

Presidents Message

I hope everyone has had a good holiday. Our weather sure has been. There was a board meeting at Paul & Judy Kroll's house, the board of directors went over the final preparations for our May show. This year, the fair has put us in a different building, I was told that we could no longer use our great show hall (creative arts building). This year we will be in the Livestock Arena, which is the big building at the end of the Poultry building along McKinley Parkway. It will be a little different in set up but with our great members we will turn out another good show! One good thing about the building is the club will not have to sweep the floors clean, so that will save 2 hours on tear down time!

Paul Kroll and I just got back from judging the Lake City show in Florida. What a time we had the weather was about 85 degrees. There were many good birds, the entries were about 1500. Joel Henning, George Beyers, Steve Wojkowiak and Chris Choate traveled to one of our favorite shows in Springfield, Mass. From the report I got the boys took the whole show! Again our club was represented well, great job guys! Our next meeting is not until March so plan on being there.

Until next time I hope all you're hatching is good!

Rick Hare

Secretary's message

Preparations Under Way for 2007 Show
Paul Kroll, Secretary

Happy New Year to all the BWNY members! I wish you all the very best for 2007 with breeding, hatching, brooding and exhibiting.

Our Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for January 10 at my home. We will be discussing the show for 2007 and voting on the judges for 2008. Our judges for this year are Paul Monteith from Canada and Rick Porr from Pennsylvania.

In an effort to get our catalog in the mail by the end of March, I need to have all the cash special donations you wish to put up before mid-March. The catalog will be typed and printed before the March meeting so that all present at that meeting can help to stuff the envelopes and stamp them, etc. Many hands make light work!

Please send me all your special offerings now and definitely before mid-March. Most of us usually put up the same things each year. I will NOT take that for granted and I will NOT print anything in the catalog that you don't send me this year. Although it seems like our March meeting is a long way off, please get your ducks in a row and get your specials in to me anytime now.

Something to think about: During the last hour or so of our show, I am working on the awards and have a difficult time keeping at it, with the folks who come up and ask questions and those who wait until the show to pay their memberships. This becomes a real problem for this old man! I NEED HELP! I have to do the awards, but I cannot be interrupted at that time. I desperately need help to deal with the questions that arise and the folks who come to the window at that time. Can you volunteer to be on duty to help me at that time? This means that you'd have to stay there and not leave until the awards are complete and the envelopes and trophies given out. I really appreciate any help offered. Thanks in advance, but please let me know so that I can count on you.

Good hatching!
Paul

Hello all,

Well, the big show at Indy is in the books and our club had some wins to boast about. In no particular order, here's how we did:

Bruce – Grand Champion Display, Reserve Champion Featherleg and Champion Featherleg trio with his Cochins.

Rick – 3rd best Rosecomb overall, 5th best Rosecomb overall, best and reserve variety Mottled Rosecomb.

George – Brown Leghorn National – Champion Bantam and champion Brown Leghorn SC Light Brown pullet. Reserve Champion Bantam Brown Leghorn Trio. Champion Brown Leghorn Display.

Joel – Champion Continental and Reserve Champion AOCCL with his White Crested Polish, Reserve Champion Display Large Fowl and Reserve Champion trio Large Fowl.

Bill – 3rd Cockbird, 3rd & 5th best pullet with his Rhode Island Reds. (Over 300 birds in the class)

Don – Reserve grand champion Guinea display with Pearl Guineas.

Chris – Champion and Reserve Champion Magpie Call duck, Champion and Reserve champion Pied Call duck.

If I missed anyone or anything, I'll add it to the next newsletter.

So far, this winter has played out to be the strangest I remember and I've talked to some old timers the say the same. Temps way above normal and tons of rain have made my place pretty muddy. Luckily, I stoned my pens this past fall so the actual outdoor pens are semi clean. Of course the most interesting thing will be how it affects the upcoming breeding season.

I for one hope it doesn't start the birds laying early, especially waterfowl. Ducks only lay a certain number of eggs in a year and males aren't usually fertile until April. If the females start laying real early it could lead to a lot of infertile eggs. I know person that put lights on their ducks to induce laying early and wound up with a horrible hatch for the year. The birds also molted early and screwed up their spring showing.

Other Club business has brought about some new officers with the vote held at our November meeting. Our new line-up is as follows:

President – Rick Hare
Vice President – Chris Choate
Secretary – Paul Kroll
Treasurer – Bill Ziehm

Officers – Bruce Robinson, Steve Wojtkowiak, Ed Thomson,
Pepper Weinheimer, George Beyer

We show some members haven't paid dues since 2005. Anyone needing to pay dues please send them by April 1st to:

Paul Kroll
4325 Two Rod Rd
East Aurora, NY 14052

Thanks,

Chris Choate

Q & A from The Poultry Connection

Electric fence placement

rightcross

Posted: Fri Dec 22, 2006 1:46 pm Post subject: Best hot wire placement



Joined: 07 Apr 2004
Posts: 428
Location: Green Cove Springs, Florida

Hello,

We've had a disaster here and have had 2 ducks taken right off the edge of the pond during the day by either a coyote or fox judging by the tracks. Our days of free ranging during the day are over. We are constructing a predator proof day pen for when we cannot supervise the ducks' outings. I need to know the best placement for hot wire. We have previously not had any daytime predators, but the usual prime predators to worry about would be raccoon, coyote or fox.

The pen is 6' tall 2x2 wrapped wire and the top is fully covered by chicken wire. The fencing extends 18" underground and there is a 3' horizontal digging barrier.

Thanks for the help.

Patti

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Evy

Posted: Fri Dec 22, 2006 6:22 pm Post subject:



Joined: 14 Aug 2002
Posts: 9341
Location: Upstate NY

Bummer! Try it a few inches off the ground to get the little guys like weasels & mink. About 2-3 inches from the top will get the climbers. You may have to kill the grass around the bottom or keep it weed-wacked really close to prevent shorting the fence out. Good luck.

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Katy

Posted: Sat Dec 23, 2006 12:38 am Post subject:



Joined: 16 Aug 2002
Posts: 380
Location: Pennsylvania

I have a pen covered in netting, with a split-rail fence. On the outside of the fence I installed 5 strands of electric wire, 2 bottom wires, approx. 3" and 6" from the ground (and I do weed whack during summer growing time) and 3 wires at the top of the fence, hot, grounded, hot, about 3 inches apart. climbers and diggers have been deterred for over 3 years and I have witnessed fox zap their noses on the bottom wire sniffing around. They don't hang around long after the shock. get a charger that covers the correct amount of miles for your space. Mine is a 30 mile charger, though much more than I need, it is a very good charger.

Effects on comb size

jbeek

Posted: Fri Dec 29, 2006 4:58 pm Post subject: comb size??



Joined: 24 Feb 2006
Posts: 26
Location: NW Iowa

I was told by someone that leaving chicks under a bright light for too long causes their combs to be too large. Is this true? and if so is red lights better than white heat lights?

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Neil E. Grassbaugh

Posted: Fri Dec 29, 2006 7:33 pm Post subject: Re: comb size??



Joined: 25 Aug 2002
Posts: 359
Location: West Central Ohio

What is too large? SC birds maintained under low, artificial light and warm temperatures develop large combs.

Red or white - makes no difference except that there are usually fewer footcandens under a red light as opposed to the same wattage white light.

White heat lamps damaging chicks eyes are an old chicken coop tale.

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jbeek

Posted: Fri Dec 29, 2006 7:44 pm Post subject:



Joined: 24 Feb 2006
Posts: 26
Location: NW Iowa

Thanks for the reply. My son is raising mottled japs for show. The book of standard says medium size SC. The bird we kept back for breeding had a great looking comb in late summer however now has a pretty large comb. I was arguing with my husband has how to brood this years hatch. The rest of the birds we raised have the right size combs.

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Chan

Posted: Fri Dec 29, 2006 8:44 pm Post subject: combs



Joined: 12 Jun 2006
Posts: 137

This is one I've never heard before! As far as I know comb size is genetic and not influenced by environmental factors.

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j,

While genetic factors play a dominant role in an animals physical characteristics, environmental factors can and do affect them as well. Neil is absolutely correct in stating that brooder conditions affect comb sizes.

Combs are temperature regulating devices and will grow larger in birds that are subjected to high brooder temperatures. As Neil stated, this is especially true in single comb varieties and particularly true of Mediterranean breeds which have the genetic potential to grow very large combs in relation to body size. This was well understood and documented by old-time breeders such as Schilling, Marsh and Young.

Temperature can also affect body size. Large fowl growers in the Southern United states have a hard time keeping the body weight up to standard because the birds don't need to eat as much as Northern birds to maintain energy needs. This biological phenomenon is evident in many species; it is, for instance, why Whitetail deer are considerably larger in the North than in he South.

Genetics set the parameters (or boundaries) for the size of physical characteristics while environmental factors are one of several elements (along with nutrition, disease, etc.) that determine where, along the scale of genetic possibilities, the particular trait in question ends up.

Carl
Valley Green Poultry

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Buy – Sell – Trade

It's winter, not much going on in this corner.

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

Buffalo & WNY Poultry club Newsletter Winter 2007

Chris Choate
9524 Beaver Rd
Alexander, NY 14005

Our first meeting for 2007 will be held on Tuesday, March 27th, 8pm at the Moose in Lancaster.



