

Summer 2020

ACREAGE LIFE presents

US \$4.95

Chicken Whisperer™

magazine

Featuring Andy Schneider



Poultry Advancements Today

How to identify and combat heat stress

Pitesky's Poultry

IBV, a poultry coronavirus

Back Story

Meet the APA's new president

Real Reviews

The BriteTap waterer

Plain Talk

SUMMERTIME WATER MYTHS & MISCONCEPTIONS



13 ALTERNATIVE FLOCK

Chicken-keepers know a thing about keeping poultry, so why not try ducks? Breeder John Metzger helps you make a breed choice



18 PLAIN TALK

Myths and misconceptions about when it comes to summertime flock care. Here's the skinny on the most common ones.



25 POULTRY ADVANCEMENTS TODAY

Heat stress—what is it and how does it affect your chickens? You'll understand how serious it can be in this informative article by Dr. Jessica Fox.



**CLICK
HERE**

to sign up for
your **FREE** digital
subscription to
Chicken Whisperer[®]
magazine



REAL REVIEWS

The BriteTap Chicken Waterer

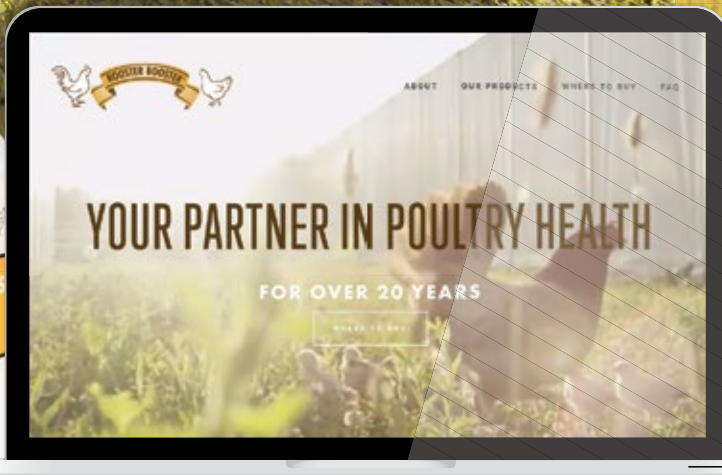




Rooster Booster[®]
 has been your
 trusted partner
 in poultry health
 for over 20 years.

From supplements
 to topicals, Rooster
 Booster has your
 flock, brood, and
 clutch covered.

Visit your local feed
 store today to ask
 which Rooster
 Booster products
 they carry, or visit
 our site to find an
 online retailer.



Head to roosterboosterproducts.com for answers to frequently asked questions, to learn more about what our products can do for your flock or to find an online retailer.

Here to keep your
COOPS FRESH and
your hens & chicks
HEALTHY!



Sweet PDZ
Please...

Hallelujah!



ABERNETHY



- Neutralizes ammonia & odors
- Safeguards respiratory health
- All-Natural granular mineral
- No additives, perfumes, scents
- Poultry package for poultry lovers

Reader Service No. 2032

800.367.1534 | www.sweetpdz.com



Contents



Summer 2020

6 FROM THE EDITOR
Andy offers a few thoughts on social media posts about the coronavirus pandemic and the effect on poultry...along with what will happen down the line.

13 ALTERNATIVE FLOCK
Chicken-keepers know a thing about keeping poultry, so why not try ducks? Breeder John Metzger helps you make a breed choice.

18 PLAIN TALK
Myths and misconceptions abound when it comes to summertime flock care. Here's the skinny on the most common ones.

25 POULTRY ADVANCEMENTS TODAY
Heat stress—what is it and how does it affect your chickens? You'll understand how serious it can be in this informative article by Dr. Jessica Fox.

31 THE BACK STORY
The American Poultry Association has a new president, Mark Podgwaite. In this letter to chicken-keepers, he tells his story and outlines how the APA will move forward.

37 PITESKY'S POULTRY
Coronavirus is on our minds, but there are coronaviruses that infect chickens. Learn about Infectious Bronchitis Virus and your flock. (And, no, we can't get it.)

43 REAL REVIEWS
You could put out a pan or bucket of water for your chickens, or you could make it easy on both you and the birds with the BriteTap waterer. Find out why in Real Reviews.



POWER to the **POULTRY**

The road to
BACKYARD
happiness



starts
HERE!



From baby chicks to broody hens and dabbling ducks, Purina® has the feed and resources you need for every stage of your animal's journey. Get started on the road to backyard happiness today.

**For tips and ideas for your backyard flock,
visit PurinaMills.com/education**



FEED GREATNESS®

Poultry Pandemic Problems?



Andy G. Schneider,
aka The Chicken Whisperer

This past spring, headlines across the nation claimed that the coronavirus pandemic was causing a major chick-buying frenzy, and that major hatcheries were completely sold out of chicks. Many articles were also claiming that the hatcheries were sold out until the end of summer and early fall.

Was this true, or was it just another shocking headline to get readers to click on the story?

I hate to break it to you, but the coronavirus pandemic was not the main cause of chick hatcheries being sold out when these articles were sweeping the nation.

When those headlines appeared, it was about two-weeks before Easter. Every year—coronavirus pandemic or not—many chick hatcheries across the county sell out of chicks, and stay sold out until early or mid-summer. It's the most popular time of year for the purchase of baby chicks, both from individual orders from the public, and fulfilling orders from retail farm supply stores.

The hatcheries I have spoken to have seen an increase in orders and sales, and are sold out further into the year than usual. Did the coronavirus pandemic cause a buying frenzy? Probably, but it was not what the media wanted you to think.

And so down the line

Another result from this frenzy was numerous posts on social media chicken groups about these new, inexperienced chick owners buying without doing any previous research on raising the baby chicks. They bought on a whim, with no idea how to properly care for these little chicks that depend on their owners for everything to survive.

Many members of these Facebook chicken groups were frustrated by the vast number of very basic questions flooding the group page from these new inexperienced chick owners.

Most questions could have been easily answered by reading a book, or doing basic-level research on Google.

Again, this is no different than any other spring when it comes to new chicken owners.

Soon, we will see posts about all the predator attacks happening. This also stems from lack of research, and willingness to spend the appropriate funds to make their coop and run predator-proof.

Bottom line, these issues are nothing new, and it hasn't changed in over 15 years I've been involved in educating new chicken owners all across the country.

10 truths about *Salmonella* outbreaks

Elsewhere, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is again investigating another outbreak of *Salmonella* linked to backyard poultry. This news will likely go viral in social media, and comments will be plenty.

A few comments you will see the most will include, "Just wash your hands," "Just cook your food properly," "I've never had a problem," "It could have come from anywhere," and "Look at the small number of cases."

Here are some observations regarding this outbreak, based on working closely with the USDA and CDC during these outbreaks, and personally interviewing backyard poultry keepers with confirmed cases, from mild distress to kids in ICU.

1. In most of these cases, the chicks are coming from the hatcheries already infected with *Salmonella*.
2. This outbreak has nothing to do with under-cooked eggs or chicken.
3. People are infected by coming in contact with chick/chicken feces, and then putting their hands in their mouth.
4. Yes, washing your hands is a good step to help prevent becoming infected.

You can wash your hands 6,000 times a day, but it won't help a bit if you are kissing your chickens.

5. We all know if you have chicks/chickens, their feces is everywhere. This *Salmonella* is found in their feces. *Salmonella* can travel on dust, and we all know how dusty brooders are.
6. These small numbers will surely increase as the months follow. Research shows that the real number of infected is about 19 times the number of confirmed cases.

7. Not everyone will require a hospital visit or even a doctor visit. Was it from bad lunch buffet food? You will never know without testing. It very well could be from your chicks/chickens.

Confirmed cases are traced back using DNA. The *Salmonella* you have was traced back to the chickens/chicks in your backyard, which were traced back to the store you bought them from, which were traced back to the hatchery from where they hatched, and back to the breeder flock. So, they know with great certainty the *Salmonella* came from your chickens, and not a family BBQ.

8. Maybe you've kept chicks/chickens for a long time, and "never had a problem." Unless you got tested every time you had a mild case of diarrhea, stomach cramps, or nausea, you really can't say that. Maybe what you thought was food poisoning was in fact *Salmonella* from your flock.

9. Your flock does not look sick? Well, chickens that are infected with *Salmonella* can appear perfectly healthy and show no signs or symptoms. Testing your flock is not reliable because infected chicks/chickens may not shed the *Salmonella* all the time. The day you take a fecal test, they don't shed the *Salmonella*, and the very next day they do. (And no, all chickens do not carry and shed *Salmonella*.)

10. Chances are greater you will die from a car accident than from *Salmonella* from your chicks/chickens...but you still wear your seat belt. You probably won't have a house fire this year either, but you still have smoke detectors and fire extinguishers in your home.

Like everything else in life, the goal here is education and awareness. So, be educated and aware of the risks. Do what you can to reduce the risk, but still enjoy your chicks/chickens.

Power to the poultry,

Andy G Schneider

Publisher Trent Salter
trent.salter@acreagelife.com

Editor in Chief Andy Schneider
cw@chickenwhisperer.com

Contributing Editor Jonathan Reed
jonathan.reed@live.com

Graphic Designer Jeff Hanson
jeff.hanson@acreagelife.com

Advertising Account Executives

Jeff Balk
jeff.balk@acreagelife.com

SCAN FOR SUBSCRIPTION

ChickenWhisperer

Heartland Consumer
Media Group

P.O. Box 1115
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
800-673-4763
www.chickenwhisperermagazine.com/



Mail or fax Chicken Whisperer comments to: Chicken Whisperer magazine
P.O. Box 1115 • Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501 • 800-247-2000 • www.acreagelife.com

Circulation: Chicken Whisperer magazine publication is sent to chicken owners who are actively interested in chickens along with bulk issues distributed to equipment dealers, elevators and lawn and garden supply.
Advertising: Rates, deadlines and mechanical requirements are available by calling the sales department directly at 800-247-2000 or 800-682-3118.
Subscription: One year (4 issues) \$9.95 to: Chicken Whisperer magazine Fulfillment P.O. Box 1115 Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501
Change of Address: Please send new address with Chicken Whisperer mailing label to: Chicken Whisperer Fulfillment P.O. Box 1115 • Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501

Heartland
Communications Group, Inc.

Members of:



Joseph W. Peed
Steve Scanlan
Sandra VanScoy
Mary Gonnerman

Chairman of the Board
Vice President Sales and Marketing
Vice President of Finance
Vice President of Operations

©Heartland Communications Group, Inc. 2018. All rights reserved.

This publication may not be reproduced in whole or in part, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recorded or otherwise without the prior written permission of Heartland Communications Group, Inc.

The information and advertising set forth herein has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable. Heartland Communications Group, Inc. ("Publisher") however, does not warrant complete accuracy of such information and assumes no responsibility for any consequences arising from the use thereof or reliance thereon. Publisher reserves the right to reject or cancel any advertisement or space reservation at any time without notice and for any reason. Publisher shall not be liable for any costs or damages if for any reason it fails to publish an advertisement. Advertisers are solely responsible for the content of their respective advertisements appearing in this publication and Publisher is not responsible or liable in any manner for inaccuracies, false statements or any material in such advertisement infringing upon the intellectual property rights of others. Advertisements appearing in this publication are not necessarily the views or opinions expressed by Publisher.



Andy wants to hear about you!

Please take a moment to fill out our survey



Summer 2020

Number of acres owned

- Less than 1 acre (768)
- If more than 1 acre: _____ acres

You are

- Female (769) Male (770)

Your age

- Under 30 (762)
- 30 to 39 (763)
- 40 to 49 (764)
- 50 to 59 (765)
- 60 to 69 (766)
- 70 or better (767)

I live in the

- City (771)
- Suburbs (772)
- Country (773)
- Wilderness (774)

Number of mature birds are in your flock:

_____ hens _____ roosters

I primarily raise chickens for

(ONE ANSWER, PLEASE)

- Eggs (775)
- Meat (776)
- Entertainment (777)
- Education (778)
- Tradition (779)
- Profit (780)

What do you do with most of your eggs?

(ONE ANSWER, PLEASE)

- Eat them (781)
- Give the away (782)
- Market them (783)

What poultry-related articles are most valuable to you?

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Advanced care topics (784)
- Animal health, detailed (785)
- Animal health, simplified (786)
- Animal welfare (787)
- Breeding (788)
- Insight into breeds (789)
- Heritage breeds (790)
- Marketing eggs, meat (791)
- Personal experiences (792)
- Poultry care fundamentals (793)
- Problem solving (794)
- Production tips (795)
- Products, new products (796)
- Recipes, cooking (797)

First name _____

Last name _____

Mailing address _____

Email address _____

Telephone number: _____ - _____ - _____

Which the following is on your property?

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Cable TV (727)
- Grazing land (736)
- Market livestock (cattle, horses, sheep, etc) (726)
- Non-standard livestock (llamas, goats, ostriches, etc.) (798)
- Pets (dogs, cats, etc) (733)
- Pickup truck (732)
- Pond (734)
- Satellite dish (728)
- Tablet device (like iPad) (729)
- Tractor – compact or smaller (730)
- Tractor – full-size (731)
- Woods, timber (735)

You can find me on *(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)*

- Facebook (799)
- Flickr (800)
- Foursquare (801)
- LinkedIn (802)
- MySpace (803)
- Pinterist (804)
- Tumblr (805)
- Twitter (806)

Who lives in your household besides you?

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Spouse or partner (807)
- Children under 18 (808)
- Children older than 18 (809)
- Parents or in-laws (810)
- Grandparents (811)
- Grandchildren (812)

Your annual household income

- Less than \$25,000 (813)
- Between \$25,000 and \$50,000 (814)
- Between \$50,000 and \$80,000 (815)
- Between \$80,000 and \$120,000 (816)
- More than \$120,000 (817)

Want more information on products and services featured in this issue? Write in the reader service number's below and receive more information

What types of articles would you like to see covered in Chicken Whisperer Magazine?

(PLEASE PROVIDE DETAIL)

▼

- Yes**, please bill me for one year of *Chicken Whisperer* at the special rate of \$9.95
- Yes**, I would like receiving a free digital subscription to *Chicken Whisperer*
- Yes**, please send me the *Chicken Whisperer Monthly Newsletter*



For immediate processing, log on to <https://www.chickenwhisperermagazine.com/reader-survey>
Cut out your answers and mail them to: CW Magazine • PO Box 1115 • Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Call out your answers and mail



OUR CUSTOMERS ARE
SQUAWKING OVER
**HENHOUSE
RESERVE™**



"I started Henhouse Reserve™ just 5 days ago. My leghorn hen hadn't laid in a month and today I got an egg from her! Super excited about this feed."

-Elizabeth B

"I might be buying stock in Kalmbach after the successes I've had with Henhouse Reserve™!"

-Randy K

"My chickens are healthier and more productive! Great feed!"

-Anne C

"It was so nice when I went to feed this afternoon to not see tons of scratch feed everywhere that birds didn't eat from the previous day. All of the Henhouse Reserve™ was gone. No more waste!"

-Deb K

"Such a beautiful feed, my hens tore right into it. My chickens look so much healthier, in fact they hadn't laid eggs in 4+ months now they are back to laying every day"

-Karlene A

**THE Revolutionary LAYER FEED
THAT EVERYONE IS Raving ABOUT!**

**Available at your local dealer or online at:
kalmbachfeeds.com/where-buy • amazon.com • chewy.com**

**Brinsea Products Inc.
and Chicken Whisperer Magazine present**

SAFETY FIRST, AN OPEN-AND-SHUT CONTEST

Win a ChickSafe Advance automatic chicken coop door opener

The ChickSafe Advance automatic chicken coop door opener is a tough and reliable system for automatically opening your coop door in the morning and closing it in the evening as light levels fall, keeping your birds safe and giving you peace of mind.

- Easy to fit to any chicken coop with a vertical sliding (or hinged) door.
- Simply secure the control box to the front of your coop with the 2 screws provided and tie the lifting cord to your existing door.
- Automatically detects light levels
- No manual calibration is necessary; the ChickSafe Advance automatically adjusts to the height of your hen house door.

Win this Brinsea ChickSafe Advanced chicken coop door opener! A \$180 value!



Winning is easy!

All you have to do is fill out the form below and tell us in 25 words or less what keeping chickens means to you.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

Yes, Please sign me up for my **FREE** Chicken Whisperer Digital Subscription and enter me in the Chicken Whisper Magazine "OPEN-AND-SHUT CONTEST" *Email address required.*

Description _____

Mail to: Chicken Whisperer Magazine
 PO Box 1115 / Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Enter on-line: www.chickenwhisperermagazine.com/contestOpenShut

Entries must be postmarked no later than: August 31, 2020



**THE CHICKEN COOP
COMPANY**



Chicken Coops!

Compare Our Quality Before You Buy!

FREE Hand-Sewn Egg Apron!



Features

- Pre-Built Panels
- Easy Assembly
- Engineered for Strength

Compare Our Quality!

We have tongue and groove panel construction, structural braces, galvanized cleaning tray, supported nesting boxes, pre-drilled & visibly marked screw locations, weather flashing to keep the inside dry, auto adjusting locks, shipped flat via FedEx.



Auto Align Locking Bolt

Painted Stainless Hardware



Self-Locking Hinges

Acrylic Front Vent Window



Galvanized Tray

Removable Cleaning Tray

Engineered for Strength - Built by us.

*Online competitors sell similar looking designs, but with scaled-down dimensions and stripped-down details. Our structural bracing, supported nesting boxes and nesting rods are a must. Without these structural details, our competitor coops will sag and fail.



**THE CHICKEN COOP
COMPANY**



www.ChickenCoopCompany.com

A Family Owned Business in Hurricane, UT



Scan For
Details

Reader Service No. 2456



Which Duck Breed is Best for You?

They're enticingly different from chickens

By John Metzger

As a lifelong duck breeder, I've learned a thing or two about different duck breeds, so let me offer some pointers to chicken-keepers when choosing a breed.

Keep in mind, however, that all the different breeds of ducks have much more in common than differences. They all love to swim and play in water, they all love to patrol for slugs and snails, they all lay delicious, rich eggs, they all are very disease resistant, and they are all fun to watch as they go about their daily life.

If this is what you want then any breed of duck will work for you. If, however, you have certain needs or wants, then let's see if we can help.







So, what do you want in a duck?

Great egg layers

This is easy. You want Khaki Campbells or a strain bred for egg production. We have developed the Golden 300 and White Layer exactly for this purpose. These birds will lay as well as the best chicken and sometimes surpass them. The eggs are larger than chicken eggs and richer in protein, vitamins, and minerals per ounce than chicken eggs.

Even if you are a seasoned chicken-keeper, these breeds will amaze you with their year-round egg production.

Calmer ducks

To answer this, we asked our team members that care for our ducks on a daily basis. These are the people that are with the birds every day—collecting eggs, spreading bedding, feeding, etc.

Each of them ranked the most nervous breed as a 10 and the calmest as a 1 and then graded all breeds from 1 to 10. We averaged their scores and you can see the results in the attached table. So in our flocks, the breeds that exhibit serious “chill” around humans include the Muscovy, Saxony,



Breed	Temperament
Muscovy	1
Saxony	1
Silver Appleyard	1.2
Welsh Harlequin	1.3
Black Swedish	2.3
Blue Swedish	3
Buff	3
Black Runner	3.5
Blue Runner	4
Chocolate Runner	4.3
Rouen	4.5
Mallard	5
Jumbo Pekin	5.5
Pekin	5.5
White Layer	6.7
Fawn & White Runner	7.5
Golden 300	7.7
Cayuga	8.8
Khaki Campbell	9
White Crested	9



1 is extremely calm
10 is more nervous

Healthy Pen Care Free Enzymes

- Eliminates parasite
- Leaves behind a clean fresh scent
- Non-Toxic
- Protective barrier for flies and spiders

ALL NATURAL

Healthy Pen

Available at many fine locations country wide
Carefree Enzymes Inc. • Tel: 262.878.0995 • www.CareFreeEnzymes.com
Proudly made in the USA

Reader Service No.1833



Silver Appleyard, and Welsh Harlequin. It is important to keep in mind that these are averages for large flocks. Small flocks have a different dynamic and are typically calmer than large flocks, especially if they are around people much of the time. In addition, there is a great variability in personality of birds within a breed. I know there are very calm, loving White Crested or Khaki Campbell ducks out there that their owners feel are the very best, calmest duck ever.

Ability to escape from predators

The only breed we have that can quickly become airborne is the Mallard. If you cannot shut your birds in at night for protection and must rely on the protection of a pond, then Mallards are your answer. They will start flying at about 10 weeks and be excellent flyers by 15 weeks. Of course any wild, flying duck such as a Wood or Mandarin duck meets this criteria, but are often difficult to find. Muscovy fly but are not particularly quick in their movements and I don't see them escaping a predator as readily as a Mallard.



Now Available!
amazon



Quality eggs for your family starts with quality nutrition for your birds. **Chicken DeLyte™**

- ✔ Supports normal digestion and nutrient absorption
- ✔ Proprietary blend of *Macleaya cordata* extract, prebiotics, probiotics, vitamins and electrolytes
- ✔ The most complete product available
- ✔ Maintains health, wellness, vitality and feed intake all year long



Great mothers

Muscovy ducks on the other hand, are excellent at hatching and raising several broods of ducklings every year. Other breeds can do it but the Muscovy is the best by far. Provide her a safe place to have a nest, good food, clean water, and a mate and she will do the rest for you.

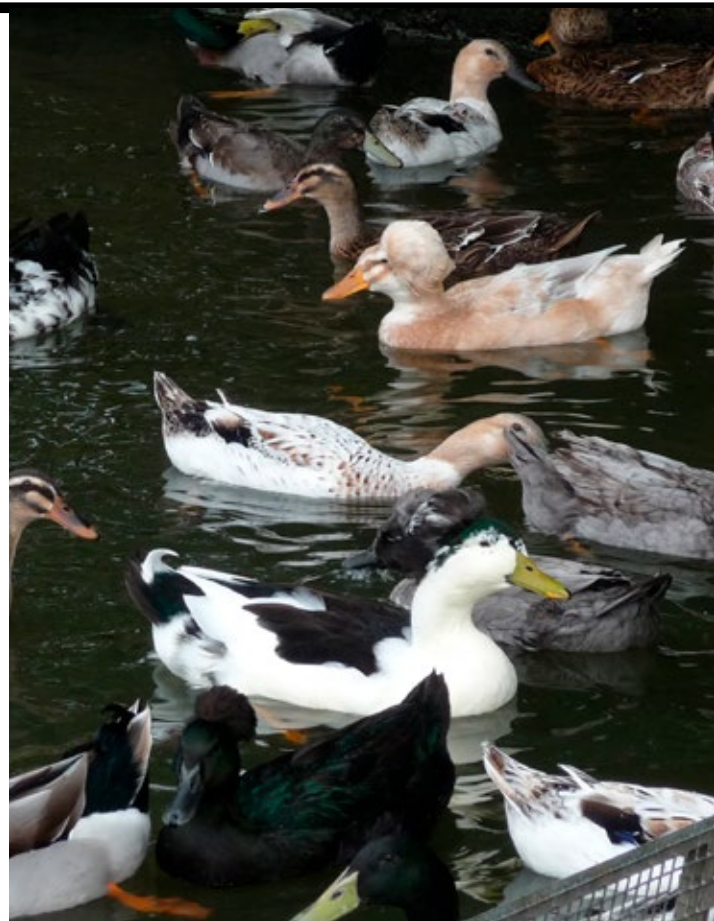
Rare breeds

You want to help preserve a rare breed of ducks? The Livestock Conservancy uses a poultry census to determine which breeds are gaining or losing in population...and some are downright rare.

The breeds in the two most critical categories include the Hookbill and Ayelsbury in the Critical category and the Buff, Saxony, Silver Appleyard, and Magpie in the Threatened category. Choose any of these, and you help save a breed from extinction.

Meat production

This is easy. It is either the Pekin or Muscovy. Over 95% of the commercially-grown meat ducks in the world are Pekin. They grow quickly (seven pounds live in seven



weeks or less), are very feed efficient (it doesn't take much feed for every pound they grow), lay quite a few eggs under the correct management... and are white-feathered for a cleaner carcass.

Muscovy are very popular in France as they have a leaner carcass with the males producing a very large breast. They are not as reproductive as Pekins, however, and typically cost more because of that.

Quietest

As a breed, Muscovy again win this category. They do not have the loud *QUACK* that other female ducks have. It is more of a hissing sound. You want quiet ducks but don't want Muscovy? Get males. Surprisingly, they are much quieter than the females—they also have a unique raspy, squeaky voice.

Show quality

All breeds are shown at exhibitions and fairs. Yes, some breeds, such as Call ducks, are more popular than other breeds but being successful showing in 4-H or FFA or as an adult has more to do with the quality of the birds you select than the breed.

NATURE'S BEST
ORGANIC FEEDS
The way nature intended.

Feed created and tested by poultry nutrition experts using exclusively organic crops. 70 years of service and unmatched quality ... the way nature intended.

USDA ORGANIC
NON-GMO VERIFIED

organicfeeds.com | 800.767.4537

Reader Service No. 2312

Train herding dogs

Did you know ducks are used to train young herding dogs? These dogs are trained on ducks before they graduate to sheep or cattle. You want a flock that stays together during the training and does not naturally split into many different groups.

In our experience, it is typically Runner ducks or male Golden 300 ducks that prove the best for this purpose.

Multi-purpose

This description is often given to a breed that lays quite a few eggs but can also be processed for meat. If someone asks us for this we usually recommend they get two different breeds—one for eggs for several years and the other to process in seven weeks. But if you really want a breed that can do both, we recommend the Buff. They are a good layer, are larger than many other breeds and can produce a very clean carcass due to their white underfeathers.

Beauty and appearance

This category is about as subjective as you can get. Obviously I can't tell you what will strike your fancy. A

flock of white Pekins on a lake? A group of animated, active (and some say comical) Runners? The striking colors of a male Wood or Mandarin duck? The beetle green sheen on a Cayuga duck? The beauty of a Buff duck in an orange sunset? Every duck is beautiful in its own way.

It all depends on which ones strike your fancy.

If you can't easily decide

You don't have to only get one breed—they all get along. Instead of choosing only one breed, get several different breeds. It is much easier to tell them apart and then you can name each one. Later you can decide if you like one breed over another. And remember, you can always get more, different breeds later.

About the author

John Metzger is owner of Metzger Farms, a three-generation waterfowl hatchery that ships over 35 breeds of ducks and geese throughout the U.S. and internationally.

Your Birds Need Food & Water. Period.

Every flock needs access to fresh water and feed. Check out our large selection of waterers and feeders. We've got the right equipment to suit any flock's needs.

Plus, **FREE SHIPPING** on most orders over **\$100!***



Call or visit us online for a **FREE** catalog with over **100+** new products!

GET YOURS TODAY!

Stromberg's
CHICKS & GAME BIRDS UNLIMITED

(800) 720-1134
www.strombergschickens.com

* Free shipping applies to most qualifying orders over \$100 shipping to the lower 48.

Reader Service No. 781



Summer Water Myths and Misconceptions

By Brigid McCrea, PhD

This time of year, chicken-keepers look to new and different ways to care for their flocks, and changing to a different style of waterer often heads the list.

But when faced with an unending array of opinions from flock owners, it can be hard to make a choice about what will work best with your birds.

What follows should help you better choose as we delve into myths and misconceptions about how to provide water for your birds.





1 The larger the waterer the better.

The size of the waterer you choose needs to be based on a few different factors. The first factor that you should consider is the number of chickens that you have in your flock. Your chickens should never run out of water on your watch.

You need to provide a source of water that is large enough for them to drink from all day, and all night if they should be inclined.

That may mean you are refilling a waterer daily. For some of you, this may seem an inconvenience, given your personal daily routine or work schedule.

Cleaning waterers daily is part of the routine and does not have to be a chore if you use the right tool for the job. Depending on the type of waterer you use, a simple toilet bowl brush is suitable for quick daily cleaning and rinsing prior to refill. However, keep in mind that weekly cleaning and disinfection is still part of the routine.



The waterer size should be large enough for you to get your hand into or be large enough for your cleaning brush to get into for scrubbing.

Open water systems are dirtier overall than closed water systems. If you want less work, then choose a closed system and your chickens will thank you.

You can also set up your waterers so that they are closed system that require less cleaning. A nipple drinker system is a perfect example of this. Some cleaning is required with closed water systems—but only once a month versus weekly with open water systems.

You are a part of this equation. A big waterer may be too heavy to lift. Given your personal physical limitations, you should consider the size of the waterer when full. Remember, a gallon weighs around 8 pounds. Do not invest in a waterer that hurts to carry when full. Or consider setting up your watering system so that it stays put and you fill it using a hose. Remember, we don't stay young forever, but keeping chickens helps make us feel pretty lively!

2 Plastic waterers are better than metal waterers.

Unless you are in a region that has cold weather, you really need not be too concerned with plastic versus metal waterers. The time that you really need to take this topic into concern is

Poultry Butler
AUTOMATIC COOP DOOR

- Pre-assembled, easy to install - no kits!
- Switch between preset times or light level activation
- High torque gear motor and ½" worm drive activates the door
- Adjustable mechanical clutch prevents predators from lifting door
- No strings attached
- Vertical & horizontal models
- 12-volt battery application available Door operates from -15 degrees to 125 degrees
- Models available for chickens, turkeys, ducks, guineas, or almost any other fowl.

724-762-2507
www.poultrybutler.com

Poultry Butler has been committed to the comfort and security of your birds and the importance of your time

ACCREDITED BUSINESS

Starting at \$179

Reader Service No. 1523

in winter. Plastic weakens and can crack if the waterer undergoes regular freeze and thaw cycles. The plastic waterer was not really meant to stand up to this kind of temperature fluctuation and it stresses the product. Metal waterers can handle the freeze and thaw cycles.

If you place your waterer on an electric warming device to prevent freezing, then you can potentially get a longer life out of your plastic waterer.

In addition, metal waterers can handle being dropped more readily than plastic which can crack. Alternately, metal waterers can be heavier which may be a drawback for you. Also, metal waterers do not do well if you add any acids to your water. I am specifically speaking about vinegar which is also called acetic acid. It can erode the metal. So, is one kind of waterer better than the other? It all depends on your situation and what you plan on doing with your particular flock.

3 Nipple waterers seem to leak, so traditional waterers are a better choice.

Leaks happen with waterers, even with open water systems. You put a waterer down crooked or a crack develops that you did not see and then *Yuck!* You find yourself with a

coop that needs mucking out. But the question is really about nipple drinkers and why they leak.

Well maintained nipple drinkers should not leak. If the seal goes bad, then they are easy and really affordable to replace. If you are lucky enough to live in a part of the country that has a lot of chicken farms, then your local farm supply store will probably have replacement O-rings or replacement nipples.

Pro tip: It is a good idea to order a few replacement nipples from any company that sends you a nipple drinker. Backups are always valuable to have and then you are not quite as put-out as if you had to run to the store (or internet) to get some more.

If you are using a bottom-style nipple drinker and you set your drinker down on the nipples, then they are really easy to break this way. I prefer the side nipples as this type of accident is less likely to happen. Nipple drinker systems can also leak if your hose pressure is too high—a pressure reducer on the hose may yield a better result. Of if you are using a gravity-fed nipple drinker from a 5 gallon or larger bucket, then you may need to fill your bucket to a lower level to reduce the pressure.

**TAKING
BACK THE
FOOD
CHAIN**

**ONE EGG
AT A
TIME**

New Country
Organics

Reader Service No. 2569

All Organic. All Soy-Free.
MADE EXCLUSIVELY WITH NORTH AMERICAN GRAINS

Backyard poultry palace or large-scale organic op, we've got your flock.

Shop online or find a dealer near you.

Shipping included on select items nation wide.

Bulk farm tote deals you can't beat.

www.newcountryorganics.com

No corn? No problem.

No wheat? We've got that, too.

*With mashes, pellets and crumbles,
we've got a form for any picky chickie.*

Call us!

888-699-7088



4 Water cups are no better than traditional waterers because they still fill with debris and get algae build-up.

This is true! Any open water system does gather debris and dust. Then you can get algae build-up. But the real question is...how did you let things get that built-up in the first place?

Daily water cleaning is still warranted in any open water system whether it is a cup under a nipple drinker or an open trough. In the old days, when trough systems kept water flowing through chicken sheds with a couple hundred hens, farmers would run a brush in the waterer twice a day to keep it clean. (They also had to prevent roosting on the troughs which is a whole other matter.)

Water cups, and their triggers, need daily cleaning with a scrub brush. This requires nothing fancy on the cleaning end as most people just use a plastic Brillo-type pad that molds to the shape of the cup for a quick scrub.

Algae builds up faster in waterers that are never cleaned. Also, this ties back into the statement earlier



about fresh, clean water. If your water source contains a high level of algae or bacteria, then it may need treatment prior to giving it to your animals.

The plus of having water cups is that they can come in several different styles and be configured many different ways.

Some only fill if the chicken hits a trigger inside the cup. Unfortunately, they do not always completely empty themselves if the chicken does not drink all of the water. Some water cups are set up on a daily timer so that they flush themselves out and refill daily. This really works well for small groups of chickens and these cups only hold about a pint of water.

The fact that they flush themselves daily means that you need a place for the water to go when the waterer is flushed. (This might be a nice project for someone with an engineer's mind.)

5 The waterer should always be kept outside in the run, and never in the coop.

On the contrary, you can place your waterer wherever it makes the most sense for your situation. If it is too hot in the summer for a waterer to stay inside the coop, then move it out into the

Your Choice for backyard poultry enthusiast and commercial producers alike.

Baby Chicks - Broilers, Egg Layers & Ready-to-Lay Pullets



266 E. Paletown Road • Quakertown, PA 18951
Tel: 215-536-3155 • Fax: 215-536-8034

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE
www.moyerschicks.com



Reader Service No.6249



run. The overall goal is for the waterer to stay in a location that keeps it as cool and clean as possible without impeding the chicken's access to the water.

One of the pluses of keeping the water in the coop is that wild animals and birds will be less likely to be drawn in by the water for a drink.

If you have a biosecure coop—and we all certainly hope that our biosecurity is up to snuff—then wild birds and rodents will not have access to your chicken's water even if it is out in the run. By this, I am referring to a covered run that has wire small enough to exclude most mammals.

Bringing your water inside at night is also an option if you keep it out in the run during the day. However, your coop, in the hottest part of the summer, may be too warm for roosting at night. I may not be a bad idea to have a second or smaller water source indoors for the chickens to use when they enter the coop daily for egg laying.

During other times of the year, it may be too windy, dusty, or messy for the water source to be kept outside in the run.

No matter where you place your water source, you need to understand that if your waterer does not hang, then it is taking up square foot space in the coop or out in the run. Hanging water sources still allow the chickens to use more of the indoor or outdoor space by being able to walk under the waterer. 🐔

About the author

Dr. Brigid McCrea, PhD, is a poultry scientist who has worked with small flock owners for over a decade. Her expertise is being utilized at Auburn University in the development of curriculum for 4-H Youth Development's Animal Programs.



THE GENESIS

ADJUSTABLE DIGITAL THERMOSTAT WITH
TEMPERATURE & HUMIDITY DISPLAY
ACCURATE. DEPENDABLE.
AUTOMATIC.

BREEDING TECHNOLOGY

For nearly 60 years GQF has researched and built products for accuracy and dependability. We stand behind all of our products with a full one year warranty.



For more information on the 1588 and other
quality GQF products visit
GQFinfo.com
912.236.0651



Brinsea **NEW** ChickSafe

ChickSafe Eco and Advance automatic coop door openers... protect your birds when you can't

- Brinsea have re-designed the coop door opener from scratch. The NEW ChickSafe Eco and Advance patented designs have only one moving part and no mechanical switches for the ultimate in rugged reliability and ease of use.
- A tough two-piece alloy door is also available.
- **3 year FREE warranty** (subject to online registration)

Visit www.brinsea.com or call 1 888 667 7009 for details



Prices from **\$99.99**

Brinsea Products – bringing innovation to chicken keepers for over 40 years!

If a hen could choose...

Easy to use, affordable, quality incubators since 1976.

Brinsea is the world leading incubator manufacturer and has a full line of:

- ✓ Incubators from 7 to 580 eggs
- ✓ Durable, easy to clean with user friendly digital controls
- ✓ Brooders, Egg candlers
- ✓ Starter kits and much more!

Hatching your own chicks is fun, easy and reliable with Brinsea



Forget Styrofoam incubators and watch your eggs hatch everytime.

Brinsea
Incubation Specialists

For more information or to request your **free color catalog** visit www.brinsea.com or call 1-888-667-7009

Can You Feel the Heat?

Recognize the signs to alleviate the effects of heat stress

By Jessica Fox, DVM

As humans, we all have daily stresses, but what kind of stress could my birds have? I provide them with everything they could ever need!

Chickens and other prey animals are really good at hiding stress. This comes from a natural tendency not to appear vulnerable to predators. They are hard-wired with a very strong “flight response.” Which basically means they get stressed out really easily but can be good at hiding it, even when it is negatively impacting their health.





There are many common activities and events that can cause birds to feel the effects of stress.

Examples of stressors include:

- Adding new birds to the flock
- Cleaning out the coop
- Moving the flock to a new location
- Handling birds
- Disease challenges
- Predators
- Sudden changes in diet
- Running out of feed or water
- Drastic weather changes

Just like high stress can impact our bodies, stress can cause changes to birds' bodies and these changes can actually negatively impact their immune system. Many of these stressors are just necessary parts of a bird's life, and essential for their health and wellbeing. But when we understand the effects they have on birds, we can find ways to decrease the intensity of the stress and alleviate some of the negative effects on their health.

Let's focus on the impact heat stress has on birds and what you can do to help alleviate the effects..

What is heat stress?

This is a condition that occurs with elevated heat and humidity. Just like mammals, birds are warm blooded, which means that their bodies make their own heat.

Heat stress results when there is an imbalance between the heat leaving the bird and the amount of energy (heat) being produced by the bird.

It occurs when heat and humidity reach levels that are beyond a bird's ability to dissipate enough heat to keep their body temperatures from rising. Birds are comfortable at temperatures between 60° and 75°F., but as temperatures rise above 75°F., they begin to experience signs of heat stress.

Birds do not have sweat glands, so they have to find other ways to cool down. One of the ways birds dissipate heat is by panting, but when humidity levels reach above 70%, it is almost impossible for the birds to lose heat via panting. This makes it very important to monitor temperature and humidity forecasts.

Some birds are more sensitive to heat stress than others. Feather cover, age, and genetics can pre-dispose birds to be more sensitive or more resilient to heat stress.

Heat stress can decrease growth rates and negatively impact egg quality, including size, shell strength, interior quality and production rate. When heat stress is severe, it can even cause mortality in your flock.

Signs of heat stress

There are several signs to watch for to determine if your birds are experiencing heat stress. Look for:

- Decreased activity
- Spread and drooped wings
- Feather ruffling
- Squatting close to ground
- Seeking cooler places, even burrowing in litter
- Increased fecal excretion (diarrhea/flushing)
- Panting
- Increased water consumption
- Decreased feed consumption

automatic CHICKEN/TURKEY DOORS

READY-TO-USE! info@AdorStore.com
NOT A KIT (832)444-0192

- » Rugged Galvanized Steel
- » Easy Install: Exterior or Interior
- » Opens at Dawn, Closes at Dusk (Programming not required).
- » Manual over-ride button.
- » Direct Sprocket Drive. No strings.
- » Door slides Up/Down.
- » Smart: Self-Tests. Retries
- » Uses Low-Cost, Long-Life Battery.
- » ADOR1 13.5 x 10.5 (Chickens)
- » ADOR2 20 x 12.5 (Geese/Turkey etc.)
- » Made in USA

» See **www.AdorStore.com** for MORE!

Recessed Installation With Wood Trim

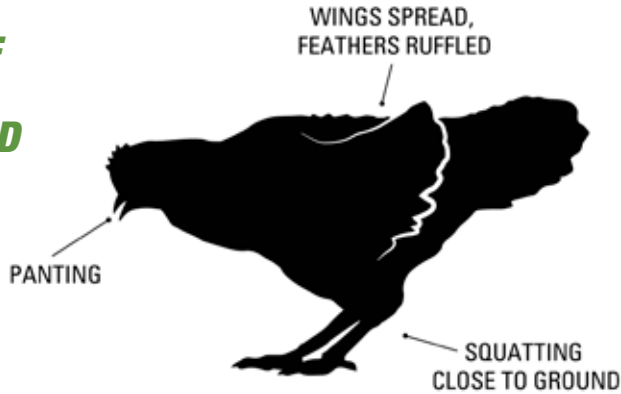
Simple Installation Exterior Wall

ADOR1 NOW ONLY \$199* plus S&H

see website for latest price

Reader Service No. 1189

SIGNS OF A HEAT STRESSED CHICKEN



How does heat stress impact bird health?

In addition to those above, a serious one to watch for is “flushing,” or releasing extremely watery feces in an attempt to cool themselves. In addition to losing essential nutrients and electrolytes, this can cause a disruption in the normal microbial community in the bird’s digestive

tract. Their bodies also redirect blood flow from the intestines towards the external surface (skin, wattles, comb, respiratory tract) in another attempt to more efficiently get rid of excess heat.

As time goes on, this flushing and re-directed blood flow can take a toll on the bird’s digestive tract. The integrity of the intestinal

barrier becomes permeable and bacterial toxins and bacteria like salmonella can cross over into the body. This phenomenon is known as “leaky gut.”

The influx of bacteria and toxins causes the immune system to react and release molecules known as free radicals to fight bacteria. These molecules are also released by other cells as a normal part of metabolism. But in times of stress (like heat stress) they can be overproduced.

Normally, antioxidant compounds from the bird’s diet (like vitamins A, E, and C) neutralize free radicals.

Rainbow Mealworms

Our mealworms are **alive**, and chickens love **hunting and chasing** them!

Our founder Fred Rhyme discovered the secret to growing the Giant Mealworm in the 1950s. We are very proud of that! These Giants are larger and thicker than ordinary mealworms at 1 1/4" long. CHICKENS LOVE THEM!

Try our **Chicken Sampler Pack**

760-726-4119
www.rainbowmealworms.net

Reader Service No. 2340



When the animal's body produces more free radicals than it can handle, the bird experiences oxidative stress. Free radicals that are not neutralized by antioxidants are very unstable and go around wreaking havoc trying to become stable again. They do even more damage to the gut which leads to more leaking and inflammation! As you can imagine it is a very vicious cycle.

The immune system of birds is also impacted by heat stress. Heat stress activates a complex pathway called the Hypothalamus-Pituitary-Adrenal axis. We won't go into details, but what is important is that it causes an increase in hormones that causes dysregulation of the immune system. Which sets the birds up for disease issues.

So, heat stress causes damage to the bird's digestive tract, oxidative stress, and negatively impacts the immune system. Plus, as it tries to relieve heat stress through panting and flushing, they also experience dehydration.

All of these negative impacts on the bird's health and the large expenditure of energy to cool themselves begin to add up and have detrimental effects on their growth, egg production and welfare.

How to support birds during hot summer days

Preventing heat stress in your flock is extremely important. Anything you can do to proactively prevent heat stress is more effective than attempting to correct after they have already begun to experience heat stress. Planning ahead and having measures in place to keep your birds cool during hot summer days is the best way to protect your birds from the negative effects of heat stress.

Preparatory steps to take prior to hot summer days

- Keep a close eye on the weather forecast for hot days, and pay special attention to days with high humidity
- Make sure your flock is not overcrowded so they have plenty of space to spread out and cool off
- Make sure your coop has adequate ventilation
- Make sure your birds have access to multiple clean water sources filled with clean cool water
- Provide protection from the sun including natural shade from trees or create your own shaded areas for your birds keeping in mind the movement of the sun throughout the day.

Preventing heat stress on hot humid days

- Get creative! Providing water through misters, and even wading pools are a welcome relief from the heat.
- Heat is generated from the process of digestion, so it is important to feed in early morning or evenings, during coolest times of the day
- Do not introduce any additional stressors on hot/humid days (avoid handling, medical or grooming procedures, cleaning the coop etc. on hot days)
- Add additional water pans with fresh water in shady cool areas and be sure to change water daily. You can add ice cubes or frozen water bottles to help keep water cool throughout the day.
- Remember as birds "flush" to cool themselves, they experience an electrolyte imbalance and dehydration. Adding electrolytes in the water of birds in the days leading up to hot days and through the heat wave can set the birds up on the right foot and encourage them to keep drinking on hot days as well as replenish lost electrolytes. Products with added vitamins provide extra benefits.
- Provide antioxidant rich supplements. As we discussed, heat stress causes oxidative stress in birds which leads to many of the negative impacts on bird's health. Providing antioxidant rich supplements helps prevent and alleviate the negative impacts of oxidative stress on birds.

SHIPS IN 72 HOURS!

Order online at EzFitSheds.com



SHED KITS



KENNELS



Kits ship straight to your home from our factory!



COOPS

72 HOUR QUICK SHIP

available on select structures!



EZ-fit Sheds

Order online EzFitSheds.com

GET YOUR FREE BROCHURE

1-330-403-4665

Reader Service No. 2568



What about cool treats

Sure, and have fun with it! Providing these supplements in frozen treats with fun additions like fruits and veggies can not only protect your birds from heat stress but also provide enrichment.

As with any supplement, it is extremely important to choose products made specifically for poultry, produced by companies with extensive experience,

demonstrated research, and quality you can trust will be consistent every time.

Summer is a great time to get outside and enjoy your birds. Find fun creative ways to keep your birds cool, comfortable and healthy! 🐔

About the author

Dr. Jessica Fox is Director of Veterinary Services & Biosecurity at Ralco (getstronganimals.com) in Marshall, Minn. She works in research and development, with particular focus on improving gut health through natural solutions, and is passionate about disease prevention through biosecurity.



IDEAL
IDEAL POULTRY
BREEDING FARMS, INC.
CAMERON, TEXAS

"Generations of Quality Poultry"

**MONEY CAN'T BUY
HAPPINESS
BUT IT CAN BUY
CHICKENS**

AND THAT'S SORT OF THE SAME THING!

WWW.IDEALPOULTRY.COM

Reader Service No. 5019

YOUR CHICKENS DESERVE THE BEST!

“The Feed Chickens Need”



Grubbets® can be used as 10-15% of a daily diet
(each 2lb bag contains approximately 85 daily servings)

Our Sustainable Story

The black soldier fly larvae that make up Grubbets® are raised on a diet of recycled, edible food waste sourced locally from grocery chains and restaurants. This keeps food waste out of landfills and instead, converts it into rich protein that serves as a tasty and nutritional snack for your flock. Grubbets® are also naturally high in calcium, which gives your hens stronger egg shells and reduces feather pecking.

NUTRITION ANALYSIS

Crude Protein	% min	34
Crude Fat	% min	32
Crude Fibre	% max	10
Moisture	% max	10



ORDER NOW @
www.grubbets.com



@grubbets



Mr. President, If You Please

A letter of introduction

By Mark Podgwaite, American Poultry Association President

I was recently elected president of the American Poultry Association. I have been asked to present a bit about myself as well about the association.

I have been raising poultry for over 50 years and, along with my dad, showing since the early 1970s. I'm old enough to count some of the poultry greats of our time as friends, competitors, and mentors; and young enough to still relish those experiences which I will never forget. I remember like it was yesterday, listening to John Lightfoot talk about how to breed his vision of the perfect runner duck.



Public service

My employment history includes over 35 years in business management, with 15 of those years in the nonprofit sector. Currently, I am the executive director of nonprofit corporation in Central Vermont. This experience has given me the opportunity to serve on many local, state and national committees as well as to hold several offices on these boards over the years.

This involvement has provided me the understanding that associations such as the American Poultry Association are member-driven and must keep the needs of the membership in the forefront at all times. The Constitution and Bylaws provide the framework, but the wants and needs of the membership should always be heard. I am happy to report that the APA has embraced this ideal, as is evident by the unprecedented growth and prosperity the APA is currently enjoying.

I have served the membership of the American Poultry Association (APA) going on 10 years, first as District 1 Director, then as Vice President, and now President.

I feel very honored to be elected to this position and most humbled to join the elite list of APA Presidents. I have always been in awe of these folks.

Can you imagine William Churchman, one of the APA's founding fathers and its first president, pulling this all together with no phone or internet? Or Vi Halbach our first (and currently only) female president (1994-1998)?

A solid foundation

The APA is enjoying unprecedented growth and prosperity. The former officers and directors of the APA worked extremely hard serving the membership and promoting the APA. They certainly raised the bar in terms of providing for the membership as well as the association.

Dave Anderson applied his business skills to restoring the APA's finances to stability. John Monaco led the APA to apply digital technology to keeping records of points won. The current officers and directors are an equally dedicated bunch committed to the future of the APA as well as exhibition poultry in general. Since the election, they have jumped right in handling various duties.

The APA cannot rest on its laurels; we must continue to embrace our members' input; we must continually research technology and apply it where it will benefit the APA and its members; and we must maintain our status as the go-to organization in the exhibition poultry world.

We have expanded member services, have instituted the MemberPlanet membership service program, and the Yearbook is becoming the ultimate resource of standard bred poultry. But there is so much more to do. We need to explore the feasibility of offering the Standard of Perfection in different formats. An electronic version might be a benefit to the membership, but needs to be safeguarded to avoid losing copyright protection that is a hallmark of the APA's high standards. This will not be an easy task.

RESOLVE
sustainable solutions
Poultry & Game Bird
Specialty Products

**Farmers' Helper™
BabyCake™**

“We bring free range into the brooder!”™

**Farmers' Helper™
BabyCake™** treats are designed to support normal avian health with minimal waste. Chicks will forage on the BabyCake™ for hours.

www.foragecakes.com

©2020 C&S Products Company Inc. CS0100120

Reader Service No. 999



We need to continue to expand our work with and promote the youth in this hobby – after all, they are the future. The Youth Exhibition Poultry Association (YEPA) is enjoying a resurgence in popularity but is in need of a dedicated leader to allow Doris Robinson to retire. Doris has done a tremendous amount of work with the youth program over the years. She will be a tough act to follow. The APA supports YEPA, which helps young people learn the skills they will need to succeed at breeding and showing Standard bred poultry. Those skills will serve them in their lives and as future APA leaders.

And we cannot forget one of the big ones – the celebration of the APA's 150th Anniversary in 2023. We plan to offer a variety of keepsakes during this yearlong celebration including special pins or commemorative gifts to all who exhibit their chickens at APA-sanctioned shows that year. We'll hold a special banquet, with members who attended the 100th anniversary dinner in 1973 honored as special guests.



100% CEDAR
Hand Crafted

★ Trustpilot
★★★★★



Backyard Farm & Garden Supply

Superior materials, skilled crafting and thoughtful designs are the hallmark of everything we make. Formerly Urban Coop Company... we're now doing even more.

Call 877-596-0960 or visit us online. **MADE IN THE USA**

roost&root[®]
Find your inner farmer.

Reader Service No. 1186



The APA is raising money to support this festive celebration through donations and events. Live bird auctions have already raised over \$15,000 for that cause.

The APA is blessed with a team of officers and directors who firmly believe in the Association, its foundation, and its mission. We need to keep this organization moving in a positive direction.

The APA's history

Are you new to the chicken world? Let me give you a little background on exhibition poultry and the American Poultry Association.

The APA History Site (<http://apahistory.com/home/the-first-poultry-show/the-first-poultry-show/>) tells us the first organized poultry exhibit was held at the Boston Public Garden on the 15th and 16th of November 1849. The show was primarily organized by Dr. J. C. Bennett, of Plymouth, Massachusetts and a committee of many.

The show attracted approximately 1400 entries of purebred birds and barnyard mixes as well as regional fowls of all descriptions. It is estimated that over 10,000 people attended the two-day event which was, in some respects, a disaster. Certainly not a disaster in terms of popularity or public appeal, but in terms of judging the fowl, as there was no standard to against which to judge them. Therefore, the notion of judging this event was abandoned.

Poultry exhibits became extremely popular across the country during this period. The APA History Page (<http://apahistory.com/home/apa-official-record-of-formation/formation-of-the-apa/>) discusses the formation of the APA:

Mr. William H. Churchman, of Wilmington, Delaware, the first President, writes under date of November 30, 1898:

"If my memory serves me, I talked the matter of forming an American Association at two or three poultry exhibitions and succeeded in getting about fifteen of the principal exhibitors interested in the matter, and we held an informal meeting in the spring of 1873, when a committee was appointed to take the matter in hand, and if found advisable to make a call to all interested to meet that fall for the purpose of organizing an American Poultry Association. I was chairman of the committee and made the call for organization, which took place in Buffalo in the early part of December 1873. My memory is good on the subject of membership, as on the day of my arrival home in December, 1873, I had two hundred certificates of membership printed and filled in one for myself, and the next day went to Philadelphia and handed the certificate with ten dollars to Joseph M. Wade, and he wrote his signature thereon, the same that I now enclose.

(Signed) I WM. H. CHURCHMAN.

That December 1873 date makes the APA the oldest livestock organization in North America.

APA holds to high standards

The APA continues the mission begun in 1873 to ensure the betterment of exhibition poultry. It's a mission we take very seriously. In addition to the member benefits the APA offers, we have a judge's licensing program and publish the "Standard of Perfection"—which is the poultry judge's bible.

Judges take years to learn about every breed in the Standard. The APA sets a high bar. Every person who earns certification as an APA judge

Got Hawks?

25% OFF Coupon CW25

...Get HawkStopper Visual Deflection Net

HUGE! 1500 Sq.ft. of Overhead Hawk Protection

...From the PredatorPee® People

Free Shipping Always!

PredatorPeeStore.com/hawk-stopper.html

Maine Outdoor Solutions
Hermon, Maine 207.478.6426
info@MaineOutdoorSolutions.com

Reader Service No. 2562

is an accomplished expert. They are also a fine group of people, always willing to reach out and help others learn about the poultry that is their passion.

The Standard of Perfection, now in its 44th edition, "is the culmination of scientific facts and the result of knowledge and experience gained during the more than one hundred and forty years that the American Poultry Association has been compiling and publishing a Standard for domestic poultry," it says in its preface. We carry on a proud tradition in it. The Standard is constantly under review and revision by the APA's Standard Revision Committee.

Exhibition poultry today

The exhibition poultry world is a fascinating one. It attracts people from far and wide. People of all ages and backgrounds come together for one common goal; to raise, improve, and exhibit their chosen breed(s) and varieties of standard bred poultry. The friendships and comradery are second to none. We are all in this hobby with a common goal in mind; breeding the best bird one can breed. The opportunities presented to the junior exhibitors are many. APA-sanctioned shows often include special activities for young members, such as Quiz Bowls, showmanship, and poultry agility competitions.

Interested in more information? Our newly redesigned website can be found at amerpoultryassn.com.

Feel free to contact me at any time at mppoultry13@gmail.com, I would love to hear from you.

Signed,



www.MyFavoriteChicken.com
800-684-1552



Leader In Backyard Chicken Supplies

Don't miss a single issue! **Subscribe to** **Chicken Whisperer**[®] magazine

featuring Andy Schneider

Your comprehensive guide to raising and caring for chickens.



Look for these upcoming seasonal topics:

Summer

- Keeping your flock comfortable
- Vitamins and electrolytes

Fall

- The molt
- Artificial lighting

Winter

- Frostbite prevention
- Winter feed tips

- Yes!** I'd like to subscribe to four quarterly issues of the *Chicken Whisperer Magazine* for the **low introductory** price of just **\$9.95**
- Yes!** I'd like a **FREE** subscription to the *Chicken Whisperer Magazine* digital edition and newsletter
- Yes!** I'd like a **FREE** subscription to the *AcreageLife* digital edition and newsletter

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Mail to: AcreageLife / PO Box 1115 / Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Credit card orders call: 515-574-2203, or **order online** @ www.acreagelife.com





IBV

Chicken coronaviruses: Infectious Bronchitis Virus

By Maurice Pitesky—DVM, MPVM, Dipl ACVPM

One thing is important to note at the beginning: Chickens get coronaviruses but they are different than human coronaviruses.

About chickens: we don't get their coronaviruses and they don't get ours

That being said, Infectious Bronchitis virus (IBV) can be a pain for chickens. IBV is responsible for depressed egg production and shell quality in addition to (largely) mild respiratory disease which can cause poor growth and even death in combination with other diseases or poor management practices.



Background on coronaviruses in chickens

Coronaviruses are ubiquitous in animals and they are typically associated with mild respiratory signs. While coronaviruses are ubiquitous, they typically “stick” to their species. In other words, as chicken coronaviruses (technically in the Gamma coronavirus group) stick to chickens, dog coronaviruses stick to dogs, and so on.

Very rarely do we have transmission of a virus from one species to another. Unfortunately we are dealing with a rare situation now where a virus (technically in the Beta coronavirus group) has “jumped the species barrier” from bats (scientists believe) to humans.

As noted, the poultry version of a coronavirus is a virus called Infectious Bronchitis Virus (IBV). Interestingly IBV has multiple “versions” that are typically identified with names like Delaware, California variant 99, and Arkansas-type, among others. This reflects the slightly different genetics of each strain.

Fortunately, in the poultry world there are different vaccines for different coronaviruses. It will be interesting to see if eventually COVID-19 mutates enough over time to require multiple vaccine types in humans (assuming that we are able to develop an efficacious COVID-19 vaccine).

So what are the specific signs of IBV?

Respiratory signs include:

- Sneezing
- Tracheal rales (aka a gentle rattle)
- Coughing.
- Sniffing
- Snuffling
- Hawking
- Reverse sneeze
- Sometimes (although rare) a cough or two

In addition, chickens often have a “puffed up” appearance (irritation and inflammation around the mucus membranes of the eyes), are often reluctant to move and have reduced egg production. If they are in lay, the egg shells often feel and look wrinkled. The virus spreads primarily via the respiratory route.

At the flock level, the best way to observe the abnormal clinical signs described above is to be aware of what normal breathing sounds like.

So, pay attention to what you hear (or don't hear) when you have a healthy flock. This will attune yourself to what is normal; when (or if) you hear a “tracheal rattle,” for example, you will know there is something

abnormal going on in your flock.

Why is this important? Because the quicker you are able to identify a problem, the quicker you can isolate (i.e. quarantine) sick birds, and the quicker you can work with a veterinarian or diagnostic lab to further identify the problem and protect your flock.

On individual birds

If you think you hear something, pick up a chicken and hold the breast up against your ear and listen or feel for any abnormal breathing such as rattling. Just remember, the best time to observe chickens for respiratory problems is in the evening when the

chickens are resting. However, one good trick during the day is clap your hands or whistle when you enter the coop. The chickens will often stop in their tracks and you can then hear abnormal breathing (i.e. rattling, etc.) if it is present.

In addition to listening look for shortness of breath, inflammation around the eyes and an enlarged head due to swelling of the sinuses.

Other general signs of sick birds include:

- Sitting huddled together
- Fluffed up feathers
- Lethargy

Prevention of IBV

Highly infectious IBV is an enveloped virus, meaning it has a fatty membrane on its outside. This means the virus is easily inactivated by soap, other common disinfectants, UV radiation (aka sunlight), and dry warm conditions.

To reduce stress and conditions that foster respiratory disease acquisition and transmission, maintain optimal environmental conditions, practice good biosecurity, and when possible only purchase poultry from hatcheries that are part of the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP).



Cozy Coop
SAFE, LOW-WATTAGE RADIANT HEATING SYSTEM

COZY PRODUCTS®

TEL. 800 662-5021
www.cozyproducts.com
Chicago, IL USA

ENERGY SAVINGS
90% LESS ENERGY THAN A SPACE HEATER

• 2 Heat Settings
• Built-In-Thermostat
• Large, Hi-Visibility On-Off Display

Keep your backyard flock happy and warm with our efficient and effective radiant panel heater.

Reader Service No. 2571



FOLLOW THESE RECOMMENDATIONS ON PREVENTING DISEASE

- **House birds away from open water sources. Discourage your birds from interacting with wild birds and vice versa by confining your birds to their coop/enclosure.**
- **Do not share/exchange animals, equipment, or feed with fellow bird owners. At times, restricting access to your birds altogether may be necessary.**
- **Have designated clothing and boots that stay on your farm as opposed to using those same clothes and shoes when traveling outside your farm and potentially transmitting disease. If you hunt waterfowl, make sure your equipment and clothing are separate from your domestic poultry.**
- **Wildlife love chicken feed, so store feed in containers that are bird, rodent, and insect proof. Provide clean fresh water to your birds at all times. When obtaining birds isolate them away from other birds for 30 days before adding them into your flock. This will reduce the risk of introducing disease into the original flock.**
- **Work with your veterinarian, state/federal veterinarian, local university, farm advisor etc. Many of these resources are free! Having an extra pair of eyes, ears and perspective can make a big difference.**

Flocks that are part of NPIP are monitored for multiple diseases thus reducing the potential for purchasing birds/eggs that are carriers of infectious disease.

Remember that infectious respiratory diseases can enter your flock numerous ways, including via contact and indirect contact with wildlife, and fomites (i.e. non-living materials such as shoes and tires that act as a vector for disease onto your property). Therefore, the more you maximize biosecurity practices

the safer your flock will be from contracting infectious diseases that are most often not treatable.

You may realize that many of the above recommendations are relatively easy to accomplish for your flock and husbandry style. You may also realize that some are not practical for your specific situation.

Philosophically, “don’t make perfect the enemy of good.” In other words, do the best you can with your resources and husbandry style. That type of incremental progress could be the difference between a healthy flock and a sick flock.

About the author

Maurice Pitesky is a faculty member at University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) with an appointment in poultry health and food safety epidemiology. Pitesky earned his BS in biology from UCLA and his DVM and MPVM from UC Davis. Pitesky is also boarded in preventative veterinary medicine (DACVPM).



Specializing in waterfowl

Family-owned Hatchery Since 1972



Metzer Farms

Our minimum order is only two ducklings or goslings so you never have to raise more birds than you want.

16 Breeds of Geese
20 Breeds of Ducks

- Waterfowl are harder than chickens and practically disease free.
- Ducks can lay as many eggs as the best laying chickens.
- Geese love grass and will keep it mown for you.
- Duck eggs are becoming more popular with consumers, bakeries & restaurants.



For a FREE copy of our 2020 catalog

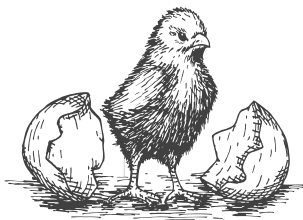
Please call **800-424-7755**
or write: 2600N Old Stage Rd.
Gonzales, CA 93926
or metzinfo@metzerfarms.com

For even more poultry information don't forget to visit our website **www.METZERFARMS.com**

Like Us On 



Reader Service No. 2260



MYERS POULTRY

Quality Poultry Since 1988

Offering 150 + Breeds
Heavy Cornish Cross
Free Range Breeds
Layers
Turkeys

Myerspoultry.com

(814) 539-7026

966 Ragers Hill Road
South Fork, PA 15956



Reader Service No.979



Deer Run Farm

The United States' cleanest, certified disease free Heritage Breed Chicken Hatchery! Testing regularly for MG/MS/AI/PT

Shipping Chicks Nationwide Feb-May & Sept-Oct
Ameraucana, Delaware, French Copper Marans & Welsummer

717-357-4521

Emmitsburg, MD

www.DeerRunFarmMD.com

Reader Service No. 2356



HEN POUCH



Pictured: Triple Hen Pouch

Collect your eggs & keep your hands free!

Available in two styles:

Single (holds 4-6 eggs) \$10.99

Triple (holds 12-18 eggs) \$19.99

UDDER TECH

888.438.8683



SHOP ONLINE:
UDDERTECHINC.COM

Reader Service No. 2350

FARM MACHINERY

New Holland Bale Wagons: I sell and buy Self-Propelled & Pull-type two/three wide models - H9880, H9870, BW38, BW28, 1095, 1089, 1085, 1079, 1078, 1075, 1069, 1068, 1049, 1048, 1037, 1036, 1033, 1032, & other models, parts, tires manuals. Can finance/trade/deliver. Call Jim Wilhite 208-880-2889 anytime. www.balewagon.com

HATCHERIES

FREE COLOR CATALOG- 193 varieties of poultry chicks and free shipping on most poultry supplies, Cackle Hatchery, PO Box 529, Lebanon MO 65536, 417-532-4581 www.cacklehatchery.com

CHICKEN SCRATCH POULTRY - Black/Blue Copper Maran; Blue Laced Red Wyandotte; Blue/Black Ameraucana; Welsummer; Olive Egger; Coronation Sussex; Light Sussex; Lavender, Chocolate and Jubilee Orpington; Rumpless Araucana; Ayam Cemani; Lavender Wyandotte; Cream Legbar; Malines; Heritage Rhode Island Red; Silver Spitzhauben; 55 Flowery Hen, Orust. Larry and Angela McEwen • RR3, Box 44 • McLeansboro, IL 62859 • 618-643-5602 www.chickenscratchpoultry.com

FREE CATALOG - CHICKS, TURKEYS, DUCKLINGS, goslings, guineas, bantams, muscovy duckings, gamebirds, books, equipment. Hoffman Hatchery; P.O. Box 129W, Gratz, PA 17030. 717-365-3694. www.hoffmanhatchery.com



To Promote & Protect the Standard Bred Poultry Industry in all its phases

VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.AMERPOULTRYASSN.COM
& ALSO ON FACEBOOK

Reader Service No. 2500

On the go?
Take us with you!



PRINT • DIGITAL • WEB • SOCIAL • MOBILE



acreagelife.com





Water Enough for All

The BriteTap Chicken Waterer

By Lisa Pedro



When I was told that my next review would be for the BriteTap Chicken Waterer, I thought that just the waterer itself would be sent to me. But the nice folks at chickenwaterer.com actually included the drink cooler and assembled it with the waterer so that I was up and ready to go as soon as it got here. All I had to do was open the box and rinse out the cooler as you would with any new item that was meant to be used for drinking water.

I read the instructions, which were very simple, and filled the cooler with water. Putting the lid on the cooler, I opened the spout at the top so there would be no pressure holding the water in at the bottom.





First, Silkies get to try it out

I then took it over to the Silkie coop and put it on a 12x12x1-inch paver. The reason I sat it that low to the ground was because I was going to first try it out with some young Silkie chicks. The chicks are anywhere from a month to two months old.

Even though there was only a month difference between the chicks, there was a pretty good size variance between them. The smaller one-month-old chicks could reach the water very easily but had a little harder time figuring out which part to hit to make the water come out. The larger chicks figured it out more easily, but it was a little bit low for them.

Then, more uniform Easter Eggers

Instead of trying to find a happy medium for these chicks, I decided to move it over into another pen where I had 6-week old Easter Egger chicks that are all about the same size. These chicks are taller than the Silkies. So I brought a concrete block over and sat the cooler on the block. This seemed to be a good height for them. They were able to access the water.

The Easter Egger chicks were able to drink from the waterer easily, but there are around 30 of them—that could be too many for a 2-gallon waterer.

Finally, the adults got to test

So I moved on to one more test. I moved it over to a pen with adult Appenzeller chickens. There is one rooster and four hens in this pen. This was a new coop that we had just set up and we put a small addition onto it so they had more space in their run that was covered.

In this part of the covered run is where I thought would be the best place to set up the bright tap waterer for them. I put it on a concrete block. But since they are a much taller bird, I needed a second concrete block.

It worked for them and they, too, could access the water.

Enough water?

Since we are in Florida and it is springtime, you would think that we would be having nice mid-range temperatures, but we are actually having a lot of days in the upper 80s and 90s recently. So it is very important to be able to keep water cool here. Your bird's lives can depend on that.

I liked the idea that this was a cooler and should be able to keep the water at a lower temperature then when water is just in a 5-gallon waterer or bucket.

Another good idea about the cooler with the enclosed top is that contaminants from the air—such as dust or leaves and things that chickens like to throw around in their pens while they are scratching—stay out of their water. Their water is clean!

Depending on what size cooler you use, it could make it very easy to add supplements to their water and get accurate measurements. You could even add ice if you want it a little cooler on those really hot days.

How many birds?

Now, one of the drawbacks that you could have with this opaque cooler system is that you cannot see how much water is inside. You will have to be prepared to take the lid off and check on water levels.

You could probably get used to knowing when to check depending on the size of the cooler that you use. You would not have to check a 5-gallon cooler as often as a 2-gallon cooler.

On the BriteTap Chicken Waterer website it says that this chicken waterer is good for up to 16 birds. I do not know if that is for a 2-gallon cooler or a 5-gallon cooler, and how long the water in the cooler will last for 16 birds.

Be aware of this, and check often until you know how fast your birds are going through their water.

The BriteTap that was sent to me had an instruction booklet included with it. You can also go to their website and see instructions with illustrations that are very helpful in putting the BriteTap Chicken Waterer onto the cooler.

NOTE: The waterer is designed to attach to insulated beverage coolers such as those sold under the Igloo and Rubbermaid brand names that act as the water supply tank for the waterer. To install the BriteTap waterer, just unscrew the cooler's spigot and replacing it with the BriteTap waterer. This can be done in less than two minutes and without the need for any tools.

They do not recommend Coleman-brand coolers since they do not have that nut.

The cooler also needs to have a spout or a vent cap on top. Coolers with a solid lid will require a hole being drilled in the lid. You can also

The BriteTap Chicken Waterer



add the BriteTap Chicken Waterer to a bucket or container that you will have to drill a hole in the side for the chicken waterer to be installed and a vent hole in the lid.

Learn more on their website

There are also a couple other interesting items on their website like chicken calculators. They have a Blog also and you can look at the other products that they sell besides the waters. They have heaters and feeders. So check them out. They can also be found on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and YouTube.com.

The BriteTap Waterer

- Keeps water cool.
- Can be added to an easy to clean cooler, bucket or container.
- Made for chicks as young as 2 weeks, up to adults.
- Makes it easy to add supplements.
- Chickens learn quickly how to use it.

ChickenWaterer.com, LLC

265 Cambridge Ave
Box #60881
Palo Alto, CA 94306
chickenwaterer.com
321-348-8378
Mon-Fri 8:00 am - 6:30 pm Pacific Time

About the author

Lisa Pedro, aka Christmas Chick, hails from Christmas, Fla. Lisa and her husband of more than 33 years own Fort Christmas Farm, where they raise a variety of poultry including chickens, guineas, quail, and ducks.



Beautifully Designed for Safety & Convenience



Serving the North East for over 30 Years!

800-823-1097
shedman.com

Reader Service No. 2570

Hatch Poultry Farms

The only place you can get PURE blood lines of coturnix quail and get day old ducks, chicks, geese and more!



www.hatchpoultry.com



Reader Service No. 2573



"drink in my hand
feet in the sand
not a care on this long summer day"



Rooster
M 20
Summer

Mom says, poke dad with the the stick...
he's day dreaming again

Feed your flock the

WHOLESOME
CHOICE



Feed for wholesome, healthy and stress-free birds

Pen Pals poultry feed products are reliable choices for your backyard flock. The Pen Pals brand is supported by well over 100 years of feed formulation history. Pen Pals formulated feeds always covers the essential needs of nutrition for chicks, pullets, layers and broilers (plus turkeys, ducks and geese!) with wholesome, natural-sourced ingredients to promote healthy, productive birds.

*Feed
Success*

Reader Service No.2548

ADMAAnimalNutrition.com • AN_PoultryHelp@adm.com



ADM Pen Pals

ADM



20% OFF!

on your entire order with code "CWSUMMER2020"

*Limit One Use Per Customer.
Offer valid thru 8/31/20*

We know each chicken in your yard is unique, special and loveable. That's why Happy Hen created multiple formulas to celebrate each of your favorite feathered personalities.

From the shy, affectionate chick to the bold strutting diva – our range of treats, and coop-goods, are sure to make your flock happy. So cross the road and join us in the Happy Hen backyard.

Happy Hen.
Worth Crossing Roads For.

www.happyhentreats.com



The Chicken Whisperer Wants You!

*Get social with
Andy Schneider*


POWER to the POULTRY



Join the Chicken Whisperer's social media community. More than 170,000 chicken fans can be found at the **Chicken Whisperer Facebook page**. Find advice, education, product reviews, giveaways and much more. By joining the Chicken Whisperer community, you'll keep informed of all of the latest and greatest developments in keeping chickens.

And don't forget to visit the official Chicken Whisperer Magazine web site at **chickenwhisperermagazine.com**. There, you can:

- **Subscribe to the print edition of the Chicken Whisperer Magazine**
- **Check out the free Chicken Whisperer Magazine digital edition**
- **Sign up to receive the Chicken Whisperer Newsletter**
- **Download articles, share content, take quizzes, enter giveaways, and much more**

Chicken Whisperer
magazine

www.chickenwhisperermagazine.com

www.facebook.com/thechickenwhisperer