



# Canadian Heritage Breeds Newsletter

Summer 2020

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Dear CHB Members,

No one was prepared for the changes that COVID-19 brought to our world in the spring of 2020. This crisis has affected us all. How it has impacted us as individuals varies, and each of us will have our own story to tell. We won't dwell too much on this topic in this newsletter, as we have some happy surprises to share and positive things to tell you about! But it does seem important to acknowledge the situation, and to remind our members to take comfort in the routines of our seasonal chores, caring for our animals and being part of this larger, supportive CHB community.

Here at CHB, the work of advocating for heritage breeds has not slowed down! Although our partnership poultry and goat shows with K-Days was not able to go forward this year, we do have an alternate plan in the works... we are organizing a small **Lawn Show** in Lacombe on July 18<sup>th</sup>! Although in-person participation at this poultry show will be very limited, it will provide some great learning opportunities for a wider audience. If you would like to enter some birds, you have an advantage as a paid CHB member in that you have the chance to register early for attendance. Registrations open June 12<sup>th</sup> so don't delay!

You are also invited to take part in a virtual **Poultry Photo Show** hosted by *The Exhibitor* magazine. Virtual shows are a fun way to stay involved in the hobby and to compare your birds with others from all over Canada, and even the USA! This project is not being organized by CHB, but we're happy to pass the invitation along to you.

You, our members, are fundamental to the work we do as a board. Your feedback is always valued and welcome. To help us gather your thoughts and suggestions we will again be conducting a short survey. We hope you'll take a few minutes to complete it.

Finally, we hope the baby animal photos scattered throughout this issue will make you smile. We wish you a lovely, peaceful summer!

~ Kathy Stevenson, Secretary, CHB ~

Photo Credit: Givernay Farms



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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-



*Photo Credit: Michelle Sulz, Norland Brae Farm*

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](mailto: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.

## CHB Members Survey: We Want to Hear from You!



*Photo Credit: Pauline Hjalte*

The CHB board of directors is a small group of volunteers with a passion for helping heritage breeds thrive in today's modern world and for generations to come while having fun doing it! 2020 marks Canadian Heritage Breed's 10-year anniversary and it's important that the association remain relevant.

With that in mind, a short survey for CHB members has been created. We would really appreciate all members taking the time to fill it out and share their thoughts!

Please [Click Here](#) to go to the Survey.

# CHB Summer Lawn Show - July 18, 2020

In response to the Covid-19 health emergency, the CHB summer poultry show which was to be held in conjunction with Edmonton's K-days has been cancelled. Edmonton Northlands has expressed their regrets at having to postpone their summer K-Days festivities until 2021.

While this was disappointing news, the CHB board decided to look in to how we could provide an alternative summer function. Over the last few weeks the Board of Directors has been paying close attention to the Covid situation and discussing possible ways to continue to serve our members and our organizational priorities in a safe and responsible way. This club has a history of adapting to change and exploring new possibilities, and with this focus in mind, we are pleased to announce plans for a Lawn Show to be held in Lacombe, Alberta on July 18, 2020!

Many of you will be aware of the current upsurge of interest in poultry keeping. Now, more than ever, there is a need to educate and encourage people who want to know more about poultry breeding. Exhibiting is an excellent way to learn, but we understand that not everyone will be able to, or will feel comfortable with, attending an event in person. But we can extend our reach through video recordings and possibly live streaming some segments such as judging decisions and bird assessments. More details on where and how you can watch the videos will be posted on the website and in the CHB Facebook group.

Of course, our top priority is to keep this event as safe as possible for everyone taking part in person. We are putting guidelines into place to follow the advisories and restrictions issued by the Government of Alberta. These extra precautions are outlined in the 2020 CHB Lawn Show Book, so if you plan to attend, please be sure to read through this booklet carefully.

As attendance will be very limited at this event, we will be keeping a careful count as people register and pay their fees. When the maximum number of attendees has been reached, no further entries will be permitted. As a paid CHB member, you and your immediate family are eligible for early registration starting on June 12<sup>th</sup>. General (non-member) entries will begin June 19<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see many of you there, as we look forward to a fun and successful summer show!



## ***THE EXHIBITOR*** **POULTRY, PIGEON, DUCK, GEESE, & TURKEY SHOW - BY PHOTO**

We are pleased to announce this exciting concept of a show and it is open to all Canadian and U.S. fanciers, who would like to take part. This is a not-for-profit event for The Exhibitor and all excess funds received will be allocated back to the exhibitors in the form of prizes not mentioned below.

Entries will be judged on photographs taken in 2020. They are to be emailed to Carolyn Ridler, [maplestone@xplornet.com](mailto:maplestone@xplornet.com) **ENTRIES CLOSE JULY 15, 2020.** All entries will be acknowledged and if you don't receive an acknowledgment, then please contact her at 519-928-5220. We want to be sure everyone gets included!

**PHOTOS:** Please email them as an attachment to your entry. You don't have to send the actual entry form if you don't want to but must include all the info requested in your first entry. One email and photo per entry either JPG or PDF or shown as an attachment, appreciated, and one bird per photo. Do NOT send entries on messenger. Please choose and submit your photos carefully...remember the judge will only see your bird photo, not the bird in real life, so pose them well! Photos cannot show any identifying content as to whom the photo came from. When you enter, you do so with the understanding that the bird entered has no hidden faults.

**Judges:** The show will be judged by qualified judges in their particular categories. Their names will not be published prior to the show. We hope they will critique their classes when the results are published. You will be given an entry # only for each bird and the judges will judge by that #, with no names being mentioned to them. No change of entries permissible, other than additional birds.

**PAYMENT:** You will receive an invoice for your entries and payment must be received upon return of the invoice. Payment details are on the invoice. **Entry fee is \$3.00 per bird. Cheques payable to Carolyn Ridler.**

**Regular mail entries:** These can be mailed to The Exhibitor, 111096 11th Line, East Garafraxa, Ontario, L9W 7A4 along with your hard copy photos and entry forms. Please mail them in good time prior to the closing date. Your actual photos will be scanned in order to be presented to the Judges. This method is only for those who do not have internet access.

**JUNIOR CLASSES:** specify on your entry form your age....must be 18 years old as of January 1st, 2020, or under. Juniors will show in the open classes but there will be special cash prizes for them as funds allow.

**CLASSES:** Classes will be judged according to APA/ABA Standards. (not pigeons). Each Class Champion ie. Champion American, Champion Featherleg etc., will receive \$25.00. Each Breed Champion ie. Brahma, will receive

\$10.00 if 10 or more birds are exhibited in that breed.

**OVERALL CHAMPIONS:** Standard, Bantam, Pigeon, Duck, Geese and Turkey....each will receive \$50.00 if there are 20 or more in the category (eg. Standards). If not, each Champion will receive a one year's subscription (or renewal) to The Exhibitor.

**CLUBS:** Encourage your club members to take part. The club with the most entries will receive their Directory ad (or a new one) for free for one year. We do not accept responsibility for the result of this.... it is your member's responsibility to mark their entry form as a member.

**FUNDS:** The Exhibitor, as you know, only operates in a solvent position and we will not

put these payments in our account. However, a financial report of the show will be available upon request, after the completion of the show. So we do encourage Sponsors/Donations to help the cause! Perhaps you no longer have birds, or can't enter for some reason and would like to take part anyway. Your name only will be published as a sponsor, not the amount given. ALL donations or sponsorships appreciated.

**SHOW RESULTS:** will be in the September issue of The Exhibitor and by entering you give permission for your photos and results to be published.

**So start clicking! We hope to have a good show! And remember, STAY SAFE & STAY WELL & STAY STRONG**



*Photo Credits:*

*Top Left: Kathy Stevenson*

*Top Right: Crystal McKinnon*

*Bottom: 5M Percherons*

# Canadian Heritage Breeds Tips for new Exhibitors

## Topic: Arriving at your First Show

So you've decided to enter a few birds in a CHB Poultry show! You've read the Show Book, got your entries sent in to the show secretary and paid your fee. So what's next?

One thing you can do a couple of weeks ahead of the show is look your birds over carefully to make sure they don't have any lice or mites. Part the feathers on the back, under the wings and in the vent area and look carefully for anything that crawls on the bird's skin. Mites will leave a dark, sticky residue at the base of the feathers. If you find any sign of external parasites, you'll need to have them cleared up completely before the show.

Your birds will look their best if you give them a bath a few days before the show. Bathing and other show prep will be covered in another "Tips for Exhibitors" page. (these are posted in the CHB website "Member's Only" section.)

On the morning of the show you'll want to be well organized so you arrive at the venue on time, and well before judging starts. Transport your birds in cages, crates or well ventilated boxes. At the smaller CHB summer shows you can usually coop in your birds right away when you arrive. Just let one of the show organizers know who you are and that you are ready to cage your entries. There will be a cage set up and ready for you to put each of your birds into. At the larger shows, it is necessary to stop and check-in first at the show office. Look for the tag on the cage with your name (or exhibitor number) on it, and double check that the information on the tag is correct before placing your bird in the cage. This is a good time to do any last minute grooming as well. There will be CHB board members in the area if you need help finding the correct class and the cage where your bird belongs.

Once your birds are cooped in, you can give them some water in the cup provided. Most exhibitors choose not to feed their birds until after judging is finished, but if the class will be judged later in the day you might want to give them some food as well. Sometimes volunteers are available to help with feeding and watering duties but ultimately it's up to you to make sure your birds are cared for while they are at the show.

Now it's time to relax, visit with other exhibitors and enjoy the exciting experience of your first poultry show!

*CHB Show Tips – author: Kathy Stevenson, Hawthorn Hill Poultry*



# Buckeye - Threatened Status



The Buckeye is a dual-purpose breed of chicken with a deep, lustrous red color of plumage. They have yellow legs and skin, and, thanks to their pea comb, are very cold-weather hardy. While Buckeyes adapt readily to a variety of living conditions, they do best under free-range conditions or conditions where they have room to move around.

Because of their active nature they do not do especially well in small confined spaces. Roosters weigh approximately nine pounds; hens weigh approximately six and a half pounds and lay medium-sized, brown eggs.

Buckeyes were developed by Mrs. Nettie Metcalf of Warren, Ohio, and appropriately named after the "Buckeye State." Buckeyes are unique in the American Class of chickens in that it is the only breed created entirely by a woman. Mrs. Metcalf started by breeding a Buff Cochin male to Barred Plymouth Rock females. This produced what she considered a large, lazy fowl. The next year she purchased a Black-Breasted Red Game male and crossed this male over the half cochin pullets. This cross produced several red offspring and from there she developed the breed. It is interesting to note that her creation predated the introduction of Rhode Island Reds into the mid-west.



In 1896 she learned that her idea of red fowls was not new and that a very popular eastern breed had been developed, the Rhode Island Red. After corresponding with several Rhode Island Red breeders, she decided to call her breed Pea Combed Rhode Island Reds (she even traded stock with several of these breeders). Rather than helping to promote her new breed, she found that calling them Pea Combed Rhode Island Reds was in fact limiting its popularity. So in 1902 she exhibited a pair in the Cleveland, Ohio poultry show as Buckeyes. Within a few years Pea Combed Rhode Island Reds began to disappear.





The Buckeye should not be confused with the Rhode Island Red, even though they share some history. Buckeyes are unique in their body shape: slanted, short but broad back, very meaty thighs, powerful wings and breast. They appear very close to the Cornish, as bred in 1905, in body shape. (It should be noted that the originator indicated that she did not use Cornish in their breeding; the Cornish body shape was simply her goal.) In colour the Buckeye is also unique. The colour of the Buckeye is darker than that of the original Rhode Island Red (later, the Rhode Island Red was bred for a shade of colour even darker than the Buckeye). The Buckeye also has a slate coloured bar in the undercolour (fluff) of its back; the Rhode Island Red's feathers should be red to the skin. Both breeds share the trait of tight feathering – unique in the American Class of poultry.

Source: The Livestock Conservancy

By Crystal McKinnon; Pictures of Buckeyes by Crystal - 2015 young birds.

