

Presidents Message

Hello everyone,

I hope your winter has been better than mine has! With all the snow and cold I'm ready and so are the birds for spring. I have a heater in my barn and this year the water managed to freeze a few times that has never happened in many years.

The date of our show has changed this year due to the Fairs commitment to rent out the new arena. This May the fairgrounds down by the livestock is all booked up for the month. Our new date is May 23rd. It will be 2 weeks after Mothers day instead of one week after. This will probably be our new date for the show for awhile since the horse show took our date and they need more than one building. I spoke with the new person in charge of the livestock shows and the horse show is committed to 4 years on the weekend that our show date was previously. Again we had to step aside because in the real world money talks and others walk. I did secure the old livestock arena for a couple years the 2nd week after mother's day, like I said more livestock shows are going to be held all year round. The weekend of our show there is going to be a goat show, so hopefully we can get some interest at our show. Our judges are lined up with the new date and I have requested many breed meets. So we are on track for another good show! I know some of you are saying why us AGAIN, but many other animal shows had to be moved also because of the new huge arena.

Also our poultry club has to accommodate to the fairgrounds because of our funds that we pay verses other events. Hope everyone is getting ready to hatch or already has chicks out, my hatching season is not the best this year due to incubator breaking down, still managed to get some out but only half of what I usually hatch. Hope to see you at the meeting in March!

Rick Hare

Vice Presidents Message

Another winter has come and hopefully will be ending sooner than later. No real surprises this year; snow / wind / cold about says it all.

In past winters my Calls were all housed in an outdoor community pen and locked up inside at night. It seemed that I would lose more than expected over the winter for unknown reasons. They have access to food, drinking water, shelter and are protected from predators 24/7. This year I decided to build some different pens that would keep them off the ground and out of the wind at all times. It seems to have made a real difference as I have only lost two Calls so far.

Many of the club members attended the Poultry Congress show in West Springfield, Ma and had our fair share of birds on champion row. The weather was decent which made traveling a breeze. I was able to sell quite a few birds, waterfowl seem to sell better in the winter and early spring so I keep extra birds around longer. They also bring a higher price which helps justify the extra feed.

That's about it for now.

Sincerely,
Chris Choate

Secretary's Message: Scratchings from an old chicken man

Spring is just around the corner. The seed catalogs and the hens singing and laying up a storm prove it! We can't complain about the snow this winter, but it sure has been cold for a long, long time. Weeks without breaking the freezing mark take their toll on the birds and on us as caretakers. Most of us have provisions: water heaters, small heaters in the coop(s) to keep the temperature and water just above freezing, etc. Many breeders use artificial lighting to extend the daylight hours as well. All these things help to take "the edge off" those tedious chores and make it an awful lot easier to cope with the winter problems.

A friend near Dallas, Texas has phoned several times to ask how I cope with the winter snow and cold temps which they have experienced this year, more than once. I think it is a good thing that others across the country realize just what we have to endure seasonally. I'm not being nasty, but just thinking that perhaps it is fair to "spread it around"! Now, if we can just get the comedians and the Florida Chamber of Commerce to realize that Buffalo isn't as bad as the rap that gets pinned on us all the time!

For those members who do not usually visit or exhibit at shows other than our own, you really should think about it. Several of us went to the Northeast Poultry Congress show in January – as we do every year – and found it to be a most enjoyable weekend. Traveling was easy, the show was wonderful and the friendship better than all that combined. Try it; you'll like it!

Our November meeting, the last of 2009, proved a bit sparse in attendance, so we didn't have a quorum for the business meeting which included our annual election. The election is planned for the March meeting. Y'all come, please!

I am sure that it is mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, that our show date had to be changed to Sunday, May 23rd. This is one week later than usual, due to a conflict at the Fairgrounds. Who knows? Perhaps we'll have even better weather?! Plan on it!

One of the things I would like to accomplish immediately is printing of a new Membership Directory. The last one I had put out was in 1995. In the meantime, we had Membership Lists. If you want your breeds and varieties, phone numbers (home and/or cell) published in that Directory, please let me know. I have some information, but not all. These phone numbers and other information will not be shared "wholesale", but will prove valuable to our own membership, for certain. Contact me any of the following ways: telephone: 716-652-8658; email: pfkroll@roadrunner.com; snail mail: 4325 Two Rod Road, East Aurora, NY 14052. I wish everyone a wonderful hatching season and I look forward to seeing you all at the March 30th meeting!

Paul Kroll (soon-to-be has-been Secretary)

Q & A from The Poultry Connection

Turkeys for Marek's resistance

Q: I heard through the grapevine chickens running with turkeys can pick up a harmless strain of Marek's and be immune to some degree. I don't have a turkey to test this with nor do I believe to have the full scoop. I hope someone else does.

A: That is an old wives, crock of BS that the hopelessly ignorant and uneducateable have been spreading around for years. Although MD vaccinations are derived from a harmless turkey pathogen the likelihood of a turkey causing, by association with, a chicken to gain immunity to the MD virus is just about the same as getting your leg bitten off by a shark while standing on top of Mt. Everest.

A: Strictly speaking there is no immunity to that virus because it attacks one of the more important immune systems. The present vaccines control symptoms, but Galled herpesvirus 2 (GaHV-2) is a Herpes virus and like most of that family all you can do is control and try to limit outbreaks.

Why do chickens and ducks get eggs stuck?

Q: I have a chicken and now a duck that has an egg stuck up in them. What causes this? And how can you get this problem to stop? And how can you fix this matter at hand?

A: I can only guess at the cause...bird too fat, weak muscles, genetic tendency to lay very large eggs...all guesses.

A: There's no simple answer. It may be the bird's 1st egg, the egg is too big to pass, the egg is misshapen, the muscles are weak, etc., etc. All you can do is try the things I suggested if the bird is having trouble. Remember, it may take a while...they don't always just pop out & the more you bother her, the longer it may take.

Buy – Sell – Trade

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

A few articles pertaining to our hobby. A big thanks to Paul for finding these.

NAIS Abandoned

On February 5, 2010, the USDA announced it will abandon efforts to implement a National Animal Identification Program to track livestock.

The USDA plans to explore alternative methods for tracing livestock. They hope the revised program will win more widespread support from farmers.

In July 2009, ALBC issued a Statement of Concern to the USDA regarding the potential effects of NAIS on small-scale farmers and producers.

Getting Started With Rare Breeds

Here are some simple tips:

1. Consider Your Long-Range Plan

One of the first things you need to consider is what you want to do with your animals. Do you want to raise them for food, animal products, or breeding stock? Do you plan to sell your products? If so, is there a market? It's important to ask yourself these questions BEFORE getting started.

2. Consider the Context

What is the context of your farm? Who are your neighbors? Are there codes or restrictions that affect what you may do on your farm? Do zoning regulations limit your land use? These questions can often be answered by a local extension agent or by contacting your local planning board.

3. Inventory Your Resources

While researching livestock species, conduct a resource inventory of your property, personal finances, and time to help determine if you have what is necessary to raise the animals you are interested in.

4. Consider Your Market

If raising animals for market, do your research on the end-products and the end-users. Processing, marketing, and distribution will be factors you must consider.

5. Decide on a Species to Raise

Think about what animals appeal to you. Do you prefer large or small animals? Spend some time researching and going to local fairs or farms to see which species are most interesting and attractive to you.

News & Notes

-As Rick stated earlier in his message our show date has been moved by one week. Normally we are the Sunday after mother's day. This year's show will be held on Sunday May 23rd which is a week later than normal and a week before Lucasville.

-Our spring / summer meeting dates are held the last Tuesday of each month starting in March. Our meeting place is still at the Rose Garden Restaurant on Wehrle in Williamsville. Start time is 7:30pm. This year's dates are as follows:

March 30th

April 27th

May 25th

June - To be announced

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

cchoate1@gmail.com

585 300 6144

Our Website address: **wnypoultryclub.webs.com**

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



