effects escape notice even though they continually undermine the health of the bird, rendering it more susceptible to other diseases. For example, birds fed a ration lacking in vitamin A are more susceptible to respiratory diseases. A deficiency of this vitamin causes the lining membranes of the respiratory organs to become dry, rough, and thickened, with the result that they are more readily invaded by disease-producing organisms.
- 2. Unhygienic Conditions:** Germs responsible for disease thrive best in litter which is damp and heavily charged with droppings. In certain cases dirty conditions are necessary for them to complete their life cycle – e.g.,



coccidia require one to two days outside of the fowl's body to become infective. Moist, warm litter is ideal for their development.

3. **Overcrowding:** This is a frequent fault on most poultry farms, particularly during the rearing season. Weak, unthrifty, undernourished chickens result from overcrowding. When "mixed" chickens are reared, pullets are the first to be affected in this respect, as they are not as robust as the males and are consequently crowded away from the feeding hoppers. Vices such as cannibalism are more prevalent, and the spread of disease from one bird to another is greatly enhanced under these conditions.
4. "Sweating" (condensation of moisture from breathing) is more likely to occur in overcrowded brooders, thus predisposing the chickens to colds and other respiratory diseases.
5. **Faulty Housing:** Damp, dark, stuffy houses within which an unwholesome odour can always be detected provide conditions which are ideal for disease-producing germs.
6. **Draughts** and dampness must be avoided, as they predispose to respiratory diseases.
7. **Parasites:** Many authorities now consider that birds which are healthy in other respects can successfully withstand worm parasites.

Overcrowding can cause problems

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Rearing Poultry in damp conditions is not good

Where other disease conditions are present, however, the worms quickly reach pathogenic proportions, causing heavy losses.

Similarly, mild attacks of disease which would otherwise be overcome by healthy birds may become fatal when the birds are weakened by the presence of worms.

External parasites, by persistent irritation, may lead to feather-picking and cannibalism.

There are numerous other predisposing causes, but the foregoing are considered to be the most important.

DIRECT OR ACTUAL CAUSE OF DISEASE

1. **Bacteria:** These are very small parasites commonly called germs, or microbes, which are visible only by microscopic examination. They consist of single cells of varying shapes and will grow on suitable media under laboratory conditions. They set up disease by liberating toxic substances or by invading the tissues, which are so damaged that they cannot carry on their normal functions.
2. **Viruses:** These are even smaller than bacteria, being beyond the powers of microscopic vision, and are said to be "ultra-microscopic." They can live only in the presence of living tissues.
3. **Protozoa:** The protozoa are somewhat larger than bacteria. Coccidia and spirochaetes are included in this group.
4. **Other Parasites:** Other disease-producing

parasites include worms, insects, mites, and ticks.

5. **Incorrect Feeding:** The so-called "deficiency diseases" are brought about when certain substances are absent from or deficient in the ration. Disease may also result from overfeeding. In eliminating excessive waste material, certain organs - e.g., the liver and kidneys - are so damaged that their normal functions are interfered with or cease entirely.
6. **Poisons:** Poisons are substances which cause death or impair the function of certain parts of the body. They may be classified into three groups - animal, vegetable, and mineral poisons - the latter group being the most important.

HOW DISEASE INFECTION IS SET UP

In order to produce an infection, the germs themselves or their toxic products must penetrate the tissues of the body. They may enter the body through the digestive tract, with contaminated food or water; by inhalation into the respiratory organs; through wounds in the skin; through the conjunctiva of the eye; or through the genital tract.

After entering the body, some multiply very rapidly and spread through the blood stream, becoming septicaemic; a condition which is commonly called "blood poisoning." Others

remain at the site of entry and produce toxins which may travel through the body; many of them become localised in various organs and tissues, setting up local lesions.

RESISTANCE TO DISEASE

When foreign substances such as disease organisms enter the body, a defence mechanism immediately comes into action to defend it against the invaders. In the early stages this defence is manifested by such changes as fever and inflammation. At the same time, certain white blood cells called phagocytes attack and attempt to engulf the foreign material and so neutralise its effects. In most diseases the number of these cells is greatly increased.

In addition to this cellular defence, “anti-bodies” are also produced to combat the invader. These, however, act only against the disease agent which stimulates their production and are not effective against any other disease. The anti-bodies produced in the blood of fowls as a result of invasion by pullorum bacteria cause the agglutination or clumping of the antigen in pullorum-testing.

The ultimate result of disease infection depends on the ability of these defence mechanisms to overcome the invading organisms. Where the numbers of invading organisms are too great for the body defence to overcome, the affected bird dies. Death in these cases may be very sudden, occurring before any symptoms are shown. In less acute cases some days, or even weeks, may elapse before death.

Where the defence mechanism overcomes the invading organisms, they are eliminated from the body and the bird recovers. The bird in this case has developed an immunity or a resistance to the disease. As time goes on this resistance, unless stimulated by repeated infections, is gradually lost.

In many cases an equilibrium or balance is reached between the body defence and the invading organisms and the bird becomes a “carrier.” In these cases the organisms are localised to small foci or lesions in the body, around which a barrier of defence cells and protecting tissue is built. From time to time the organisms may escape and enter the blood stream and the bird suffers a “relapse.” Generally, however, carrier birds appear to be in good health and cannot be detected other than by blood or serological tests.

DIAGNOSIS OF DISEASE

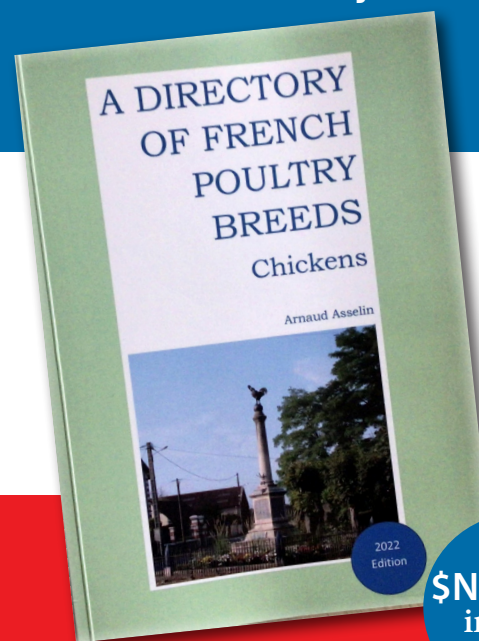
The effective control of disease depends

primarily upon a prompt diagnosis of the underlying cause and an accurate knowledge of the nature of the disease.

In arriving at a diagnosis, symptoms (disturbed functions) and lesions (alterations in organs) are of most importance. Where it is not possible to identify a disease from external appearances, a post-mortem examination should be resorted to, as the internal organs often present a very good picture of the complaint. When necessary, in addition to the post-mortem examination, blood smears, pieces of tissue and pipettes of material may be taken for further examination. The examination must be completed before a diagnosis is made, and care must be taken to avoid arriving at conclusions before every organ has been examined. Very often plainly visible lesions have less connection with the cause of the disease than very small ones.

A DIRECTORY OF FRENCH POULTRY BREEDS

by **Arnaud Asselin**



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BREEDING THE PILE OLD ENGLISH GAME BANTAM MY WAY

by Bill Wulff. USA.

I had Pile Old English Game Bantams back in the middle 1960's and they have always been one of my favourite colours. I've attended a lot of shows since then and when I would see the Piles at the shows I would become very disappointed in what I saw. It wasn't the type that I saw but mostly the colour and especially the Black that was in them. I made comments about the extremely dark colour male birds along with black in them especially solid black feathers in their wings and tails. So in 1990 I decided to go back into the Pile Old English Game Bantams. It was mostly because the birds weren't being bred according to what the colour description in the Standard.

The first thing that I'm going to say is that I don't consider myself an expert on anything about breeding of birds. I contribute the success of my breeding to the people whom I asked thousands of questions. While a lot of them didn't agree on everything, the basics were there and I just tried to put all their ideas into what I wanted to do in the breeding of my birds.

The one thing that I want to get across to everyone in breeding Pile Old English Game is this: You don't paint a house before you build the foundation for the house. The first thing that I wanted to do was eliminate all the black in them while I was building the foundation stock with type which I feel an Old English Game Bantam should be.

I bred the birds first for type and worked extremely hard on breeding the colour. I knew the only way that I was going to accomplish my goal was to raise hundreds of them each year and cull very, very hard. The numbers that I raised each year ranged from 400 to 1270. If I saw any young cockerel that was extremely dark in top colour and one piece of black, it was culled. I didn't care how good the bird was type wise, if it had any black in it, it was gone. The same thing was done with the females. If it showed any sign of gray colouring in the body or any black ticking, it was gone. I was told many a time, Bill, your getting rid of your best birds. I had my mind set, kept on reading the standards and following my game plan. Yes, I did show a lot of males that everyone said were too light, but none of them had any black in them, they had good type and



Old English Game Pile Cockerel

their bodies were pure white.

I knew that if I would stick to my game plan that in approximately seven to nine years the colour across the back, shoulders and wing bay would come back. The one thing that made me think that way was I knew the colour genes were there and would eventually come back. Yes, I bred a lot of males that were light in top colour, weak in the wings, etc. but the genes were still there and I could bring the colour back without black in them.

I heard all kinds of comments and criticism about my males winning their classes, I appreciate the fact that a lot of the judges told the exhibitors that type is the breed and colour is the variety and that my birds had the type even though the colour wasn't there yet. I had a lot of positive comments from the judges who said keep breeding them the way you're doing it because you are on the right track.

The thing that really sticks in my mind since 1990 when I started again in the Piles is all the comments

that have been made about my males through the six years that I've been breeding them is that 80% of all my wins have been with females.

This will be my seventh year breeding the Pile Old English 1996 so this year and through the next couple of years I hope to get the males with the colour that they are supposed to be. It may or may not happen within the time period that I thought it would but I'm not going to quit because it didn't I will continue breeding my birds with no black in them The thing that I will continue to do is breed to what the Standard calls for or tells you to breed for.

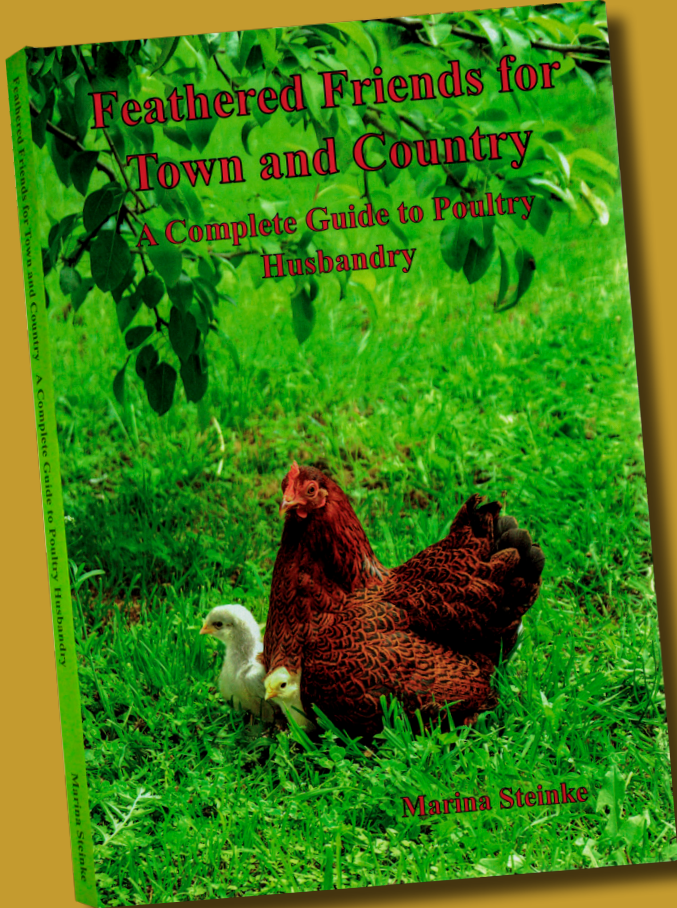
The Standards were written by someone who knew what the colour patterns were to look like when you get the perfect birds. As of this date I've never seen the perfect bird! I'm going to do what I've always tried to do and that is to try and breed the perfect bird according to what the Standards have set forth for us.

I may never achieve to get the male Pile to the colour that the Standard calls for but I'm not going to breed birds with enough defects in them just because I like them this way or that way. I will continue to breed the Pile Old English Game Bantam my way. Breeding for type comes first and the colour



Old English Game Pile Pullet

comes second. The house can't be painted before it's built.



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