

Presidents Message

Another year of our show is done and with another success, even though our entries were down. I talked with a couple other shows that where that same weekend as ours and the numbers are down everywhere. Either it's the gas prices or just birds are not in condition.

I would first like to thank Paul Kroll for doing an excellent job as show secretary, anyone that has taking this task on knows it is not easy. I would also like to thank everyone with setup and teardown. Setup was actually kind of fun on Sat morning, our teardown was very fast with all the help and that we didn't have to clean the building.

I spoke with the person I deal with at the fairgrounds and asked if we can use the same building next year. I called the very next day and told them everything went well (except the weather), so we have the same building already for next year! We will go over all the financial details of the show at the next meeting Tues. 29th. See you there!

Rick Hare, President

Vice Presidents Message

Hi everyone,

Breeding season started real late for me this year, my ducks didn't get into full swing until early May which is about 2 weeks behind most years. As of May 28^h I have 81 Call ducklings out along with some Rosecomb chicks. I set around 110 Call eggs per week at the peak of breeding season with fertility running at 70 percent. I hope to get 60 percent of fertile eggs to hatch which gives me 35 to 40 ducklings per week. Last year I hatched almost 200 Calls which is what I'm shooting for again this year.

I completed a new aviary this past late winter and my wild waterfowl are pretty much on schedule. My Cacklers (miniature Canada geese) are laying for the first time as they are now 3 years old. The Mandarins and Woodducks are all laying but it's still a little early for everything else.

Talking to other breeders around the northeast, it seems hatching is going poorly so far this year for many. Everyone seems to have a theory why (like the weather) but I guess there's no exact science when it comes to nature, we'll just have to roll with it.

I personally liked the new building we used for our show this year, much easier on the feet than concrete and more room than the other building. I got to clerk for the first time and it was a real learning experience. To actually hear what a judge is thinking while looking at the birds gave me new insight on *how* they place not just what they look for. Of course our club has some top notch judges in the country. Paul, Rick and Bill (to name a few). Anyone wanting to get into the mind of a judge, they'd be the ones to talk to.

Just as Rick pointed out, many of the spring shows have had fewer entries than last year including ours.

Don, my daughter and I went to Lucasville over Memorial Day weekend and had a great time. Just over 1,700 birds in the show, there was a lot to see and do. Don took champion Guinea and my daughter had reserve of breed with her Gray Call drake in the juniors.

Sincerely,
Chris Choate

Secretary's Message

A hearty thank you to all!

Our show went very smoothly, thanks to the help of so many! Friday night's loading of the trailer went well, Saturday's setup was fast and efficient and the tear-down went well, too! A special thank you to Carolyn Robinson for the use of her truck and the horse trailer. That saves so many trips with several trucks.

Although we were down in numbers a little from last year, we still had a high quality show. We had about a dozen less exhibitors; most of them were juniors.

For those who were unable to attend the meeting at the Moose in May (right after the show), we are in the black and made about \$250 on the show. That's great! Once again, the proceeds from the raffles and especially the kitchen pulled us out of the red ink. Thanks to the Thomson family for all their help along with Pepper Weinheimer and company.

Haidy Rietz, Dick Lang, Jonathan and Jeremy Kroll did the raffles and that help is also appreciated very much. It seems we can always count on members and their families to come through.

One reminder for those of you who have not paid your dues as yet. They were due in April and you can send them to me any time!

Thanks again!

Paul Kroll, Show Secretary

Q & A from The Poultry Connection

Q: Does anyone have any ideas how to get rid of spiders in your henhouse?

A: go to a dollar store or dollar general and purchase a bottle of generic pine- sol and spray down your rafters with it.....bugs hate that stuff and your hen house will smell good. Best of luck.

A: What harm do they do? They catch flies & eventually the chickens will catch them. Actually, I've never seen a spider in the chicken coop.

A: I have them in my coop also. I spray with Pyrethrum sometimes called Permethrin... I get it from the local garden shop as a concentrate..... dilute it down and spray once every 6 months...

A: I welcome spiders anywhere they set-up a web. They don't hurt anything with feathers (or down) and of course help control the insect population. No one in my house is allowed to kill a spider, just release them outside.

Q: I have been given a gift of a bottle of Oxine to use to clean incubators, waters, pens and possibly hatching eggs. Do any of you use it? Do I mix say 1 oz to two qts of water and scrub down my incubator? Do I let the incubator run for say a hour until all the moisture is dried or should I wipe down with a rinse cloth a few times to get this moisture off the walls and floor.? Also does it do any good to dip your hatching eggs in a solution such as 15 drops per gallon of water then let the eggs dry then place on trays? Of course all eggs would be in a different incubator when cleaning. I have two sportsmen.

A: Oxine's been around for several years, and is considered one of the best disinfectants on the market. Mix it according to the directions on the bottle. Use it to clean eggs, incubators, including those in use, injuries, eyes, & to mist eggs. Keep it in the original container or glass. Diluted correctly, a gal. should last at least a season

Q: I was talking to a very good breeder of water fowl last night and he told me that this could be true. When a feed company uses more plant (Soy Beans) protein to bump up there total protein count rather than use more expensive animal protein the effect on the birds could reduce fertility on some types of birds or work as a birth control effect. In order to say that his feed has 18 % protein its not animal products, but soy beans which is cheaper to make. I know of one breeder who puts his bantam ckls through a summer molt using high protein animal protein dog food to get the condition that he is looking for to get his birds on champion row. There is a total difference in this feed and regular chicken feed. He felt he could not get the finish or luster in the feathers using normal egg ration chicken feed. To help me get my ckls through a summer molt I would give them crickets and earth worms to boost their protein. I got the luster that I was looking for using this method. What are your thoughts?

A: I agree totally. Soy contains a natural estrogen. This spring I supplemented my breeder ration (no animal by-products) with cat food containing both animal & fish by products. The fertility is the best it's been in 5 years.

2007 Summer Meeting Schedule:

June – no meeting

July – Tuesday the 24th 7pm at Mary Lou Miskey and Sam Caruso's home.
4813 Baer Rd, Sanborn 14132. Please bring a dish to pass.

August – Saturday the 25th 11am. Lawn show at Bill Ziehm's home.
3166 Beebe Rd, Newfane, 14108. Please bring a dish to pass.

Erie County Fair – August 8th thru 19th

You can see this or any other past news letter at our website:

www.Freewebs.com/wnypoultryclub

Buffalo & WNY Poultry Association Spring 2007

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