

Poultrynz

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11 WHY NOT MAKE A START WITH BANTAMS

Welcome to the Poultrynz Newsletter.

When I first started with keeping Bantams as a kid one old guy said to me "make sure you have a breed that will go broody." So I have always kept a pen just for that purpose. There have been many breeds that I have kept that have served me well. But I have never had a breed of bantams like these Buff Rock Bantams I am trying to develop. They are not show quality

yet but they sure go broody. I had two that I had no eggs so I thought I would put them off the brood, they started laying again and after laying 6 eggs each over twelve days they went broody again. Well worth keeping just for the broody factor.

Until next issue.

Regards, Ian Selby.

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Starter Pack 500ml Poultry Shield, Poultrynz DE 300gm, 125ml Leg spray		\$36.00	\$8.00	\$18.00

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CHICKEN PESTO MELTS

INGREDIENTS

Serves 6 as a Light Meal

- 1 pre-cooked chicken
- ½ cup pesto
- ½ cup tomato paste
- ¼ cup extra virgin olive oil, plus a little extra
- 1 tablespoon dried oregano
- 1 clove fresh NZ garlic crushed
- 2 tablespoons warm water
- 1 teaspoon balsamic vinegar
- 1 teaspoon brown sugar
- 1 loaf ciabatta, thinly sliced
- 150g mozzarella, sliced (use fresh if you can)
- fresh basil leaves, toasted pine nuts (optional)

METHOD

1. Preheat oven grill to medium-high. Line an oven tray with baking paper.
2. Shred chicken into a bowl and toss with pesto and a little olive oil (leave the skin in there for flavour and moisture).
3. Add tomato paste, olive oil, oregano, garlic, water, balsamic vinegar and brown sugar to a bowl, stirring to combine.
4. Lightly brush the sliced ciabatta with olive oil on one side and arrange oil-side up on oven tray. Grill for 1-2 minutes until golden brown. Remove from oven, turn over and spread tomato mixture on the uncooked side. Grill for another 2 minutes, then remove from oven.
5. Top each slice with some of the chicken mixture and some mozzarella. Return to oven and grill for another 5 minutes until the cheese is bubbly and golden.
6. Serve scattered with extra basil and pine nuts. Squeeze a little lemon juice over and hit it with a bit more salt and pepper.



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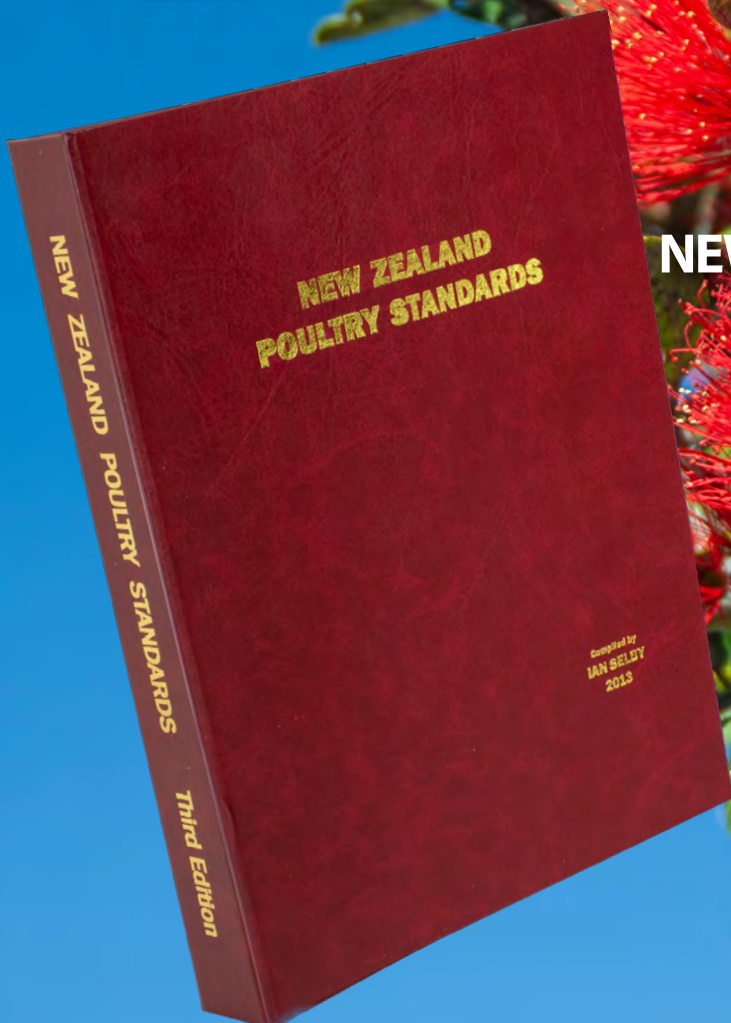
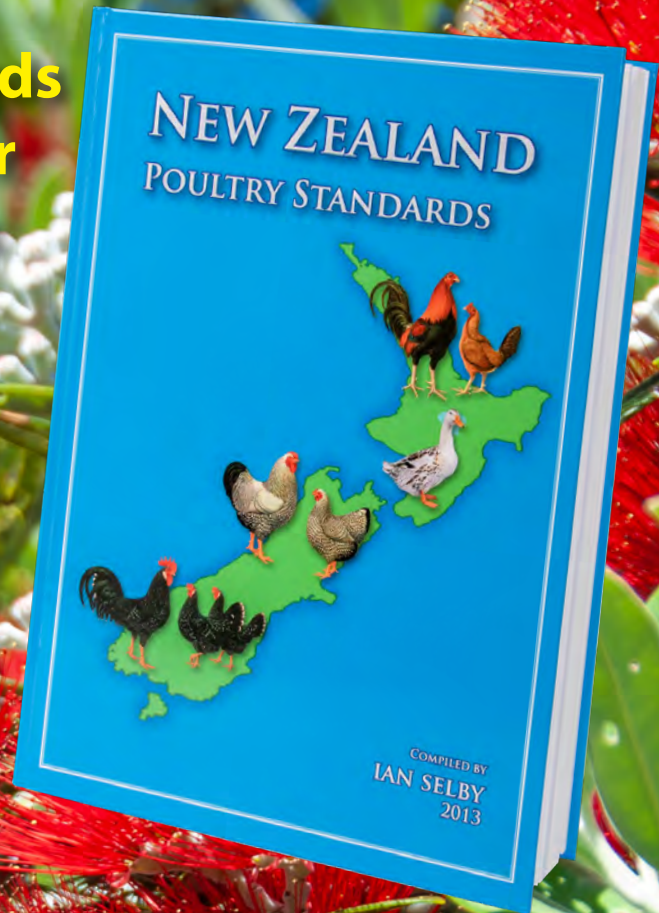
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THE COLUMBIAN WYANDOTTE

Owed its Origin to a "Mishap"

From "POULTRY" April 26th 1952

The original Columbian Wyandotte was produced by B. M. Briggs, of Woonsocket, Rhode Island, USA in 1893. It was given its name by the originator in honour of the Columbian Exposition and World's Fair, held at Chicago, Illinois, in that year.

In 1896, wrote J.H. Drevenstedt, in "Poultry Item," Mr. Briggs sent us a history of the origin of the Columbian Wyandottes, in which he states:

"My name has always been associated with white Wyandottes in consequence of my insane venture in breeding white sports from my silver-laced variety, which appeared occasionally in my broods.

"The rise and popularity of the white Wyandotte needs no words from me nine years ago I sold a lot of white Wyandottes to an amateur fancier in Western New York who lived near me and who tried barred Plymouth Rocks. By a mishap, a cross was effected by a Plymouth Rock hen and one of the white Wyandotte males, and as a result of the cross two females were hatched with clean legs, pencilled hackle and a body inclined to be white.

"I accepted this as a prophecy of something to come by having the general make-up of white Wyandottes with pencilled hackle and black tail, or a fowl having the colour of a light Brahma and the colour of the Wyandotte. I purchased the pullets, and in the following spring mated them to a fine white Wyandotte male and was pleased and encouraged by the result obtained. I could see the ideal fowl about to be realised.

NO LIGHT BRAHMA BLOOD

"Then began a process of breeding, culling and mating until in 1893 I first began to introduce my new Wyandotte as Columbian Wyandottes. Many fanciers have seemed to doubt the declaration that they contain no light Brahma blood, but we are still ready to affirm that no introduction of light Brahma blood was ever made, and no



Columbian Wyandotte Cock

Columbian Wyandotte Hen

such blood exists except it may have existed in the strain of American Sebrights owned and bred by me so long ago. Until this year (1896) I have kept the origin a secret, but have concluded it would be better the fraternity should know their origin than form erroneous conclusions and still remain in the dark."

Admitted to American Standard 1906

Columbian Wyandottes were admitted to the American Standard of Perfection at the thirteenth meeting of the American Poultry Association, held in Cincinnati, Ohio, January, 1906. At

the Madison Square Garden Show, New York, in the same year, 115

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Columbian Wyandottes were penned, a remarkable exhibit for a new variety of poultry. From that year on real progress was made in the breeding of Columbian Wyandottes, for the latter were fortunate in falling into the hands of good breeders who fully recognised their intrinsic merits as useful and handsome members of the Wyandotte family.

AN EARLY WARNING

It was the late E. F. McIntosh who, as secretary of the National Columbian Wyandotte Club, in an early issue of the catalogue published by the latter, sounded the following warning note to breeders on over-emphasising the colour points of the Columbian Wyandotte:

“There seems to be a section craze, we might call it, for a wing or tail coverts or a hackle equal to the light Brahma’s on all our Columbians. Do not be misled. The wing is a very important section, but we do not find the wings equal in the two sexes and the standard does not call for it to be alike in the male and female. In my opinion it should not be. It is pretty to look at, but nature decrees that the females should not have as black primaries as the males, and they cannot hold the colour. It is the quality of black that should count rather than the quantity, both in the show room and breeding yard.

AVOID EXTREMES

“I believe this craze for perfect sections should be discouraged. We should not work for any one section alone and sacrifice others. I have known a fancier to consider a fowl worthless because it did not reach perfection in a certain section, because Mr. Blank has fowls perfect in that section. Do not be led to extremes. The Columbian Wyandottes are no longer an experiment, neither can they be left to themselves to mate and produce results we desire. Competition is so keen that your skill will be taxed to the limit to get the best Columbians. You would be better exhibit at some show and compare them with others. Do not stay at home this year because you have not won what you think you deserved. Your fowls look good to you at home. At the show you find that the



Flock of Columbian Wyandottes

other fellow also has some good ones. He has been working and studying his fowls.”

It should be borne in mind, however that Mr. McIntosh refers to the old standard and not to the later revised edition of 1915, which demands black primaries in the females, the same as it does for the male. This is the ideal colour for that section, which has been obtained by careful selection of the male and female breeding line. Under the old standard the judge had no authority to show a preference for black primaries, even if the old standard called for “black and white (black predominating, with white edging on lower edge of lower web).” This was the law for the judge, it not the guide for the breeder. In the 1910 standard, solid black primaries with lower edge white became the ideal colour marking for that section.

Mating and Breeding

There is an unwritten law in breeding standard varieties

of poultry which all careful breeders observe, namely, “shape makes the breed; colour the variety.”

The striped hackle is one of the distinguishing features of Columbian Wyandottes. Each feather should be lustrous greenish-black, closely laced with white.

The females picked to produce strong black stripes in males are those with

A Guide To Poultry Breeding

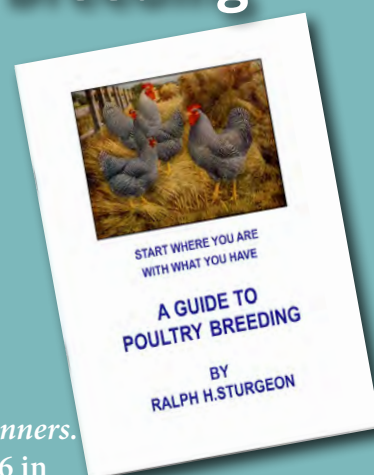
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sound stripes and dark undercolour in neck plumage. A light colour hackle may be improved by breeding a male with very black hackle or by using females with hackles that are laced well up towards their heads, even though they have an excess of black, which shows on the surface of their body.

UNDERCOLOUR

The light bluish-state undercolour of the plumage may indicate the amount of colour pigment that a Columbian Wyandotte carries. A white undercolour in the back is rarely found in combination with the right quantity of black in neck, wings and tail. When the exception exists, such a specimen cannot be depended upon for breeding. However, the female with lighter undercolour can be bred from by using a male having an excess of black.

A male may be so dark that he will have solid black feathers and exhibit black in the upper breast, that is, in the feathers that grow out of the breast muscles. Such a male is often a valuable producer when mated with females that are lacking in black.

FAULTY WING COLOUR

Weak wing colour is an old fault. The wing may appear to be white when folded, but, when opened, the flight feathers should display the black markings required by the standard. A specimen weak in wing colour stands little chance of winning where there are in competition otherwise as good specimens that have sound coloured primaries and secondaries.

If a dark male is mated to females with white body colour that are weak in wing colour, it will help to secure good wings on the progeny. Such a sire should have dark slate undercolour nearly to the base of the feathers, the slate in under-plumage coming to the surface in the fluff where some black may crop out. Strong-coloured females with good wings should be used to correct defective wing colour in males.

It is somewhat easier to get sound black primaries in the wings of a male, for pullets often fail in wing colour when they moult into hens. A hen

sporting really sound wings in colour is a valuable acquisition, and her chicks may be looked forward to with fruitful expectations.

OTHER FEATURES

The tail should be lustrous greenish-black in the male. The tail coverts should be edged with white, for it adds greatly to the beauty of this section. However, the sickle feathers of cocks often show some white edging and the main tail feathers some white at the base. To overcome these defects in colour the main tail feathers of the female breeders should be as black as possible, including the two top feathers. To get black main tail feathers and sickles in the male and have the colour hold, it is not advisable to use a female whose top main tail feathers are edged with white.

Heavily-laced coverts with weak black centres are found on the females that are weak in colour of neck and wings and have a whitish undercolour. Such females should not be bred with white-saddled males weak in laced tail coverts. Laced coverts in the male are, from a breeding standpoint, reciprocally related to the same section in the female.

The saddle of the Columbian Wyandotte male should show some black strippings, the narrow black stripes not being over half the length of web in lower saddle and near tail of male.

A clean white saddle makes a nice contrast with the tail section, but the tall coverts or such a male are bound to show too much white. Where the saddle carries some striping the colour harmonises with



Young Columbian Wyandotte
the finely-laced tall coverts.

Black or grey ticking or spots on the back of females is a very serious fault. The plumage of the back should be pure white in the webs of the feathers. If a female is faulty in this colour section, but otherwise good in shape, comb and colour, a rather light-coloured male with a clean white back and saddle could be mated with her and produce a reasonable percentage of clean-backed pullets. But, as a rule, females with peppery, spotted or pencilled markings in the back should be discarded for breeding purposes.

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WATER - THE FORGOTTEN NUTRIENT

No other nutrient will reduce production faster than a shortage of water

by Dr. D.C. Snetsinger, Poultry Nutritionist, U.S.A.

From 'The Australian Poultry World' 1965.

It sometimes is forgotten that water is probably the most important nutrient. The fact that the turkey egg is approximately 65% water and turkeys themselves are 55 to 75% water, depending on their age, makes it clear just how important water is.

Water plays many important roles besides just being a physical part of the cells and giving them a certain substance. It is important in lubrication of the joints, as a cushion for the embryo and body organs, as a transport means for nutrients and waste products and as an activator and reactant in many metabolic processes.

It also acts as the primary means of controlling body temperature in birds.

This is true even though birds don't have sweat glands as do a number of mammals. The turkey loses much of its body heat by dissipation of water vapour from its lungs.

The predominating source of water for a turkey comes from what it drinks. A general rule of thumb indicates that it will consume about twice as many pounds of water as feed. However, there are two additional means by which body stores of water are supplied.

A second source is through the water contained in feed. Normally, even dry mashes contain 8 to 12% water. The final major source of water is so-called metabolic water. This results from the chemical breakdown primarily of fat and carbohydrate. The last two sources do supply some water, but it is the first which permits the turkey to adjust its intake to its needs.

Many factors contribute to variations in the water needs of a group of turkeys: Growth rate, rate of egg production, age, quantity of salts in the feed and physical composition of the feed are only a few.

Environmental temperature effects require special attention, since an increase from 10 to 32°C. almost doubles the quantity of water required.

Another factor that is known to



Mother with Chicks drinking

contribute to variations in water consumption is the genetic strain of birds. Texas A. & M. poultry specialists reported that different strains of chickens varied in the percentage of water found in their eggs, droppings and even in expired air. Similar differences could also be expected with turkeys.

Certainly anything that inhibits or alters production rate, such as a disease, will bring about a characteristic alteration of water consumption. In this regard, water consumption has long been used as a barometer of how well a flock is performing. A sudden drop in water consumption gives an indication of a disease or poor management condition long before other symptoms are noticeable.

What constitutes a good water supply is a question on which there is little argument,

mainly because of the lack of studies devoted to water and its purity as it affects growth and production in turkeys or chickens. There are very few guidelines by which a person can judge for himself the suitability of a water supply for poultry. Generally, what rules are employed are those

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adapted from standards used for human consumption, which may be completely afiel from the poultry values when they are established.

As evidence of the above, what is unpalatable water for humans may not affect poultry, since the avian species demonstrate different taste patterns than man. However, as indicated previously, no other guidelines are available, so that presence of hydrogen sulphide and selenite gases dissolved in water which man finds objectionable is also considered objectionable for poultry.

Palatability of water is also decreased by the mineral salts dissolved in the water. Salts which are primarily responsible for loss of palatability are the carbonates, bicarbonates, sulphates and chlorides of calcium, magnesium, sodium and potassium. These salts are generally measured in parts per million or grains per gallon. (Seventeen parts per million, one grain per gallon or 17 mg. per litre are all equivalent.)

Individual and combination tests on the effects of the above salts have not been thoroughly conducted. However, it appears the sulphates and chlorides of potassium and magnesium may be more unpalatable than the others. Animals have indicated a tolerance of more than 5,000 ppm. of certain salt combinations. However, levels in excess of 1,000 ppm. may be suspect as to causing problems. One saving factor is that frequently animals can adapt to high mineral levels and eventually build a tolerance to highly mineralised water.

TOXIC MINERALS

Although individual minerals can be harmful, very rarely do we find high levels of such elements as lead, arsenic, chromium, selenium and fluoride at high enough levels to be toxic. The minerals mentioned are highly toxic cumulative poisons, but, as indicated, rarely present any practical problems.

The presence of nitrites and ammonia in water indicates that the water supply is contaminated by decaying organic material. Drainage from manure piles, barns and home septic tanks should be suspect.

Not only are nitrites harmful themselves, but their presence also indicates the high probability of pathogenic micro-organisms in the water supply.



Water Fountain

Salinity of water is a problem in several areas of the country. While birds, in general, tolerate high amounts of salt, the high quantity of water excreted in the droppings produces the management problem of removing this moisture from the building in which birds are housed.

The problem of high levels of moisture in the droppings of laying hens has caused the chicken egg producer to examine whether hens need to have a constant supply of water. Of interest is the result indicating that hens can have the total water supply restricted considerably. This is usually done by cutting down the time hens have water available to them.

In one case, hens were permitted to drink only 28 minutes per day (14 times for two minutes) and still maintained good production.

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Whether water restriction of turkey breeders would be useful and whether it would work cannot be fully determined at this time.

A few guidelines seem in order to ensure an adequate and safe water supply:

1. Provide clean water. This means the water should be clean to begin with and clean when it reaches the birds. Dirty water fountains are a real hazard which allow the build-up of pathogenic bacteria and moulds.
2. The water supply should be sanitary and low in mineral content. The grains of hardness and presence of nitrite will give some indication of the above.
3. The birds should be provided with cool water in Summer and warm in Winter. This will permit turkeys to adjust more readily to their environmental temperature.
4. If types of waters or water location is changed, this should be done gradually so birds will always know where to go for



Chickens drinking from water nipples on a tank.

- water.
5. Use a well-designed and easily cleaned water fountain. In order to be able to consume water, birds must be able to tilt their heads back above the horizontal. Any water fountain which does not permit this will limit water intake by the birds.
6. If the water supply appears
- at all questionable from the standpoint of palatability or purity, have it analysed at an appropriate laboratory.
7. Remember that no other nutrient will reduce production faster than a shortage of water the nutrient most forgotten.

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WHY NOT MAKE A START WITH BANTAMS

Courtesy of the American Bantam Association, March 1971.

WHAT IS A BANTAM? The old timer will glibly tell you that it is a genus of miniature fowl which originated at Bantam in Java. He won't know whether he's right or not; and it is much more likely in truth that the Japanese were mainly responsible for originating them.

The die-hard exhibition man will describe it as a species of small fowl one-fifth the weight of the large breed it represents - oblivious of the fact that Bantams originally had no counterparts in large fowl.

The farmer will say it's a child's pet. Many breeders of large fowl will call it a pest that should be discouraged; but that is because nowadays Bantams have usurped the popularity that large breeds formerly held at shows.

The war-time domestic Poultry-keeper will claim that the Bantam is pre-eminent for utility - knowing little or nothing of generic varieties and totally unaware that in size and character his birds bear little or no comparison with genuine Bantams.

All of them, of course, are wrong to a greater or lesser degree. The Bantam is no mystery, neither is it a commercial money-maker. On the other hand, it isn't (or shouldn't be) a freakish unproductive dwarf.

It is capable of production as well as reproduction, and is, in fact, a fasci-



Japanese Bantams

nating hobby, and a bundle of charm. It won't read your thoughts like a dog, or purr against your legs like a cat. Nor should it be expected to produce eggs in hundreds like a laying-test spinner; but within its sphere those who have limited space and a little cash will find it supreme as a combined source of relaxation, home profit and amusement.

In reasonable good circumstances breeding and exhibiting are economical and profitable, providing many

hours of pleasure at a cost much less than keeping large fowl. Expenditure on food is indeed surprisingly little. The number of birds that may be kept mainly on scraps from a normal



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household, augmented by a very little meal and grain astonishes most people. Scraps from a house-hold of five will keep a dozen Bantams healthy, and keep them laying.

Space necessary for breeding is very small. Most backyards offer ample room for pen and run. Ample light and air is essential.

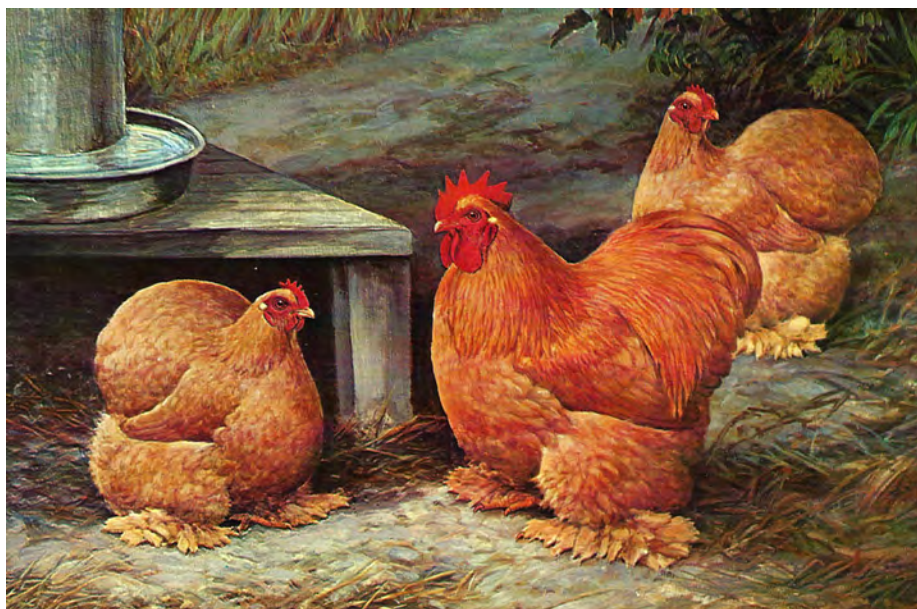
If the right breed be selected and sound methods used, eggs laid are out of all proportion to body size, both in weight and numbers. Many breeds will furnish the household with 1½ ounce eggs and plenty of them. Higher weights should not be expected, though they are by no means rare.

Choose your breed. If you intend to exhibit, don't select to commence with a variety of breed that is found to be difficult and highly developed in show points. Select a simpler breed or variety, and when experienced sufficiently, change to more difficult breeds to produce. Any good fancier will help.

You should select your breed before preparing the accommodations for them. Generally, a Bantam house will handle most all breeds however some such as the Pekins, Booted and other feather legged breeds need more door space so that the foot feather is not broken going in and out of the house.

When preparing your layout, spare a thought for your neighbours and amenities. The layout of the Bantam house and run can be so arranged to be a most beautiful sight - with flowers arid shrubs.

It costs no more to keep high quality stock than it does just Bantams how-



Buff Pekin Bantams

ever if there is no thought of selling the surplus stock and wanting the birds only for the eggs and a bird now and then for the pot, just ordinary Bantams will fill the bill. Some of the heavier breeds would be best for this purpose.

After all that effort don't jam your birds into one box to travel to the show, they generate a lot of heat and need plenty of ventilation. You will be saying, "what a lot of time, money and effort." It does take a lot of time, but isn't that what a hobby is all about. If you want to beat the top fanciers who win year after year and get the full enjoyment

and satisfaction from our hobby that is what you will have to do. I know because I have done it! You'll hear the losers say I only show for fun and that they have better birds at home. Not true! Unless you show to win you are wasting your time and I can tell you it's a lot more fun and satisfaction if you're winning.



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