



Canadian Heritage Breeds

Summer 2017

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hello everyone! The CHB Board hopes that all of our members have had a wonderful summer! We certainly did, thanks in large part to several highly successful and well attended Heritage Breeds-related events, which we are pleased to recap in this issue:

CHB at Westerner Days Recap – pg. 9
2017 Vermilion Fair APA Show Results – pg. 10-11

We are also including information for our members about exciting upcoming events and programs you won't want to miss!

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Marans Regional Meet 2017 – pg. 8

As always, we have some outstanding features and breed profiles written by our very own CHB Board members. These are all fantastic, you won't want to miss reading each of these!

The Future of Canadian Farms by Michelle Sulz – pg. 6 – 7
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And finally, something fun... you'll love to "gobble up" this fall!

Oreo Turkeys – pg. 16

Happy Reading, everyone, we hope you have a wonderful autumn!



President - Kyle Lawrence
heritagefarmerkyle@gmail.com
403.347.0633

Vice President - Crystal McKinnon
lallama@telusplanet.net
403.318.3344

Secretary - Kathy Stevenson
hawthorn@xplornet.com
403.788.2546

Treasurer - Davina Daly
davinad57@gmail.com
403.598.9481

Director - Steven Vincent
steven.vincent@hotmail.com

Director - Michelle Sulz
michellesulz@gmail.com

Director - Yvette Franklin
ylku31@gmail.com

Director - Callum McLeod
mcbudner@hotmail.com

What is CHB?

We are about the preservation of genetic diversity, heritage breeds, networking, social gatherings, education, breed conservation, and fun. CHB offers a number of events and resources including poultry shows, seminars, breed displays, social gatherings & smaller events throughout the year.

Our membership includes every level of enthusiast from the first time urban coop owner to farmers with decades of experience raising heritage breed animals. CHB also encourages youth involvement with a developing Juniors program. Although CHB is based in Central Alberta we aim to create a resource for not just Alberta, but



for all of Western Canada and beyond!

CHB publishes an online quarterly newsletter announcing upcoming events, articles by and about our members, breed introductions and information, and more.

MOVING? WE WANT TO STAY IN TOUCH!

If you have moved or changed your address, please let us know!

Email:
canadianheritagebreeds@gmail.com

Become Involved

CHB is always looking for members who want to become more involved! As we continue to grow, there are always opportunities open for YOU to become more involved with seminars, breed displays, sales, shows, get-togethers, newsletters, etc. If you are interested in volunteering for a specific event, are available for general assistance, have ideas for



advertising, or interesting things we should have at the show, we would love to hear from you! We always need volunteers to help at upcoming shows and events. Help with the fall show set up and tear down are the two biggest areas where we can use even just a couple of hours of help.

Become a Member

For only \$10.00 per year, you will receive or have access to:

- In-club Awards
- Discounts on CHB Club Events
- Early Registration for Seminars
- Advertising Opportunities
- Quarterly Newsletter

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

Canadian Heritage Breeds Photo Contest

Back just because it was SO MUCH FUN, Canadian Heritage Breeds is holding its second annual Photo Contest! Photo entries should, of course, showcase heritage breeds of livestock and poultry.

Deadline for Photo Contest Entries: September 30, 2017

Email Photos to: canadianheritagebreeds@gmail.com

Winning photographs will be used to create a 2018 Canadian Heritage Breeds Calendar which will be available for purchase beginning at the 2017 Fall Show in November. Photo Contest winners will be the proud recipient of a free copy of the Calendar.



- ❖ Photos must be high-resolution and not appear pixelated when printed to wall calendar size
- ❖ Horizontal profile photos are preferred
- ❖ Consider all the seasons of the year when choosing your submissions!
- ❖ Include the person and/or farm name photo credits should be given to for your submissions
- ❖ Include a photo caption indicating the breed(s) and variety of livestock or poultry featured If there's a story behind the photo we'd love to hear it too!
- ❖ Limit of three (3) photo entries per CHB member

By submitting photos to the Photo Contest you are granting permission for Canadian Heritage Breeds Association to modify, use, and redistribute the photos submitted for promotional and advertising purposes including, but not limited to, the 2018 CHB Calendar. Remember you must have permission to submit photos of any people, especially children, captured along with the critters!



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Thank you to Peavey Mart for your ongoing support of Canadian Heritage Breeds!

CHB Youth Mentorship Program Update

On Sunday, June 4th, a keen group of young poultry enthusiasts gathered at Sunny Brook Farm in Red Deer. The day started with an introduction to the *American Standard of Perfection*, which is the official guidelines by which poultry breeds are judged at shows. The group then discussed a variety of topics from chicken anatomy to dealing with lice and mites.



The group took a break to enjoy a pizza lunch, and then the young flock-owners practiced chicken handling skills and showmanship basics. A quiet and cooperative bantam hen allowed herself to be walked along the table top numerous times so everyone could have a turn. She was becoming quite a showmanship pro by the end of the day!

Many of the Youth participants attended the CHB/Red Deer Westerner Days Show, and a few of them even entered their own birds into the Junior Classes. Although some of the birds were on the young side for showing, it was a great experience and a valuable opportunity to get the opinion of a highly regarded APA Judge. Rico Sebastianelli has been a long-time advocate of youth poultry programs. He was happy to take all the time needed to answer questions and share his expertise with the young exhibitors. After judging was complete, CHB president Kyle Lawrence provided a demonstration of how to bath a chicken.

Vermilion Fair was the following weekend, with a CHB poultry show taking place on Saturday, July 29th. Again, some of the CHB Youth entered their chickens for judging. The Vermilion Show Judge, Jim Adkins demonstrated his complete support to both the young exhibitors, and to this program in general. The entire process of judging this show was transformed into a poultry workshop of sorts, where he tirelessly explained the good and not-so-good aspects of each birds to the junior exhibitors, their parents, and anyone else who expressed an interest.

Each of the youths are now working hard with their project chickens to have them ready for CHB's biggest event, the Annual Fall Show, coming up the first weekend of November. The kids and birds will be ready for competition in the Junior Show classes, and many are also excited to take part in the Showmanship Class.

It has been rewarding and inspiring to see the genuine interest and enthusiasm of our young CHB youth participants, and to watch their confidence grow. It's also reassuring to know that this worthwhile endeavour of raising and exhibiting poultry is being passed along to the next generation of fanciers! We hope many of you will make a special point of watching these classes during the Fall Show. Come and cheer on our hard-working youth as they show off their chickens and demonstrate their knowledge and handling ability!



2017 Canadian Heritage Breeds Fall Show

Things are coming together for our 7th Annual Fall Show, **November 4-5th** in **Lacombe, Alberta**. We are very excited to be at the **Central Alberta Ag Society** once again and are currently working on drawing up our floor plans to best utilise this gem of a facility and really make it shine!

This year we are very excited to be introducing a few new aspects to the show, such as our **Junior Showmanship** classes which will take place on the Sunday. The juniors that are part of the CHB youth mentorship program have been working all summer to train their birds for this event! It is open to all junior exhibitors and more information will be available soon in the Show Book.

We also look forward to introducing a **“Breeder’s Display” competition**. A display consists of at least one entry in each category (hen, pullet, cock, cockerel, and trio) within a breed and variety. The birds are awarded points based upon their placings and the exhibitor with the greatest number of points in a single variety wins! This is a real challenge, but it’s a great way of showcasing your birds and your breeding program!

The **Show Book** is being finalised and will be released shortly. It contains all your information on entries, rules, accommodations, and awards.

We are hoping for a great show this year and would love to see you and your animals at this year’s event!



The Future of Canadian Farms

By Michelle Sulz

Historically, family farms were the mainstay of agriculture and of rural communities. Farms in the past were managed by family members and all income for the family was earned through the farm. Farms were smaller and more diverse with families raising most of their own crops and animals required to feed the family. It was impossible to separate the family from the farm as it was not just a business but also a way of life. There is also no questioning that traditional farming involved a lot of hard work!

Today, the average farm size is much bigger and most are run by corporations although many are still family owned. Statistics Canada¹ shows that the biggest areas of growth are farms that generate over a million dollars in annual sales. The size and complexity, and therefore cost, of farm equipment and technology also continues to increase. Today's industrial farms rely upon only a few specialized types of livestock and crops that are well suited to modern practices. With the changes, thousands of heritage livestock breeds and heirloom crop varieties have already disappeared and many more are at risk of being lost as they do not fit the modern farm model.

Without judging whether the changes to farming are good or bad, there is no debating that farming has changed. What might this mean for the rural communities, heirloom crops, and heritage breeds of livestock that relied upon the traditional concept of the family farm for their existence?

A farm can be defined as an area of land where livestock (animals) are raised and crops (plants) are grown for use as food, fiber, and fuel. The people who work on the farm are called farmers. By that definition lots of us are farmers! Some of our farms are small, only a garden plot or a few chickens in the back yard. Some of our farms are much larger, perhaps even a million-dollar plus family owned corporation. And some of us even by the broad definition perhaps still can't consider ourselves farmers, just farmers at heart!

In any case we have choices that will make a difference. As an example, we can choose to:

- Buy local. By purchasing locally grown fruit, vegetables, meat, poultry, etc. you are supporting a farm and farmer more directly. Farmer's Markets, local grocery stores, or even directly from a



Locally grown tomatoes for sale at a rural grocery

neighbouring farm are all options. Or if you choose to eat out, look for a restaurant that supports local farmers!

- Research. Take the time to learn more about the farms in your area. What do they grow? What livestock do they raise? Are their farm practices sustainable and in-line with your values?
- Grow a Garden. Convert a part of your backyard or back deck to growing fruit and vegetables. Include the whole family in the planting, weeding, and picking. It's important everyone understand where their food comes from and how much work it takes!



Judge Jim Adkins with two young farmers at the 2017 Vermilion Fair Poultry Show

- Raise one or a few heritage breeds of livestock or poultry. For those with a bit of land, choose one or several heritage breeds of livestock to educate yourself about. If you choose to breed, select to the

recognized standard and keep good breeding records. Where possible, register your animals.

- Attend livestock and poultry Shows. Exhibition of poultry or livestock is a great way to share them with the public, to learn more, and to connect with other like-minded people. Whether as an exhibiter or just a spectator shows are a fun family activity!

Our actions as farmers, or farmers at heart, will influence the future of farms and farming in Canada. In a lot of ways, we as individuals hold the future of rural communities,

heirloom crops, and heritage livestock in our hands. We are also responsible for the values, attitudes, and education of the next generation of Canadian farmers.

1. Statistics Canada Reference: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/95-640-x/2011001/p1/p1-01-eng.htm>

Gone Are The Days Of \$5 Roosters... Or They Should Be...

By Kyle Lawrence

Every year as we approach fall, groups are plagued with ads for free or cheap roosters. I would like to suggest a better way to deal with all the extra cockerels we end up with after a successful year of hatching.

I believe the best solution is to eat them! Butcher every cockerel you would not be willing to use or do not need for your own breeding program, or are not able to sell as a breeding quality male for a decent price that reflects the quality of the bird you are selling. We as breeders and small-scale flock owners need to place a higher value on the rooster and cockerels that we keep, sell, or purchase.

Think of the role your rooster and hens play in the passing of traits to next year's offspring. Let's use an example flock of one breeding rooster and ten hens. With this flock, 100 chicks are hatched and each hen produced 10 chicks. Each hen was then responsible for passing on her genetics to 10% of the offspring from that year. But the rooster had an impact on the genetics of 100% of this flock's offspring! Should we not therefore place a higher value on the males we use for breeding purposes? Cockerels kept for breeding should be the best representations of their breed. Select birds that conform to the breed standard in weight, type, vigour, and colour and cull the remaining cockerels to be butchered.

Selling cockerels for \$5 or giving them away for free devalues what cockerels are worth. This is detrimental to not only the seller but to the poultry community as a whole.

How can the price of day old chicks at \$10-15 a chick be justified if we grow out that \$10 chick and feed it for 6 months to become a cockerel only to sell it for HALF what it was worth the day it hatched? If feeding that chick for 24 weeks costs roughly \$1 per week then it would cost \$24 to feed that chick for 24 weeks. By selling a 6-month-old cockerel for \$5 in the fall we are actually losing \$29 per cockerel (\$24 feed + \$10 chick = \$34 cost - \$5 final sale = -\$29 loss)!

There is more value in butchering these cockerels. Depending on what result you are looking for the cockerels can be butchered at different times. Butchering some males that aren't desired for breeding at a younger age can reduce feed costs and make more room for the males that are being grown out for later selections. Processing your own birds on your farm is an important and often overlooked aspect that is a vital part of raising heritage poultry. Butchering your own birds is a great way to see important carcass traits and even a way to track and improve the growth rates of your birds.

Past generations relied upon on-farm processing of excess cockerels or spent layers to feed their family. I believe it is important for us to continue that practice. If you are unsure about where to start with butchering your own fowl, there are some great instructional videos on the internet or ask some fellow poultry keepers for advice.

Make sure you have lots of space in your freezer this fall for all those cockerels that aren't going to be used for breeding. It will benefit us all!

Marans Regional Meet 2017

Have you ever wondered where those brilliant chocolate brown eggs, like the ones on the front page of this newsletter, come from?

Ma-rans (which is how the breed's name is pronounced) originated in France. They were named after the historic port town of Marans. It is said their evolution started as early as the 13th century. The breed started appearing in French poultry shows in 1914. The Marans club of France established the first standard in 1931.

The American Poultry Association recognized 2 varieties in 2011 and another in 2014. The 3 varieties recognized are Black Copper, Wheaten, and White. You will find them in the Continental class in the show room.



If this breed has captured your attention and you'd like to learn more, or perhaps take in their beauty, I'm pleased to announce that The Marans Chicken Club USA will be holding the first ever regional meet/show in Alberta at our fall show November 4 – 5th in Lacombe. To add to the exciting news, we will also have first time ever Marans egg show. I encourage people to enter their Marans and/or eggs to be shown. If you have any questions please contact me, Yvette Franklin, by phone 403-585-3992 or by email ylku31@gmail.com



CHB at Westerner Days 2017

CHB was proud to be a part of Westerner Days for the third year running with a Summer Poultry Show, and for the first time this year, as a sponsor of the Westerner Days Dairy Goat Show.

The Goat Show took place on the first day of the fair and saw exhibitors from all over Alberta showing four different dairy breeds with two more breeds of goat on display. Several CHB members were showing and it must be said that they did very well with their animals. Adam Scanlan of Strathmore won Best Doe in Show in both rings with Givernay "Haute Couture". CHB member Robyn Andersen won champion Recorded Grade with "Kidnapped Chippewa" and did very well in the Toggenburg classes as well. It is great to see CHB members bringing their beautiful animals out and supporting the show!



The Poultry Show took place on the Sunday, and had a specific focus on our junior exhibitors. We had just over 60 entries, and I was over the moon that more than half of the exhibitors were giving poultry showing a try for the first time! It is so great to see new people coming into the hobby with so much enthusiasm and a great desire to learn. Our judge Rico Sebastianelli did a fantastic job of explaining his placements while judging, and took extra time with our juniors which was greatly appreciated! An added bonus for the day was a show preparation and washing demonstration put on by our president Kyle Lawrence!

There were some lovely birds on display and all the exhibitors should be proud of the quality of the birds that they presented. Special congratulations to Jean Kinnear who is not only a new exhibitor but the owner of the Show Champion, a beautiful Silver Welsh Harlequin Duck! Our reserve show champion was a great little Bantam Rhode Island Red Hen owned by Kyle Lawrence.



2017 Vermilion Fair APA Poultry Show Results

Champion Game Bantam: Black Old English Game Cock owned by C-R Ducks
Reserve Game Bantam: Wheaten Old English Game Cockerel owned by Silver Ridge Aviaries

Champion Single Comb Clean Leg Bantam: Light Brown Dutch Cockerel owned by Silver Ridge Aviaries
Reserve SCCL Bantam: Light Brown Dutch Cock owned by Silver Ridge Aviaries

Champion Rose Comb Clean Leg Bantam: Partridge Wyandotte Cockerel owned by C-R Ducks
Reserve Rose Comb Clean Leg Bantam: Black Rosecomb Pullet owned by C-R Ducks

Champion Feather Leg Bantam: Black Cochon Cock owned by C-R Ducks
Reserve Feather Leg Bantam: Black D'Uccle Pullet owned by Michelle Sulz

Champion Bantam: Light Brown Dutch Cockerel owned by Silver Ridge Aviaries
Reserve Bantam: Partridge Wyandotte Cockerel owned by C-R Ducks

Champion American: White Chantecler Pullet owned by Kathy Stevenson
Reserve American: Rose Comb Rhode Island Red Hen owned by Kathy Stevenson

Champion English: Speckled Sussex Hen owned by Kyle Lawrence
Reserve English: Speckled Sussex Hen owned by Kyle Lawrence

Champion All Other Standard Breeds: Sumatra Hen owned by Silver Ridge Aviaries
Reserve AOSB: Sumatra Cock owned by Yvette Franklin

Champion Large Trio: Mottled Houdans owned by Dallas Eaket

Champion Large Chicken: White Chantecler Pullet owned by Kathy Stevenson
Reserve Large Chicken: Speckled Sussex Hen owned by Kyle Lawrence

Champion Turkey: Blue Slate Hen owned by Davey Matthews
Reserve Turkey: Blue Slate Hen owned by Davey Matthews

Champion Landfowl: White Chantecler Pullet owned by Kathy Stevenson
Reserve Landfowl: Light Brown Dutch Cockerel owned by Silver Ridge Aviaries

Champion Utility: White Chantecler Pullet owned by Kathy Stevenson
Reserve Utility: Rose Comb Rhode Island Red Hen owned by Kathy Stevenson

Champion Heavy Duck: Appleyard Hen owned by Brandy Ausetth
Reserve Heavy Duck: Pekin Drake owned by Brandy Ausetth

Champion Light Duck: Welsh Harlequin Hen owned by Jean Kinnear
Reserve Light Duck: Welsh Harlequin Hen owned by Jean Kinnear

Champion Bantam Duck: East Indie Hen owned by C-R Ducks
Reserve Bantam Duck: East Indie Drake owned by C-R Ducks

Champion Duck: Welsh Harlequin Hen owned by Jean Kinnear
Reserve Duck: East Indie Hen owned by C-R Ducks

Champion Waterfowl: Welsh Harlequin Hen owned by Jean Kinnear
Reserve Waterfowl: East Indie Hen owned by C-R Ducks

Champion Junior: White Muscovy Young Drake owned by Sam Franklin
Reserve Champion Junior: Barred Plymouth Rock Pullet owned by Laila Kinnear

Champion 4-H Class: Partridge Rock Pullet owned by Caitlin Jacula
Reserve 4-H Class: Bantam Orpington Pullet owned by Colt Jackson

Champion Egg: 3 Medium Coloured Eggs, exhibited by Charlotte Wasyluk
Reserve Egg: 3 Large Brown Eggs, exhibited by Colt Jackson

Champion Painted/Decorated Egg, Junior: Laila Kinnear
Reserve Painted/Decorated Egg, Junior: Caitlin Jacula

Show Champion: White Chantecler Pullet owned by Kathy Stevenson
Reserve Show Champion: Welsh Harlequin Hen owned by Jean Kinnear



Photo Cutlines:

Show Champion White Chantecler Pullet, with owner Kathy Stevenson and Judge Jim Adkins.

Reserve Champion Welsh Harlequin Duck Hen, with owner Jean Kinnear (and son Reece Kinnear) and Judge Jim Adkins.

Muscovy Ducks

by Steven Vincent

One of the most noticeable features on a Muscovy duck is the unique, warty-like caruncles covering their faces. The breed is often known as “turkey ducks” due to their caruncles, which resemble a turkey’s rough facial skin. As the duck gets older the caruncles become more visible around the head and neck.

There is a substantial size difference between the mature males and females in this breed. Mature drakes can tip the scales at 15 pounds, while the hens often weigh around 9 pounds.



I enjoy that Muscovies come in a variety of colours and patterns. White, Black, Blue and Chocolate are the varieties recognized by the APA. I have had many colours of Muscovies and am still playing around with other varieties like barred, fawn and pied. It is always exciting to see what each duckling will become as it matures.

Another unique trait of Muscovies is that they hiss instead of the usual quack sound heard from all other types of farm ducks. This is because they are the only domesticated ducks not derived from mallards. They are native to Central & South America where they actually roost in trees.

With my experience, I've found Muscovies act quite a bit different than other ducks in that they don't spend much time in water. Instead, they usually spend their time chasing bugs and grazing. Muscovy ducks are great additions to a farm as they help control flies.



When it comes to hatching and raising ducklings, the females of this breed tend to make very good mothers. The eggs take 35 days to incubate. The broody duck normally makes large clutches of eggs, and often the female will come off the nest with 6-12 ducklings or more. The largest hatch that I have experienced was recently, with a duck hatching out a total of 19 ducklings! So when it comes to hatching Muscovies I prefer to let nature take its course.

The meat of this breed also differs from the meat of other farmed ducks. The term Turkey Duck could help describe their meat, as it is a much leaner dark meat, more similar to turkey than other types of duck. Muscovy is a favourite meal in our household.



I have been raising this breed for 6 years now with plans to continue for many more years. Raising Muscovies brings me lots of enjoyment, whether it's finding a new brood of ducklings, or watching them splash in the puddles in the yard.

So if you are contemplating adding ducks to your farm, I hope my write-up has encouraged you to try raising Muscovy ducks!

Ossabaw Island Hogs: An Introduction

by Davina Daly

As our little farm grows so does our interest in breeds that will allow us to be sustainable. This past winter we added a couple of Ossabaw Island gilts to our fray followed soon after by a 12-week-old boar. As is our practice we tend to do some research, dive in and learn as we go. Following are the dry facts and some of the "learn as we go" information.

Breed Facts

Status:

Critical

Use:

Lean Meat

Adult Weight:

300 lbs (male)

200 lbs (female)

(varies among lines)

Hanging Weight:

105 lbs

Temperament:

Active



During the Spanish explorations of the 15th century, animals escaped or were left on islands to be used as food for future trips. The Ossabaw Island Hog, feral horses, and the Sicilian donkey are the result of these several hundred years of development through Mother Nature's "survival of the fittest" and little or no human intervention.

The historic information inferred that these pigs were of Iberian (Spanish) descent, however, with the advances in DNA testing, it has been shown that much of the stock originated from the Canary Islands. Because of the

isolation on the island, food availability could change drastically. In response to this, the Ossabaw Island hogs developed a few survival

traits. One was insular dwarfism¹, the other was a thrifty gene². The Ossabaw Island Hog are a wonderful breed that are relatively small, efficient eaters, fantastic mothers, active yet gentle. When we put our little trio together in the early spring I personally had very little experience with raising pigs other than purchasing to fatten for the freezer. Actually stepping into the world of breeding has been an adventure.



Hellboy at about 12 weeks



Sipp and Regan at about 12 weeks

Wanting to allow these animals to be as free and natural as possible I asked a lot of questions of others who practiced the free-range pasture ideology. Pulling from sources such as Forrest Pritchard and Joel Salatin, scouring the internet, practicing, tweaking, practicing again, we have put in place an interesting little pig paradise. We have a main pen with an 8' x 16' covered shelter, pig wallow, watering system, free feed and a forest. The pig wallow is a must as pigs do not sweat and must have a means to cool themselves in hot weather. We provide a good quality cracked feed (available from Healthy Herds, Bentley, Alberta) that is 16% grower containing wheat/barley, corn, limestone, flax, seaweed, peas and canola oil. To provide interest, exercise, and a natural habitat, they have access to a forested area that is surrounded by an electric fence wire about 8" off the ground. Using high tensile wire, we find that there is little current loss due to weeds and brush and the pigs learned quickly where the boundary is. As time goes on we move and expand the area to prevent permanent damage and continue to provide stimulation and exercise.



Regan with her first litter about 4 hours old. 7 healthy babies.

When we were sure that the two girls, Sipp and Regan, had indeed been successfully serviced by our boar, Hellboy (have you seen the movie? That is his personality. Gruff but very sweet underneath and some red in his coat), I started to make some large nesting houses out of pallets. The girls had a different idea. They made nests in the forest and 4 days apart, had their litters, on their own. Amazing. They built their nests in well hidden areas surrounded by food sources such as raspberry plants, rose bushes, and grasses. It was interesting to watch them over the first few days reach out and eat from their surroundings without having to disturb the babies or leave them. The girls are very protective and respond quickly to any inherent or perceived threats, but gentle enough that I was able to put homemade bag balm on them, just to be sure all was well. One particular day when

the first litter was about 10 days old, one of the piglets came running out of the forested area squealing and quite frantic. Being a nurturer, I picked him up thinking that I could calm him. Bad move. He let out a squeal like I was killing him - mom didn't even blink. She headed for the sound of her piglet in peril and chased me, around the unfinished nesting box, barking and growling. She was gaining and I was hollering. Luckily, after about three circles around the pen at extremely high speeds, she went off to see to her piglet. Note to self. Don't touch the piglets.



The piglets are a wonder. Within 12 hours, some were already starting to rout in the dirt. We left the boar in with the moms and babes and other than a bit of food aggression which was remedied when we went to the free feed method, he is very good with them. They were following mom around in no time. After a couple of weeks, the litters were nursing off whichever mom was handiest and they all sleep in a pile in the shelter now. It didn't take long and they were nibbling at the feed and grass. They are on the same feed as mom but in a shelter that only they can get to. That way they have a safe place to eat and stay out of the way of the big folk. They found independence quickly and are exploring, running, fighting, testing each other, chasing the chickens and turkeys that get in their pen and, of course, sleeping. The piglets are around four weeks old now and moms are starting to wean them off.



All in all this has been a wonderful experience. I was not sure that I was a pig person, but as I learn through research and experience, I realize that it is really not hard. If I provide the basics to satisfy body and mind of our little herd, they will do the rest. There is more to this journey as the piglets mature. We will sell some as breeders and some will go to butcher.

If you have been contemplating getting pigs, whether it is for freezer or breeding or weed control in your gardens, consider the Ossabaw Island Hog.

¹ **Insular dwarfism** is one aspect of the more general "island rule", which posits that when mainland animals colonize islands, small species tend to evolve larger bodies, and large species tend to evolve smaller bodies.

² **Thrifty genes** are genes which enable individuals to efficiently collect and process food to deposit fat during periods of food abundance in order to provide for periods of food shortage (feast and famine).

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ossabaw_Island

<https://livestockconservancy.org/index.php/heritage/internal/Ossabaw>

You Have a Friend

by Crystal McKinnon

When I first entered the poultry exhibition world I did not know a soul. In fact, I knew very little about poultry. But things began to change. I began to chat. I would chat next to a person that looked like they knew what they were doing wanting to learn about them and their birds. Chat with people who looked just as confused as me. The more I chatted the more comfortable I became. Then I noticed something... these same people were at the next show and the next.

Friendships were being formed. A small collection of people who shared the common bond. Poultry. And the love of Chatting Chicken. As the bond strengthened so does the trust among the breeders. People began to share the hardships, the successes, and better yet, the connections.

The world began to open. Doors of opportunity began to open. Serious poultry breeders have a second sense as to who raises poultry for money or for the breed. Serious Breeders will always support one another across Canada and the USA for the betterment of any poultry breed. Poultry Judges will share their knowledge and advice. The true key is to listen. And listen good if they give you a suggestion to improve. Do it. It can help your breeding program ten-fold. Once you have decided to concentrate on a handful of breeds join the Breed Clubs. Again, ask the questions...and NOT "Is this a Roo or Hen?" What? Another common thread that sews the friendships closer.

As these friendships grow and the show season returns, I am not to sure if I am more excited to show my hard work - or meet old friends and create new friendships. These friendships are not only in Alberta. This year, I will travel to Armstrong for the Canadian Nationals with my Buckeyes. I am looking forward to finally meeting in-person some of the people I have chatted with online. The following weekend I am Ontario bound for the OPB Show and will be reconnecting my friendship with a few judges out there and meet new friends from the far East Coast and Quebec. Am I travelling alone? Oh no! Going to these events with my favourite peeps.

If you are able to attend a poultry show, and better yet become an exhibitor, don't feel alone. There is a friend among the poultry that you just haven't met yet.

Oreo Turkeys

Let's close out with some Fall Fun!

24 Oreo Double Stuff cookies

12 miniature peanut butter cups

12 malted milk balls

1 cup candy corn

4 ounces chocolate frosting

4 ounces white frosting

Red food coloring



Directions

1. Place one Oreo cookie as the base. Put one teaspoon of chocolate frosting on top.
 2. Place one small peanut butter cup on it's side so that the top and bottom are perpendicular to the base -- and stuck in the frosting. Place a teaspoon of chocolate frosting on the top (widest part) of the p-butter cup.
 3. For the second cookie. Stick some candy corn into the Oreo 'stuff' along one edge for the feathers -- pointy side down. They should fan out around the edge. If you have trouble doing this, you can help them stick with some white frosting.
 4. Place this second Oreo cookie (the tail) on it's edge and sticking to a dab of brown frosting on the back of the peanut butter cup.
 5. Place a dab of chocolate frosting on top of the peanut butter up (for the head). Place a malted milk ball on top for the head.
 6. Take a small amount of the white frosting in a separate dish. Mix in red food coloring.
 7. Use a toothpick with the white and red colors to place eyes, and wattle. You can pinch off the small pointy top of a candy corn and dip it in brown frosting for the beak.
 8. Your turkey is complete!
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