

NEWSLETTER_{10/4/2016}

Third Quarter 2016 Volume 4. NO 3



Presidents Letter by Elissa Teel-Duggan

Welcome Club Members to the Cream Legbar Club Newsletter. As many folks are busy watching their spring chicks grow out and sorting out who is the best keepers for next year and for showing later this year, I completed my first hatch of the season last month and am just getting an inkling of color and type on these youngsters. I have made progress and have no feather stubs this go around which is awesome, and some great size on some of the chicks. I only have one male and one female who have small crests (and presumably one copy of the crestring gene) so I am now pretty confident I can eliminate the heterozygous hens from my breeders next year. So although I had a late start due to the Great Coyote Purge of 2015, I feel I am still making forward progress with the breed. I hope all of your hatches have been productive as well!

For some brief business, I want to encourage all of you to consider running for office or becoming more active in the Club. There are several openings on the Board and our Newsletter Editor, Carol Flaming, needs to move on to other projects and we are in dire need of a Newsletter editor. You may be thinking to yourself that you have only had Cream Legbars for a few years and not qualified to hold a position. Nonsense! The breed is so new in the US that we are all still in the learning stage and would welcome more folks at the table! Please consider it. Kestlyn will have more information in a brief elections update in the newsletter.

Also in the newsletter, Curtis has information regarding the Oklahoma Show in December and I have a follow-up clarification of 'melanizers' in the Q&A section. There is a Virtual show announcement by Tony Markley and Kestlyn Penley has included an article, "Raising Healthy Chicks" that is a reprint from March 2015

If any member has ideas of what they would like to see from the Club in the future, questions on what I have talked about, feedback about how the Club is doing or simply wants to talk Cream Legbars, I encourage you to email me at DrETD@msn.com.

Best Regards,

Elissa Teel-Duggan

Treasurers Report Prepared by Kestlyn Penley 9/30/16

Cream Legbar Club Treasurer's Report for Q3 2016

Starting Balance

Q2 2016 Report \$3534.63

Income from 6/10/16 - 9/30/16

3 Completed Full Memberships +\$36

Outgoing Expenses

PayPal Fees -\$2.03

Ending Balance \$3568.60

Prepared by Kestlyn Penley 9/30/16

Announcements

Second Annual Legbar Virtual, Online Show by Tony Markley

Entries to this year's show will be accepted during the period from November 1, 2016 through December 15, 2016. The actual judging of the show will occur in January 2017. We expect to report the results by the end of January or early February.

The change in time frame for the show this year will allow our mature birds to sufficiently re-feather following their annual molt such that they will show better than last year. The time frame for the judging is due to the availability of our APA judge who will be heavily involved in live shows up to the holiday season.

We look forward to your entries to this year's show and the progress you have made with your Legbars!

Nominations for Cream Legbar Club Board and Volunteer Positions

It is that time again and we need you! Do you have an interest in leadership, or just like to pitch in and help

where you can? Do you love Cream Legbars? Then have we got a spot for you!
How do election nominations work?

Nominate yourself or someone perfect for one of the following positions between **NOW** and the end of November at Midnight EST! Email the interested party's name and position to the Elections Chair-Kestlyn Penley (kestlyn@gmail.com). After interest and membership is confirmed, simple biographies will be created and sent out for member perusal. A link to an online voting poll will be sent to each member, and voting or confirmation will occur just before the last meeting of the year. Winners will be announced at the 4th Quarter meeting and in the 4th Quarter Newsletter.

Elections will be held for the following positions, for the 2015-2016 two year session. Because the first four are Board Member positions, all nominees for them must be full members (it's not too late to update your membership!) of the Cream Legbar Club. Any dues paying or lifetime full member in good standing may be nominated for a position, including the person currently holding the position. Any member may volunteer for Newsletter Editor. Official job descriptions can be found in the Cream Legbar Club handbook.

1. **President** - Presides over quarterly Board and Member meetings, calls special meetings when needed, signs legal documents adopted by the club, appoints committees to fulfill new duties, ensures that the constitution and by-laws are kept. Attends poultry shows and functions when possible to represent the Cream Legbar Club.
2. **Secretary** - Keeps minutes for quarterly Board and Member meetings, responsible for notifications and correspondence, maintains club history and records such as release forms for photos and articles for the website. Attends poultry shows and functions when possible to represent the Cream Legbar Club.
3. **Region Directors** (2 year term for Southern and Western, 1 year remaining for Eastern and Central)
Represents all members of their Region at quarterly Board and Member meetings, coordinates a yearly regional activity, creates quarterly report about regional activities for the newsletter. Attends poultry shows and functions when possible to represent the Cream Legbar Club and invite new members to join.

Also, a volunteer (not elected) position is available. Seeking new **Newsletter Editor**. Do you like to write and edit articles? Then we need you! The Newsletter Editor - creates the quarterly newsletter for the Cream Legbar Club, attends Board and Member meetings, and requests articles and updates based on Club events and interests.

Still interested in helping, but not interested in leadership? Please let any Board Member know! We would love to have your help with activities, committees, online projects, or articles! Thank you!

Sincerely,

Kestlyn Penley

CLC Elections Chair

Articles

Raising Healthy Chicks by Kestlyn Penley-reprint from March 2015

As the cold weather turns warm and the ground bursts forth with a kaleidoscope of color, a particular sound fills our homes, barns, and yards...Peep! Peep! Peep! Yes, it is that time again. Chick days! In the Southern states it may be ending, and in the Northern states just beginning, but we are all interested in healthy fluffy chicks.

Many members have asked me to share again a regime that was given to me a couple of years ago from Vickie Dawson, aka the dragon lady on BYC. Her gorgeous birds and their offspring place consistently on the APA show circuit, but what interested me the most with her plan is that her Orpingtons were imported from the UK, much like our Cream Legbars. In the beginning they needed to adjust to our diseases, were underweight, had less than desired hatching rates, and the best looking birds were lacking in vigor. These are very similar issues to what we have experienced with some of our Legbars since being imported in 2010.

I have had great results using the Dragon Lady Regime including; increased hatch rates, chicks growing larger than their parents (1/2 pound a generation), birds living free from illness and less early deaths, better flesh leading to better shape, and pullets laying up to 12 weeks sooner than their mothers. My first Cream Legbar pullet Lucy waited until 31 weeks to start laying, her daughter started at 19 weeks, Lucy's granddaughter started at 17 weeks. I am sure that the 17-24 week time frame will remain normal, but still these are drastic results for me.

The Dragon Lady Regime has two main parts, feed and worming.

Feed

Free choice Purina Medicated Chick Starter from day 1 until 4 1/2 months.

Oats soaked in warm water for a few minutes added at 3 days.

Whole grains offered in a pie pan once a day (1 part oats, 2 parts bird seed or scratch, 1 1/2 parts BOSS, 1 part calf manna) starting at 4 weeks of age. Whole grains are important because they help teach the crop to do its job, and in little chicks the effort of breaking down whole grains helps to keep them warm and aids in digestion.

Flock switched to Flockraiser at 4 1/2 months, continue the whole grains, and get daily time out on the grass to eat plants and bugs.

Worming

Chicks wormed with Wazine at 2 and 3 weeks of age, never again use Wazine.

Juveniles wormed with Safe Guard or Valbazen, alternating, every two weeks from week 4-14.

Older birds are wormed if needed, after fecals are observed. All coops and birds are treated with Permethrin about 4 times a year. The aggressive worming program and medicated feed help so much because imported birds take many generations before they develop strong immunities to US bugs and parasites.

I like to start with a plan and add or subtract as I see fit. There are a thousand ways to raise chicks, please choose what makes sense to you. Personally I feed my birds a wet mash daily, so I add the whole grains directly to the birds' chick starter, layer feed, or flockraiser. I also like to use Manna Pro Chick Starter instead of Purina. I add Echinacea and garlic to feeds, as well as drops of baby vitamins (no iron) to chick starter. And I use Sevin and Permethrin sprays to combat pests. Otherwise, I follow the Dragon Lady Regime pretty closely, which resulted in another unexpected

surprise this past year. One of our Barnevelders, raised on the plan above, won Champion Continental at Nationals last December! Best wishes for happy and healthy chicks!

Regional Director updates

Western Director Jane Johnson

Hello to all Cream Legbar Club Members and Enthusiasts. I'd like to share a few things I've been thinking about with my flock, and hope you'll reach out and let me know about yours.

I've been working with the Cream Legbars for about 4 years now. When did you get your flock started? Did you begin with chicks, or started stock, or hatching eggs? How did you locate your Cream Legbar breeder? Did you rely on one source or reach out to different breeders?

When do you do most of your hatching, and why? My hatching periods are focused on the Spring and Fall. If I can evade predation, my keepers from Spring-time hatches mature nicely for juvenile entries in the Fall and Winter poultry shows. Meanwhile, the fall hatch offspring tend to jump start my Spring effort, as I can sample different pairings which I may want to concentrate on next Spring. Or I may have all new pairings if Fall hatch cockerels look like good breeding candidates by Spring.

With every breeding group, I see Standard of Perfection (SOP) details in a new light. Recently I've been focusing on barring in the males, which improves the barring in the females as well. In general, I'm looking for well-matched hackles and saddles in the males. For me, this means the color and texture (barring pattern) appears to flow evenly from the base of the crest to the base of the tail, as though it were one continuous piece, cut from the same cloth so to speak.

Beyond the hackle and saddle feathers, I'm fascinated by the body barring in the males. In particular, I've noticed very nice, neat barring that wraps around the back half of the cockerels at about 2 to 3 months, before the saddle feathers break the continuity of the pattern. If anyone raises Barred Rocks or Dominiques, maybe you could share a better way to describe this continuity.

Then I compare contrast in the barring, especially on the tail feathers. While the SOP describes the tail feathers as "gray, evenly barred" for the male, I like to see a very light gray alternating with the darkest gray possible. While Cream Legbar cockerels will not show graphic black and white barring on the tail feathers, sometimes the pattern is muted because the two shades of gray are too similar.

What catches your eye this Fall?!

Southern Director-Curtis Hale

A club isn't a club without activities. Due to the large area that the Cream Legbar Club covers the regular quarterly club meetings are done on-line via teleconference software. Regions set up live in-person activities each year where members can meet and network with others in their area as well as to provide a visual presence in the poultry community to achieve the club goals establishing the breed and educating the public.

The 100th Annual Oklahoma State Poultry Show on the 10th of December in Shawnee, Oklahoma will be the location of this year's regional activity.

In the past the Southern Regional Activities have educated the public through poster boards at club tables with information on the history of the breed, its economical properties, and its defining traits, egg displays to show the color and size of the Cream Legbar eggs, participation in open egg contest, live chick displays to teach about autosexing, etc.

The focus of this year's Regional Activity will be on exhibition. A requirement for APA to consider the breed for inclusion in the APA standards book is for the breed to be exhibited at several meets where a minimum of four birds in each of the pullet, cockerel, hen, and cock categories must be shown. After the breed has been shown for a minimum of three years and it has produced the required numbers of pre-qualifier shows the club responsible for the breed must request a qualifying meet where a minimum of fifty birds must be shown. The acceptance of the breed into the APA standards book follows the recommendations of the judges at the qualifying show. The first exhibition on Cream Legbars in the USA that had multiple exhibitors and enough entries to present a Best of Breed award was at the Southern Regional Club activity in 2013 at the Fancy Feathers Poultry Show in Texas. The largest exhibit was one that our teen age boy who is a member of the Cream Legbar club set up with his 4H club where 30 Cream Legbars were shown by 8 exhibitors. Most of whom were members of the 4H who were sponsored chicks or hatching eggs to raise and show for the Cream Legbar 4H project. That show was very successful but did not qualify as a pre-qualifier since the minimum number of four cocks were not exhibited.

Building on the experience of the past activities, we have the goal to have this year's regional activity be the first recorded pre-qualifier meet in the USA for the Cream Legbar. We hope to have a big turn out and invite all to come whether you have birds to show or not.

The show catalog will come out in October. To get a catalog sent to you send a message to jaburke00@yahoo.com requesting a catalog.

Cream Legbar Club Q & A: Elissa Teel-Duggan

This is a new section in our newsletter where members can ask questions of our leadership team. Questions can be anything you want discussed--on topics ranging from history to future club plans to husbandry and more. We will do our best to have the most appropriate expert answer the questions for you. If you have the question—many more members do to! Email questions to DrETD@msn.com or creamlegbarclub@gmail.com

Q & A

Q: You had talked about 'Melanizers' in your article on how you differentiate the Cream from the Golden Crele in young Legbars. I'm not sure what this means, could you please explain?

A: Thanks for your question! The reason I didn't explain much further is because I am not sure what is causing the enhanced melanization (extra black pigment) in Legbars, only that it is present in the US population. I am

approaching my Cream Legbars breeding like a giant science experiment. I want to figure out what genetics I have in my flock as I move forward breeding toward the standard. At first I thought it was going to be an easy assignment, but the more chicks I hatched, the more I have come to realize that Cream Legbars are an incredibly complicated bird because of the interplay between all of the genetic components of the bird. The black enhancers are just one part of the puzzle. The other parts—barring, ‘cream’, red enhancers, the inherent intensity of the ground color and unknown dilutors all play a part in the expression of the other colors which makes finding a balance between the color and pattern very difficult to achieve.

Here is what I know:

- 1) Punnett talked about how an unknown melanizer seemed to enhance or intensify the expression of Cream. I can attest to this because I have a few birds who have been ‘blacker’ than the average and they also have a richer, more yellow-y cream color. The melanizer appears to be masked by some unknown dilutor because I have had very white-looking birds throw very melanized offspring. It may or may not be the same ones I talk about next but doesn’t appear to change the down color of chicks.
- 2) There is an unknown melanizer that causes a black or dusky wash or faint stippling to the breast in females as well as a darkening of their hackles. It also enhances black in the throat and directly behind the ear. This is a different gene than the one that causes a very dark crest. This gene is different than the one that causes the black tipping of the breast in females. This gene does cause the down in chicks to become a charcoal in the males and a very dark sable dorsal stripe in the females. *Figure 1a pullet, Figure 1b down*
- 3) There is a gene that appears to be dominant or incompletely dominant that causes the crest to appear very dark to black. I have identified the inheritance through outcrosses to Welsummers, another wild-type breed. You can see it without the overlying barring in the cross and it is indeed black. *Figure 2*
- 4) There is a gene that causes a black tipping in females. This appears to be a dominant or incompletely dominant patterning gene. *Figure 3*
- 5) There may be others that are non-obvious and unknown but present.

If a bird only has one of these genes, then the black may not be enhanced very much. If they have many melanizers, then the black enhancement may stack to some degree and the bird will appear very dark.

If a bird has one or more of these genes, but also has unknown dilutors, then the expression may be suppressed in that bird but it may come out in the bird’s offspring if the dilutor is not inherited.

My Goals:

- 1) I am trying to breed away from the very dark to black crests and am aiming for a crest that either matches the color of the hackle (more cream) or the body (more grey) because the crest is supposed to be cream and grey barred not black barred. I cannot identify this in the girls until they are 4-5 weeks old.
- 2) I am immediately marking any girl who had a very dark dorsal strip as well as males who are charcoal to eliminate the black wash on the breast.
- 3) I am not sure what to do yet with the pattern gene that causes black tipping on the female breast. Over time I am going to try to see if this makes the male’s breast appear to have better barring or darker barring.
- 4) I like the richer cream coloration (non-white) so I am not removing the ones that show Punnett’s darker body

coloration at this time. It does appear to modify the barring, so it is possible that this melanizer may be a 'wimpy' barring gene or a gene that modifies barring to make the black bars appear wider and the white bars to be less of a bright-white and more of a very slightly grey-white.

I am reluctant to put out guesses on the genes that may be contributing to the black pigment enhancement at this time. They may be unknown or they may be a known gene. Same goes for dilutors other than Cream. I know they exist, but it's too early in my breeding projects to figure out what they are at this time.



**FIGURE 1A: LEFT-HEN SHOWING MELANIZER CAUSING DARK THROAT, DARK BEHIND THE EARS AND A DUSKY WASH OR STIPPLING ON THE CENTRAL AND LOWER BREAST. THIS HEN DOES NOT HAVE THE BLACK TIPPING MORE COMMON IN CREAM LEGBAR FEMALES. IT FADES SOMEWHAT WITH AGE
RIGHT: PULLET**



FIGURE 1B: PULLET TRIO. LEFT CHICK IS DILUTED WITH AN UNKNOWN DILUTOR, MIDDLE CHICK IS 'NORMAL' WITH MILD RED ENHANCEMENT AND RIGHT CHICK IS ENHANCED WITH UNKNOWN MELANIZERS.



FIGURE 2: BLACK HEAD AND UPPER HACKLE IN A WELSUMMER X CREAM LEGBAR PULLET. NOTE THE BREAST IS NOT TIPPED WITH BLACK FEATHERS

NOR IS THERE A BLACK WASH IN THE BREAST FEATHERS. FIRST GENERATION THEREFORE NOT RECESSIVE. HER DOWN WAS A 'NORMAL' BROWN IN COLOR.



FIGURE 3: POINT OF LAY CREAM LEGBAR PULLET SHOWING BLACK BREAST TIPPING.

Club Information

CLC Officers

President: Dr. Elissa Teel-Duggan

Vice President: Anthony Markley

Secretary: Rinda Myers

Treasurer: Kestlyn Penley

Regional Directors

Central: Open, Volunteers Welcome!

Eastern: Tru Cuoghi

Southern: Curtis Hale

Western: Jane Johnson

Newsletter Editor: Carol Flaming

Website Chair: Colleen Duggan

Check your email for Meeting reminders and an invite to the online meetings. The invite information is always the same, so you can use your old invites sent in email to find the link.

Join the club or renew at our website www.creamlegbarclub.com

Visit our Facebook site <https://www.facebook.com/CreamLegbarClub>