

Presidents Message

I hope all your young are developing well and you will have some champions this fall show season. Our show was a success and finally everything is done with the 2008 show with reports and cages. Thanks to everyone that helped out with our show, especially Paul Kroll. He did a great job on the premium book and exhibitors list.

Many hands make for light work and it makes it a lot easier on this old boy! We will need many hands next year since we are hosting the APA semi-annual. I have already contacted the fair for the building and have a block of rooms and meeting room at the Holiday Inn for a cheaper rate for exhibitors. If you would like your breed club to host a meet please feel free to contact them and get one setup. The show will be in the same arena with a building next to it, hopefully with the increase in entries we will fill both of them. I tried, begged and pleaded to get the creative arts building but to no avail, I was told once again the other buildings are not available for livestock even for a one time show!

The next issue on are agenda is the Fair fast approaching. The entries are due July 18; you can receive them on line and make a copy or just email them in. I personally make a copy and one for me (as a reminder) and snail mail it in. Barb Clarkson once again is taking on the big task of running the great Americas fair poultry program. Please try and help Barb as much as possible since she is also working 2 jobs during the fair. I will try to be there every day to help out so if you need help just grab me. I talked with Barb and I'm going to incubate eggs until the fair so the public can see them hatch in her hatcher during all 10 days of the fair.

Hope to see you all at the fair and see who next will win Grand Champion of the show, Kelsey Ferguson is the defending champion for 2007, who will it be in 2008??

Rick Hare

Vice Presidents Message

Hi everyone,

With summer now in full swing and breeding season just about over we start to see how our new birds are turning out. I've had a very good season so far with the last of my Calls hatching on July 4th and only a few setting Call hens on eggs. Even starting as late as they did I've got almost 200 ducklings out with very few losses. My grays and whites were not as prolific as I hoped but Magpies and snowy's hatched like flies. I've also been working on a new variety over the last few years known as gray pied. In the UK they are common and in their SOP. There are around 10 serious breeders here in the U.S. and we are working towards getting them into the APA SOP.

Next year I'm cutting back on some of my varieties and concentrating more on gray, white and snowy. Some chickens and wild waterfowl are going also. I keep decent records and last summer my feed bill was averaging \$30.00 / week, now it's almost \$50.00 so some cuts need to be made. I started letting my Rocks (both bantam and large) free range during the day so they don't cost much to feed at all and seem to do very well. I've also noticed the price of birds has risen quite a bit, especially waterfowl. If you check out some of the online auctions you'll see what I mean.

My chickens have produced well this spring especially the large fowl Barred Rocks. I got my start with them 3 years ago from Guy Roy and until this year their fertility wasn't great. This year I plucked all feathers around the vent area (both male & female) and since then fertility took off, now I have more than I bargained for. The good news is they free range all day so it really doesn't cost much to feed them plus there isn't anything that walks on 6 legs anywhere near my wife's gardens. Rocks also make a great backyard chicken as they are very tame and don't mind having someone pet them or being picked up.

This past winter / spring I had very few predator problems with only a cat to deal with. In the past few weeks the weather has turned somewhat drier and I've trapped 3 raccoons, 2 opossums and a skunk in my woods. I keep many traps set and baited all year round as it defiantly helps keep the 4 legged predator population thin in my immediate area. I still lock all birds up at night as there are many other things looking for a meal when it's dark.

I guess that's about all for now, hope to see everyone at the lawn show on August 3rd.

Sincerely,
Chris Choate

Secretary's Message

Summer Care of Poultry Paul Kroll

Over the years I have always been amazed at the "husbandry" I see at different locations; some good and some not so good. I'm not throwing stones, since I live in a glass house, too!

Chickens' body temperature is higher than ours, and if we are minding the heat, they are really suffering. Chickens will usually not drink warm water, so changing the water every day and sometimes more than once a day is a good thing. Scrub those water cups, bowls, jugs, etc. at least once a week. They get slimy in the heat and open dishes collect lots of dirt, shavings, etc. Remember to use something to keep the birds from sitting on top of the water jugs or metal waterers. I cut the bottom out of milk or vinegar jugs and place them atop the water jugs. This prevents the birds from sitting there and their droppings from getting into the saucer below.

Good air circulation in your buildings is imperative. Open as many windows and doors as possible to assure this. I have welded wire over all the windows on the outside, so predators are prevented from getting in, but during the day, when I am home, I leave the doors wide open, too. The use of a fan to help circulate air may be necessary.

I grow a large vegetable garden and probably half of what I grow gets fed to the chickens. Did you know that if chickens are given their choice, they'll make up to 60% of their food intake on greens? It might take awhile for your birds to learn to like zucchini squash or lettuce, spinach, cabbage, etc. They will take to it eventually. I even feed dandelions in early spring, before they bloom and turn bitter. Speaking of bitter, the only green feed my birds will not touch is celery and parsley. I know lots of fancier who feed tomatoes and pumpkins, but be careful with white birds; these and other vegetables may stain white or light colored feathers.

The late Shelby Harrington always said, "I can't condition a bird that's not on the ground". I agree. There is something chickens get from the ground that cannot be provided in store-bought feed. Even a short "vacation" for a few hours outdoors in a cage will make a difference. Beware neighborhood cats and dogs, etc. Watch the cages so you can monitor who visits. You don't want to terrorize your birds. When I was a kid on the farm, the dogs used to worry chickens to death by just staring them down!

When I worked at the fair, I used to take supplemental feed to my birds. All the NY State fairs are held at exactly the wrong time of the year for chickens. Old birds should be home progressing through the molt and young birds should be home, growing. All ages should be getting the very best of care and not the stress that fairs provide for many hours every day.

Remember to give your flock some summertime consideration and they will reward you with better feather quality and health.

Some News and Notes

We are holding our annual lawn show this year on Sunday, August 3rd starting around 11:00 am at Kelsey Ferguson's house. Details are as follows:

- Up to 4 birds per person, entry fee is \$1.00 per bird
- Judging will begin at or close to noon.
- Champion takes 2/3rds of the entry fees and reserve takes other 3rd.
- please bring a dish to pass, lunch will follow judging.

Kelsey's address:

9321 Wilkinson Rd, Batavia, NY 14020 / Phone 585 762 8476.

Directions: From The village of Corfu (just north of Darien Lake) take route 33 east around 5.5 miles.

Turn right on Wilkinson Rd (south). Kelsey's house is just over 1 mile on the left hand side (east). Big white house with barn and horses in back.

Note: The road sign for Wilkinson is missing on route 33, look for Read Rd which is a left before Wilkinson and Buckaroos diner is just across the street from Wilkinson Rd.

For Sale / Wanted

- I will have Calls available starting in mid August in Magpie and a few whites.
- Paradise Shelducks 2005 hatch, \$200.00 / pair.
- North American Pintail - \$50 / pair.
- Barred Rocks in bantam and large fowl.

Anyone interested can reach me (Chris Choate) at cchoate@excite.com or 585-815-7654.

Q & A from the Poultry Connection

Q: Long time ago someone posted a Bug Spray recipe can someone share their recipe again.

A: To make garlic and pepper spray concentrate (you don't really need the pepper for mosquitoes) you liquefy 2 cloves (whole bulbs) of garlic and 2 hot peppers in a blender that is 1/2 to 2/3 full of water. (Jalapeños work well but Habanera peppers are fool proof! LOL) After you get the contents liquefied you strain all the solids out and add enough water to the remaining juice to make 1 gallon of concentrate. For mosquitoes you can also add a couple of ounces of orange oil (found at organic nurseries) to the concentrate. Then you can use 1/4 of a cup of the concentrate per gallon of water as a spray. I normally put it in a hose-end sprayer for easier application.

Q: I was wondering how I could break my Cochin hen of her broodiness. I have a few laying and some fancy chickens that free range. The only one ever to go broody before this is the cochin but now I have two other hen that are broody with her too, so I would like to know how to break them all of their broodiness.

A: Put her in a pen by herself. Make sure she has no nest, or material to nest in, and no eggs to set on. I like to put them in a pen with a wire bottom -- not very satisfying for them to set on.

A: I once had a hen that was hard to break. I took a day old chick and put it under her during the night. She accepted the chick, and after a few days I removed it -- no more broody hen.

A: Isolate the hen -- don't feed or water her for a couple days or at least no food usually after 3 days she will prioritize eating and drinking over setting and the broodiness will wane or disappear. Don't let her back out as long as she is clucking and sulling up when approached or she will go right back to monopolizing a nest full of eggs -- hope this helps

Q: I was just curious what other folks hatching rates are from shipped eggs were. I wanted to start some new breeds and I am lucky if I am getting 30%. Is this about normal with the handling? All of them so far have been packed great, really. Maybe I am just used to hatching my own from the nest.

A: Shipped eggs hardly ever have a decent hatch rate and are usually a crap shoot at best. You're much better off buying live birds.

A: You might get a 50% hatch from shipped eggs and you might get none. I don't like buying shipped eggs although I sometimes do just to get birds that aren't readily available in my area or to get a new bloodline. I just hatched some gamble quail eggs I had shipped. About 35% hatched and I felt that was good. From what I have experienced and others have told me rarely will you get an 80-90% hatch from shipped eggs due to many factors.

Buffalo & WNY Poultry Association summer 2008

Chris Choate
9524 Beaver Rd
Alexander, NY 14005

Reminder for lawn show – Sunday, August 3rd, 11am at Kelsey's house.



