



Canadian Heritage Breeds Newsletter

June 2019

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hello CHB Members, and welcome to your latest issue of our Newsletter!

As you will read in this issue, we have been working hard to put together several upcoming events. We hope that our members will get involved – by attending, volunteering, or showing animals. Our events are a great way to show off our amazing animals and the hard work we have put in, but more importantly, they are a great learning experience! Not only that, but it is always so enjoyable to meet and network with like-minded people. Many friendships have been made this way!

On the topic of heritage breed education, we have included in this issue some information that we hope you will find useful and interesting to read (and we always like to incorporate a little humour, too!)

Have a wonderful summer and we hope to see many of you at the shows in the coming months. As always, please get in touch if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas for your CHB Board!
canadianheritagebreeds@gmail.com



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and



Instagram: [@canadianheritagebreeds_](https://www.instagram.com/canadianheritagebreeds_)



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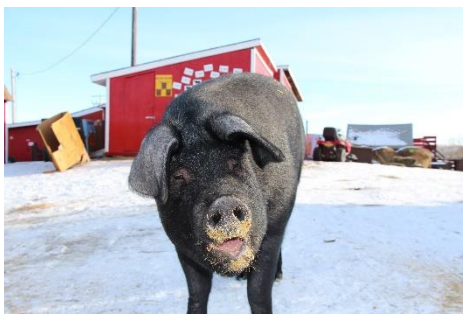
About CHB

What We Do

Our mandate is "Conservation through Education". Shows: Every year CHB organizes at least two poultry shows and has more recently begun to host dairy goat shows. Poultry and livestock shows are an excellent public forum to showcase and promote the dazzling and diverse assortment of chickens, turkeys, geese and ducks, as well as several breeds of goats. These exhibits also provide opportunities for people interested in breeding to connect one-on-one with top breeders.

Information: We compile and distribute quarterly newsletters to inform and inspire members. We conduct interviews with successful breeders to facilitate the sharing of their valuable knowledge and the insights they have gained through experience. CHB offers social media resources and networking opportunities to anyone interested in learning more and connecting with others in the world of heritage livestock.

Support: CHB strives to encourage and support heritage breed advocates through educational seminars and hands-on workshops. Our members provide youth and family mentoring, and we partner with other organizations such as agricultural societies and 4-H to lend our support to their members and programs.



Promotion: We present displays of animals and printed materials at public venues to demonstrate the diversity of heritage breeds to both urban and rural people.



Why Is This Important?

- * Heritage livestock and poultry are the perfect alternative for non-commercial farmers and families interested in self-sustainable alternatives
- * These animals allow producers to capitalize on unique and niche markets
- * Protecting genetic resources and survival traits is a crucial strategy for ensuring future food supplies
- * Heritage breeds are a living link to our agricultural history and culture
- * Traditional livestock breeds are rapidly disappearing from the rural North American landscape, but keeping a current census of numbers is difficult. Some are on the verge of extinction, and are in desperate need of saving.

You can advertise in the CHB Newsletters!

Ad pricing:

Full Page \$40.00 (8.5 x 11)

1/4 page or business card \$20.00

Contact us to submit your ad, or for more info:

canadianheritagebreeds@gmail.com**Become a Member**

- Quarterly Newsletters and access to the Members Only area of the website
- Discounts or free access to select CHB Events
- Advertising opportunities
- The satisfaction of contributing to a great organization with lots of opportunities to become involved!

[Register online today!](#) Canadian Heritage Breeds is a Registered Non-Profit Society.

Upcoming Events 2019

Keep in mind these upcoming important dates:

July 20th : K-Days Summer Poultry Show – Edmonton, AB

July 20th : 21st K-Days Dairy Goat Show - Canadian Goat Society West National – Edmonton, AB

July 27th : CHB/Vermilion Fair Poultry Show – Vermilion, AB

September 28th : CHB Poultry and Livestock display at Lacombe Culture & Harvest Festival – Lacombe, AB

November 2nd - 3rd : CHB Fall Show – Designated the APA Canadian National – Olds, AB

If you have other dates to add to our Newsletter Upcoming Events List, please get in touch with us!

Email: canadianheritagebreeds@gmail.com



Entries Are Now Open For The Vermilion Fair's Poultry Show!

For the past several years Vermilion Fair has included an APA sanctioned poultry show with their annual summer fair. CHB is happy to once again be a participating partner to lend a hand where needed and help make sure the show is a great success. This year we are pleased to welcome Tony Albrightton from Idaho to judge.



SHOW INFORMATION:

Entry Closing Date: Monday, July 15th, 2019

Entry Fees: \$3 per entry (open, youth, egg) / \$10 per entry (Pen of 3)

Coop-in Time: Saturday, July 27th from 7 am to 9:30 am - No Friday night coop-in

Move-out: Saturday, July 27th from 6 pm to 7:30 pm OR Sunday, July 28th 7:30 – 9:30 am

This show is always lots of fun for exhibitors, visitors and family members of all ages. If you are able to help with set-up or spend some extra time Sunday morning to take down cages, volunteers are always very much appreciated.

Show Book: <http://vermilionag.ca/index.php/poultry-show/>

Online Entries: <https://vermilion.fairwire.com/default.aspx>



CANADIAN NATIONAL POULTRY SHOW

OLDS, ALBERTA

NOVEMBER 2-3

JUDGES:

BART PALS & MERLE WATSON

CANADIANHERITAGEBREEDS.CA

CHILDREN'S
ACTIVITIES

MAKERS
MARKET

PETTING
ZOO



CHB
CANADIAN HERITAGE BREEDS

OPEN &
JUNIOR
SHOW

BREED
CLUB
MEETS

Junior Showmanship

The Junior Showmanship competition has quickly become a highlight of CHB shows, for both participants and spectators alike! It puts the kids in the spotlight, as they demonstrate their poultry knowledge and handling ability. This competition is open to anyone from 5 to 17 years of age. There are no entry fees or costs involved.

General Information:

Showmanship competitors are not required to have birds entered into the regular Junior show classes. Birds used for Showmanship do not need to adhere as closely to breed standards, which is the goal in general poultry show classes. Contestants are not judged on the conformation of the bird itself, but on



his/her breed knowledge and ability to show their bird to its best advantage. The bird should be in “show condition” meaning clean, healthy, well-feathered and free from external parasites.

Scoring:

Scores will be tallied using a standard score card. Ribbons will be awarded to competitors with the highest total score achieved in the following categories:

Handling

Contestants will be judged according to their ability to hold and handle their bird with skill and confidence. This will be demonstrated to the judge by correctly removing the bird from the cage, examining the anatomy of the bird (ie: beak, toes, wings, keel) and returning the bird to the cage.

Knowledge

CHB will follow the guidelines set out by Youth Exhibition Poultry Association (YEPA). Please refer to this sheet for sample questions:

[http://www.youthexhibitionpoultry.org/Edu_Material/Junior%20Showmanship%20\(ages%208-10\).pdf](http://www.youthexhibitionpoultry.org/Edu_Material/Junior%20Showmanship%20(ages%208-10).pdf)

Walking

Some competitions will include an opportunity for contestants to walk their bird the length of a table. This demonstrates their ability to control and maneuver the bird with a minimum of coaxing. A contestant may decline to participate in this test and will forfeit those points for doing so.

Contestants are asked to dress neatly, be attentive, courteous and remain professional throughout the competition.

Junior showmanship is a fun way for kids to be actively involved in poultry shows. If you have questions please feel free to contact any CHB board member. To register your child for Showmanship either contact the show secretary in advance, or stop by the show office on the morning of the show to find out when and where to meet.

Summertime is Fair Season!

June is here, with an abundance of fast-growing seedlings and barnyard babies. There's never an end to the chores and work to be done, so make sure to schedule some time out for fun this summer. Nothing compares to a day at the fair. There's something for everyone with non-stop fun, attractions and entertainment, which provides the perfect setting for a poultry or goat show!

Following the success of last year's poultry and goat shows at Edmonton K-Days, CHB is thrilled to be partnering again with Edmonton Northlands to be a part of their "Explore Agriculture" initiative. Whether you plan to take part as an exhibitor or spectator, this is an excellent opportunity to meet breeders and experience the excitement of quality birds and animals competing for prizes.

The following weekend, on July 27th Vermilion is holding their 113th Annual Fair. It's definitely worth taking a day, or the weekend, to experience the historical charm of this traditional agricultural fair. If you've been thinking about joining the fun and excitement of exhibiting your birds, these fair shows offer a casual, relaxed introduction to showing poultry with an emphasis on education and fellowship. The CHB organizational team will be milling about, so be sure to say hi and introduce yourself!



170 years of North American Poultry Shows



Silver Dorking, L. Munro. Photo Credit: Steven Vincent

November 15 is a red-letter day in the history of poultry breeding; it was on that day in 1849 that the first poultry show in America was wrapped up under a canvas tent in the Boston Public Garden.

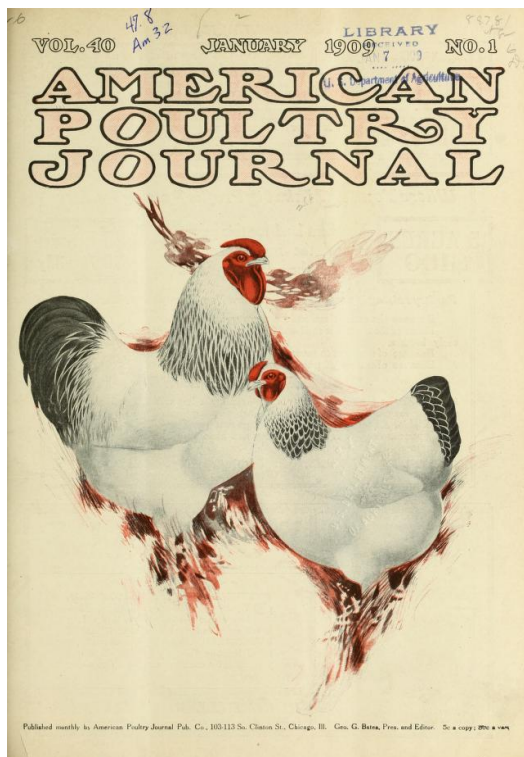
The show was the brainchild of Dr. John C. Bennett of Plymouth, Mass., a man with an urge to show off his beautiful birds. He wrote to Mr. James Pedder, editor of the *Boston Cultivator*, that he would exhibit perfect examples of full-blooded domestic fowls in Quincy Market. Many persons, he wrote, "have been imposed upon and deceived into the purchase of spurious fowls, supposing them to be pure bloods."

Bennett claimed his fowls were some of the handsomest and best in the world, and respectfully invited fowl breeders to bring their specimens and compare them side by side with his breeds, some of which included Shanghaes, Yankee Games, Cochin Chinas, Fawn-Colored Dorkings,

Great Malays, Great Javas Plymouth Rocks, and Yankee Games.

"P.S.," he wrote, "If you approve the plan as an important and beneficial one, please make the 15th a great day of gathering of fowl fanciers and fowl breeders, by your influence in the *Cultivator*. I shall bring my best, and if others can bring better, it will only be for the public good, and I shall be happy to acknowledge it, and as ready to do so as any other man. I shall abide the judgment of the committee, and I want you and others interested, either to act on the committee or appoint some others to do so, or both, at your option."

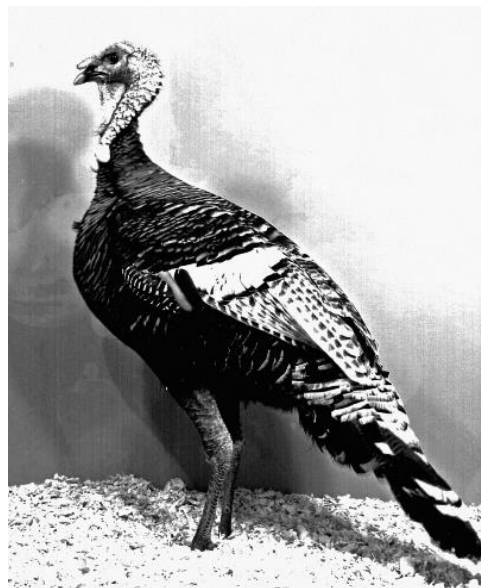
The Boston Cultivator's James Pedder understood even better the state of interest in poultry in 1849. He suggested the fowl exhibition be held in a larger venue than Quincy Market, "one where comfort and shelter might be secured for the numerous visitors which will be sure to be present." He proposed the Boston Public Garden.



Now the Garden at the time was not the elegant park it is today. It was "just a plot of partially filled in 'back bay' land, part of which was under water at high tide," wrote John H. Robinson in his 1913 book, *The First Poultry Show in America*.

The condition of the Garden did not deter the 10,000 visitors who paid four-pence (women and children admitted free) to enter the large canvas tent that sheltered the poultry show. The show drew an impressive list of 219 exhibitors, including Daniel Webster of Marshfield, then a U.S. senator from Massachusetts. The Great Orator

supplied seven domesticated wild geese and a pair of Java barnyard fowls. Robinson reported an equally impressive number of 'different feathered races': 1,423 Exhibitors came from all over Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island.



Turkey, M & K Skeels, Photo: S. Vincent

That poultry show made a profit of \$165.75. Its success suggested to its sponsors a repeat was in order the next year. Little did they know the forces they had put in motion.

Seventy-one years later, the American Poultry Journal paid homage to that first show in an article titled *The Great Boston Show*. F.L. Platt called Boston "that shrine of nativity."

Article sources:

<http://www.newenglandhistoricalsociety.com/poultry-pride-came-boston-garden/>

<http://apahistory.com/home/the-first-poultry-show/the-first-poultry-show/>

Embden Geese

By: Crystal McKinnon and <https://www.roysfarm.com/embden-geese/>



The Embden goose is one of the oldest domestic goose breeds, with records of it dating back about 200 years. The origin of this breed is not clear. Some believe that the breed was created by crossing the German White with the English White. And then, by a process of careful selections, the goose as it is today was created. Others suggest that great size and weight of the English Embden goose was produced by selective breeding with the Toulouse goose breed. According to other history, the breed is thought to be from the North Sea region, in the Netherlands and Germany. But most probably, the Embden goose was originated from the town of Embden in Lower Saxony, Germany.

Today the Embden geese are the most common breed of goose used for commercial meat production, because their large size, white feathers and fast growth rate.

Photo is my breeding group in 2019

Embden Goose Characteristics

Embden geese are classed as a heavy breed by the American Poultry Association. It is one of the tallest goose breeds with a massive and long body. They have long swan necks with the double lobes not touching the ground. Their plumage colour is completely white. They have a short, light orange bill. Their feet and shanks are also orange in colour. Their head is oval-shaped and their legs are fairly short. The Embden geese have a long and graceful neck. Their body is bulky and well rounded. Their tail is short and they have a long back. Their eyes are an ocean blue. The wings of Embden geese are of a good length and are very strong. The feathers in their wings are close and very hard. On average, Embden ganders weigh about 14 kg and geese about 9 kg.



Photo is my 2 Embden Goslings and an American Buff in May 2019.

Breed Facts

Embden geese are very hardy breed. They are fast growers and mature early. Usually, an Embden goose matures within about 2-3 years and will start to look for a mate for life. They are not good layers, laying only 20-30 eggs per year. Their eggs are very large in size, weighing about 170 grams. Their eggs are white in colour.

Embden geese are broody and they start incubating the eggs around the beginning of spring. The incubation period for Embden goose eggs is about 28-34 days. They are excellent mothers and are very protective against predators. Embden geese are good foragers. And their habits are to forage for tidbits in the grass and water. They are herbivores and prefer to live near some water. They are cold hardy and can do well in fairly mild sub-zero temperatures.

The Embden ganders are more vocal than the females. And the ganders can often be heard honking loudly if approached. But the females are generally talk quietly throughout the day. As they have strong wings, so they can fly but don't migrate. Embden ganders can be aggressive sometimes, but they are good for sounding the alarm at danger.

For me, I love this breed. I remember seeing my first True Embden at the Ontario Poultry Breeders Show in 2017. That Gander won my heart. I watched and studied him and dreamed of someday of owning this goose breed I would be proud of. Maybe this will be the one?





| | GARDENING | CHICKEN-KEEPING |
|--------------|--|---|
| Mid-Winter | I'm so excited for spring planting! But I'm definitely cutting back from what I grew last year. | I'm so excited for spring hatching! But I'm definitely cutting back from what I raised last year. |
| Early Spring | It's a bit early to start my tomato seedlings but it'll be good to get an early start | It's a bit early to be setting eggs, but it'll be good to get an early start |
| Mid-Spring | I probably don't need to plant all these zucchini seeds, but might as well use up the package | I probably don't need to put more eggs in the incubator, but the hens are laying well and it seems a shame not to |
| Late Spring | The corn didn't germinate. Guess I'll have to re-plant. | My Brahma eggs weren't fertile. Guess I'll set some more. |
| Early Summer | Wow, I forgot how much work it is keeping up with watering and weeding. Good thing I enjoy this hobby. | Wow, I forgot how much work it is keeping up with watering and feeding. Good thing I enjoy this hobby. |
| Mid-Summer | The zucchini plants are taking over my garden! What was I thinking! | The pens are overflowing! What was I thinking! |
| Early Fall | Ah, the garden looks beautiful. And there's nothing better than home-grown, heirloom tomatoes! | My chickens look beautiful! All these fresh eggs are wonderful and the extra cockerels will be delicious. |
| Late Fall | Frost warning tonight and my corn did not have time to mature. Maybe next year will be better. | The show is next weekend and my Brahma's didn't have time to mature. Maybe next year will be better. |
| Winter | Can't wait for spring, but next year I'm definitely cutting back! | Can't wait for spring, but next year I'm definitely cutting back! |

Crystal's Chronicles

By: Crystal McKinnon

Daisy and May Adventures:

I left off with top hot wire around 5 acres which did wonders. It kept them from home UNTIL they discovered they can go under..... OH Puppies!!!! So here we are rocks, logs, boards, wire...being shoved in any area that may have a small bit of exposure above the ground. Seal the deal...more hot wire. Life is good!

Adventure#2: Get the dogs in the car and go to the vet for vaccinations and check-ups. This was a 2 man effort and mud everywhere! Sure, we have lead the dogs around the perimeter of the fields. Sure they walk with us BUT open the gate and walk through.....time to run, jump, twist just like a bronco. And of course, "I do not like tight collars"... out comes the head and watch them go. 20 minutes later they are in the car.

Next time Vet comes to the farm.



But, the great thing is lambing went without a hitch. They were able to watch from the outside of the pen as each new lamb came into the world. They were able to watch for 2 weeks and when everyone was done. They were able to join the flock. Aside some very protective mothers, they have been great. I have also had a few chickens get onto the wrong side of the fence and was able to bring them back in aside from being wet from being licked so much. AND they are trying their best to chase the skunks away... spray smell and all.

Breeding Tips from Fred Jeffrey

by Fred Jeffrey

Much nonsense has been written on the subject of breeding. There are no trade secrets worth worrying about. A knowledge of genetics is not required, but it helps and makes things more interesting by allowing one to differentiate between the outright charlatan, the ignorant but well meaning, and the real breeder.

It is usually true that those with the greatest knowledge of genetics make the least extravagant claims when advertising their product — they know, or should know, that breeding bantams is more than a science, it is also an art.

There are some general principles which are applicable to breeding for any trait, whether it be simple or complex:

PRINCIPLE NO. 1: Mate best with best. If a trait is heritable, it makes sense to select your best birds and mate them together. It is not reasonable, however, to expect all the offspring to be as good or better than the parents, because if this were the case we long ago would have bred the perfect bird. It must be recognized that if the breeder is

practicing double mating, that best x best may not mean the best show bird x the best show bird.

PRINCIPLE NO. 2: When introducing new blood, don't be content always to measure the relative success or failure of the mating by the quality of the first generation. If your reason for bringing in new blood in the first place was a good one, you should be willing to go to a second generation before giving up on it.

PRINCIPLE NO. 3: Try to correct faults by mating extremes, even though some of the extreme types may have no value as show birds.

PRINCIPLE NO. 4: Avoid mating together birds with common faults, because, if you do, you will intensify the fault.

PRINCIPLE NO. 5: Use the progeny test. This is the most important of all the principles of breeding. If you find that a pair of breeders, or a sire mated to several dams, produces superior offspring, then it is worth your while to repeat the mating year after year. What you are doing is measuring the worth of the breeder, not by his pedigree, but by the quality of his offspring.

PRINCIPLE NO. 6: Progeny testing should be followed up by maximum utilization of superior individuals. This system sometimes is called linebreeding. When a truly superior bird is found, he or she should be utilized — not only in repeat matings, but also with other good birds, related or not, and for the full length of his or her reproductive life.

PRINCIPLE NO. 7: A superior bird from a superior family is a better bet for the breeding pen than a superior bird from an average family. A family is defined as all the offspring from a pair of breeders. A sire family would consist of all the offspring from one male mated to two or more females.

PRINCIPLE NO. 8: Inbreed all you like, realizing that strains vary enormously in how they hold up under it. Breeders who inbreed closely may expect, sooner or later, to feel the need of new blood. As a general rule, if five or six males are bred from each year and offspring saved from all matings, a strain may be carried on indefinitely without introducing new blood.

—from Fred Jeffrey's book,
Bantam Chickens