

The Odd-Looking Chicken

by Maryann VanHeusen

It began early one morning. Very early. Our house is a zoo. The chickens and ducks wake up first, sounding their morning alarms. The aviary birds and parrots wake up next, screaming and talking to one another. The doves and pigeons coo. The cockatoo, macaw, amazon, sunconures, cockatiels, finches, and baby whatevers yell happily.

Having lived with critters, particularly birds, for years, all of this cacophony does not awaken my husband and daughter. However, I hear, and thoroughly enjoy, all of it.

On this particular morning I heard a new sound. "Buck... buck... buck..." said an unknown bird. I immediately arose and went into my daughter's room, thinking that she had brought her favorite bantam into the house again. Kaitlin was sleeping soundly, and there was no trace of a chicken in her bedroom. Again, I heard, "Buck... buck... buck... buck... BUCK!!" I checked the nursery room. I checked the birds on the back porch. I walked around the house. No loose chicken was to be found.

Thinking that I was imagining things, I began my morning chores, and forgot about the incident. Several days passed without my hearing the "mystery chicken." One evening I was feeding the dogs and... There it was again! "Buck... Buck... Buck... Buck," and again, and again. Kaitlin and I ran out to the back porch, searching for a loose hen. Nothing was found, so we went back into the house. "Buck... Buck... Buck... Buck." I ran into the nursery room and heard "Ha... Ha... Ha... Ha!!" from my blue and gold macaw, Rex. Yes, he was indeed laughing at me. He then proceeded to his perch and calmly stated, "Buck... Buck... Buck... Buck!" The mystery was solved... or was it?

Who had turned my macaw into a chicken? Certainly not I. Kaitlin also denied doing so. My husband doesn't even like chickens, so that left him out. However, there was one other possibility. We had recently been out of town, and our usual bird sitter, Wakeeta Schwartz, and her daughter, Keevey (also known as The bird spoiler) had taken care of our winged critters. Keeta was already guilty of teaching the Macarena to my umbrella cockatoo when we last went out of town.

I called Keeta and asked if she had anything to tell me about Rex, and why he might possibly think he was a chicken. She began to laugh, and finally confessed. While we were gone, she had been working with Rex, but had no idea of how quickly macaws can add to their vocabularies. We both laughed over the incident.

I wonder if I can enter my chick-caw into the South Florida Fair this year. Let's see ... he's a standard cock ... or is he an exotic ... well, at least

Chicken Trivia

Q. A **Merrythought** is a British term for what part of a chicken?

A. The Wishbone.

Classified

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WANTED:

Newsletter articles for the PBCPFA newsletter. The deadline is the fourth Friday of the previous month. Submit articles to the editor by mail, Email, or in person at the meeting.

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Announcements

by Lee Salmon

I took care of all our pertinent phone calls this week. First, but not least, I talked to Brenda of Brenda's Bloomers, and she has agreed to furnish the plants for the fair again. Congratulations are in order to daughter Mary who will be having a baby about that time. A call to Mr. Russ Warder has confirmed that the Colonel will graciously supply our boxes for the baby chick and duck sale. Big Thanks to the Colonel and Mr. Warder. More Good News: Bill, from Higg's feed has reaffirmed his offer to donate \$100.00.

The Chicken Song

Chicken, chicken come on out of that tree.
Chicken, chicken, you can't roost too high for me.
C is the way to begin
H to make a better hen
I am the third
C for to season the bird
K just to fill'em in
E I'm near the N
C, H, I, C, K, E, N

That's the way to spell chicken.

Solving Manure Problem

By Todd Spangler, AP

Poultry growers and processors across the country are trying to develop a uniform plan to handle agricultural runoff in hopes of avoiding new federal rules they fear could be costly, or state-by-state rules that could create a competitive imbalance.

The Clinton administration has targeted agriculture runoff as one of the biggest threats to water quality. The federal Environmental Protection Agency and Agriculture Department are expected to release a draft report in the next few weeks outlining a broad strategy for reducing nutrient runoff from livestock and poultry operations. A final plan is due in November.

Meanwhile, some states, such as Maryland, have been addressing problems associated with nutrient runoff from chicken manure with their own regulations.

Since early this year, poultry groups - including the National Broiler Council, the National Turkey Federation and the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association - have been discussing how to change their operations to better protect water and soil quality.

"The purpose is to come up with a set of guidelines that could be adopted on a voluntary basis," said Richard Lobb, a spokesman for the National Broiler Council. "We know this is an issue. The industry wants to be part of the solution."

But the process has exposed regional differences. Two weeks ago in Birmingham, Ala., participants were unable to reach a consensus.

They are still grappling with questions about funding - who will pay for research into new technologies and educational programs, as well as new nutrient management plans geared more for controlling phosphorous runoff, as opposed to current plans that focus on nitrogen.

And there are questions about alternative uses for chicken manure, such as burning it for energy instead of simply spreading it on farms as fertilizer.

"Everybody had been looking at this as a local issue," said Steve Corazza, who raises about 112,000 roasters for Perdue, a major processor, at his Townsend, Del., farm. "It is building consensus in an industry that has been extremely independent."

On the Delmarva peninsula, encompassing Delaware and far eastern Maryland and Virginia, farmers and processors have been particularly sensitive to issues relating to nutrient runoff over the last year. Regional outbreaks of *Pfiesteria piscicida*, a toxic microorganism that kills fish, have been linked by some scientists to farm nutrients.

"We want to come up with something that tells EPA we're doing something," said Bill Satterfield, executive director of Delmarva Poultry Industry Inc., a trade organization.

Corazza, who has gone to several poultry industry meetings as an observer for the Delaware Farm Bureau, said EPA officials have made it clear they are not interested in harsh regulations or a mandatory program. Instead, the agency wants the industry to adopt a voluntary compliance system.

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Under that system, processors, who own the chickens and the feed, would include industry-set nutrient rules in their contracts with growers. Federal regulators could stay out of it.

But Corazza said the EPA wants to make sure the whole industry is taking part and that there are ways to punish growers who do not comply with the contract rules.

August Poultry Meeting

by Lee Salmon

The Aug. meeting of the P.B.C.P.F.A. was called to order on Friday the 28th. at 8:15 in the Mts. Garden Pavilion. We had a lot to cover in this meeting. We were happy to host two visitors, David Gatchell and son Jordan. The Secretary and Treasurers reports were accepted and we moved on to old business.

The #1 good news of the day is that the racing pigs will move to a new location to be replaced by some quiet, outdoor exhibits!!!!!! First in old business was the raffle. We voted to ax the raffle as Dennis reported it was illegal. The 4-H Bar-B-Q will go on as planned. I have been invited by Kim Coldicott to the Oct. 13 leaders meeting. The purpose of which is to explain the the Bar-B-Q and see how much interest there is among the clubs. We announced that persons doing the refreshments at meetings will now receive \$25.00 instead of the usual \$20.00.

Especially important was the report by Richard Greggs on the floor pens and cage bottoms. He assures us that things are moving along. He and Mike Robinson met with the carpenters and Sandy at the fair.

The August trivia contest was answered correctly by Rose Greggs. The answers were #4 and feet. We then moved on to new business. As you all know our 7th. annual In-Club poultry show is coming up in Oct. Last year we were a little short on birds. We need for everyone to really get behind this contest. We want our judge, Dale Porcher to have plenty of birds to look over. In order to help with this, we voted to raise the number of birds from the usual 6, to 8, that each family can bring.

We also need to order some new feed cups. Maryann and Richard will bring in some Jeffers and Pigeon Supply catalogs. Maryann showed us her new exhibitors board. It is very impressive and she has done a good job. She will be working on the winners board next.

We will vote on this at the next meeting. We can accept nominations at this meeting also. Lets all get the handbook going and sell some ads. See you in Sept. Have a good month. The current nominations for club officers are as follows:

President:	Lee Salmon
Vice President:	Mike Robinson
Secretary:	Arvis Okerson
Treasurer:	Rose Greggs