

Presidents Message

Hello everyone,

I hope all your hard work is paying off with your young birds this fall! I have seen many of our member's birds and like always we will be on champion row alot this year!

Our lawn show was a big hit even with the rain and wind, Bruce and Rachael Robinson did a great job accomodating us. I would like to thank them again for the hospitality! They did alot of work preparing for our lawn show. Everyone brought a dish to pass and the food was very good and plenty to be had. Our judge for this years show was Art Lundgren, he did an excellent job placing the birds. It was also fun to judge the birds ourselves to see how close we were to his choices. The big winner was George Beyer on a White Leghorn pullet (yes, George is on a hot streak). The second best bird of the show was by Bill Ziehm on a Rhode Island Red pullet. I had both those birds picked all the way; both were outstanding for being so early on in the year, I hope they hold out for you guys this fall! We had about 20 birds entered but the quality was all there. The only thing that was disappointing was that there was no large fowl or Guineas. I received champion waterfowl and reserve champion waterfowl on African geese. Art sure knows his waterfowl!

I will see everyone at the Sept meeting and I'm planning on going to Mumford, Cobleskill, and Lucasville shortly, so if someone needs something feel free to get a hold of me. Until then have a great fall!

Rick

Hello all,

Hope everyone's summer went well. This was my fourth season breeding Calls and with over 200 out this year, it's been a lot of work. Hopefully I can throw a little competition at some other breeders this fall.

I kinda took the summer off from the news letters. Not a whole lot to write about unless you want to hear about molting birds and hot weather.

I'm really looking forward to the fall show season as I'm sure everyone is. Of course the big one (Indy) is on the horizon and with 10,000 birds expected it will be the show everyone talks about for years to come. Whoever wins that show should have their name etched in stone - wouldn't it be great if it was one of us?!

Shipping is ever changing. As of September 25th, Kitty Hawk Airlines has stopped carrying live animals for the P.O. – but - Fed Ex and UPS have started carrying. I spoke to the Buffalo airport P.O. on October 3rd and we can now ship anywhere in the U.S. except St. Louis. I had some ducks just shipped to me the first week of October and from Washington State to Buffalo, the travel time was under 24 hours. Maybe this will be a good sign of things to come.

The first few local fall shows are in the books including Mumford and Bath. Mumford is always a great show because its part of the Genesee village and museum, we had plenty of members showing including: Rick, George, Steve, Bill, Don, Bruce and my family. I also placed a bird (Gray Call female) on champion row for the first time with champion bantam duck and reserve waterfowl. I also like to show with The Western NY Pheasant and Waterfowl Society at Mumford, lots of beautiful wild pheasants and ducks that you don't normally see at other shows.

Q and A from **the Poultry Connection.com**

milan hill **Does anyone have a way to get rid of CHIPMUNKS!!!**

They are tricky little fellows! And smart too! They are cute but they are eating my feed and costing me money!

If anyone has any tips or secrets to rid me of the little devils I would greatly appreciate it!

Sancha answered: Last year I was trying the rat traps with little success when I read here about using a 5 gallon bucket chipmunk swimming pool. I have had much better luck with this method. Whenever I feel that I am being overrun with chipmunks this method works quickly. I average 4 chipmunks a day and once got 8 in a day. The swimming pool is a five gallon bucket half full of water with the surface covered in sunflower seeds (they float). There is a diving board that is a 1 by 6 board that has some seeds sprinkled on it. The chipmunk eats the seeds on the board gets to the end and dives into the sunflower seed. Unfortunately he can't swim. I don't mind the holes in the flower beds as much as the tunnels dug around my foundation and under my concrete walks.

Nanda **Too much calcium a problem?**

I was just wondering why high calcium feeds - i.e. layer feeds are bad for non-laying ducks or drakes or ducklings.

Also, assuming that I'll have to separate different kinds of feed depending on what stage the duck/drake/duckling is at...how do I go about doing that?

Hummer answered: The short answer is ..yes... high calcium (layer pellets) can potentially be very bad for ducklings. If the calcium/phosphorous ration gets out of whack it can potentially cause alot of leg (bone) problems with growing duckings and goslings. It's not as bad with older birds after their bone structure is set. Mixing some whole grains like wheat, corn and oats along with lots of greens helps balance their diet. For young ducklings they should be on a starter feed until they are well on their way. Again, after two weeks of age I start mixing small whole grains and LOTS of greens in the young ones feed mix. Even when the adult birds are in breeding pens I have whole grains mixed in their feed which helps cut the calcium some and balance their diet. Ducks pick up alot of calcium on their own drilling in the dirt and the other irritating things they do with their water!!!! LOL.

Mickey9

mixed sawdust/shavings bedding



Joined: 02
Feb 2006
Posts: 45
Location:
Mebane,
NC

I know bedding has been discussed endlessly (although I can't get the search engine to pull it up) but I have a more specific question than usual. 2 local saw mills are offering, for free, their shavings and sawdust for my ducks. I currently use the deep litter method with leaves. This has worked well and the ducks greatly enjoy a new batch dumped in the pen and dig eagerly through for little bugs and such. However, the mills will actually drop the shavings off at my house for me, which saves me raking and gathering from the woods. Here's the question:

Is there any wood from which shavings are unhealthy for ducks. The shavings will be every type of wood they deal with. There will be no chemically treated wood, just raw lumber. There may be some pine that has been damaged by the pine beetle we have here in NC but I didn't think that was dangerous, right?

Also, there will be varying consistency from saw dust to heavy shavings. I know to keep the saw dust out of the duckling's pen so they don't eat it but otherwise do you think the finer stuff will give me trouble? I plan, again, to use deep litter method--just adding on top when needed and changing out 2x/year. Any info appreciated. I really hate to turn down free bedding delivered off at my house

Evy answered: I avoid sawdust for the reasons you cite...they love to snuffle around in it & the fine stuff can get into eyes & nostrils & cause big problems. If it were nice shavings, I'd say it was a great deal. In this case, I think I'd leave it for the horse people.

I've always used hay for bedding, especially in winter. It also gives them something to root around in & smells nice when you add it. No, I've never had a problem with mold because I'm careful to get only well dried bales.

Fall Meeting Schedule

October 24th – 8pm, The Moose in Lancaster note: Halloween falls on the last Tuesday in October so we will be holding our meeting the week before.

November 28th – 8pm, the Moose in Lancaster

December – Christmas party – To be announced

Buy – Sell - Trade

My quest continues for Emperor Geese. Any age, sex / Pairs or singles.

I have some Call Ducks available in different varieties & qualities.

For any of the above - contact me via email – cchoate@excite.com or phone 585 815 7654.

Anyone interested in posting something here please email or call me. I can be reached at

cchoate@excite.com

585 815 7654

Our Website address: **freewebs.com/wnypoultryclub**

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**October Meeting Reminder – Tuesday the 24th, 8pm at the Moose
in Lancaster**



