



Poultry Project Newsletter

Outagamie County 4-H

April 2019



Easter – Keep Poultry Safe

As odd as it seems, Easter is a hard time for young poultry! All too often newly hatched birds are given as gifts to children. This is a very bad idea as most of them end up dying before too long. Young children don't understand that they can't squeeze tight, and a wiggling baby bird just encourages them to hold on tighter. If the child is old enough to understand this concept, most families are not prepared to care for a baby bird. They need constant heat, and need quiet time to sleep which is most of the day as a very young bird. The stress of being played with at an early age is very hard on the babies. Finally, if the baby does survive the week, many children and families lose interest as the baby grows, which can lead to neglect, being surrendered, or worse, set free. As people who care for poultry, we encourage each of our members to be mindful of how day old birds may be treated prior to selling them as Easter gifts.

Karen Kuhn

Jeremy Trost

Josh Koleske

Breed of the Month

New Hampshire – pronounced HAM-sure – A relatively new breed, having been admitted to the Standard in 1935 after being a specialized selection out of the Rhode Island Red. Birds exhibiting rapid growth, fast feathering, early maturity and vigor were used for breeding and eventually a new breed emerged. This took place in the New England states mainly in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. They have a deep, broad body and feathers rapidly with most pin feathers being reddish buff in color; therefore, do not detract much from the carcass appearance. In appearance they are a medium to light red; medium to large single comb in which the females often lops over a bit. They are a medium sized meat chicken with fair egg laying ability. They were initially used in the Chicken of Tomorrow contests, which led the way for the modern broiler industry.

West of England Tumbler – pronounced as spelled – A pigeon breed known for natural tameness, calm temperament, reliable breeding, and ease of care; making it a good choice for beginners. They have the ability to fly very high, almost to the point of disappearing in the sky, for up to 12 hours. Developed in England in Bristol and the surrounding area in the very late 1800's the breed is now primarily bred in the United States, with emphasis on the interesting colors, markings and patterns. They are an attractive breed with white or pearl eyes and muffs on their legs. Mature birds are between 8 and 9 inches tall and weigh 9 to 12 ounces. The West of England Tumbler pigeons are excellent flyers that tumble occasionally; however, as a high flying breed they do not tumble as persistently or often as other breeds.

What You Should be Thinking About

Movie Night

The Small Animal Committee will be hosting a group viewing of the movie Chicken People on April 13th at the Liberty Town Hall. Doors will open at 6pm and the video will start at approximately 6:35 after a brief introduction. Poultry members are invited to bring their families and a friend for the movie. We will also cover mandatory meeting information at 6:30 which will count toward the attendance requirement. The committee will provide popcorn, cookies and water. No RSVP is needed, just show up that evening! The address for Liberty town Hall is N3918 Hollow Road, New London. The event will end by 8:30. The movie introduces the viewers to several poultry exhibitors from around the United States and follows them at a poultry show.

Swap & Fun Show

Remember the swap and fun show on May 5 starting at 11 am. Please make sure to share information with others. Once you receive a flier please be sure to post the information in your community. The funds raised during this event are used to support the project throughout the year. We use the money to purchase fair awards, pay scholarships and for other project opportunities like Family Learning Day and Pullorum Testing.

Announcements

Chicken People movie night is April 13th at Liberty Town Hall, poultry families and friends are welcome. Doors open at 6pm.

Jeremy and Josh are dedicating one hatch to youth interested in poultry. Chicks can be picked up on April 7th between 5pm and 7pm at N4191 Market Rd in Shiocton. Chicks will be straight run (mix of males and females). Breeds available will not be known until pick up day. These chicks are from other breeders and will cost \$2.50 for Outagamie County 4-H project members. They are also available to FFA, Scouts and 4-H members of other counties for \$4.

Incubator space is available through early May. If you'd like to use space please contact Jeremy at JTrost73@Gmail.com to discuss availability. Sorry, no waterfowl eggs can be set (Jeremy has never been able to get them to hatch).

Pullorum Testing will be free for Outagamie County 4-H poultry members on May 25th at Jeremy & Josh's home, N4191 Market Rd, Shiocton; and June 8th at Karen's home, N6560 Cty Rd PP, Black Creek. Both sessions will be first come and scheduled for 8am to 10am. Testing will not be available after June 8th.

Permission slips for the member photo board are due to Sarah Spiegel by June 15th. Late forms and photos may not be accepted this year.