

VARIOUS

NEWS, MISCELLANEOUS AND 'BUY AND SELL' MARKET

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A word from the editor.....

Dear reader,

These days we are overwhelmed with one record beating after another. So we learned that the early Easter in Europe and mostly in the Netherlands was never this cold before. It even was a White Easter instead of a White Christmas. And this snow caused record traffic queues. It has already been said that the fruit harvest in France will be 50 % less than usual, due to the late frost. On the other hand it is ascertained that at the North Pole a 400 square meter piece of pole-ice broke off and is adrift; according to scientists due to the warming of the earth and climate change.



This made me think – of course much less spectacular – how things are in the fancy, concerning the breeding impulse of the pigeons and the plans of the chicken fanciers about warming the incubator and putting the hatching eggs.

When talking to fanciers we often hear that there is a tendency in to let nature takes its course, without forcing anything. On average the pigeon fanciers start mating their birds only at the end of March or early April now, still leaving enough time to breed a sufficient number of young.

Chicken fanciers now often say that there is no reason to start incubating so early, since the Ornithophilia Show in October – being the first exhibition of the season and with a National Championship for Young Animals – no longer exists.

More and more I realise that this early Ornithophilia Show apparently played a greatly underestimated role in the fancy, and closing revolutionized the experience of the fancy of many Dutch and Belgian chicken breeder.

The joining of Avicultura and Ornithophilia - resulting in the Avicorni Show - created a whole new situation and turned out to be a bull's eye, with a record number of entered fancy pigeons. Let's hope that the records will be beaten again next year!

With thanks to all contributors and subscribers,
On behalf of the team of Aviculture Europe,
Nico van Benten

THE FRAME

April 2008: Which breed is this?



Take your chance to win a free subscription!

Every reader may GUESS which Fancy Pigeon breed is portrayed in 'The Frame'. Please mail your answer to redactie@aviculture-europe.nl stating: 'Answer The Frame'. With the issue of each new edition we will choose a winner amongst the correct entries. **He or she gets a one year free subscription to Aviculture Europe.***

Answer February 2008 Frame: Brahma.

These Dark Brahma hen and cock were drawn by J.W. Ludlow, an ornithological artist who apparently specialized in domestic birds. Between 1867 and 1886 he illustrated several books on poultry and pigeons. He was perhaps the most famous 19th-century illustrator on the subject of domestic birds, portraying each bird in a natural farm or henhouse setting, imbued with its own personality and temperament that seems to correspond to its appearance. His poultry illustrations are considered classics and are widely reproduced in posters today.

This drawing is from the book of Lewis Wright 'The Illustrated book of Poultry', being replaced at the turn of the Century by The Book of Poultry, Edited by S.H. LEWER. The print in The Frame is from the Lower edition.

The happy winner of the **one year free subscription** is: **Michel Stals**.

*Only to be won once per person.

Advertisement

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NEW: Free Sample Issue, free to download! See button left at our website!

FASCINATING FEATHERS



Sometimes just looking at a single feather emphasises the beauty and uniqueness of a bird's plumage.

This is a feather of an ermine Ronquières turkey. In the ermine colour variety the top of all feathers have a black bar or edging, followed by a fine white lacing. The ground colour and the shaft are white. The black should not be fanned out over the whole feather. The feathers in the neck and breast should also have a black lacing. On the back and sides some totally black feathers are accepted, as long as it is not a complete black image. The beautiful marking shows to full advantage in the displaying tom.



This breed owes its name to the village of Ronquières nearby Brussels, one of the regions where this turkey was bred on a large scale in the nineteenth century.

It was thought that the breed had become extinct, but round 1990 Andy Verelst and the brothers Goddeeris, well-known Belgian fanciers, traced some species down in the Campine region and succeeded in restoring the breed to its full glory; at the moment even in 5 colour varieties.

Photos: Aviculture Europe.

Ronquières turkeys are very hardy and fertile, the hens lay very well. Moreover they are good grazers that even eat nettles.

When looking at the photos, some readers might think they see a 'Crollwitzer' turkey instead of a Ronquières. Both breeds are somewhat connected and in another article in this issue, Boudewijn Goddeerus explains the differences and similarities between the two turkey breeds.

Right: Displaying Ronquières turkey in the ermine colour variety.

Photo: Ad Taks.



Left: Brooch from an ermine coloured turkey feather.

HOLIDAY HOMES FOR RENT IN FRANCE



A recently restored traditional Quercy-type house divided into two independent fully furnished units with living, modern kitchen and luxury bath room; the larger unit sleeps up to 8 to 10 guests in four separate bedrooms, the smaller accommodating 4 to 6 guests in two bedrooms.

The house is surrounded by private grounds with a swimming pool. Each unit has its own entrance and terrace, containing outdoor furniture and a barbecue.

The property is surrounded by rolling countryside of farms and woodland and only a few miles from the little village of Valprionde. In the nearby surroundings several ancient villages with local markets and characteristic restaurants can be found.

Location: Valprionde / Montcuq

Interesting towns nearby:

Cahors (30 km) and Agen (50 km)

Toulouse Airport (100 km SE)

Bordeaux Airport (100 km NW)

Département : LOT (46),

Region : Midi Pyrenees, France

Setting : Rural



Holiday house, newly built in 2004. The property is less than 2 km from the little market town of Montaigne de Quercy. The rolling landscape of varied farmland and woodland is super for walks. Two nearby lakes (only 5 minutes by car); one for fishing and one for swimming. The region Quercy is famous for its gastronomy; in the surrounding villages characteristic restaurants can be found where you can dine out at reasonable prices. The house is surrounded by two acres of private land, at one side boarded with cherry trees and with plenty of open grass for children to play in complete safety.



The terrace is a perfect spot to have breakfast or dinner, while watching the sun go down over the surrounding fields, ideal for the endless summer evenings.

Fully fitted operational kitchen equipped with a gas stove with four burners, microwave, refrigerator and coffee machine. Living room with sofa and armchairs surround a coffee table. There is a TV (satellite), a VCR and a DVD player. The two bedrooms have twin beds. Luxury bathroom with shower, separate toilet. Washing machine.

Location: Montaigne de Quercy

Interesting towns nearby: Agen TGV(40 km), Cahors (40 km), Montauban (50 km)

Toulouse Airport (90 km) Bordeaux Airport (90 km)

Département : Tarn et Garonne (82)

Region : Midi Pyrenees. Setting : Rural

See for detailed information and photos on both properties:

<http://www.aviculture-europe.nl/keuzemenu.pdf>

KHAKI POLISH COCK

We received the following reaction to the Chicken Run article in our February issue, concerning the 'dun' colour in the chickens at Henk Meijer's.

Luuk Hans, a well-known Dutch breeder of the Poland, wrote:

As for the colour 'dun' I would like to say that this particular colour already exists in several chicken breeds, although it is not recognised in the Netherlands.

This colour - according to the Anglo-Saxon name - called khaki or chocolate, exists e.g. in Sultan, Burma and Poland. And in America and the United Kingdom also in Game Fowl and Wyandottes.

I am keeping dun-coloured white crested Dutch Polands, which I purchased by hatching eggs from America. There is a light variety called 'khaki' and a dark variety called 'chocolate'.

They are recognised in the USA.

I have been breeding these two colours for several years now, also to experience the inheritance. Finally I hope to have them recognised in the Dutch Poultry Standard.

In the picture you see one of my khaki white crested Polish cocks.

Photo: Luuk Hans.





LONGCROWER IN PARIS

Recently Dirk de Jong, one of our team members, visited the large Agricultural Show Salon International de l'Agriculture in Paris.

By: Dirk de Jong

A show with an impressive name, which is often mentioned in the ancient poultry magazines. Dirk mused: "Isn't it so that here lies the source of our poultry exhibitions, didn't all 'great names' of our history walk around at this Show, isn't it from this place that all our beautiful poultry breeds have spread over the world? Well, then it was about time that I saw this Show with my own eyes; after all there is no future if you don't know the history".

The Exhibition took place from February 23 to March 2. In 8 halls the Agriculture of France was widely displayed. Still compared to the other species of animals, the poultry sank a bit into nothingness.

Right: Denizli cockerel.
Photo: Dirk de Jong.



SCA

SCA

Cage N° 179 Sexe M

Bagne N° Année

Date

RACE Denizli dove

CONDITION: Breu

POINTS POSITIFS: Tête coloris ABreu

ASPECTS NÉGATIFS: Queue trop relevée
Longueur de chant insuffisante

DÉFAUTS GRAVES:

Prix: II 92

Le juge: Jean Claude Perlequet
Président de la Fédération
Européenne des races

What in earlier years must have been THE large presentation of utility fowl is now only a middle large exhibition, and in fact that is the true reflection of how our hobby is today.... Still there were enough remarkable things to see, and being the Secretary of the French Poultry Breeds Club in the Netherlands, especially the French poultry had Dirk's attention. (In due course you will find Dirk's report on these rare breeds in our magazine.)

Special to Dirk was also the Denizli; a longcrower breed that is recognized in the Netherlands, but which you hardly ever see at a show. According to the judges report, the judge was not quite satisfied with the cock, in particular because it didn't crow long enough (longueur de chant insuffisante)....

This makes you wonder why the crowing – being a characteristic of the breed - is not 'a demand' in our Dutch Standard?

For those who don't know the breed and are curious how such a long crow sounds: this link will show you a video of a crowing Denizli. With our thanks to Bobo Athes, our Romanian team member.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1CS4ez4kjKM&feature=related>

ASPECTS NÉGATIFS: Queue trop relevée
Longueur de chant insuffisante

DÉFAUTS GRAVES:

Prix: II 92

Left: Notice the remark in the judges report: Longueur de chant insuffisante, meaning: Doesn't crow long enough.

You can visit the show at <http://www.salon-agriculture.com/>

And have a look at the videos!

Voir toutes les vidéos - > See all the videos

Photos: Dirk de Jong.

GREETINGS FROM ALEM (NL)



By: Elly Vogelaar.

Driving along the N322, heading for the village of Gemert, for an interview with Jo Otten (see our article 'Chicken Run') we suddenly faced the roundabout at Alem, with a –to us- very apposite work of art: three gigantic eggs laying in the grass, very naturally placed with the points somewhat downwards, making the roundabout look like a real nest. Of course we stopped the car and I went out to take a picture. Coming close, the eggs turned out to be man-high and looked deceitfully real.

Later I searched the internet to find some more info on the subject. The eggs are made by artist Maria Roosen. The three eggs (two white and one brown) weigh two and a half tons each and are made of a steel construction covered with concrete. The final layer – a mix of concrete and pigments - is 'spattered' on the concrete, giving a very natural look like a real porous egg shell. The work of art makes a lovely view from all 5 roads to the roundabout.

TAKLA, the Turkish ClapTumbler

Report on a Turkish pigeon auction in Utrecht (NL)

Text and photos: Dirk de Jong.

The Turkish Pigeon Auction at the Association Karim Karabekir in Utrecht was a very special experience for me. Seventy to eighty men from all points of the compass were gathered here, even from abroad (Belgium, Germany, France) the Turkish pigeon keepers come to this monthly auction, always on a Saturday evening, starting from 8 a.m. after having watched a Turkish football match together on a large screen in the Club building. There is another auction like this - even bigger - in Arnhem (NL) first Saturday of each month.



The auction goes as follows: 32 cages are nailed to the wall, having removable partitions, depending on the number of pigeons entered. Each seller is given a number that is attached to the cage.

I noticed that no bird is taken in hand before selling. When the auction starts, all birds of one seller are put into a dog bench on the table and each bird (or a couple) is placed upon the bench. Then the pigeons are pushed to fly, so that they can perform.

The bidding starts at € 7,50 and is in Turkish (with every now and then a Dutch word thrown in for me). I also enlarged my knowledge of languages: Arabic kek means black cock and kelek is butterfly; there is a Turkish pigeon breed that flutters as a butterfly and the name of that breed is Kelebek.



Type is very important, the rest is no object; colour, beak crest, cap, much or less muffs are all things that are hardly looked upon. Red eye ceres are a fault, they don't like that in the Takla and there are fanciers that do pay attention to that. But it is the flying pattern that makes the breed. The different types are named after cities or regions, like Mardin, Ankara or Urfa. A Takla must loudly clap its wings and soar, not drop, while tumbling backwards. Good ones will put many combinations tumble, climb, tumble, climb....

Sometimes the pigeons were not sold; the owner wanted a better price then. Ten percent of the selling price is for the association and for not sold birds 50 cents cage rent has to be paid.

There were over 100 pigeons and each and every one of them was set to fly through the room. I noticed that some colours were favourite and were quickly sold, same as the ones that clapped very loudly. I saw pigeons flying backwards, spinning and of course perform a very good tumble.

This was a quiet evening, according to the chairman. While enjoying a glass of Turkish tea, he told me that the adjoining piece of land would also soon be hired from the municipality of Utrecht. They plan to build a number of pigeon lofts there for people that cannot keep pigeons at home.

Keeping pigeons is very beneficial; it keeps people busy so they don't sit all day long in the coffee house smoking, drinking tea or gambling.





Pigeon keeping is in high esteem in Turkey and gives a feeling of unity. Some keep pigeons as a family property; no one is allowed in the lofts and no bird is sold. Those birds go from father to son. Large sums of money are paid for excellent pigeons, that fly as a pigeon from that region should.



Here at the auction there are two types of fanciers: people that keep the pedigree Takla, and people that cross with other pigeons. For instance, to get a special colour, a Luzern Goldneck was offered for sale AND sold! These crossings involve flying capacity and are disapproved by the other group of fanciers. Thus the chairman of the Arnhem auction advanced an ambitious plan; he suggested buying all 'bad' pigeons and culling them, so one could only breed the pure Takla. His plan wasn't supported; they are very fond of liberty.

If you are looking for a certain colour, cock or hen, or a good performing bird, you will always find something to your liking at these auctions.

JUST A TINY LITTLE COCK

This picture was taken early march, just 'somewhere on the road' at a fallow lying piece of land with some old barns. Just a perky little cock, proudly posing for our camera. Picture it with longer sickles and you have a perfect Dutch Bantam, with only one difference: it was above all TINY... very tiny! A Serama would be jealous. Estimate size without a measure is difficult though; we guessed it to be 20 cm. But we only realised that estimating size in a photo is even more difficult, when the bird had already wandered off in the direction of the barns. So we took another picture of a box of matches at the spot, where you hopefully can compare the size with the most recognisable 'weed' Cleavers (Galium aparine).



Of course we don't know how come this cock is as little as it is. First thought is: (too much followed out) inbreeding. Still looking at the very broad primaries and tail feathers, this is rather unlikely, as narrow primaries are one of the first symptoms of inbreeding or degeneration.

The flights are not properly folded, so you cannot see the colour of the wing triangle. Presumably it is white (silver), this is a silver partridge bantam, although the breast should be solid black and not so much speckled with white, but this is often seen in old birds. Together with the short sickles (another sign of 'old age') we can conclude this must be an old Dutch Bantam cock.

De kwaliteit van uw kippen hangt van veel factoren af. Om te beginnen is een goede genetische basis belangrijk. Dan komt uw inzet: passende huisvesting, goede hygiëne en uw aandacht en verzorging. Tenslotte is met voeding ontzettend veel te beïnvloeden. Met de juiste voedingsstoffen in de verschillende levensfasen valt een hoop te verbeteren, of u nu de uiterlijke kenmerken helemaal tot z'n recht wilt laten komen, of dat u de beste eieren wilt.

Broedtijd

Wie een toom kippen van topkwaliteit wil fokken, begint al in de broedtijd. Voor een maximaal bevruchtingsresultaat moeten de foktomen bij elkaar passen en mooi slank zijn. Zet minimaal acht weken voor u de broedeieren verzamelt al *Garvo 716 foktoommeel* of *717 foktoomkorrel* in. Voer verder absoluut niets bij. Garvo foktoomvoer draagt bij aan optimale bevruchting en eisamenstelling. Resultaat: levenslustige kuikens die gelijkmatig uitkomen in de broedmachine.



Kuikens

Geef kuikens vanaf de eerste dag *Garvo 701 kuikenmeel* of *702 kuikenkorrel*. Het meel heeft een fijne structuur en de korrel is van het kleinste formaat. De kuikens eten dit graag en nemen het voer snel op. De nadruk ligt niet op groei van alleen vlees, maar op de ontwikkeling van het gehele dier. Daarom zijn eveneens voldoende warmte en zuurstof nodig. Garvo kuikenvoer kan tot de tiende à twaalfde week worden gegeven. Daarna moet u hennen en hanen scheiden. Apart kunnen ze gerichter worden verzorgd.

Meer informatie op: www.garvo.nl

ANCIENT ORIENTAL OWLS

March 1 and 2 in the Houten Exhibition Halls the annual Spring Exhibition for pigeon keepers took place. Originally this is a homing pigeon event, but lately more and more Fancy Pigeon keepers seize the opportunity to use this event to promote the Fancy.

Many Specialty Clubs were present with their display and also fancy pigeons were for sale.

At the display of the Owl Club a pair of so called Ancient Oriental Owls in Blondinet marking struck our eyes; striking by their vitality, tameness and special markings. The birds were offered for sale by Martin van Uden, a well-known fancy pigeon keeper and judge.



Later we contacted Martin to find out how he got these birds. He told us that he had seen this breed (but in 'Satinet' marking) for the first time on the cover of the January 2002 issue of the former (printed) magazine Avicultura, in consequence of a journey to Turkey by the chief editor of that magazine. When Martin showed this cover to a Dutch-Turkish friend in the fancy, this man was not at all surprised and told Martin that these pigeons were considered to be the 'ancient' and original Oriental Owls and were rather common in Turkey. Next time when he visited Turkey, he brought a pair of these Owls with him for Martin, and that is how he got them.

In the mean time several Dutch breeders keep these Owls now, i.e. René van der Wouw from Oss and Gerard van Dooren from Ravenstein. The latter breeds with 20 couples and raises a striking number of birds. The Ancient Oriental Owl is also known in Germany, where they hope to have the breed recognised in the Pigeon Standard within reasonable time.



POULTRY MUSEUM

The oldest poultry museum in the world is established in the village of Barneveld (The Netherlands). By means of exhibited objects and machines, but also video films concerning the development from egg to pullet and historical views of the Barneveld Eggs & Chicken Market, the visitor is informed of the development of the Dutch poultry sector.

Photo left:
Barnevelder
cock.



Permanent exhibition:

- From egg to chicken, plus history of poultry keeping.
- A most impressive selection of old equipment, from old incubators to trap nests and egg grading machines.
- The auction room from 1930 which depicted how produce, including eggs were sold in the local market, sure will create interest and fun when bidding (for a box of eggs or memorabilia)!
- 20 native Dutch breeds are on show outside.

Temporary exhibition:

WEATHERCOCKS

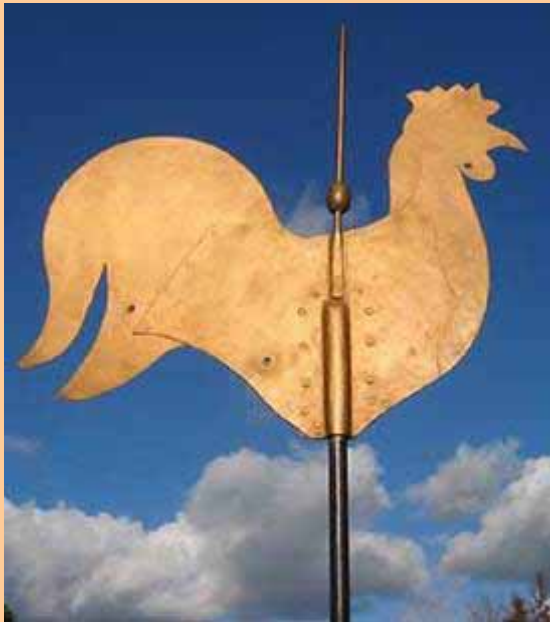
(see next page)

All photos on these pages © Pluimveemuseum.

WEATHERCOCKS

Here you can admire about thirty weathercocks, of which some ancient. Normally these weather vanes can only be seen at a distance, generally very high on the steeple of a church. Of course we also provide things worth knowing. Did you know for example that a cockerel was first used for weather vane on a church steeple in the year 820? The cock symbolizes strength, vigilance, and much more.

A number of these weathercocks come from Jean Luc Dehaene, old premier of Belgium, mayor of Vilvoorde and Member of Euro Parliament, and from Theo Broers, Moelinge, Belgium; both dedicated collectors.



The collection has been completed with weathercocks cockerel wind vanes from the National Carillon Museum at Asten (NL). Also Mr. G. Hoefakker, blacksmith, provided a brand-new brass-copper cockerel. A video presentation of 'the making' gives a picture of this 'old style' craftsmanship. This exhibition can be seen till the end of October 2008.

Location: Hessenweg 2A - 3771 RB Barneveld, the Netherlands.

Opening hours:

Tuesday to Saturday 10.00-17.00 o'clock

(Closed on Sundays and Mondays, except Whit Monday)

For more information see www.pluimveemuseum.nl

(in Dutch only, but with video!)

VITAMINS

By: Bobo Athes

Even though they are needed in tiny amounts by an organism, vitamins are crucial for health. Chickens are known to be the most susceptible to diseases from all domestic birds, so it is very important for each breeder to make sure his birds benefit from a well balanced nutrition.

Vitamins are responsible for various biochemical reactions, playing a major part in all metabolic processes. Basically, vitamins help the organism maintain its functional status and make more efficient use of the nutrients. Each lack of vitamin intake may have as result severe deficiencies in all bodily functions, growth, the immune system or the capacity to adapt.

Among other benefits, vitamin A is needed for the proper functioning of the digestive and respiratory tracts – both of which are particularly sensitive in chickens.

The vitamins from the “B – complex” are used in energy metabolism and preserve the health of the digestive system and the good bacteria found in intestines.

Vitamin E functions as a booster for the immune system and is also involved - together with vitamin A – in ensuring a good hatchability and vigour of the chicks.

Vitamin D is crucial for the assimilation of calcium and phosphorus, and must be given in extra amounts to hens that have begun laying. A lack of vitamin D can result in seriously slowed down growth of chicks and abnormal development of the skeletal system.

Making sure that your birds have a complete diet, with the right quantities of protein, carbohydrates, fats and fibre, next to all the necessary vitamins and minerals, you have the guarantee of having healthy and good looking chickens. And this is exactly what every breeder wants. This goal is easy to achieve if we pay a little more attention to “details”, and TRAVIPHARMA makes it even easier, with products like PROVIBAC, for example, which contains probiotics, minerals and vitamins in the right proportions. You just have to add it to the birds’ drinking water, and you’ll surely see the results.



Ask your supplier for Travipharma products or order at <http://www.travipharma.com/>

GENETICS CALCULATORS FOR PETS

By: Henk Meijers

There is a series of genetics calculators on the internet freely available for everybody to use.

With this calculator you can predict the progeny of sire and dam, and instantly see the genetic make-up of the colour of the offspring. The first and most extended calculator is the **Chicken Colour Calculator**.

There are two possibilities to start the program.

First: via the colour lists which are available in three languages (Dutch, English, German) on the portal page; on this page explanation/help, translation machine of chicken colour hobby names and links on how to access the other calculators (for other animals).

More colours can be requested, and the colour description can be changed via the webmaster of the Breed Book program (see Various-February 2008) <http://www.breedbook.org>

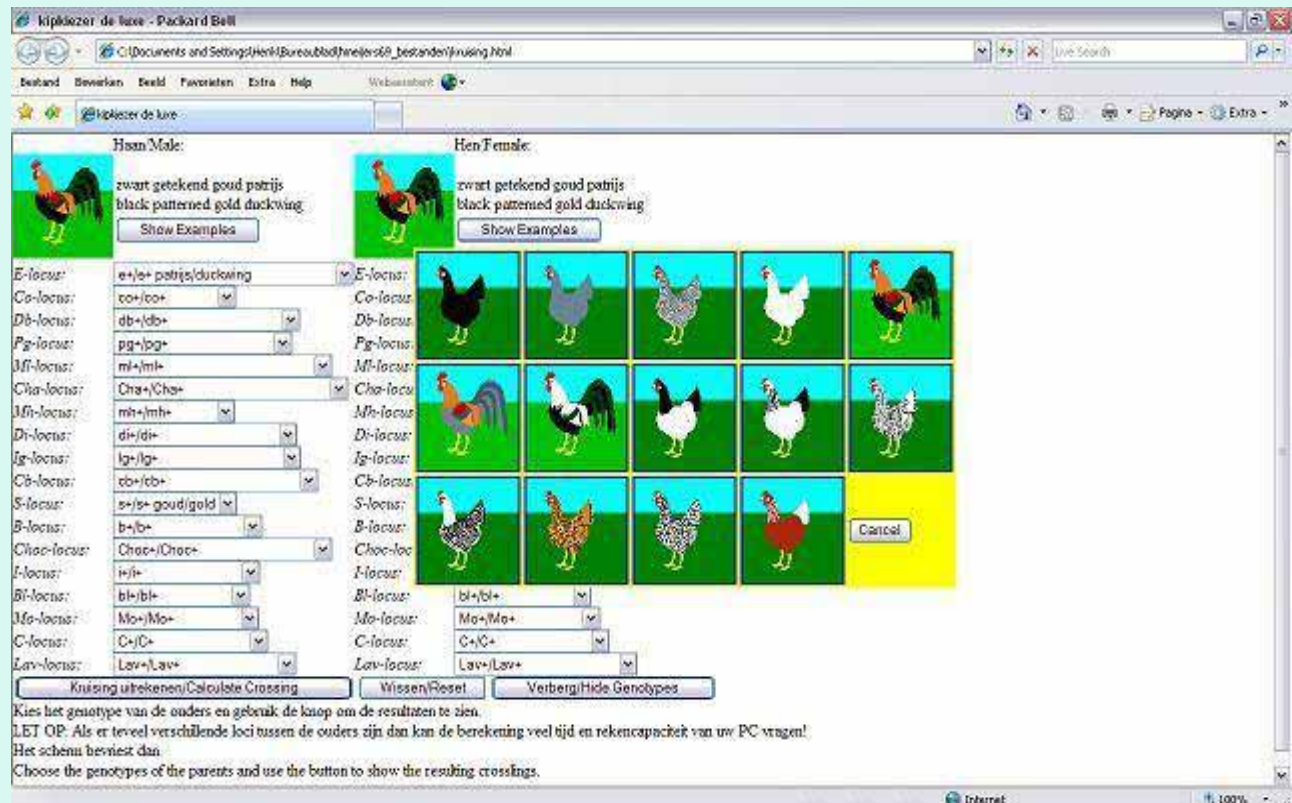
Second: if not choosing available colours; you enter the chicken page immediately and then.

You can either compose your chicken colour by altering the gene lists, or visually by choosing a standard colour by way of the buttons in 'Show examples'.

Click on the picture of the selected colour. The action of the individual gene(s) are visualized by clicking 'Show effect of this locus'.

(Locus is the location of the gene and its appearance, the alleles, on a chromosome).

After choosing the parents, you can do a cross and check out the results in a list below ('Calculate') or you can choose for a crossbreeding scheme, called the Punnett square.



The result can be a large amount of genotypes, depending on the chosen 'recipe' of the parents. You can now pick out two children and do another cross with them (F1 x F1). If you aren't you interested in this, you can hide the rough results, and choose a colour only summary.

The eventual aim is to have a picture of every possible outcome, using any of the colour genes.

For the less common colours there is one picture for both sexes. Don't be confused by that, the sex is below the picture. The 'fantasy colours' that are not common colours in breeds don't have a picture, there are just too many possibilities! Most of the chicken colour genes are added to the programme, with the exception of undefined red enhancers and melanizers (black enhancers).

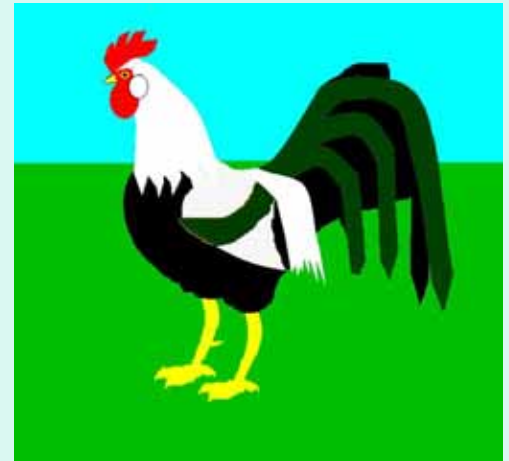
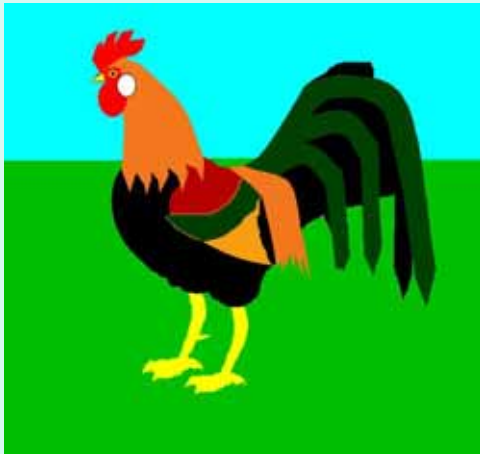
Pigeon Colour Calculator

Next to the page which lists the colours in three languages, there is an option for advanced breeders to select the genotype manually, from the gene lists.

In pigeon colour breeding there is not a lot known about the inheritance of the mottled/jazzy/gay colour. So this is not included in the pigeon colour calculator.

There are (still) some other missing factors.

If you know more about breeding pigeon colours and you think you can help to complete this calculator, please make contact via the website.



Cavie Colour Calculator

This version is in development with some very enthusiastic breeders and genetic experts in Europe. Impressive knowledge is available!

Rabbit Colour Calculator

This one was made before the cavie calculator, and is/will be checked by the experts. It is being worked on that at the moment. In the rabbits the red enhancers and silvering genes are missing. In both cavies and rabbits the Hollander or Belted pattern is simplified, but included in 'by popular demand'.

More

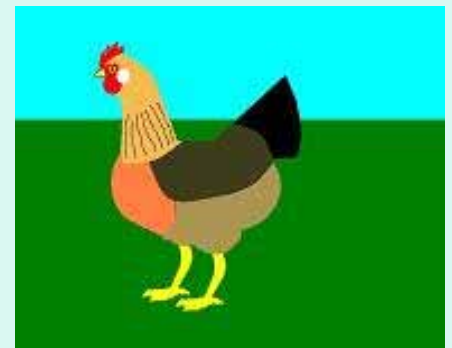
Programming is making choices, and it will be inevitable some questions will arouse. I hope that many of you will be stimulated in the hobby of colour breeding and will see these calculators as a way to extend existing knowledge by practicing and playing with it.

For these aspects, questions, tips and suggestions and also pictures of all colours you can contact the webmaster via his website www.henk69.nl . You can also make contact via the forums on which the link is placed on the portal page. There are lots of breeders in many breeds who are willing to share their knowledge about breeding and genetics.

To all the breeders of other species in addition to the above mentioned, and anybody who is interested in genetics generally, you will find the calculating principle is suitable for all breeds, and it is very simple to rebuild a calculator for your breed by yourself, or with help from the webmaster. You are invited to add the existing calculators to your own website. Examples such as the Chicken calculator <http://home.hetnet.nl/~h.meijers69/kruising.html> are on the portal page. The calculators can also be accessed by parameters via a hyperlink . You can add the colour choice on your own website and direct your visitors to it.

Finally, it's possible to build unlimited crossbreeding schemes using the 'Punnett square calculator'. Correct input is absolutely necessary, and it functions very well.

There are also examples for the above described breeds, and for biology lessons.





STOLEN CHICKENS AND PIGEONS

On a piece of land, with some smallholders and allotment gardens, along the railway close to Delft, on a number of nights almost all pigeons and chickens of several smallholders were stolen. The transport was done with a private car, with a small camper van attached. Thus they returned on several nights.

At Peter de Man they first took along his complete strain of Holle Cropper of the old-fashioned type, that are still used at the dovecotes, total 20 couples.

Still it was even more shocking to him to find that his two couples of Spanish Rafeño Pouters, which he had imported from Majorca (for a rather big sum of money) had also been taken. Some days later the thieves returned and took all his white homing pigeons, even using Peter's transport baskets.

But he was not the only one where birds were missing. The same happened to three other fanciers, e.g. Henk Kaspers, board member of the animal keepers' association Loosduinen e.o. At him they took all homing pigeons, which were all brooding; he found the youngsters dead (from the cold) in the nest the following morning. During the next days some homing pigeons returned, but the leg bands had been clipped off, making them unusable for his hobby, the races. Since his retirement this was his meat and drink to him. Every day he spent a lot of hours at his loft.

In the meantime his daughter had placed a recall on Internet to help her father and what happened afterwards is really heart-warming: he was offered a lot of young pigeons, even from the best lofts. Let us hope that these thieves are caught soon, as it seems to have become vogue! According to Charles de Zwart from the Zwarte Vogel, the pigeon shop in The Hague, this has been going on for two months now, where already some thousand pigeons have been stolen.

Meanwhile it turned out that the thieves are pictured on the video of a security service of an adjoining company and the police force has high hopes that they can solve this matter.