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Poultrynz

Ian Selby Ph: 06 754 6262 www.poultrynz.com Email: poultrynz@xtra.co.nz

Poultrynz Editorial

Here is the final Poultrynz Newsletter for the year, the "Christmas" issue. I trust that you all enjoyed the articles presented this year as much as I have enjoyed researching them.
Right now is the "Red Mite Season" so it is time to try and eradicate as many as you can as Summer gets hotter. The combination of Poultry Shield with Poultrynz D.E. is the ideal solution. There are a few products out there to help do the job but a quick fix is a quick fix and just won't actually fix the problem. Getting a good management program will.
Here is wish you and your family a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

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

Product	Quantity	Unit Price	Courier Postage	Rural 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	$10.00	$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 poultrynz@xtra.co.nz

WHISKY, MARMALADE AND MUSTARD GLAZED HAM

INGREDIENTS

Serves 8-10

- 1½ cups (510g) orange marmalade
- ¼ cup (70g) Dijon mustard
- ½ cup (125ml) whisky
- ½ teaspoon sea salt flakes
- 5-6kg ham leg, skin removed and trimmed

METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 200°C (400°F).
2. Place the marmalade, mustard, whisky and salt in a saucepan over high heat and whisk to combine. Bring to the boil, reduce heat to low and cook for 5-7 minutes or until thickened slightly. Strain and set aside.
3. Use a small, sharp knife to score the ham in a diamond pattern and cover the hock with aluminium foil (this will prevent it from burning).
4. Place the ham on a lightly greased wire rack in a baking dish lined with non-stick baking paper.
5. Push a clove into each diamond and brush ham with the glaze.
6. Roast for 35-40 minutes, brushing with the glaze every 10 minutes, or until the ham is golden and caramelised.

BREEDING BLACK AND BLUE LEGHORNS

A pair of Black Leghorns

From the "Australian Poultryman's Guide." 1960.

The would-be breeders of exhibition Black Leghorns has one great difficulty not encountered by breeders of the other Leghorn varieties and that is to breed a sound black fowl with clear yellow legs. The natural tendency is for a black fowl to have dark legs or else the yellow legs are accompanied by white in the plumage.

To get over this difficulty, double mating is resorted to. This is the mating of one pen to produce show pullets and another pen for show cockerels. The mating of two prize winners is not the answer and invariably breeds rubbish. The male to head the pullet breeding pen should be of good type and size with a deep full front, long flat back and not too proud of his tail. His plumage should have a rich green sheen, but undercolour and sickles must be white; if he has a few red feathers in the hackle or shoulders, so much the better. Legs must be well rounded, closely scaled and bright yellow or orange absolutely free from dark marks or spots. Coming to the head, large, thick, almond-shaped lobes are required, together with a sound red face. However, this is not always possible. In which case I would use a bird which had spots of thick white in the face, but never one with a bluish-white face as these never breed sound pullets. The eye should be a rich fiery red. The comb should be deeply and evenly cut preferably with five wedge-shaped spikes, the largest one over the eye, but rather thin and on a weak base.

A male such as described should be mated to exhibition hens and pullets. But care must be taken not to use yellow-legged hens which were dark legged as pullets. It is quite common for pullets with dark marks on the legs to lose these with the first adult moult.

Standard males are bred from hens which have themselves been bred from a male of show quality. These hens bear little resemblance to exhibition specimens, usually having willow legs, dark eyes and upright or semi-upright combs. The tails of these females may be slightly more spread than those of

A trio of Blue Leghorns

the show birds, though certainly not fanned. Their plumage must be sound black throughout with a good green-sheen quite free from purple barring. The darker the undercolour the better. Although clear yellow legs are not required in these cockerel breeding females, they must have plenty of yellow pigment showing through the willow, or at least on the soles of the feet. Combs must be very well cut, but small and preferably upright. Lobes should be almond-shaped and thick, not over large, and the face must be sound red completely free from any white or bluish tinge.

To the beginner I would say it is far better to breed from a few good fowls preferably single mated - than a lot of mediocre ones. Breed a lot from a few and cull hard - the practice of all successful breeder. Another important point to remember is that related birds, being more reliable as breeders than unrelated stock. The progeny of a direct outcross usually vary tremendously. It it does become necessary to introduce new blood to an established strain, I would always do so by means of a female.

Blue Leghorns, in common with all blue fowls, do not breed true to colour. Blue mated to blue will give only 50 per cent, blues, the rest being black or splashed whites. These splashed whites when mated with blacks (from Blues) produce 100 percent. blues, but not, of course, all the required shade.

Blacks and blues may be mated together when both colours are produced in approximately equal colours. The greatest colour faults to guard against are sandiness in the hackle of the male or a brownish shade in females, or pronounced lacing. Top colour of males should be very dark blue, not quite black, the breast and underparts a soft lavender blue. The females are soft lavender all over, except the neck which is several shades darker – darkest near the head and gradually blending into the body colour. As a guide for breeding, the breast colour, of the cockerel would be about the colour of his female counterparts. Blues must be shaded (from strong sunlight when growing their adult plumage, this helps to retain the delightful soft colour. Blue Leghorns are not generally double mated. However, blue males bred from pullet breeding blacks on either side invariably have white in the tail. Although this is generally ignored, it is not correct and it may be preferable to use a cockerel bred black for sound blue males.

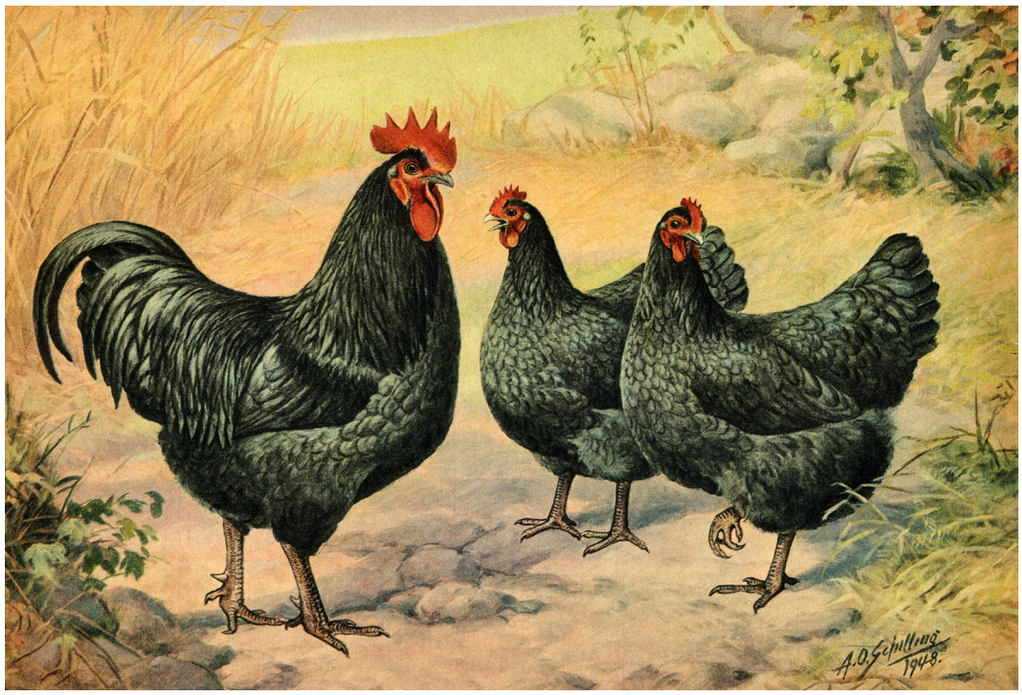
A Black Leghorn Pullet

Finally, I would say that it would be impossible to find two more fascinating breeds than the Black and Blue Leghorn great layers of large white eggs.

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

THE AUSTRALORP'S ORIGIN

From "Poultry" Australia.



A trio of Australorps

Question: ***What was the origin of the Australorp; by what crosses, when and where? Some people have the idea that red feathers showing in the cockerels are an indication they are not purebred. Will you please explain? ("J.D.," Camperdown.)***

Answer: The Australorp is a development of the insistent breeding for egg production of the original Black Orpington that was introduced to England by the late Wm. 'Cook, of Orpington, Kent, about 1885. It was produced by crossing the Minorca male and black Plymouth Rock females and again crossing the pullet progeny with the Croad Langshan. A very pleasing fowl was produced, full of vitality, which cross-breeding promotes, and the Orpington became popular. In 1900 the late Wm. Cook visited Australia and delivered a series of lectures. His theme was a utility fowl for the People and as the idea of a poultry industry for Australia was just being conceived, the Black Orpington became one of our main utility breeds; and to distinguish it from the show or standard type of Orpington, which was the line of breeding followed by the British poultryman, who sought to give it an excellence of finish and an attractive appearance under the guidance of the English Orpington Club, there were ultimately two distinctly opposite types of fowl - the utility Black Orpington developed by Australian poultry farmers, and the exhibition Orpington by the English fanciers who were just as keen in their way to make the most of an English breed.

A Black Australorp Hen

The fame of the Australian utility type for its official laying records and wins in various State laying competitions led British poultry-keepers to import stock from Australia, and as two types or standards for the same breed could not be recognised by the Poultry Club of England breeders

there of Australia's utility type formed a club, drafted a standard, and named our type of Orpington, out of compliment to Australia, the Australorp. America followed the example and had an Australorp boom. "Poultry" newspaper so persistently advocated the adoption of the name that the Utility Black Orpington became the Australorp in Australia also. A splendid fowl it is – probably one of best all-round fowls in the world today.

An Orpington Hen

The occasional appearance of red feathers on the neck or saddle hackle or body of Australorps is not an evidence of impurity of breed. It is said to result from an excess of pigment in the plumage of one or more of the parents arising from the presence of abundant green sheen, which is so attractive but yet may be too pronounced in some members of the breeding pen. A cockerel showing red should be mated with hens of a flat or dull colour, which will prevent its recurrence. It is claimed, oddly enough, that the red feathers appear mostly in the cockerels and seldom in the pullets.

BREEDING FROM "UNRELATED PARENTS"

Courtesy of the American Bantam Association

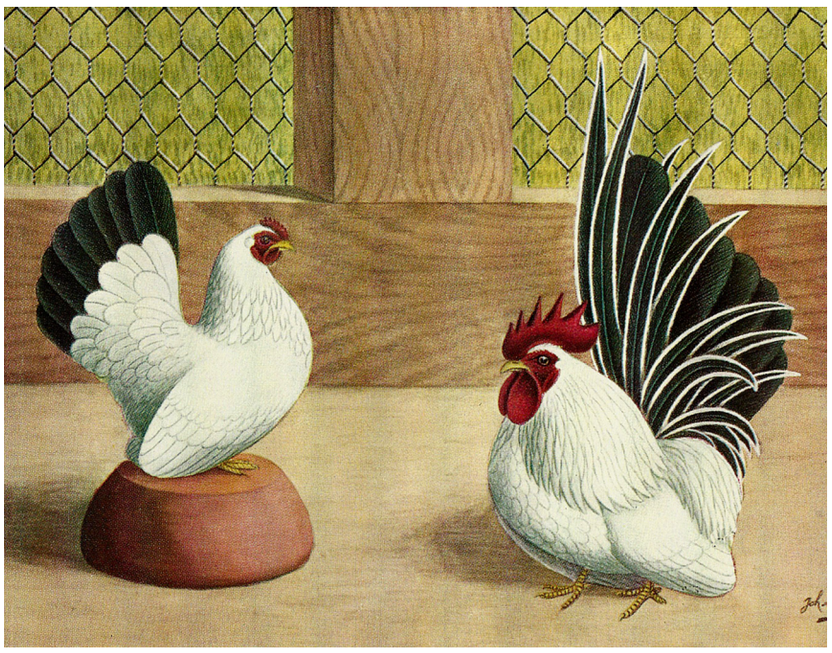
In retail, a hook is a gimmick used to draw a potential customer's attention to a particular product. A hook is a selling point that you emphasize to convince the customer that your product is the one to by because, hook.

I am seeing more and more advertisements for chickens that have a hook that states, *"from unrelated parents"* or *"these birds are unrelated"*. What I guess is being suggested is that the best way to breed chickens is from unrelated stock. This may be derived from many of the animal programs we see on TV that suggest the best way to breed animals is from unrelated parents. I have heard this statement on programs that are about breeding projects of endangered breeds of animals. The people involved make every effort to keep very close records so that they are breeding from parents that are from *'unrelated stock'*.

I would suggest that what is good for the endangered species is not necessarily good for our chickens. I would like to back this up with some history about another animal, the horse. More specifically, the Al Khamsa Arabian horse. Al Khamsa in Arabic means hand or five fingers. The Al Khamsa Arabian is different from all others Arabians in that their genetic history has to be traced back to stock that came from the Arabian Desert. No other blood can have been added in. Even if an Arabian stud is from Poland and is registered pure Arabian, it cannot be registered as an Al Khamsa Arabian. An Al Khamsa Arabian can be registered as pure Arabian but an Arabian cannot be registered as an Al Khamsa Arabian unless it meets the criteria. The five fingers represents five strains of Arabians that are bred in the Arabian Desert. These strains are, Kuhaylan, Saqlawi, Abayyan, Hamdani, and Mu'niqi. Why have I gone to all of this trouble when we are talking about chickens? The Al Khamsa Arabians represent a closed gene pool. There isn't such a thing as unrelated parents. I have two books here that trace the Al Khamsa Arabians here in the U.S. back to their desert ancestry and you will see fathers bred to daughters and grand mothers bred by grand sons. You will never see brother bred to sister.

The difference that I see between the endangered species breeders and the Alkhamsa breeders is that the endangered species is breeding to keep a species from becoming extinct while the Alkhamsa breeder and those of us who are trying to breed to a standard. Now not all chicken lovers are

Al Khamas Arabian Stalion



Black Tailed White Japanese Bantams

Barred Plymouth Rocks

interested in breeding to a standard. They just want to keep some chickens. And that's alright. But if a person has become interested in chickens and wants to set the goal of having a chicken that actually represents the breed and produces offspring that represent the breed, then starting with unrelated parents is not necessarily a good idea. My opinion.

I have said in the past few articles that if you want to get 5 show quality Japanese then you have to set 100 eggs. I know that there are a few breeders out there that chuckle when they read that statement. And rightly so because they are setting 30 eggs and getting 10 show quality birds, and they are doing it year after year after year. How do they do it? An old breeder of Plymouth Rocks by the name of Ralph Sturgeon said it best in the title his little book, " *Start Where You Are With What You Have*". That's the first step. But the rest of your steps have to be calculated. We are talking about the difference between line breeding and inbreeding. The basic flaw of inbreeding is continually breeding brother to sister, disposing of the parents and taking their offspring and breeding brother to sister. This will eventually end up at the dead end of infertility.

I had a man call last week asking me if I had any good birds to sell. I said I would but good had to be defined. I have what I would call good birds. I am talking about Black Tailed Whites now. I could have sold this man a trio of good birds, but I could not guarantee that they would breed true. Four years ago I got back into Black Tailed Whites by getting breeding stock from four different strains. What I have now are birds that are crossed from three of those strains. I have disposed of one of the strains. I have to set 100 eggs to get 5 show birds. But one of my strains is from a breeder, and he is a breeder, that if he set 30 eggs he gets 10 show birds. The difference here is that I have blended three strains together and he has been breeding the same strain for 50 years. The quality of offspring from his birds is pretty predictable.

I hope you see where I'm going here particularly if you are new to the fancy or if you have been breeding for a while and not having much success. You put your breeders together and when they hatch the offspring look like Heinz 57 varieties. So you go looking for another better male to add in. (Adding another set of genes to the already polluted pool.) Have hope. This can be overcome, but it will take time and patience.

The problem we have in our corner of the Fancy, namely, the Japanese Bantam corner, is that there are not many old strain breeders left. We need dedicated people who are willing to take these tried and true rules and apply them to their breeding projects and produce strains of Japanese that will breed true. Taking one or several varieties of the Japanese Bantam and working with them, applying the principles of line breeding and coming up with some really good breeding stock that will perpetuate itself and influence all of our birds.

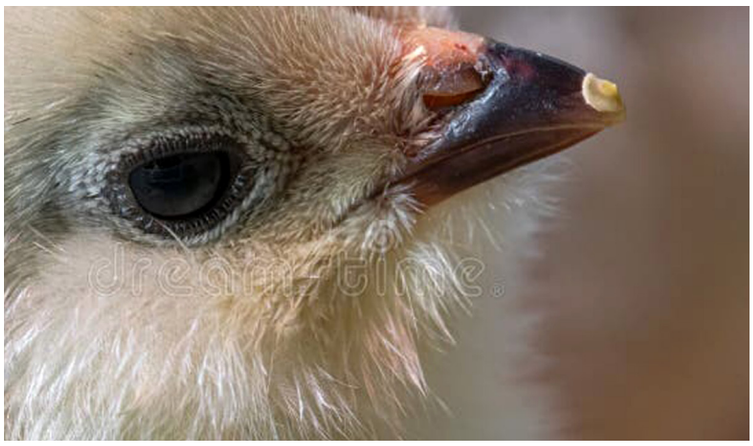
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

by Dr. W. R. McCuistion, USA.

EGG TOOTH

Question: What is the "egg tooth?"

Answer: It is the horny prominence on the point of a baby chick's beak used for breaking through the shell at hatching time.



A chick showing an Egg-Tooth that drops off quite quckly after the chicken has hatched

NORMAL TEMPERATURE

Question: Is the normal temperature of a bantam the same as that of larger poultry?

Answer: Bantams run a little higher normal temperature than larger fowl. The range seems to be almost anywhere from 104 to 110 degrees.

GRIT

Question: Does grit have to be taken daily with the food and does it pass out regularly with the bowel actions?

Answer: Grit is usually picked up by the fowl when it is needed in the gizzard to facilitate with the gripping of the feed particularly hard grains. The high polish seen on some of the pebbles taken from the gizzard is evidence of the lengthy period of service grit may render in this organ. While grit may be ejected through the mouth or the rectum much of it remains in the gizzard where it is ground to a fine powder and passes out in the droppings unnoticed.

OYSTER SHELL

Question: Is it necessary to have grit as well as oyster shell?

Answer: Yes, and especially during laying season when large quantities of calcium for egg shell production is so necessary. Oyster shell provides a ready and quick source of calcium which can be transported by the blood to the egg making organs. Vitamins A and D have an important part in this calcium transport and shell formation and of course should be provided just as well as the oyster shell.

Oyster Grit

CROP BOUND

Question: Several of my Fowls were crop bound during the judging at the last show. No one else's

A hen showing an enlarged crop indicating a crop problem

birds were that way and I wonder how it came about and what can be done to prevent a re-occurrence of the condition at such an important time?

Answer: Your bantams were probably shipped a much greater distance than the others and were both hungry and thirsty upon arrival, or they may have arrived later and when they were fed and watered the food had not yet had time to pass on down further into the digestive tract where it would not have shown up so prominently. This engorgement of the crop with food is rather common at some of our shows and is frequently an indication of over-zealous but thoughtless feeding attendants rather than anything else.

VITAMIN B

Question: We have a number of modern game bantam chicks with curly toes. Is this a disease and can it be cured, or is it hereditary and should the strain be destroyed?

Answer: This disorder is usually due to a Vitamin B shortage. Feed the chicks a mixture of buttermilk and oatmeal daily. It will clear up when the normal requirements of Vitamin B have been reached.

ANIMAL PROTEIN FACTOR Vitamin B12

Question: We are beginning to see a lot of Vitamin B12 advertised and various claims are being made about it. Do you think it is necessary or is it just a passing fad and will soon be unheard of in the poultry world?

Answer: Vitamin B12 has been studied carefully for some years and there is no question about it having special influence on the growth of an animal or fowls. In fact its action was first observed while scientist were working with barn yard animals and poultry.