

Exhibition Poultry Has Many Safeguards in Place and is Populated by Responsible Breeders.

- 1.) **Outreach – Poultry Health Education.** Information on maintaining a healthy flock, preventing disease, and recommended biosecurity measures for the flock owner and poultry show are available at our associations' web sites: *www.bantamclub.com*, and *www.amerpoultryassn.com*.
- 2.) **Exhibition Poultry Health Tested.** All American Bantam Assoc. and American Poultry Assoc. sanctioned poultry shows comply with the State and Federal Regulations. These regulations typically include, but are not necessarily limited to, provisions which require poultry to have been pullorum tested within 90 days of the poultry show or originate from pullorum free flocks, which are participants in the National Poultry Improvement Plan.
- 3.) **Premises are Inspected.** Poultry exhibitor's premises are inspected once each year in conjunction with NPIP and pullorum testing.
- 4.) **Contact Information and Traceability.** A 48-hour trace back system is already in place. Each exhibitor submits an entry form to the show secretary. This entry form contains complete contact information such as name, address and phone number as well as the breeds, varieties, and quantity to be shown. During and after the poultry show exhibitor lists and show reports provide the same 48-hour trace back information.
- 5.) **Exhibited Poultry are Inspected.** Show officials and exhibitors work together to inspect all exhibits throughout the duration of the show. It has always been standard operating procedure that anyone witnessing a bird of questionable health at a poultry show contacts the show officials. The poultry show superintendent then locates the owner and the bird is removed from the show hall.
- 6.) **Housed in Ideal Conditions.** Buildings and grounds are kept clean and sanitary, which helps not only to produce clean and perfect feathering, it also helps prevent exposure to disease causing agents. Pens are cleaned frequently which limits exposure to feces. Ample amounts of natural sunlight and exercise are incorporated into pen designs. Pen designs are so constructed as to lower the stress of each bird maintained – implementing ideas based on research from government experimental poultry stations when such stations focused on designs which were based on the natural tendencies and needs of poultry.
- 7.) **Exhibition Poultry in Prime Health.** In order to successfully compete, breeders must go to great lengths to bring their show poultry into optimum health in order to exhibit poultry with shiny, strong feathers and bright red, robust faces. Protocols to achieve this state health include vaccination and biosecurity programs, selection for disease resistance, proper exercise, attention to cleanliness of water and environment, and supplementation with vitamins, minerals and probiotics. Additionally, the poultry must be maintained free of internal and external parasites.
- 8.) **Local Economics.** Based on a study by the American Poultry Association's Pennsylvania members, the average poultry breeder spends \$2,000 within their community on items related to their poultry hobby (feed, shavings, supplies).
- 9.) **Tourism Dollars.** Based on a study by the American Bantam Association's members, the average poultry exhibitor spends \$1,800 in travel expenses to participate at poultry shows. Much of these monies are infused into small, rural communities.
- 10.) **Family Oriented.** Exhibition poultry is a family hobby, which helps children to learn responsibility by giving them an outlet that will hopefully keep them off drugs and out of trouble.
- 11.) **Practical Education.** Exhibition poultry gives tomorrow's livestock professional hands-on experience.
- 12.) **Genetic Diversity.** Today's poultry breeders maintain a wealth of diversity of poultry genetics. Research indicates that breeds differ in their ability to resist various diseases. If the breeders of purebred exhibition poultry become discouraged, and retire from their hobby, we will lose the genetic diversity of these breeds and many rare breeds and varieties will cease to exist.
- 13.) **One Hundred and Forty Years of Safety.** There is no record of a known outbreak of disease from co-mingling birds at poultry shows. Showing poultry has a history of safely being conducted since 1864. What other industry can claim such a lengthy safety record?