

**The American
Bantam Association
QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER**



ABA

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Fall 2023 Edition

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From ABA President - Bill Patterson



Greetings from the office of the President !
I hope you are all having fun in the midst of our show season. I really like spending time with my Poultry friends. I still get excited for the judging and sizing up my competition.

I'm very much looking forward to the APA national in Columbus and our ABA national and Shawnee Oklahoma. I hope all of you will show up to make them memorable.

We've made some important decisions and constitutional changes recently that clarify, and are in the best interest of our membership. If you have any questions regarding this, I welcome any conversation you may have.

We are so blessed to share in a hobby with such wonderful friends. Make the best of this time.

God bless you all,
Bill Patterson

President Bill Patterson

And

ABA Secretary Karen Unrath





From ABA Vice President - Matt Lhamon:

Dear ABA Members,

My favorite time of year is here, Fall! The early fall shows are here, and I was able to attend the White River Show in Spencer, Indiana over Labor Day weekend. Mike Sayre and I, traditionally get there early on Friday and head to dinner with Larry Lawrence at the local buffet. We did, this year, and had a nice chat about the hobby and life in general. Sadly, the next week our friend, Larry Lawrence passed away. Larry was a huge supporter of the ABA and exhibition poultry. He managed the White River Show for over 20 years and will be dearly missed by all that knew him. RIP Larry and I am sure you are chatting with our friends who are already there!

I was also able to judge the Acton Fair, in Acton, Ontario, Canada. It was a beautiful drive up and stopped to chat and visit with old friend Paul Monteith on the way up and tour his beautiful facility and see his exceptional poultry artwork collection. The Acton Fair has some of the best birds I have seen at a fair and Troy Laroche and crew do an outstanding job putting this event together.

I then moved on to the Dayton Fancy Feather Show in Greenville, OH. I have been going to this show since the early 1970's and it is one of my favorites. I stayed in the feed tent all weekend and watched Mike Sayre and Emily Shoop judge. It was a great show and enjoyed seeing old friends and making a few new ones!

Finally, everyone is in anticipation of the Ohio National 2023 version. It will be the ABA District 5 Meet and the 150th Anniversary Show of the APA. 3 days of exciting poultry stuff will be going on! Having been to almost all of the big Columbus Shows, this will be a history maker!

Hope everyone has a great fall and look forward to seeing you at the shows!

Sincerely,
Matt Lhamon



From ABA Secretary – Karen Unrath



Greetings from the ABA.

I hope you all are enjoying the change of weather and hopefully the perfect feathering out of your champions. This is an exciting time of year in that it is a chance to see if the hard work paid off. Even if you do not win at a show, the pride and excitement of showing is what should keep you going.

The 2024 ABA legbands will be on the website soon. I expect delivery on these sometime in November. A reminder to order yours early to get those low numbers.

I want to wish everyone continued success with your bantams. Some people measure success by points or wins. I prefer to measure it by the joy it brings you. If your birds are a good escape from the everyday, then you have done a great job and I hope and wish this to continue. Not every bird in a show takes home the prize. (We all know that.) The challenge is simple. Enjoy your birds, the friends you make along the way and the losses as much as the wins. The great show hall experiences are the prizes you take with you.

I hope to see you at a show soon, but due to some personal circumstances, Kevin and I will need to miss a few. The ABA has lots of great people so the ABA table should be well attended. Please stop by and say hi to those behind the table.

We should be back again soon.

Sincerely,

Karen Unrath
ABA Secretary

2023 ABA District Directors

District Director #1 -ME, NH, MA, RI, CT, VT

Stephen Stanulonis

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860-916-9103 poultryman31@gmail.com

District Director #2 -NY, NJ

Robert Bentley

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District Director #3 - PA, DE

Emily Shoop

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419-234-2482 elhamon08@gmail.com

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District Director #15 - CA, NV, HI

Donald Barger
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District Director #16 - Canada

John Beamer

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289-214-1731 Johnbeamer77@gmail.com



From ABA Membership Coordinator: Michelle Lynch

Hello ABA Members,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and you are enjoying your new 2023 ABA Yearbook! I received mine a few days ago and Karen, Kim, and everyone involved really outdid themselves once again this year! If you have recently moved or haven't received your Yearbook don't hesitate to reach out to

membershipABA@gmail.com so I can check or update your membership address to make sure we have it correct.

Show season seems to be in full swing with Fall shows. It's always nice to get back out there and see your chicken show family and see how all that hard work over the summer rearing all those chicks pays off. The cooler weather is an added bonus too!

Remember you can check the status of a show report on our ABA website under the dropdown menu at "ABA Sanctioned Show Updates". This is a live report contains our most recent information. When we receive a show report it is listed as "in process", once complete it is updated as "completed". The ABA processes reports in batches of multiple reports several times a year. This is a great tool for both exhibitors and shows to check the status of their show reports and awards.

Along with the busyness of fall shows it is usually a busy time at the ABA in the membership department. November is our largest renewal month. If you have any questions on when your membership is due or updates, now is a great time to send me an email to check. Always happy to help.

Hoping to see many of you and your bantams at the shows this season!

Michelle Lynch

CORRECTIONS FROM THE YEARBOOK/ SPRING NEWSLETTER

Azael Guzman of Sassy Silkies in CA was listed as Azael Davis incorrectly.

Tyrel Thurston name was listed incorrectly as Tyler Thurston



100 Members added (5/1/2023-9/28/2023)

District #1 – 5 members added

New Hampshire (2): Erika Stemska, Misti Goodwin

Maine (1): Brock Leavitt

Massachusetts (1): Janelle Kelly

Vermont (1): Kristen Clark

Rhode Island (0)- Connecticut (0)-

District #2 - 6 members added

New York (6): Lisa Sassi, Brian Morrison, Nora Urena-Cowell, Odin Randall, Mckenzie Randall, Aubrey Etter

New Jersey (0)

District #3 – 1 member added

Pennsylvania (1): Nicholas Rubenstein

Delaware (0)-

District #4 – 2 members added

Virginia (2): Jacob Puttock-Barnes, Audrey Mccarter

West Virginia (0)-Maryland (0)

District #5 - 5 members added

Kentucky (3): Amanda Cornett, Michael Crump, Amber Lynn Scott

Ohio (2): Mark Loretto, Lucy Yinger

District #6 - 11 members added

Indiana (5):Josh Dicken Family , Hannah Thomas, Aubrey Johnson, Robert Dewhurst II, Amanda Walters

Michigan (3): Deborah Johnson , John Sucker, Rebecca Wigger

Illinois (3): Kolton Hisel, Brian Malone, Dianne Helms

District #7 - 6 members added

North Carolina (2): Emma Mainwaring, Zyanne Nguyen

South Carolina (4): Mark Pittman, Stephen Bolt, Max Walfield, Kaylee Dunn

District #8 - 8 members added

Alabama (3): Vicki Phillips,Cathy Word, Angela Joy Holt

Georgia (2): Sarah Smith, Cody Worley

Tennessee (3): Brian Staggs, Sara Cordle, Sydney Maitland

District #9 – 8 members added

Florida (5): Victor Hernandez, Theresa Ann Daniel, Lucy Partin, Christopher Porter, Summer England

Louisiana (3): Stacey Subervielle, Taylor Rayner, Laura Jack

Mississippi (0)

District #10 – 8 members added

Iowa (3): Laura Ashley, Corey Rutherford, Ronald Stark

Wisconsin (3): Lisa Nelson-Ischi, Hunter Hurst, Jordan Pagel

South Dakota (2): Joshua Johnson, J & J Tinker

Minnesota (0): North Dakota (0)

District #11 – 5 members added

**Oklahoma (4): Avery Boren, Caleb Archibeque, Morgan Daughtry,
Patty Williams**

Kansas (1): Jacob Ward

Arkansas (0)-Missouri (0)-Nebraska (0)

District #12 – 9 members added

Texas (9): Jennet Gaspar, Kaycee Bradberry, Dan Vestal,

Alessandra Reavis, Raeann Siebold, Kema

**McDaniel, Robin Occhipinti, Heather Szostek/Klein FFA, John
Snider**

District #13 – 4 members added

Arizona (2): Claire D'Amore, Keisha Cassidy

Colorado (1): Sarah Field

New Mexico (1): Kathryn Higgins

Utah (0)

District #14 – 5 members added

Washington (3): Erin Ridout, Fireweed Waterfowl, Jonathan Beck

Wyoming (2): Kristie Hoffert, Michelle Forster

Montana (0) Alaska (0)- Oregon (0)-Idaho (0)

District #15 – 15 members added

California (13): Phillip Pollin, Serena Ramirez, Eli Blackmon,

Reimundo Pulido-Lopez, Harmony

Hollingworth, Ellianna Comiskey, Jose Bahena, Yertgyji Xiong, Joe

Aragon, Kirsten Murray, Bryana

Jordan, Samantha Reynolds, Cesar Cisneros

Hawaii (1): Sonny Figaroa

Nevada (1): Shelly Gonzales

District #16 – 6 members added

Ontario (3): Gauge Brown, Meggie Mcgaffin, Alexander Seeley

Australia (1): Brett Batcheldor

Bermuda (1): Esther Douglas

Philippines (1): Chito Aniban

Congratulations to District 15 with 15 NEW members recruited.

Thank you!

If you send in a note, and we will send you membership sign-up and renewal cards that you can take with you anywhere.

It takes a team to get to the 3,000 ABA Active membership goal, and we need your help to make this happen.

ABA Sanctioned Show Listing as of 10.01.2023

**Heart of the Ozarks, AR, 10/28/2023,
Special, Jacob Bates, jakeab42@hotmail.com**

**No Georgia Ag Fair, GA, 10/24/2023, Special
Jamie Parker 706-217-5422**

**Missouri State Poultry Association, MO, 10/28/2023,
State, Bernita Miller, bmiller@iland.net**

**Abilene Poultry Association, TX, 10/28/2023, District,
Lori Carey, lorilikesgolfing@gmail.com**

The Ohio National, OH, District 5 Meet, 11/10-11-12/2023 ohionational.org

Appalachian Bantam Club, GA, Special, 11/11/2023, Steven Ausburn, appalachianbantamclub@yahoo.com

Midwest Bantam Club, OK, Special, 11/11/2023, Delbert Jenkins delandbrandy@yahoo.com

Beehive Classic, UT, Special, 11/12/2023, Clint Carter clintcarter@juno.com

Southern CA Poultry Club, CA, Special, 11/18/2023 Jim Anderson horsefeathers57@yahoo.com

Virginia Poultry Breeders Association, VA, 11/18/2023, District/State, Kelli Stewart virginiapoultrybreedersassoc@gmail.com

Carpet City Bantam Club, GA, Special, 11/25/2023 Jeff Wilson jayfred57@yahoo.com

Forsyth Fowl Fanciers, NC, Special, 11/25/2023, Mark East statefan10@yahoo.com

Central Illinois Poultry, IL, Special, 11/25/2023, Kurt Gerdes kgerd77@gmail.com

South Central Poultry Club, OK, Special, 11/25/2023, Logan Lindley loganlindley2955@gmail.com

**Oklahoma State Poultry Association, 12/9/2023, ABA National, Wade Walker
oklahomastatepoultryfederation@gmail.com**

**Fort Worth Stock Show, TX, 1/13-14/2024, Special,
www.fwssr.com**

**Florida State Fair, FL, Special, 2/8-19/2024, Emily Smith
Emily.smith@floridastatefair.com**

Illinois State Fair, IL, Special, 2024 TBA

Shows are added as sanctions come in so check the ABA website often for the most up to date information or head over to the linked ABA page on Poultry Show Central!

**If you would like more information on sanctioning your upcoming show, contact Michelle Lynch at
ABApoultryshows@gmail.com**

Regarding future deliveries of your ABA Quarterly newsletter:

- Going forward, we will be sending the Quarterly newsletters to your email box. (electronically)
- They will also be posted on the ABA website.
www.bantamclub.com
- We will continue to provide a paper version ***By Request Only***. If you have not provided us with an email address, please do so at your earliest convenience so you can be assured that you will continue to receive these newsletters uninterrupted. You can do this directly with Michelle

Lynch at membershipaba@gmail.com.

- The yearbook will continue to be provided to all and sent via regular mail.

We appreciate everyone's understanding as we navigate this transition. This will take effect with this version. We only will mail to those without email address on file.

Regarding the Starred Win Programs:

- We are amid a reformatting project with all starred wins. This is ongoing so please make note that I have not forgotten you. The current wins are posted on our website under Starred Wins — American Bantam Association (bantamclub.com). You can look for your wins and download them anytime. If you do not see yours, it is likely because they are still in the backlog to be reformatted. Send me a quick note and I will see that yours are done soon. I am getting through all active accounts first.

Messages From Our ABA Directors



District #1 - NH, ME, VT, CT, MA, RI by Stephen Stanulonis, CT

It has been a very quiet 4 months here in district 1. Unfortunately, we have seen many fairs in Connecticut and other states decide not to have poultry shows this year because of the fear of Avian Influenza. Some fairs had only one exhibitor put on a display. A few of the fairs that decided to have shows had only a handful of birds and only one or two exhibitors. A bulletin distributed by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture discouraged people from showing over concerns of AI. Many people thought the state was not even testing birds for exhibition which greatly reduced the birds eligible to show. I commend the fairs

and poultry superintendents who considered the current data and decided to have their shows.

We have also had at least 3 shows cancel with issues not related to AI. New England Bantam, Little Rhody Poultry Fanciers, and Boston Poultry Expo are all not having shows this fall. Issues with venues, change in leadership, lack of help and support, and bad timing were some of the reasons given.

Whether our hobby goes out with a whimper or a bang is irrelevant. We are losing on all fronts. Safety should always be a concern but in fact the safest thing would be to not have backyard poultry at all. There are people who are willing to let that happen. The question we need to ask ourselves is, are we?



District #3 - DE, PA by Emily Shoop, Pennsylvania

Hello from District 3!

My theme for this article seems to be “hope.” Especially for the coming season in PA and Delaware that we will be back in the show business soon! I judged Dayton Fancy Feather Club in Greenville, Ohio last weekend. That show is always a blast and ran by an exceptional group of people. Shout out to Amanda, Rick, Tyler, Ken, Betty, Michael, Rob and the gang for an excellent show. Hope they’ll have me back again.

Although Greenville will be my only show this fall, I am happy to report it was also my little Mollie's first chicken show! At 5 months old, she looks like an old pro. She will be ready to join M&M&Em&M Exhibition Poultry and Feed soon with her new trio of RC White Leghorn bantams (thanks Pop!)

My husband, Derek, and I would like to thank our poultry friends and family for all their prayers for Miss Mollie. She is doing so wonderfully despite her early arrival. With all that is going on across the country, and across the globe, I think if you're the praying type, please pray for Israel, pray for Ukraine, for wildfires, natural disasters, droughts, and floods affecting farmers all over the world. They need all the prayer and hope they can get in these dark days.

Now, more than ever, I think about the world we live in and what may be in store for Mollie. I certainly hope and pray the poultry hobby will be here for her to enjoy, grow up in, and maybe, someday, lead.

I am thrilled to hear Uniontown will be happening this weekend and hopes of shows returning in the spring if HPAI stays far away. That would be a 4-H educator's dream if my kiddos could show more than pictures, posters, and videos next year. It's time we gave their opportunities back. Hopeful and vigilant is all we can be in this and many more cases. To my district members, enjoy the glimmer of hope while we have it! I'll be missing everyone this fall at Shawnee and Columbus, but I'm looking toward 2024 and trying to hatch some more Sultans. See you soon!

District #4 – MD,VA,WV

by Paul Gilroy, Maryland

The weather has made the turn from the heat of summer to the refreshing chill of fall here in Maryland. The chickens are mostly finished molting and the waterfowl are just getting started.

I have been fortunate enough to already attend a couple of shows this fall in Bath, New York and Portage Wisconsin.

I know everyone is gearing up for the big 150th Anniversary

celebration for the American Poultry Association in Columbus, Ohio in November. Looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones at this once in a lifetime event.

Just a reminder that the Virginia Poultry Breeders Association will be hosting their 60th Anniversary Show on November 18, 2023, at the Caroline County Fairgrounds in Ruther Glen, Virginia. Details are on our Facebook page and the club website at: virginiapoultrybreeders.org

Regards,
Paul Gilroy



District #5-OH, KY by Mike Sayre, OH

Greetings to all in District 5!

Fall is here and all that goes with it, falling leaves, cool nights, football and more importantly SHOW Season!! It's going to be a busy one for the M&M boys. I am sure that most of you that are going to the Ohio National have your entry's in and are trying to get everything in condition, not only is it the APA 150th anniversary show but it is also the District 5 meet for the ABA! Do not miss this show!!

We won't be showing to many, but we will be there enjoying the show and meeting up with all our friends from all over the US and Canada. Nothing seems to be in feather this fall but there are a few that hopefully will surprise us. After Columbus don't forget the ABA National in Shawnee Oklahoma in December, I am happy that we will have the honor to judge there this year, come on out and show your best. It should be a great show and a good time of year for birds to be in condition.

It's an honor to be your district director and if there is anything that I can do or questions that I can answer please do not hesitate to contact me via email, phone, or text!

One last but very important thing PLEASE keep Karen and Kevin in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time for them....

Keep Smiling
Mike Sayre



District #7 - NC, SC

By Chad Satterfield, South Carolina

Cooler weather has hit our region, and I am so glad to see it. The older I get, the more I welcome the cooler days.

This is also the time of year that I look forward to seeing friends at shows that I haven't seen in a while. It's always good to catch up and talk birds. I always enjoy the rides to shows when Rick, Eddie, Austin and Steve. It's never a dull moment and you never know what you are going to hear!

The District 7 meet will be held on Saturday November 25, 2023, at the Forsyth Fowl Fancier Show in North Carolina. Contacts for this show are Mark East-- Statefan10@yahoo.com, Tena Hough-- though@mutualnc.com , NCPainthorse@aol.com or Mike Miller-- Millerfarm@northstate.net. The North Carolina State meet is being held at the Cape Fear Poultry Association

On December 9, 2023. The contact for this show is Donna Worthington donna.worthington@aol.com 252-341-8706

The State meet for South Carolina will be held at the Anderson Poultry Club's show on November 18, 2023. In addition to the State meet, the Anderson Show is hosting the Cochin International Eastern meet. Chad Satterfield is the contact 864-247-0545, andersonbantamclub@gmail.com.

As always if there is anything I can help with please feel free to reach out to me.

Chadwick Satterfield

Chad.satterfield.danver@gmail.com

864-247-0545



District #9 - FL, MS, LA

by Jackie Koedatich, Florida

Hello from District 9

It's October already yet it is still very hot here in Florida. It feels like summer is never ending. I am sure everyone is excited about the upcoming fall shows. The Ohio National is next month and is going to be one of their biggest shows to date. They put on a phenomenal show every year, so I am sure this one won't disappoint. It's going to be huge.

Here in my great district, I have two new representatives.

For Louisiana, your state rep. is.

Jeff Duguay

Jpduguay1@gmail.com

And for Mississippi

Rachel Potter

Drpotter2807@gmail.com

I really appreciate both these individuals for stepping up and helping out!

While I am the subject of help, I need to bring up the fact that ALL shows in all districts need YOUR help. I have heard and seen so many shows setting up and tearing down with only a small handful of help. Many shows have now started actually paying for help. We all love to go to shows and enjoy showing, the problem is without help or plenty of money to actually hire help these shows are going to fold. I have already seen clubs that had 2 shows a year drop to only one. Why? Lack of help. Honestly, I simply don't understand it. I get it, we all want to get home after a show, but really, how much time does it take if you just pull your coop tag off and dispose of your birds feed & water cups? Even better, while you're on the way to the trash can, grab those tags off any empty cages you have passed.

These simple things all add up and get all of us on the road and on our way home quickly.

I cannot stress enough how much volunteering is needed!

We know most clubs don't have a bottomless checking account. If they can't get volunteers, then the cost of the entry fee must go up or I have seen clean up fees added, and heard people complain about those too. It's simple. Set up and tear down need to happen in order to have a show and one way or another to keep that show going it must get done. So, it's up to us folks. Either help or open up your checkbook. So next time you're at a show, think about what you can do for that club. If you can't give any of your time, be creative, bringing something really nice to donate for their raffle, maybe a pair of quality birds, or an old poultry item, a gift card, all those things help make money!

I am sorry for that rant, I know you have all heard it from me before, but I love going to shows and hate to lose any!

As for the next few months. I have a pretty full judging calendar and am excited to be judging at quite a few shows that I have never been to. In closing I wish everyone the very best of luck in the upcoming shows.

**Don't forget we have this year's ABA National ** it's being held in Shawnee Oklahoma. I know I'm thrilled, I will be there judging, so I can't wait. I hope to see you there!



District #10- IA, MN, WI, ND, SD

By Gary Rossman, WI

Greetings from Wisconsin,

I hope everyone had a nice summer. County Fairs and State Fairs are for the most part wrapped up for the year. I have been extremely busy judging a few County Fairs in my area and several States Fairs. Now it's on to the Fall show season of judging and showing.

We just recently wrapped up our District 10 meet held at the Wisconsin International Show in Portage, WI September 23rd & 24th. This is one of two Fall shows held in Wisconsin. Beaver Dam Pigeon and Bantam Club will be hosting the ABA State Meet on October 14th in Jefferson, WI.

Wisconsin International did an outstanding job hosting the ABA District 10 Meet and several other meets. They set a record of 2,888 birds shown. Over 1,100 birds were shown in the Junior show. Minnesota Poultry Association will host the State meet for Minnesota on October 28th and 29th in Hutchinson, MN. Eastern Iowa Poultry Association will host their State Meet on October 7th in Vinton, IA. North Dakota State Fair and South Dakota State Fair will host their State Meets.

Until next time,
Best Regards,
Gary Rossman

District #11 -AR, KS, NE, OK, MO

By Jacob Bates

Greetings Bantam Fanciers,

The Fall Show Season is finally here! I hope you all are out exhibiting those beautiful Bantams! When you are at the shows, I encourage each and every one to thank those that are putting on the shows, most don't realize how much work and planning goes into putting on a show for us. I am still searching for a State Representative for Kansas so if any ABA member in Kansas would like to step up and take on that position please contact me asap, also remember to mark your calendars for December 9th and 10th 2023 for the ABA National Meet in Shawnee Oklahoma, it's going to be a huge celebration of fun. Entries will be coming out soon for it so be sure and enter and enjoy our hobby! Our District 11 meet will be held at the Nebraska State Poultry Association show.

Till next time, remember it's all about having fun!

Jacob Bates

ABA District 11 Director

District #12 -TX

By Bob Choate

The show season in Texas has started but the heat has had its effect on the birds and the numbers at shows reflect that. But October has brought much-needed rain and cooler weather, so the birds should finish out better now and the shows should have better numbers.

The ABA Nationals this year is at our backdoor, Shawnee Oklahoma. I am hoping that everyone will try to make it that hasn't been to a National in while. One of the great things about the Shawnee show is that even with 4-5000 birds it is always single stacked. The sale area promises to be a great one so even if you don't show, you need to visit to find some fresh breeding stock. The TAHC has re-instated its re-entry rules to make it difficult for most Texas exhibitors. To legally re-enter Texas you must get a CVI while in Oklahoma and have the Oklahoma vet create an entry permit. All this while being NPIP/ AI clean. Of course, this is if you are bringing birds back into Texas, if you are selling the birds or leaving them up there this is not required. All you have to have is a 9-3 form sent in with your entry. If you have any questions about this, feel free to contact me, other than that I will be in Abilene, so see you there.

Bob Choate



District #13 -AZ, NM, UT, CO

By Kyle Tripp

Howdy everyone!

It's fall! That means show season. After a long hot summer, it's nice to see the days cool and shorten and the birds begin to finish. I am hopeful that the shows in our district will not be interrupted by AI as they were last year, and that we can all enjoy a full fall/winter show season. I look forward to seeing our district well represented at our national meet in Shawnee this year as well. As always if I can be of any assistance please reach out.

Kyle Tripp



District #14-WA, OR, MT, AK, ID, WY

By Timothy Sheets, WA

Hello all, show season is getting underway on the west coast and it could not be a happier time for us fanciers of fowl. Although our shows are spread farther than perhaps our Midwest and east coast friends, these shows are more than worth the drive or the flight to come check out.

As I write this on the 12th of Oct, I am anticipating the Stevenson Poultry Classic in southwest Washington. I also heard good things of the Big Sky Poultry Exposition in Montana and the 7220 Poultry Show in Laramie, Wyoming. After winter and into the spring, keep your eyes peeled for the CRPE Spring Invitational in Stevenson, WA and the Cascade Spring Show in Monroe, WA. Both are solid shows run by great people and worth a visit.

As temperatures begin to decrease and the rains have made their way back to western Washington, it brings to mind a couple of thoughts. How do you manage your birds during the fall and winter? This is entirely dependent on the climate of your area of course, but for those of us who must endure the incessant rain Washington state gives us, moisture brings its set of challenges. Shavings must be turned or changed more frequently to keep birds warm and their feet dry. Do you use a heat lamp? Very rarely will I use a heat lamp anymore. Our birds are more resilient than we give them credit for. After I had been in the hobby a couple of years, a friend of mine suggested stapling clear visqueen over the front of my hutches to keep the moisture and wind out. When it is bitterly cold, wind is the enemy. I have seen my birds go through 20° or lower weather with just the plastic sheeting for protection. Remember to consider the comb type of your birds and take any additional steps to protect them from frostbite. This is also the time of year where rodent problems become more apparent as there is less food available other than chicken feed.

Consider your barnyard and remove piles of brush and cut tall grass. After I have culled and split my birds into pens, I will only feed them as much as they can finish during the day, this reduces the amount of feed available for varmints overnight.

Right now, the buzz is the Ohio National Poultry Show in November. This year being the first I have attended it; I could not be more excited. Such a great place to see a wonderful array of our chosen breeds. Not only that, but what a great chance to visit, especially with those who we have never had the chance to meet personally. This event can also be very influential for our younger members as well to see meet new mentors, compare birds, and learn! There should be plenty of opportunities for that and I hope to see you there, safe travels.

Timothy



District #15 – CA, NV, HI

By E. Donald Barger

Hello from District 15 and the West Coast,

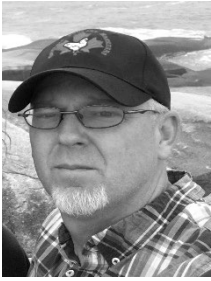
Hopefully everyone's birds are finishing up their molt and getting ready for the upcoming show season.

Our 1st show is the Northern Nevada Poultry Fanciers Association Show, held in Reno Nevada, this weekend, Oct 14th. This is always a very fun and friendly show. The show is held at the Ironwood Events Center and Boarding Facility. Julie Peterson and the crew do a fantastic job, and it always promises to fun for all.

This year we are excited to have a brand-new club and Poultry Show added to the schedule. The Southern California Poultry Club will be hosting its 1st Annual Poultry Show on November 17-18th, in Perris California. Jim Anderson and his crew have done an amazing job lining up an impressive list of Judges and awards. We are looking forward to having a Southern California show again.

The final show of the year is the Central Coast Feather Fanciers Show on December 2nd, held at the fairgrounds in Paso Robles, California. This is always a great show that we look forward to attending every year. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there.

E Donald Barger



District #16 – Canada (all provinces)
by John Beamer, Ontario

Greetings from the great white north!!! Hopefully everyone had a great summer and early fall, and the young birds are coming into shape.

Up here we are gearing up for the APA 150th Ann Canadian National at the Ontario Poultry Breeders show. This is our District meet for the ABA as well.

Everything I have heard is this is going to be a Great fun show with over 2100 entries. (Second largest show in Canada all time).

Hope to see a bunch of you at the big show in Ohio this November. Again, all I have heard is this will be one for the ages!!!!

Don't forget to get your birds and entries ready for the ABA national in Oklahoma in December.

See you all in the show halls!

John Beamer
District #16 Director

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You Do Keep A Book, Don't You? **By Matt McCammon**

If you hatched in April and May like I did, you have a lot of little ones running around now and they are eating quite a bit. Hopefully you have gone through them weekly and gotten rid of those that are not up to your standards. At least for Bantams, there are several items I look for as the young birds are growing. I thought I would share a few of them, especially for the new breeders and members. Cochins take quite a while to mature, so knowing what to cull for in the developing months will help you keep only what are going to be the most promising individuals.

First, I always check feet and toes. There are allowances in the standard for feather legged breeds when it comes to short toes, etc., but I have made it a policy to cull those that do not have four fully formed toes. Others do not do this, but that is something that I have completely bred out of my birds now. I look for it, but I do not have this genetic issue anymore. I did have one bird this year that had two toes attached with too tight of webbing between the toes. I used a sharp pair of scissors and separated the toes. The foot spread out like it should and the bird is fine. Don't cull for foot color or maybe not even for feathering all the way down the middle toe at this point. You will get to know your lines and whether the birds will feather down the toe later, but if you are new to it don't cull too early for the foot feathering. If the chick does not have the feathering down the middle toe at all by the fourth month, I would say they won't get it. Exercise discretion here.

Next, I turn to combs. I like neat combs that are not overly done. I like combs that are not coarse, and I absolutely hate a large lobe in the back growing down the back of the head. So early on I check for side sprigs. On single combed breeds, this is generally a protuberance off the side of the comb that is like an extra point. It usually is in the back. Do not keep any birds with this. It is a disqualification in the show hall and should be in your breeding pens. Remember, what you allow in the breeding pen will show up in the show hall. Watch for wrinkles or twists in the comb, especially in the males. I had a wrinkle in the lobes of males for several generations. After fixing some of the issues, I decided to make this a priority. I culled males with this problem and rarely do I see this now. I culled some good birds otherwise, but this trait bothers me when I see it so I made sure I didn't see it anymore. The number of points on the comb and their spacing is another issue to consider. I honestly pay more attention to the spacing of the points than I do the number. I will keep birds with four or five points. I never keep a three-point comb in the flock and more than five tends to make the head look snaky

and long. Sometimes you must wait until they are about 5 months old to fully appreciate the symmetry of the comb, or lack thereof. It takes a while for it to redden up and be on scale with the rest of the head.

If you don't have a nice, high forehead and a circular, round head then don't keep the bird. Crow headed Cochins look like that from the get-go so don't tolerate it.

Now for the wattles. Sometimes one wattle will be larger than the other or the bottom will not be nice, full and rounded. This is a pretty particular trait to cull for and I would not consider it if I was just trying to improve a rare Variety, but with Varieties that are highly developed and competitive in the show halls, this trait is one of the fine-tuning aspects we should consider.

Don't cull for eye color too early. Rarely will developing chicks have properly colored eyes. So, give them time. Different Varieties mature at different rates. Pay particular attention to the age at which your better specimens begin to develop eye color and write it in your book. (You do keep a "book", don't you?) That will help you hold successive generations to the same standard.

Beak color can be culled for now, and you should check the standard to see what is allowable for your variety.

As birds grow, you should see their cushions beginning to take form and their back ends often overpower their front ends. It's that way with people, too!! Birds that have remained narrow in the fifth month probably are not going to develop a great cushion.

I never like to keep birds that mature slowly. I don't have much hope in a bird that matures quickly either. Birds that lack thriftiness and seem to stand around and do nothing will end up as nothing, in my opinion. Also, a young cockerel that seems to be the cock-of-the-walk with a large comb and wattles will often slow down and end up with everyone else when they finish out, or he will have every other bird pass him up when the growing is done. Kind of like that kid in Jr. High gym class that was bigger than everyone else but was only average height upon graduation.

Watch wing growth at this stage. There will be molting of the narrow pointed juvenile feathers and the growth of wider, shorter, rounded adult feathers.

Check for the appropriate color for your variety. With the Mottled, I never keep a cockerel with a white primary. As two-year-old males, I will do that as I can't keep them black thru the second year. But cockerels that are too light are not good.

Check for other colors in the plumage that are foreign to the standard. This year I had some Mottled males get red in the hackle.

The hackle will be one of the first places discoloration will show up in developing birds.

It is harder to check the combs of the females, but a magnifying glass or some such device will help you check for the quality of combs your females are carrying. What you allow on your females will end up in the males eventually. So, watch for sprigs and point placement in them, too. Sometimes you have to wait a little longer for the comb to grow and swell.

My birds are about five months old, and they are changing a lot right now. For a while they go through and just seem to be at a standstill. I think that is when they are putting on feathers. Then they seem to grow and build type. That is what mine are doing now, and I love to watch them change by the week. If you have birds together that were not all hatched at the same time, keep this in mind. Don't require of the younger ones the same thing you are culling for in the older ones.

Of course, you must keep them well fed with plenty of clean water. If you have several pens or if you have mixed the sexes together, you should be sure you have plenty of places for them to eat. Sometimes the more developed ones will run the others away.

I have hatched about 100 Mottleds and most of my males are in individual cages now. Some of the younger males are still with the females on the floor. But when the males are in show cages, you can compare them with each other so much better. Then the finer points of balance, temperament (Cochins should be an easily handled, temperate breed), and feather quality can be assessed on an even playing field.

This may sound like a lot of work, but it is a labor of love for those of us who enjoy the endless quest for the perfect bird, or at least the challenge of perfecting them more and more with each generation. I hope you enjoy the show season and the time sorting through your birds. I hope these hints have added some insight to your breeding program.

December, 2019 -Epilogue

I was asked to add a few updates to the article concerning when and what to cull for. I will preface this by saying that the following comments pertain to my Cochin bantams, not necessarily the whole breed. I would think there would be quite a bit of correlation, but please keep in mind that the following are suggestions. I have rarely added new lines into my bloodlines, so I have certain traits stamped into the genetics of my line. However, if you are working with a volatile line, that is one with a lot of different genetics battling it out, your experiences might not match those described below.

One of the traits often asked about is vulture hocks. It seems many breeders are noticing those hock feathers that begin growing before a lot of the other body feathers. Because they get long and lack fluffiness at first, some think they are vulture hocks. My advice would be not to cull for vulture hocks until the bird has all of its body feathers grown in and has that classic round shape of a Cochin. Very few Cochins have vulture hocks, save some of the rare varieties. I do not even look for vulture hocks, and I am very picky. That is not to say that you shouldn't, just don't jump in and cull youngsters that might end up as good birds.

I hesitate to include time frames, but it was requested that I do so to make some of the original suggestions clearer. Keep in mind that not all birds mature similarly. Not everyone feeds their birds the same feeds. Housing conditions and husbandry have a huge effect on the growth and development of animals. These time frames are applicable to my lines only. We will start with foot color. Foot color means the color of the pads on the underside of the foot and usually on up the shank. White Cochins can have a greenish-willow pad color which is a definite disqualification. Partridge can have a similar color. These should be avoided. The standard suggests that the primary color be yellow. It doesn't have to be completely yellow, as the standard says a complete absence of yellow in all varieties is a disqualification. I see pictures of birds' feet posted to show their compete yellow pigmentation. That is all fine and dandy, but if I had a bird that was knock-out in other areas, I would certainly not cull it because it has some black in the color of the pads. Don't go overboard on this. There are some genetic correlations with other traits, and I won't get into that here, but I would give a youngster 5-6 months at least to exhibit foot color within the permissible limits of the standard.

When the young birds are fully feathered and exhibiting roundness, one can begin assessing head structure and beak color. This could be in the 6-8 months of age time frame. Pertaining to head structure, the bird should begin developing a nice, round skull with a pronounced brow. A bird that has a narrow, snaky head with little rise of the skull where the skull meets the nostrils is not fit to keep. Often the beak is long and placed higher on the skull than need be. Nothing, and I repeat, nothing ruins the appearance of a Cochin Bantam more than a narrow crow-shaped head. If you have high hopes, you can give the bird a while to mature, but my experience says it probably won't improve. Beak color has also developed by the 6-month point, in my opinion. Most Cochins have yellow or swarthy yellow beak colors. A few exhibit horn or reddish horn. Beak color seems minor and there are lots of variable shades, but try to keep the beak the correct color, within limits. I know if I allow for a yellow beak in my mottleds, there are going to be a heap of other problems that go along with that. Traits don't come along in isolation. Allowing one little variation will often bring with it more variations that might not be so small in the next generation.

The last trait I will discuss is wing development. I think this has to be given the most time to present itself. My birds take a very long time to show complete wing development. I am sure others' birds develop faster. I allow a year to see the whole wing and a nice flat presentation when the wing is opened wide. I think this is the most difficult issue facing Cochin bantams of all varieties. Weak wings are extremely hereditary, so give the issue the attention it requires.

So, as you can see, it can take up to a year to fully assess a Cochin Bantam. It takes longer than that for large fowl. Perhaps a large fowl breeder can give some advice in a future article. Plan accordingly, don't hatch more than you can comfortably house, and prepare to feed them awhile. They are slow growers, but the results are worth the wait!

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AMERICAN BANTAM ASSOCIATION LEGBAND SIZING CHART						
BREED			BANTAMS		LARGE FOWL	
CHICKENS (C)	CODE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	
Ameraucana	C	F-13	E-11	I-20	H-18	
American Game	C	F-13	E-11	-	-	
American Serama	C	D-10	D-10	-	-	
Ancona	C	E-11	D-10	H-18	G-15	
Andalusian	C	F-13	E-11	H-18	G-15	
Araucana	C	F-13	E-11	H-18	G-15	
Aseel	C	G-15	F-13	-	-	
Australorp	C	F-13	E-11	J-22	I-20	
Belgian d'Anver	C	F-13	E-11	-	-	
Belgian d'Uccle	C	G-15	G-15	-	-	
Booted	C	G-15	G-15	-	-	
Brahma	C	G-15	G-15	J-22	I-20	
Buckeye	C	F-13	E-11	H-18	G-15	
Buttercup	C	F-13	E-11	H-18	G-15	
Campine	C	E-11	D-10	H-18	G-15	
Chantecler	C	F-13	E-11	-	-	
Cochin	C	G-15	G-15	-	-	
Cochin *Heavily Feathered	C	I-20	H-20	-	-	
Cornish	C	G-15	F-13	-	-	
Cornish *Extra Heavy	C	I-20	H-18	-	-	
Crevecour	C	F-13	E-11	-	-	
Cubalaya	C	F-13	E-11	-	-	
Delaware	C	F-13	E-11	J-22	I-20	
Dominique	C	F-13	E-11	-	-	
Dorking	C	F-13	E-11	-	-	
Dutch	C	E-11	D-10	-	-	
Faverolle	C	G-15	G-15	J-22	I-20	
Hamburg	C	F-13	E-11	H-18	G-15	
Houdan	C	F-13	E-11	H-18	G-15	

<u>BREED</u>			BANTAMS		LARGE FOWL	
CHICKENS (C)	CODE		MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
Japanese	C		F-13	E-11	-	-
Jersey Giant	C		-	-	K-24	J-22
Junglefowl	C		F-13	E-11	-	-
Ko Shamo	C		G-15	F-13	-	-
LaFleche	C		G-15	F-13	-	-
Lakenvelder	C		E-11	D-10	I-20	H-18
Langshan	C		G-15	G-15	-	-
Leghorn	C		E-11	D-10	I-20	H-18
Malay	C		G-15	F-13	K-24	J-22
Minorca	C		F-13	E-11	J-22	I-20
Modern	C		D-10	D-10	-	-
Naked Neck	C		F-13	E-11	I-20	H-18
Nankin	C		E-11	D-10	-	-
New Hampshire	C		F-13	E-11	J-22	I-20
Old English	C		E-11	D-10	-	-
Orloff	C		F-13	E-11	-	-
Orpington	C		G-15	F-13	K-24	J-22
Phoenix	C		F-13	E-11	-	-
Plymouth Rock	C		F-13	E-11	J-22	I-20
Polish	C		F-13	E-11	I-20	H-18
Pyncheon	C		E-11	D-10	-	-
Rhode Island	C		F-13	E-11	J-22	H-18
Rosecomb	C		E-11	D-10	-	-
Sebright	C		E-11	D-10	-	-
Serama	C		D-10	D-10	-	-
Shamo	C		G-15	F-13	-	-
Silkie	C		G-15	G-15	-	-
Spanish	C		F-13	E-11	-	-
Sultan	C		G-15	G-15	I-20	H-18
Sussex	C		F-13	E-11	-	-
Vorwerk	C		F-13	E-11	-	-
Wyandotte	C		F-13	E-11	J-22	H-18
Yokohama	C		F-13	E-11	-	-

BREED			BANTAMS		LARGE FOWL	
			MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
DUCKS (D)						
Aylesbury	D	-	-	I-20	I-20	
Buff	D	-	-	I-20	I-20	
Call	D	E-11	E-11	-	-	
Cayuga	D	-	-	I-20	I-20	
Crested	D	-	-	I-20	I-20	
East Indie	D	F-13	F-13	-	-	
Khaki Campbell	D	-	-	H-18	H-18	
Magpie	D	-	-	H-18	H-18	
Mallard	D	G-15	G-15	-	-	
Mandarin	D	E-11	E-11	-	-	
Muscovy	D	-	-	J-22	J-22	
Pekin	D	-	-	J-22	J-22	
Rouen	D	-	-	J-22	J-22	
Runner	D	-	-	H-18	H-18	
Swedish	D	-	-	I-20	I-20	
Wood	D	E-11	E-11	-	-	
GEESE (G)			MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
African	G	-	-	K-24	K-24	
American Buff	G	-	-	J-22	J-22	
Canadian	G	-	-	J-22	J-22	
China	G	-	-	I-20	I-20	
Egyptian	G	-	-	I-20	I-20	
Embden	G	-	-	K-24	K-24	
Pilgrim	G	-	-	J-22	J-22	
Pomeranian	G	-	-	J-22	J-22	
Sebastopol	G	-	-	-	-	
Toulouse	G	-	-	K-24	K-24	
Tufted Roman	G	-	-	I-20	I-20	

ABA SPECIAL ZOOM MEETING TO DISCUSS PROTEST FEES AND BANTAM WEIGHT ISSUE

09/27/23 8:30PM-9:30PM

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE-Quorum was present

PRESIDENT-William Patterson

VICE PRESIDENT-Matt Lhamon

DISTRICT 1 DIRECTOR-Stephen Stanulonis

DISTRICT 3 DIRECTOR-Emily Shoop

DISTRICT 5 DIRECTOR-Michael Sayre

DISTRICT 6 DIRECTOR-Amy Gabbard

DISTRICT 8 DIRECTOR-Brett Thompson

DISTRICT 9 DIRECTOR-Jackie Koedatich

DISTRICT 10 DIRECTOR- Gary Rossman

DISTRICT 11 DIRECTOR-Jacob Bates

DISTRICT 13 DIRECTOR-Kyle Tripp

DISTRICT 14 DIRECTOR-Timothy Sheets

DISTRICT 15 DIRECTOR-Donald Barger

DISTRICT 16 DIRECTOR-John Beamer

Former Vice President Troy Laroche was also present in the meeting to clarify any issues with the wording of the proposed changes.

The first order of business was.

Current ABA By-Law: Article 11 Section 2

Rules on protest of awards. Protests may be entertained in the case of apparent dishonesty on the part of the judge, or apparent carelessness that has resulted in the placing of a disqualified or demonstrably inferior specimen. The protest must be in writing and presented to the local show chairman as soon as possible and before the awards are handed out accompanied by a \$25.00 deposit. The local show committee consisting of three persons from the local association including the show chairman working closely with the ABA Judge or judges at the show, shall make a decision which shall be final. If the protest is sustained the deposit shall be returned to the protester, otherwise, it becomes the property of the

local association.

Proposed change Article 11, Section 2:

Rules on protest of awards. Protest may be entertained in the case of apparent dishonesty on the part of the judge, or the apparent carelessness that has resulted in the placing of a disqualified or demonstrably inferior specimen. This protest must be filed by an ABA member who is in good standing with the association prior to judging. The protest must be presented in writing to the local show chairman as soon as possible and before the awards are handed out and accompanied by the fee indicated in the show rules. This fee may be reviewed and adjusted by the Board of directors by majority vote.

The local show committee consisting of three persons from the local association including the show chairman, working closely with the ABA judge or judges at the show, shall make a decision which shall be final. If the protest is sustained, the deposit shall be returned to the protester, otherwise it becomes the property of the local association.

Reasoning for Proposed Change.

It is within reason that if an individual is to enjoy the privileges of membership regarding the rules of the association, they must be a member in good standing. The amount of the fee that we currently list in the By-Laws was set many decades ago and has not progressed with the economic times. Listing the amount in the show rules allows the amount to be changed in accordance with economic changes as needed.

Example: It is suggested that the protest amount be listed in the show rules under section IX section C. c) All protests of awards are to be presented in writing and accompanied by a fee of \$250.00 as per the rules on protest Article 11 Section 2 of the ABA By Laws.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Emily Shoop and seconded by John Beamer to raise the protest fee to \$250.

Motion passed unanimously 13-0

The second order of business was.

ABA Standard Revision:

Current: Preference is to be given to a bantam that is nearest to the standard weight, at or below the standard weight specified. Excessively small specimens shall not be given preference over one of equal quality that is nearer but at or below the standard weight requirement. Any bantam that is accurately and openly weighed, using accurate scales, and weighs over 20% more or over 20 % less than its standard prescribed weight shall be disqualified.

Proposed: In Judging, preference is to be given to a bantam that is nearest to the standard weight, at or below the standard weight specified. Excessively small specimens shall not be given preference over one of equal quality that is nearer but at or below the standard weight requirement.

Standard weights, as listed for each breed, are to be used as a guide for breeders and exhibitors to present a specimen of proper weight and size. Comparison judging is the acceptable form of judging to assess all bantams. Any over and or under-sized specimens are to be penalized to the maximum allotment of 4 points, and are to be considered undesirable.

A motion was made by Jacob Bates and seconded by Timothy Sheets to accept the proposed revision.

President William Patterson asked every director and officer present for their opinion and membership feedback on this issue. Some good discussion ensued on the wording and semantics of the proposed paragraphs and that was forwarded to the Standard Revision Committee and the Secretary to consider in the next Bantam Standard revision.

Motion passed 12-1

President Patterson called for a motion to adjourn at 9:30PM and that motion was made by Matt Lhamon and seconded by Jacob Bates.





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