

ALBURY POULTRY
CLUB LOGO COMING
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Albury Poultry Club Inc



Autumn Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2011

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Date change:** First Poultry Club auction for 2011—Sunday the 10th of April commencing 10am
- **Working Bee** - 12th March to finish setting up new pens - 10am
- **Wodonga Agricultural Show**—19 March 2011—Alb Poultry club will be running the show, keep this day free—it was lots of fun last year.
- **Working bee** - 2nd April to set up for the auction - 10am

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Let's get back to it!

Hi all and welcome to Autumn! Below are few important dates to put on your calendars. One date of note will be Sydney Royal. We certainly wish all those members who are going to the Royal the best of luck but most of all have a fabulous time. Anyone needing a hand to get birds to and from Sydney can call Guy to arrange some assistance, there will be a cost of \$50 per box to transport them, this includes birds bought at auction. For 2011 we have a lot to look forward to at the club so lets get back into to it!

What's on for 2011?

- **12th March 2011** - Working bee to finish setting up the new pens at the club, 10am start.
- **19th March 2011** - Wodonga Agricultural show. Co-ordinated by Albury Poultry Club, please come along and support the show.
- **2nd April 2011** - Working bee to set up pens before auction, 10am start.
- **10th April, 2011** - Our first poultry auction for the year.
- **14th-24th April, 2011** - Sydney Royal, APC sponsoring Best Rosecomb \$100 cash prize
- **9th-10th July 2011** - Albury Poultry Club Show, 2 day show and invitation sale.
- **7th August 2011** - 2nd Albury Poultry Club Auction, invitation and general entries.
- **3 October 2011** - 100th Walbundrie Agricultural show—100 years will be a big day!
- **29th-30th October 2011** - Albury Agricultural (Spring) show.

Date change of our first club auction for 2011

Since our last Newsletter we have had a date change for our first auction. The date has changed from the 8th of May to the **10th of April 2011**. This change gives us the opportunity to have an auction in a month that is clear of other local auctions. It is also a week before Easter which will give members the opportunity to reduce bird numbers before the break if they need to. Don't forget members can book their birds in to the auction prior to bookings being open to the public. Guy is taking bookings for the auction from members right now! Call Guy anytime and book your pens, don't miss out! The advertisement for the auction is due to go into the Border Morning Mail on the 19th of March 2011. We are limiting the auction to 500pens. If you are able to help on the day please also let Guy know that you are available. It's a big day for those who volunteer their time and as they say many hands make light work—your help would be very very much appreciated.

What's happening around the Club

- Over the past few months some of our more handy club members have been working hard making additional pens for the club. They still have a few more to finish off but their efforts will have added another 180 pens. With these new pens we will have just over of 900 pens available.
- For our July show the committee is working on securing local sponsorship. If you know of any local businesses that could support us in anyway please let us know.
- Guy has been working really hard on the show schedule for our July show, it should be finished soon. Special breed prize sponsors are needed, cost is \$20ea.
- The Committee is working on producing a club letter head and as promised, a club logo, both should be finalised shortly.
- We are making an effort to keep the poultry club website up to date with events and relevant dates. Keep an eye on the website and feel free to upload your poultry photo's in the gallery.

Note: The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or policy of the Albury Poultry Club Inc. The Editor and Committee members accept no responsibility for the accuracy of claims made in this newsletter. The President, Secretary and Editor reserve the right to correct, alter, reduce, retype, rearrange or refuse without prejudice any matter submitted for publication.

Feature Breed - Elizabeth Duck

Elizabeth Ducks were developed in Merrylands, New South Wales, by Lance Ruting in 1972. The Elizabeth's are classed as an Ornamental Domestic duck, light breed. It is said that Lance named the duck after his wife Ann Elizabeth.

The first edition of Australian Standard indicates that the Elizabeth was created by using the Rouen Claire and farmyard ducks. The farmyard side of the equation were selected for their quick maturing meat qualities. Through the development of the Elizabeth, some sports appeared (white coloured Elizabeth's) during the first crossing.

The Elizabeth is a stocky little bird that is a fast maturing meat bird. They are a busy bird which makes them a very good duck for the garden. The only draw back for a suburban backyard is that they fly very well after about 3-4 mths of age, wing clipping would be required if kept in a small back yard. I've had some for a few years now and I find them to be a fairly good seasonal layer, a great garden duck (I don't have snails) and the ducks are very determined sitters and excellent mothers. As a meat bird they provide a good meal for a family of four, their meat is not overly dark or gamey and is very sweet if processed young. A young bird roasts very well if cooked slowly.

The standard for showing:

The Drake's carriage should be near to horizontal and clear of the ground from breast to stern, but alert. His body should be short and broad and the breast round and prominent. The head of the drake should be round and neat, held fairly high. The bill should be fairly broad and concave but not too long. Legs should be moderately short, placed midway along the body. The drakes colour is that of the Mallard, with the base colour being off white instead of the grey. The male should show no grey on his flanks. He should have an iridescent green head with an off white band encircling the neck. It should be .63cm or ¼ inch wide at the front, slightly wider at the back and slightly lower. His claret chest colour extends along the flanks and onto the coverts on the back. The claret coloured feathers on flanks and coverts are marked with off-white. The flight feathers should be off white flecked with charcoal grey. The wings carry a wing bar of iridescent blue or green, located as the Mallard but not as clearly marked. Eye colour is dark brown and the bill should be blue slate which is the desired but blue yellow is not a serious defect. Legs should be orange in colour.



The Duck's Carriage is the same as for the male although her tail carriage is higher and she has a more protective stance. The ducks body is a little shorter than the male, but just as broad. The breast should be rounded and prominent. Her head should be round and neat and not held as high as the drake. The duck's neck is of medium length and is slightly curved, her legs and feet are the same as the drake in that they are moderately short and placed midway along the body. Plumage should be soft, bright and mostly fawn on an off white background, darker on the chest. The wing bar is blue or green the same as for the male. The fawn on the top of the head should not be flecked too heavily with darken fawn. Neck colour is a darker fawn, in the same way that the male is green. Eyes are brown and bill must be of a blue grey colour. Legs and feet bronze in colour. Note; The colour of the Elizabeth duck does get darker with age.

The drakes weigh 1.5 - 1.8kg (3.5-4 lb) and the females 1.25 - 1.5kg (2.75-3.25) lb.



Your questions answered:

This section is about answering your questions. If you have a poultry question send it to us and we will provide you with an answer or best advice we can as quickly as possible. We will publish as many Q&A in each newsletter for the information of all members. E-mail your question to Karen at kmk64@bigpond.com or call (see back page) and we will seek from our most experienced poultry men and women some trusted advice. Here's a couple to start.

At what age can I start my chicks on grain?

I wouldn't feed grain to softfeather chicks unless it was soaked overnight. Hard grain can make softfeather birds feather brittle over time. Hard-feather birds can be fed grain without problem.

I would use chick starter for all breeds and grower after 5-6 weeks. Softfeather breeders can be fed grain in the off season without too much worry.

Someone told me not to feed too much sunflower to my chooks and not to feed maize in the summer, why is that?

Maize heats them up, it's good in the Winter. Be careful with the white birds (eg, leghorns etc). If fed too much they go sappy or yellow in the feather and it will make an orange eye bird light in the eye colour.

Would a bit of Mill Mix (Pollard, bran mix) in my grain feed be beneficial to my birds as a winter boost?

I would feed (hard and softfeather) along with their grower, a soft food wet mix 2-3 times a week of grower or pollard bran, meat meal, Lucerne meal, milk powder and a bit sulphur.

What is the best way to worm my ducks?

I would worm them the same as poultry by adding their worm mix to a wet mash or wet bread. They gobble it up and there is no waste

Some extra tips from our expert:

- Spray or dip birds in Coopex, Spray with Coopex at the 1st of each month and worm. If clean inside and outside they must grow.
- Select birds for Sydney Royal. Don't pen them as they will moult. When you decide to train them, train at night, take them off the perch, train them and put them back on the perch. They won't moult this way.
- Mice stations should be done each month. I find Tom Cat the best. If you want to give the mice a change put chocolate topping on the blocks. Only use blocks.
- **Comb Dressing:**
2oz Spirits of Wine
1oz Camphorated Oil
1oz Glycerin
1/4 oz Citric Acid
This dressing will stay looking good for day's.

Things to do in Autumn

- Use the changing season as a reminder to continue with your worming program.
- Lice and mites prevention - use surface spray on perches. Pesticide or Avian Liquidator on birds or anything that has a residual effect. Pesticide sprinkled on wooden rails helps to kill crawlies.
- Birds will soon come into moult and if you are mixing your own feed consider putting some more higher energy food into their mix like maize, sunflower, soya bean, lupins
- even a bit of beef cat food helps feathers grow.
- Autumn Ag shows are on, keep a look out for your local ones.
- Keep up the green feed (hasn't been a problem finding it this year with all the rain!).
- As the nights cool down mice are more inclined to move indoors. Think about eradication as mice can carry mites and fleas. Don't leave feed in containers overnight unless you have to as this encourages them to move in.
- Having open feed bags or containers attracts mice. All feed should be safe from mice in drums with lids or closed garbage bins.
- Keep plenty of shell grit around and undercover from the rain.
- Keep pens clean, hydrated lime can be used as an old fashioned disinfectant in your pens after cleaning. Sprinkle it around and cover with litter.
- Keep water containers clean and free from contaminants.



Albury Poultry Club Annual Show - 9th-10th July 2011

Our club show will be held on the 9-10 of July 2011. For something a little different this year we will be featuring all of the Australian breeds as breed of show. These are:

**Aussie Game
Elizabeth Duck
Australorp
Aussie Pit Game
Australian Langshan
Watervale**

The show schedule is almost completed however we still require a few sponsors for the special breed prizes.

We are looking for club members, friends and family to sponsor the special breed classes to help make our show one of the best. So far we have a few sponsors but are looking for more. Each sponsorship provides the prize money (\$20 cash) for the champion class. So far we have sponsors for:

**Australian Langshan..... M Costin & Co
Rhode Island Red..... E. Fisher
Wyandotte..... L. Goodwin
Leghorn..... T. Hiscocks
Silkie..... K. Kneebone
Pekin..... B. Armstrong
Rosecomb..... B. Golin
Indian Game..... G. Fahey
Malay..... Cawood Family
OEG..... M Costin & Co
Muscovy..... Cawood Family**

We still require sponsors for:

**Australorp
Plymouth Rock
Sussex
Ancona
Australian Pit Game
Modern Game
Indian runner
Mallard
Rare Breed**

LET US KNOW: If there is another breed that is not listed above that you would like to sponsor? Please e-mail or call Guy and let him know and he will add it to the list.

**Judges for the show are:
Bruce Patterson—ACT
Doug Patterson -ACT,
Doug Rogers— VIC
Graham Kemp- VIC,
Water Fowl— Scott Hayhoe - ACT.**

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Health Check!

Lice and mites are common external parasites of poultry. Lice are insects, while mites belong to the same family as spiders. There are many different lice and mite species that can infest poultry. They are either blood-suckers or live on dry skin, scales, feathers or scabs on the skin.

Adult chicken lice can survive for 4-5 days away from the host. Therefore, infestation can be spread not only by direct contact between birds but also through contact with infested litter etc. Signs of infestation can include scratching, poor feather condition, ill thriftiness, agitated/nervous behaviour and with severe blood-sucking infestations, anaemia. Wild birds are usually the culprits, coming into pens to feed, dropping off a few freeloaders while they are at it. Birds should be checked regularly for evidence of these pesky critters. Lice and mites can be sprayed with liquid solutions or dusted with Pesticide powder to kill the live ones. Eggs can be killed by soaking with liquid solutions or you can pluck out the feathers that have the eggs attached, disposing of them in a plastic bag in the bin. Give them a squirt with surface spray for good measure. You can buy lots of different products to spray your pens and birds. If you don't have a huge area to spray for a cheap alternative you can use a home brand surface spray. It's a popular choice to spray your shed walls, layer boxes, posts and perches with. It's cheap and works as it has a residual effect. To get lice under control spray or dust once and then again in a fortnight to kill any new hatchlings. Most commonly you will find lice around the vent and under wings. Chicken Lice are yellowish in body colour and they live out their life cycle on the host. The female lives about 12 days and produces up to four eggs a day. The complete life cycle requires about 2 weeks. I was given the tip to use Avian Liquidator to kill lice and eggs, it has a residual effect. I have found it to be a very good treatment and maintenance spray.



Chicken mite or red poultry mite is a blood sucking mite. Red mite do not live on the host, they return to their hiding spots during daylight hours. Inspection at night or at dusk is when you will spot them. They will appear as tiny red mites if they have fed recently or they will be black. They have eight legs and an oval body. Generally they love wooden cracks and crevices to hide in. Adult mites can survive for more than 34 weeks away from the host which is incredible for such a small creature. Their life cycle is 7 day's. Eggs hatch within 1—2 days and they become adult after a moult in another 2 days. Adults lay eggs in small groups in nests, litter, cracks and crevices. Mites are more active in winter than summer. It's important when treating for mites that all litter is removed and burnt. Spray the shed from top to bottom including all wooden cracks and crevices. Once again surface spray is a really cheap and effective or you can buy specific products to do the same thing if you are doing large areas. Pesticide sprinkled over wooden perches and wooden building rails kills them as they crawl out at night.



Scaly leg mite is another mite commonly found. It cannot be seen without magnification. It spends its life burrowing under featherless scaled areas on poultry. It causes a crusty appearance on the legs of fowl. Eventually if left untreated the legs will become deformed and may eventually cripple the bird. You can treat this with Vaseline mixed with yellow sulphur (flowers of sulphur) which you can get from produce stores. Smear and totally cover the birds legs with the mixture working it up under the scales as much



as possible. Repeat every week for three or four weeks. This will kill the mites by smothering them. Eventually the crusty residue will fall off the bird or you can soak the birds legs and remove it slowly but much more quickly if you want to.



Northern fowl mite is a blood sucking mite that can be found on poultry day and night. They are red to black in colour like the chicken mite but can be distinguished by their presence during the day time. Heavy infestation of northern fowl mite can result in blackened feathers due to the accumulation of dried blood and excretions from the mite. They will usually be found near the vent. Eggs can be found next to soft feathers on the body and crest.

They can make the skin become crusty and red from irritation. Their life cycle is completed within 7 days. They can survive away from the host for 2-3 weeks.

When treating for these pests you will need to spray your sheds thoroughly, making sure all cracks and crevices are sprayed. Birds will also need to be treated by spraying or dusting powder. With all these pests you will need to treat birds a few times according to the life cycle of each particular one. Continue inspections and regular spraying of sheds and nest boxes to ensure infestations cannot re-occur. Regular surface spray application in between treatments on perches, nest boxes and walls will kill anything trying to crawl in and is effective at keeping these bugs at bay.

Impacted Crop

Recently I lost a little Silkie hen who suffered with an impacted crop. She had been on a litter of hay and straw which over time, and unbeknown to me, she had been eating. It was the hay and straw that compacted in her crop and caused her demise. I had realised that she had a problem in her crop but not in time. To make sure she died of this I decided to open her crop. It most certainly was the straw which was a huge round mass that went down into her throat.

After investigation on the internet it seems that there are a couple of options you can try if your bird suffers a crop impaction. One is to operate, after doing this on a dead bird I would think that you would need to be confident and skilled to do this, however a friend has recently done just this with much success and no stress to the bird. Another remedy which I believe my grandmother used in her day was to dose the bird with castor oil and massage to try and break up the compaction. I think that you would need to be onto the problem early to be successful. Another is to flush the crop with a tube inserted down into the crop. The last option is to cull the bird. There is information on the net about crop flushing and the surgery if you feel you could do it.



Surgery and crop flushing could be difficult for some, so I think the best thing to do is try and prevent the condition. Other times when crop impaction seems to occur is when long cut grass is fed to birds. Long grass (like the straw) can wrap it's self around any crop contents forming a large mass that cannot pass through the opening of the crop to the gizzard. Feed only short pieces of grass. Crop problems may also be caused by starving birds before medication and then letting them gorge when food is given. In this instance feed them a little at a time.



Getting used to how a normal crop feels is good practice. You should be able to feel the grain in the crop and it should feel soft (without squeezing it, which would hurt) and pliable. If it is hard like a large ball and doesn't allow much movement and has been this way for long periods then mostly likely the crop has problems. Weight loss is a good indication that food is not passing through the crop. Crop impaction will cause the bird to be starved nutritionally and it will die. If you suspect a problem try feeling the crop before a daily feed and compare it to another bird. Look at other signs that may indicate that the bird is uncomfortable or distressed before making a decision on what to do or that the problem is in fact an impacted crop. The picture to the left is one I found on the net. It is the contents of an impacted crop caused by straw and is exactly like the contents I found in my little hen's crop.

Members day out at Henty Ag Show



Bird of Show—M Costin & Co
Black OEG Bantam hen



Judge—Paul Jarick



Junior Reserve Grand champion
Bird of Show - Justin Cawood



What they were saying back then....

Give Them the Right Start

This Done, the Autumn-hatched Growers Will Not Fall Short of Requirements

WITH the right start, the autumn-hatched chick can be reared as successfully as the spring bird, if management is adjusted to the seasonal differences.

March and April hatched chicks, which are still the most popular and, therefore, more expensive, are starting life when the days are drawing out. This gives them more daylight hours for feeding. The autumn chick is out-of-season and needs extra care and skill.

In December it is dark inside a brooder unit by four o'clock. If there is no form of artificial light, the chick has a long, hungry night. It will make poor growth and chill more easily.

At this time of the year, the bright infra red lamp is useful for this reason. Observation of chicks under these lamps shows that their routine is a series of short sleeps and snack feeds. If the

lamp hangs at its correct height, there should be no risk of restless chicks.

Otherwise the brooder house should be fitted with artificial light, using electricity, Calor gas, or paraffin oil lamps. Allow these to give light until approximately eight to nine in the evening. But make sure the chicks are back in their brooder when the light goes out, or they will become chilled.

Crumb Feeding Preferred

Crumb feeding is preferred for winter rearing because they can be eaten more quickly than meal. For this reason there may be some risk of vices when the chicks are several weeks old. To avoid this some poultry-keepers change over gradually from crumbs to a chick rearing meal at the three to four week stage.

Another seasonal difference will be the colder nights, so extra provision must

be made to keep the chicks warm. A litter depth of three to four inches is important, using a material such as wood shavings with or without sawdust, short straw, or peat moss, which can be scratched and turned over easily to provide the chicks with exercise for warmth and occupation.

If floor or wall boards have warped, keep out draughts by covering them with paper sacks, roofing felt, or old linoleum. Dry out the litter, and warm up the unit several days before the chicks are due.

Wire floor brooders can be covered with a square of clean sacking for the first week. A draughtproof surround nestling into the litter will keep the chicks close to the source of heat and prevent them from straying. But do not cover this with boards and heavy sacks.

Infra-red lamps used in tall, cold rooms or buildings, may not work efficiently, because of the pressure of cold air on the chicks.

Instead of lowering the lamp and reducing the area of rays over a given number of chicks, provide some form of false ceiling at a height of four to six feet above the chicks. P. A. B.

Both articles taken from the "Poultry World" 25 December 1955.

Comfortable Roosting Means More Eggs

Bickering and Even Injury can Follow if Perches are Not Right

DURING the next month or two layers spend more hours a day roosting than at any other time of the year. That is why particular attention should be paid to their sleeping quarters during the coming weeks.

These should be well ventilated, without the birds having to roost in a draught. Where droppings-boards are in use, they should be kept clear of manure. But I am primarily concerned with the actual facilities for roosting.

Play Their Part

If perches are provided, make sure that they are adequate. Perches play a more important part in production than many beginners imagine. They may seem trivial things to worry about, but it is making the birds comfortable in small ways such as this that does much to keep up the egg supply.

This is of special importance when pullets are coming into lay for the first time. If everything is not just right, the birds will not settle down properly and will not give of their best.

But, even if your pullets have been in lay for some time, it is worth checking over the roosts to see that all is in order.

Some D.P.K.s use round poles as perches, but square timber, 2in x 2in, is far more suitable. This should have its top edges bevelled and so enable the birds to get a better grip.

If this is not done, sharp edges may press into the birds' feet and perma-

nently injure them. For the same reason, see that the perch has a smooth surface.

When roosting, a bird bends its legs and closes its toes fairly tightly. The aim, therefore, is to provide a perch which it can grip well and on which it can balance its body without allowing its breast-bone to rest heavily either on the perch or its own toes.

It is most essential to fix the perch firmly so that it cannot be shaken about or sag in the middle when loaded with birds at night—they will then crowd together and start bickering.

In the average-sized house this is not likely to occur but, if the perch has to be so long that it sags when fully occupied, it should be supported by an upright in the middle.

Worse still is the loose perch which moves each time a bird changes her foot-

hold or shifts her position. This has an unsettling effect and, once again, can be the cause of bickerings.

Make sure, then, that perches are fixed securely so that they do not twist, turn or sag when subjected to any pressure. All the same, it is not advisable to nail or screw the perch to the walls of the house.

Then Red Mite . . .

If this is done, the chances are that it will not be removed for cleaning more than once a year, which is an open invitation to red mite to take up their abode at the points where the perch ends come in contact with the house.

To avoid this, the perch should fit firmly into sockets fixed to the walls. The sockets can be made of metal, which is a better pest-deterrent than wood, though timber may be used.

In either case, the perch should be removed regularly to allow the socket to be cleaned. All dirt should be scraped out before the perch is replaced. Periodically, both perch ends and sockets should be treated with creosote, or a mixture of creosote and paraffin.



If perches are the correct width, birds should roost there properly and balance themselves in the natural way. The perches shown have the undoubted advantage of being made of aluminium but are rather on the narrow side, though they have correctly rounded edges.

Thanks to Bob Armstrong for the use of these fantastic old papers.

Calcium

Recently I noticed a calcium deficiency in my laying hens and geese. My clues were, egg shells getting thinner, a couple of soft eggs (eggs without a shell) and lastly a lame goose. I mix my own feed and provide shell grit for the birds but obviously that wasn't enough. So I thought that I'd investigate calcium and how to supply it.

Oh and to explain the goose clue. A few weeks ago and seemingly overnight one of my geese become lame, so lame that she that couldn't take one step when I approached her. Naturally I took her to sick bay and puzzled what might be wrong, she didn't have any wounds or anything that might render her legs totally useless. I happened to mention this to my 80 year old father who said "put some agricultural lime in her water and she how she goes"! Of course I thought this was a bit strange but it was probably the goose's only chance! Well within a week she was up and running good as new! So what does agricultural lime have in it? 94.5 %Calcium and 3% Magnesium. After this I realised that shell grit alone is not enough.

I now mix a bit of lime into my chook feed once or twice a week I also drop a pinch into their water every few weeks and I mix a bit in with the shell grit when I fill the containers. Its amazing how quickly they have responded. Just to make it clear that it must be Superfine Limestone and definitely not builders or hydrated lime. I've often read in some older books that birds should be supplied with shell grit and limestone chips. I was never clear on limestone chips but I think I've more or less mirrored that one with the Superfine lime. So how much calcium do birds need and is shell grit enough in most circumstances? This is what I've found:

Layer chickens need about 3% calcium available in their diet. A hen's eggshell is a massive 94% calcium carbonate and a calcium deficiency can show in a number of different ways but will usually be thin shelled eggs and eggs without shells. Calcium requirements rise as a hen ages and also when the weather warms up. To produce an egg that takes up so much calcium obviously requires a diet rich in calcium otherwise a hen will draw on her own body stores of calcium including her own bones to produce a shelled egg. If you are feeding pellets you more than likely won't have a problem but you should always have shell grit around regardless.

Some people like to wash, dry, and finely crush old egg shells and feed them back to the hens. Feeding eggshells to your layer hens can be a cheap source of calcium for your chooks. It also recycles the calcium they've already digested and expelled! If you start to do this remember to wash and crush the shells so that they don't look like an egg any longer otherwise you might encourage egg eating.

Other foods rich in calcium can also be included in your chickens' diet as sources of calcium. These include brewer's yeast, oats, milk, kelp, cooked beans and peas, sunflower and sesame seeds. High calcium herbs and plants like dandelion, chickweed, mustard greens, kale, cabbage, dandelion, watercress, parsley, comfrey, plantain, nettles, raspberry (leaves), alfalfa, red clover, horsetail and chamomile can be provided. You can grow these plants in tires surrounded by netting, the chooks can then pick through the netting getting a bit at a time. Works well until the netting comes off!

I have comfrey growing in the yards for most birds but still it wasn't enough. These are great though as extra sources but for me leaving a bowl of shell grit mixed with a touch of lime that the birds can pick at as they need it has worked well. The correct name for the lime I'm now using is Superfine Limestone - it also indicates on the front of the bag in fairly big writing that it is a "concentrated source of Calcium for stock and Poultry feeds"!



Apple Cider Vinegar

Apple Cider Vinegar (ACV) is very popular with Poultry keepers and is said to improve resistance to worm infestations, improve laying, general health and plumage condition. Humans take it for much the same reason....to achieve overall better health!

ACV contains vitamins, minerals and trace elements. It is a good source of vitamins A & D and minerals calcium and phosphorus although it contains many more nutrients and enzymes. It can help to lower the PH level in the stomach, helping digestion and making the stomach a less friendly environment for harmful pathogens. ACV detoxifies the blood and helps remove mucous from within the body, this is particularly useful since chickens are particularly prone to respiratory problems which could be of benefit in helping birds to clear their airways.

ACV is an antiseptic given it's acid content. As well as killing germs, it is also acts as a mild antibiotic because it contains bacteria that destroy infectious organisms. Diluted it can be used to treat minor cuts and abrasions because of it's disinfectant anti-bacterial qualities. It can also be sprayed around the sheds for a natural alternative to bug control. Drinkers and feeders can also be cleaned using a diluted solution.

Some claim that ACV will increase egg production, although there are no actually studies to back this up. It probably standards to reason though that healthy a hen results in good egg production. It is also claimed that ACV is a natural organic antibacterial preventative tonic for coccidiosis and chicks and growers are said to grow and feather up more quickly when on ACV. It also improves egg shell strength (would be the calcium in it) and there are claims that it can improve fertility!



Raw, unfiltered/unpasteurised ACV is the one to use. It can be found in health shops and some produce stores. It must be the unfiltered/unpasteurised version not the ACV found on supermarket shelves which will have lost it's beneficial qualities due to treatments and pasteurisation.

People who use it seem to be very happy with it and rave about how much of a difference it's made to their birds overall health and appearance. With winter coming up I might just try it on my birds for an extra boost to get through those cold months.

If you want to give it a try dosage rates seem to vary depending on the brand. 10- 20mls per litre for adult birds and 2-5ml for chicks seems to be the range, best to check dilution rates for the brand you are using. Bottles from 500ml up to several litres are available. If at first bird don't like the taste, add a little caster sugar to sweeten the deal!

ACV can be used on dogs, cats, pigs, aviary birds, cattle, sheep, goats, alpacas, horses, etc. It can also be used to stop algae forming in water troughs, washing birds for show, bath wash for animals with skin problems, even a fly spray when mixed with moisturiser!

Because ACV is acidic you should only use plastic water containers otherwise your metal water containers will corrode over time.



There are a few books around that explain more of the benefits and uses if you are interested. A couple to perhaps look for include "The Vinegar Book" and the "Apple Cider Vinegar Book". These two seem to have good reviews.



Show Schedule

Deniliquin Agricultural Show	05 Mar 2011 - 6 Mar 2011	Ph: 03) 5881 1377
Corryong & Upper Murray Agricultural Show	05 Mar 2011	Ph: 02) 6076 1195
Tallangatta Agricultural Show	11 Mar 2011	Ph: 02) 6071 2855
Wodonga Agricultural Show	19 Mar 2011	Ph: 02) 0430 367 478
Yass Agricultural Show	09 Apr 2011	Ph: 02) 6225 1615
Sydney Royal Easter Show	14 Apr 2011 - 24 Apr 2011	Ph: 02) 9704 1270
Narrandera Poultry Show	15 May 2011	Ph: 02) 6959 3771 - Peter Cull
Griffith Poultry Show	21 May 2011	Ph: 02) 6962 4037 - Rhonda Blenkiron
Wagga Poultry Show	22 May 2011	Ph: 02) 6926 6284 - Charles Hutton
Canberra National Poultry Show	11 Jun 2011 - 12 Jun 2011	Ph: 02) 6241 2478
Albury Club Show & Invitation Auction	09 Jul 2011 - 10 Jul 2011	Ph 0430 367 478 - Guy Fahey

There are lots of shows on over the next four months these are some that may be of interest and are relatively local to most members. Go to www.countryshows.com.au for more show information and dates.

Don't forget to book your birds in to the April Auction...**Members can book now!**
Auction will be advertised in the BMM on the 19th of March. Phone Guy to book your pens.

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Chicken Trivia

- **The greatest number of recorded yolks in one egg was 9.**
- **Chickens, like other birds and mammals, experience rapid eye movement (REM) when they sleep.**
- **chickens have over 200 distinct noises they can make for communicating.**
- **Chickens and turkeys have crossbred many times. They are called "Turkins".**
- **The chicken pox are not named after chickens in fact they have nothing to do with chickens. The name came from an old English expression "gican pox", meaning "itching pox".**
- **Kentucky Fried Chicken's consumers eat enough chickens for them to be laid end to end and circle the equator eleven times. The same amount of chickens would also equal the distance from earth to over 50,000 miles past the moon.**