

THE SIMPLE LIFE



Origin of the Columbian Wyandotte

THE bird with the beautiful black neck and tail of the Light Brahma, the ever admired Wyandotte eye. A bird beautiful to the shape, a veritable egg machine, a winter producer, a full breast and plump carcass, a beauty and a hustler.

This is the very latest breed admitted to the Standard of Perfection, and generally conceded by breeders to be the equal of any old breed we have, possessing many good points lacking in others. There is already a demand for it that justifies the belief that it will have the greatest run ever experienced in the history of the fancy. The public is generally on the lookout for something new; especially is this true in the chicken world, and in offering the Columbian Wyandotte we have not only given the new thing, but something that has behind it the blood of the oldest and best breed on earth.

In offering a production like this to the public there should be a clean and clear statement, as to the crosses used in its make, and not an effort to confuse. In this article I do not intend to say that some of the old breeders who claim to have produced the Columbian Wyandotte by crossing on the Barred Plymouth Rocks and Silver Laced Wyandottes have not done so. I believe that some of the breeders, according to their statements and the opinion they have of their ability, could by crossing Indian Runner Ducks on Bronze Turkeys produce a Mocking Bird.

I will take up the crosses as followed by me in the production of the Columbian Wyandotte. While I do not claim to be the first to produce them, I had started my work long before I had ever seen a Columbian Wyandotte, and believe that I have the best color lines yet established. After selecting from my own yards six two-year-old Light Brahma hens that were in shape and color what I wanted, I procured from a friend a White Wyandotte cock, the being what I wanted in shape.

After months of study, I decided that a Light Brahma hen with solid black flights, a hackle intensely black, with broad white edging, a very broad and short tail, with the narrowest possible edging to coverts, and a clean back, was what I wanted for this cross, and selected six from my flock of Light Brahmas as near to this ideal as possible. Now, why this broad lacing in hackle, while in tail coverts narrow as possible? Because years of experience in breeding Light Brahmas has shown me a very dark hackle has a tendency to black running into the white lacing of the hackle, often reaching to the edge of the feathers, while in the tail feathers the hardest problem is to keep the white lacing from running too far into the black. You will see that in the selection of the females I have considered color above everything, taking into consideration the tail, which I wanted well spread, a broad back naturally going with a well spread tail.

The White Wyandotte cock I wanted with a good, small comb, well developed wattles and the shortest bird I could possibly find, with low, well spread tail, and found one to fill the bill exactly.

What did I get from this cross? Silver Laced Wyandottes, Barred Plymouth Rocks and Light Brahmas—all feather-legged. The Silver Wyandottes were not birds that a breeder would care to breed from. There were some of them with nearly white breast, solid black wingbows and showing lacing throughout the plumage, with a hackle that any Silver Laced breeder would be proud of, and a chicken I never would have believed would have come from White Wyandottes and Light Brahmas crossed, but any one seeing them and not knowing the origin would declare them a cross of Light Brahma and Silver Wyandotte. You can see how easily it would be for a breeder, accidentally securing one of these specimens and crossing back on a White Wyandotte, which would naturally produce Light Brahma markings to a certain degree, bring himself to believe that he had started with Silver Laced Wyandottes as original cross. Here is where you get your Silver Laced Wyandotte cross that has made the Columbian Wyandotte in some yards—a chance cross of White Wyandotte and Light Brahma—the rest supposition. The Barred Plymouth Rocks showed more of the Brahma than the Silvers, but there was unmistakable barring throughout the plumage, being especially noticeable in the tail and wings, some specimens showing barring in every section. A cross on this might make something that looked like a Columbian Wyandotte, but I doubt it. Yet some breeders are claiming this, that the Barred Plymouth Rocks is their original cross. I do not believe that any breeder has made a Barred Plymouth Rock and White Wyandotte cross for the purpose of producing a Columbian or a Silver Laced Wyandotte. Now, I had some chicks from this first cross that were fairly good Rose

Comb Light Brahma or Feather Legged Columbian Wyandotte. You would not for an instant suppose that I would eat birds showing good Brohma markings and save the birds showing unmistakable barring or enough black to make them look like Silver Wyandottes. The birds showing good Brahma markings looked to me like what I wanted, and I kept them.

Now we are up to the second cross. The chicks were showing really darker than the Brahma hens from which they were hatched. Why this was I am not prepared to say, but I had chicks with almost black hackle with hardly a trace of white edging, tail with blackest of feathers, and solid black flights. I made my selections from these, taking those with rose comb and least foot feathering, guarding against black in the back as far as possible, which seemed to be prevalent. Now why not more Wyandotte blood? I wanted two crosses and selected from the lot to cross on four White Wyandotte hens, the darkest male bird I had, and eight of the best females for another White Wyandotte cock, paying special attention to white Wyandotte shape.

What does this produce? The White Wyandotte cross, more Silver Wyandottes, more Barred Plymouth Rocks and some fairly good Columbian specimens showing much black in the back, the black in the Silvers being less pronounced, but yet enough to lead one to believe there was a Silver Laced Wyandotte cross. Some specimens would lead to the belief that a Barred Rock was somewhere in their make up. The best specimens or the

ones showing the best Brahma marking, were in the majority, which was the reverse in the first cross, but the black was not so good as in the first cross, showing a greater tendency to motley. The White Wyandotte hen cross produced a lighter lot in the way through, the hackles in the best specimens being entirely too light with wings and tail showing more or less white, but some of them being especially valuable for subsequent matings. From these matings there were also some solid white birds which were useless. This light mating produced a greater percentage with clean legs than did the darker cross. From both crosses there was a good number of birds with rose comb and clean legs; this with the Light Brahma markings make a Columbian Wyandotte. You will see from this that the Columbian Wyandotte is really made in two seasons with three crosses—no great skill required either to make it. If the third or the White Wyandotte hen cross had been left off, it is possible you would not have had this article, for there would have been more crosses producing dark birds, but the light birds produced by this cross were what I needed to tone down the dark that was so pronounced in the other cross, and the making or the perfecting of the breed took several years of matings of different types, using mostly single matings, and in breeding, wherever possible, every detail having to be given consideration, shape and egg production being especially considered, as shape makes the breed and egg production makes the hen.—T. R. Parrish in Farming World.

Leaks in the Poultry Yard

You remember the Holland boy saved his country by placing his little finger in the leak in the dyke. The Canadian hen has done her share toward saving her country by stopping the leak in the family pocketbook. The only way for the non speculating farmer to make a living, to say nothing of getting rich is to have something to sell every time he has anything to buy. If the grocer's bill runs on till harvest time the farmer must sell his grain when prices are lowest to pay it; if, on the contrary, at every trip the egg crate goes to town full and a few chickens are tucked in the back of the buggy there is no grocer's bill to pay at harvest time; the Canadian hen pays not only for the groceries, but often for the clothing as well. Many farmers' wives pay all the living expenses of the family with their poultry. Chickens utilize waste products to better advantage than hogs will; they bring in more money at less outlay than any other farm animal.

Stop the leaks by getting the hens to laying. The biggest leak of all is to neglect the hen that she is only a bill of expense. Give them a variety of feed, give them clean water, make them comfortable, and they will do more than their share in supporting the family.

Care of Turkeys in Winter

While the idea of the turkey is to roost high, this privilege cannot always be accorded if a structure is to be provided for the birds in which to roost. If they are to roost in the trees then they may choose their own limb.

It is a good plan to make the turkey house low, but place the roost as high as possible without bumping the birds up against the roof. The ventilation in such a house must be largely provided from the bottom and this is done by having a row of windows not over eighteen inches high, the bottom so arranged that they may be lifted up to permit a current of air to enter. The windows also will light the floor of the house and a larger window may be placed on the opposite side, but higher up, in order to properly light the house. The turkeys will be anxious to get out of the house early in the morning to roam, so, after they have gone to roost, sprinkle a little grain in the chaff on the floor to keep them busy in the morning until they are let out.

Turkeys on the range must be well fed during the period they are under cover, particularly at this time of year when the feeding on the range is poor and when it is essential to keep them in good shape and able to fatten readily a little later.—Farmers' Guide.

Corn may comprise half of the rations, but the other half should consist of mixed grain, such as oats, wheat and barley. A little millet scattered in the litter at intervals will act as an appetizer. Green food in the form of cut clover, alfalfa meal, or vegetables should be

the hind legs a little crooked, with a long, large foot. The skin should be soft and mellow, and of a yellow butter color.

The milk veins in front of the udder are usually a fair indication of a good milk cow and the larger they are, the better the indications. In extra good cows they branch out into four branches along the belly, but they all unite before reaching the udder. The more irregular the course, the better the indication that the cow is a good milker, but the veins give no indication of the richness of the milk. The udder should be covered with a short, downy coat of hair. This hair should begin to turn its backward course from the teats, running in the direction between the teats, then on the back part of the udder, called the escutcheon, and on as far as the vulva in the best cows. The wider the belt of this upturned hair, the better. It should be short and velvety, covering a soft, orange-colored skin. The shape and size of the udder is, however, by far the most reliable index of a good cow. All the other marks are only of relative importance and it is better to have a scraggy-looking cow any day, with a good udder, than a grand-looking beast with a miserable bag. No matter how good looking a dairy cow may be, except she has a well-developed udder, with its accompanying network of mammary glands, she cannot be expected to excel as a pail-filler.

The ideal udder is the one which is well developed both fore and aft, one that is carried high up towards the escutcheon; and at the same time goes a long way forward under the body. In addition to this, the udder must be deep and square in shape—the deeper and squarer the better. Its four teats should be of good size, and placed as nearly as possible at equal distances apart. Cows possessing udders of this kind may always be counted on to prove good milkers, just as other cows possessing small, round-shaped udders, with teats so close together that they almost touch one another at the points, may invariably be put down as poor pail-fillers, no matter how fine their appearance may be, or how good looking in other respects. It will pay to note these points.—Farmer's Gazette.

can keep him behind the stock with you. You must never strike or scold him unless you have hold of him, and don't let him go away from you until he has made friends with you again. A shepherd dog is very sensitive and it takes but a few words or a blow or two to spoil him so he will be afraid of you and never be obedient. When he has done anything right pet him and he will soon learn to always do the right thing. Teach him to bark whenever he is asked to do so; this is quite easy to do and is a great help. Always be kind and pleasant with him. Never take him off the farm unless he is driving stock. If he is allowed to go he will soon rove about with other dogs. I never knew a full-blooded shepherd to be a sheep killer unless he was with other dogs. It is not their nature to kill and they never do it unless they are taught. In training always let the same person do it (too many cooks spoil the broth). The dog will soon learn his master's ways and become a good driver. Teach him to go by signs as much as possible; he will soon learn what every motion means and he will watch you for these motions as far as he can see you. By the motion of my hand I never had any trouble in sending my dog to head off a flock of sheep or turn them any way that I wished them to go. Kindness, patience and perseverance on the master's part. Affection, attraction and obedience on the dog's part.—The American Boy.

Use of Salt for Stock

Following are the reasons why salt should be regularly supplied to farm stock:

1. Because in the blood of animals there is six or seven times more sodium than potassium, and that the composition of the blood is constant.
2. To keep animals in good health a definite amount of common salt must be assimilated.
3. The excess of potassium salts in vegetable foods causes, by chemical exchange, an abnormal loss of common salt. This is proved by the fact that the craving of an animal for common salt is most noticeable when the food contains a large proportion of potassium salts, such as wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, beans and peas.
4. The addition of salt to animal food increases the appetite, promotes the repair of tissue by its searching diffusion through the body and stimulates the rapid using up of its waste products.
5. Boussingault's experiments showed that salt increases muscular vigor and activity, and improves their general appearance and condition.

Advantages of Fall Colts

Fall dropped colts are more convenient on the average farm than those born in the spring, says an experienced colt raiser. Some of the horses on nearly every farm are idle all winter anyway, and the mares might better be nursing colts and giving them a good start than be eating their heads off and giving nothing in return. When the spring comes and the mare is needed for farm work the colt can be weaned and the mare can do her work without annoyance from the colt. One has to be careful of a mare in hot weather while a colt is sucking her, because overheating her often gives a colt the scours. By having the colt come in the fall the mare suckles him while she is doing no work, and she can give him a much better start than when he is born in the spring. Some farmers think that it is expensive to feed the mare well enough during the winter to cause an ample flow of milk, but this is a mistake. In feeding her they are feeding the colt and each pound of gain that he makes at that age is made more economically than at a later date. Very little grain is necessary, or even none at all, for mares suckling colts in winter, provided they have plenty of good hay or oat and pea hay. Clover hay is good for the milk flow, but dustiness of average clover hay is against it for such a purpose.

Farm Notes

Fix up a harness room. Dust and coarse feed make heaves. Keep the horse's feet clean, hoofs and all. Clean the dust and dirt out of the mangers. Make a cupboard, or at least hang a curtain over the harness. Colts should be early taught to eat bran and oats and should be fed twice a day. Build up the horse interests in your neighborhood by breeding up your horses. Those who know say it will be a long time before the demand for good draft horses will weaken. A horse should never be put to quite hard straining work or his highest speed limit until he is seven years old. Stir up an interest in one breed of horses in your community. It will help to sell the colts if the buyer knows he can get a carload in one neighborhood.



A Typical Pen of Columbian Wyandottes

given daily, and meat in the form of beef scraps or cut bone should be a regular part of the ration.

AROUND THE FARM

The Marks of a Good Cow

To tell whether a cow will give rich or poor milk, there are no outward or visible signs about the animal to guide us in the matter. The man who milks her even cannot tell how much butter is in the pail; but in the

Babcock test, dairymen have a simple means of testing the milk of individual animals and weeding out the unprofitable members of their herds. Every farmer should make it a rule to test his cows regularly, and know exactly what each animal in the herd is doing. It is not sufficient to depend entirely upon the returns from the creamery, as, when all the milks are mixed, it is impossible to select the most profitable cows in the herd with anything like accuracy of judgment. However, the mark of a good cow, showing whether she is capable of producing a large quantity of milk, are tolerably plain to all who are acquainted with cattle, yet there are such a variety of relative points requiring consideration that we can only picture them in the model. The best milk cow, as a rule, is of medium size, and small-boned. The head is small and rather long, narrow between the horns and wide between the eyes. The ears are thin, covered with soft, silky hair, the inside of the ears being of a rich orange color. The eyes are large and bright, with a placid expression; the horns set on a high pate, bending wide apart at the base, and curving inwards and upwards at the points; the neck long and thin, slender, and well-cut under the throat, thickening handsomely as it approaches the shoulder, but entirely free from anything like a "beefy" appearance. The shoulder-blades should meet narrow at the top, widening gradually toward the points, which should be broad and well rounded; the ribs rather straight and wide, indicating a good digestion and constitution, for everything depends upon that in a good milk cow. The loins should be broad, and the hips high and wide, giving plenty of room for the udder; the thighs thin;

Never Drench Cattle

Perhaps the best way of demonstrating the danger of drenching cattle is to advise the reader to throw back his head as far as possible and attempt to swallow. This you will find to be a difficult task and you will find it more difficult and almost impossible to swallow with the mouth open. It is for this reason that drenching cattle is a dangerous practice. However, if a cow's head be raised as high as possible and her mouth kept open by the drenching bottle or horn, a portion of the liquid is very apt to pass down the windpipe into the lungs, sometimes causing instant death by smothering, at other times causing death to follow in a few days from congestion or inflammation of the lungs.

Give all cattle their medicine hypodermically or in feed; if they refuse feed give it dry on the tongue.

The proper method of giving a cow medicine is to stand on the right side of the cow, placing the left arm around the nose, and at the same time opening her mouth, and with a spoon in the right hand place the medicine, which should be in a powdered form, back on the tongue; she can then swallow with safety.—Dr. David Roberts.

How to Train a Shepherd Puppy

A full-blooded shepherd dog shows almost the intelligence of a human being. If well trained it is a valuable animal to have about the place, but the training to be the most effective must begin while the dog is still a puppy. A writer gives a few suggestions in regard to this training which may be helpful to those uninitiated in such matters.

One should never have anything but a full-blooded shepherd dog to start with. It requires patience and perseverance to teach a dog to become a good and obedient driver. When a puppy is old enough to imitate, take him with you when you are after cattle or sheep; keep him by your side so he will learn that he is to follow after the stock, and after taking him a few times with you he will try to help. One must be careful that he does not hurry the stock, for this is the most important part in training. It is a good plan to have a cord tied to him for a few times so that you