



NEWSLETTER

Fall/Winter 2017

Volume 5, Issue 2



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As Fall transitions to Winter, we experience a mix of feelings. In some ways, there is a hint of sadness with

the passing of summer and the warmer temperatures. Yet the changing scenery with burst of fall colors on the trees brings a smile to my heart. It is a recognition of the progression of life and the appreciation of each day and the blessings that we have been given.

As Fall progresses, we can readily see the fruits of our labors. The chicks have grown and matured. Their personalities have developed and their places in the pecking order have been established. It is now the time for making decisions. Who will be the breeders for the next season?

Since the quest for a perfect bird is usually unfulfilled, how do I decide between competing assets and faults? In making these decisions, we rely upon our experience and judgement. What have we noted over the course of the grow out season? Can we trust our judgement to reach a good decision for the flock and the progress we hope to make with our birds?

Sometimes, it helps to get a second opinion. Fortunately, with the advent of Fall, we also come into the show season for our poultry. What better way to get a second opinion than to solicit the views of a person who professionally evaluates and judges poultry! The American Poultry Association (APA) judges go through a rigorous qualification path which requires both demonstrated knowledge and demonstrated skill in evaluating the quality of various breeds of poultry. Many of these judges have years if not decades of experience judging poultry. While an APA judge may be new to evaluating our Legbars, they certainly can appreciate the qualities and the challenge that a new breed may offer.

2017 Board Members and Regional Directors

President: Tony Markley

Vice-President: Elissa Teel-Duggan

Secretary: Rinda Sudweeks-Myers

Treasurer: Kestlyn Penley

•••

Eastern Region Director: Sarah
Evenson Merranko

Central Region Director: Myron Wilson

Southern Region Director: Curtis Hale

Western Region Director: Jane Johnson

Entering our Legbars into a poultry show is both fun and requires some work on our part. Just as you would bath and primp a dog or a cat or other livestock for a show, you must do the same for your Legbars. You may be surprised by the response of your chickens to a bath! Most of them will find the warm water very soothing and settle into the bath easily. Even the warm rinsing is generally not objectionable. Lastly, using some towels and a good blowing hair dryer finishes the process. Most of the birds find the blow-drying comforting and will sit there while their feathers are methodically dried. If you have a number of birds to do I recommend that you get another person to help. Not only does it help with the process but some great conversations can be had.

In this issue of the Newsletter, we discuss the experiences of recent shows around the country. In preparing for our application to the APA, we successfully conducted a pre-qualifier show in Minnesota and in Oklahoma. In Virginia, we were short two cocks and unable to meet the 4 cocks, 4 hens, 4 cockerels and 4 pullets (4x4) criteria.

Our Third Annual Cream Legbar Club Online, Virtual Show concluded on December 22, 2017. Our show had had 74 Cream Legbars, 30 Golden Crele Legbars, and 8 White Legbars entered. This is the most entries that we have had in our three online shows. I would also like to commend those who entered their birds for the correct variety. This was the first time that no errors were made on variety characterization. My compliments to all who entered their beautiful Legbars into the show. The entries have been forwarded to the APA judge with results expected back by the end of January. We look forward to announcing the winners.

As we enter the holiday season, the Cream Legbar Club wishes you a joyous holiday filled with family, friends, and fellowship. Best wishes to each of you in the New Year and many happy returns and joy on the investment of your time energy, and passion in your Legbars.

Best regards,

Tony Markley, President
Cream Legbar Club



Treasurer Report for 3rd Quarter 2017

Prepared by Kestlyn Penley 10/20/17

Starting Balance	2 nd Quarter Ending Balance:	\$ 2917.48
INCOME June 13, 2017-Oct. 20, 2017		
18 Paid Full-Memberships		\$ +216.00
<u>Interest</u>		\$ + 0.03
OUTGOING EXPENSES		
PayPal Fees		\$ - 11.88
Payment to Eric Valentine to archive old site in PDF		\$ - 120.00
<u>Shipping of show ribbons</u>		\$ - 9.75
Ending Balance (PP \$2509.11, WF \$182.37+\$300.40=\$2991.88)	Total:	\$ 2991.88

Treasurer Report for 4th Quarter 2017

Prepared by Kestlyn Penley 01/01/18

Starting Balance	3 rd Quarter Ending Balance:	\$ 2991.88
INCOME Oct. 21, 2017-Dec. 31, 2017		
12 Paid Full-Memberships		\$ +144.00
<u>Interest</u>		\$ + 0.02
OUTGOING EXPENSES		
PayPal Fees		\$ - 8.81
Payment to APA for Petition of Application Packet		\$ - 600.00
Shipping of show ribbons and APA packets (\$7.25+\$13.30)		\$ - 20.55
PO Box Yearly Fee		\$ - 40.00
<u>GoDaddy Domain Yearly Fee</u>		\$ - 35.34
Ending Balance (PP \$2044.30, WF \$86.48+\$300.42)	Total:	\$ 2431.20

EASTERN REGION NEWS

By Tony Markley

**Virginia Poultry Breeders Association
Show November 18, 2017**

As plans were being made to conduct a pre-qualifier show in the Eastern Region, the selection of shows changed several times. Initially, we planned to use the Virginia Show but our Eastern Region Director, Sarah Merranko, developed a family conflict. We then chose the Maryland Poultry Fanciers Show that was scheduled for October 28th. As we pursued this show to make arrangements for a Cream Legbar Club table and recognition that this was a sponsored Club event, we learned that the show had been cancelled for 2017.

Disappointed, we were then faced with trying to find a show that would work for the Eastern Region that was not too far for too many folks. We considered a show in North Carolina but ultimately settled on the Virginia Show. We made a number of attempts to Club members and non-club members with e-mails, and several forums/groups on social media. We posted notices in multiple Facebook groups and a number of Backyard Chickens forums to no avail. A few personal solicitations were also made. Ultimately, Sarah did send a Cream Legbar hen to this show and I brought 18 cream Legbars including two cocks, three hens, five cockerels, and eight pullets. I also brought four Golden Crele Legbars including one cockerel and three pullets. I brought one White Legbar cock and one White Legbar hen. Lastly, I also brought three Black Copper Marans pullets and one Black Copper Marans cockerel.

In preparing for this show, I engaged a neighbor, Terri Hockett, to help me bathe and dry chickens the weekend before the show. We had quite an assembly line going with this many birds. I could not have asked for a better partner in

getting this task done! We spent many hours and chatted endlessly.

The trip to deliver the birds the night before became a major misadventure. When I was almost two miles from the show site, my left rear tire on my van disintegrated. I pulled over only to discover that my spare was also devoid of air. So, I am now on a rural Caroline County, Virginia road with no spare and no cell signal. I ended up driving about 5-6 miles on what was left of the tire and on the rim to get to a truck stop on Interstate 95. Thankfully, the young man on duty there was able to help. I arrived at the show site, 10 minutes after the deadline. Fortunately, the show director, Tom Roebuck, was still there doing some paperwork and allowed me to coop in my birds. Tom also happens to be the District 4 Director for the American Poultry Association (APA).

Upon arriving at the show, the next morning, I checked my birds for water and began to set up the Club table. I delivered copies of our draft Standards of Perfection (SOPs) to the Show Director and Doug Cauthorne, the APA Judge assigned to judge the Legbars. Doug and I chatted briefly about the SOP and Legbars prior to judging. Afterwards, I placed a copy our SOPs on the first cage of each Legbar variety. As the show progressed, I had the opportunity discuss Legbars with quite a few folks.



CLC Information Table



Tony Markley representing the CLC at event.

At one point when I finished a conversation, I noticed that Doug Cauthorne was going through the Legbars and judging them. Doug indicated that he had some questions about the Legbars. We discussed each of the draft SOPs and in particular the Cream Legbar draft SOP. In going through Doug's questions and the SOP, I actually took some of my birds out of the cages and showed him some of the positive and some of the negative points in relation to the SOP. It was a good conversation and served both of our purposes. From our point of view, we provided some thoughtful education to a very experienced APA judge. From Doug's point of view, these discussions helped clarify his thoughts on the SOP and what he was seeing in the birds. It also helped that he had a large number of birds to review and compare. Once done with the questions, I left Doug to finish judging the Legbars. I purposely stayed away so that he would be comfortable coming to his own conclusions without someone looking over his shoulder.

As the day progressed, I scanned the results of other breeds. As noted earlier, I also had some Black Copper Marans in this show. I knew one of my pullets just looked really good and felt really good when I held her. I was totally surprised when I came around the corner and found a ribbon hanging on her cage. Not only was she Best in Breed, but she was the Reserve Champion of the Continental Class of chicken breeds (see photo below), just one step away from Champions Row. There was also a small crowd of folks gathered around her. I received several inquiries for hatching eggs and chicks.



After the show was over, Doug Cauthorne caught up with me again to discuss the Legbars. He provided the following comments for our consideration:

- Overall the females were consistent in their type

The females that were shown here were a combination of "A" line, A line X 1st Gen Rees Line, and 2nd Gen Rees line females. The Reserve in Breed was a 2nd Gen Rees Line pullet.

- Overall, the males were not consistent

The Best in Breed was a Markley Line Cream Legbar cockerel. The best showing for a 2nd Gen Rees line cockerel was 3rd place cockerel. Too many thumb prints in some combs, combs that were not straight, inconsistent sizes of birds, and some issues with wing carriage.

- Some pullets were too dark

The judge did not like the melanization shown in some of the females. He did not like the totally dark crests and the darker bodies on some melanized females. From his reading of the draft SOP, he strongly favored the lighter females.

- The SOPs are in very good shape

The judge commented favorably on the draft SOPs. He felt that they were consistent and communicated the expectations that a judge needs to evaluate the birds.

- Disappointment that we were missing two cocks

The judge was disappointed for the Club because we did not have four cocks present in the show. I acknowledged our disappointment as well. But, I did advise him of our successful pre-qualifier shows in Minnesota and Oklahoma. I indicated that based on these shows and feedback from Walt Leonard, Chair APA Standards Committee, and John Monaco, President of APA, that we will be submitting our application in the new year.

Overall, I was pleased with the show. It was a great opportunity represent the Club and to show off the results of our work on the birds. It was nice to meet some new folks as well as catch up with some previous acquaintances.



Best in Breed
Markley Line Cream Legbar Cockerel



Reserve in Breed
2nd Gen Rees Line Cream Legbar
Pullet

Central Region News

By Myron Wilson

•••

Fellow Legbar enthusiasts, autumn was a busy time and I am excited to announce that we had a 4x4 qualifying show for Cream Legbars here in Minnesota on October 28th. The show was an overwhelming success! We had six exhibitors-including one who traveled all the way from Montana to show her birds-and a total of 27 Legbars were shown - 24 Cream and 3 White (I could not resist showing three of my own White Legbars.) We had some beautiful birds on display and I believe that the Legbars were one of the top five breeds in terms of numbers shown. The birds generated interest and I gave out 50 copies of the proposed SOP, along with breed information and history.



We drew a judge that had limited knowledge of Cream Legbars but he did well in judging them. I had the opportunity to speak with him after the judging. I found that he did not judge much on the basis of color because he was not confident enough about the desired color. He did a web search before he judged, viewing some pictures of Legbars. Because of this, he may have given a few Gold Crele Legbars a little higher placement in the Cream Division. However, he judged mostly on body type and condition. Fortunately, not one Legbar was disqualified and we landed the show we needed for APA acceptance.

I was pleased to learn that it was the first time the judge had seen so many Legbars! He said there may have been one or two at past shows he attended and also shared that he never had to judge them before.

During our discussion, he included a few suggestions on the wording of the proposed standard, which I brought to the attention of our board.

The suggestions were purely technical in nature and bare no impact on current plans for the SOP. I would like to recognize the exhibitors; showings such as this would not come together without their dedication and participation. Not only did they exhibit, but they spent time speaking with attendees and other exhibitors to educate about the Legbar and to champion what great birds they are. I am so proud of each and every one of you that showed and look forward to the showings we will have in the future.

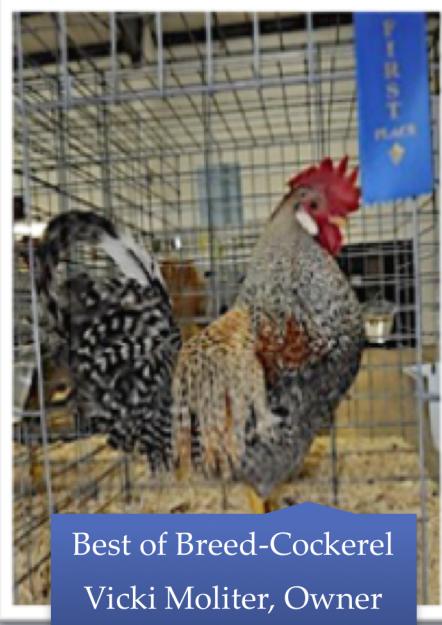
I also want to thank the CLC Board Members for helping me through the very first showing of Legbars I ever organized.

It's now winter in Minnesota again, which means below zero temps and frostbite on the cockerels. It would sure be nice to live somewhere a rooster would not get winter-dubbed.

I have 176 eggs in the incubator for a January 5th hatch. There are around 50 Cream and White Legbar eggs in the batch. I am hoping for the next Best of Breed to be in those 50 eggs.



Reserve Breed-Pullet
Myron Wilson, Owner



Best of Breed-Cockerel
Vicki Moliter, Owner

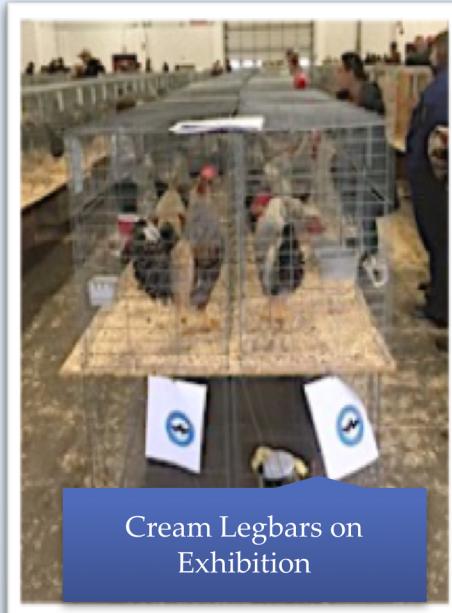


One step closer to SOP Approval!

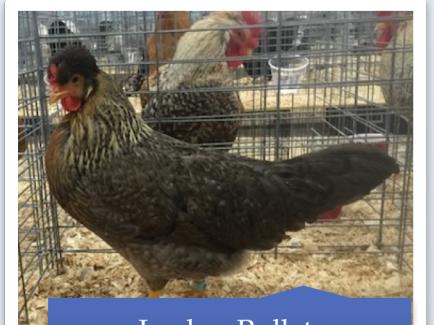
Minnesota State Poultry Association Show



Legbar Cock
Myron Wilson, Owner



Cream Legbars on Exhibition



Legbar Pullet,
Sara Richardson, Owner

Southern Region News

By Curtis Hale

The Southern Region hosted its 2017 Regional Club Meet at the Canadian Valley Mega Poultry Show and Expo in Norman, Oklahoma on Saturday November 4th. This show had over 3,500 birds exhibited with tens of thousands of dollars in prize money awarded. Exhibitors came from all over the USA and even Canada. The furthest exhibitors at the show had traveled from New York, thirty hours away, and the furthest Cream Legbar Club member at the show traveled from Mississippi, twelve hours away. There were 21 Cream Legbars on exhibit, as well as two Cream Legbars and one White Legbar breeding trio in the sales area for a total of 30 Legbars at the show. The club had a good representation at the meet and made some positive contacts with officials in the APA and new breeders taking interest in the breed.

The results of the show are as follows:

Open Class

Pullets:

- 1-Curtis Hale
- 2-Curtis Hale
- 3-Rachel Potter

Cockerels:

- 1-Rinda Myers-Reserve of Breed
- 2-Curtis Hale
- 3-Rinda Myers
- 4-Curtis Hale

Hens:

- 1-Rinda Myers-Best of Breed
- 2-Rinda Myers
- 3-Curtis Hale
- 4-Curtis Hale
- 5-Rinda Myers

Cocks:

- 1-Rinda Myers
- 2-Rachel Potter
- 3-Rinda Myers
- 4-Curtis Hale
- 5-Rinda Myers

Junior Class Pullets:

- 1-Jennifer Reeves
- 2-Jennifer Reeves
- 3-Jennifer Reeves

Junior Class Cockerels:

- 1-Jennifer Reeves

A big thanks to all the club members and exhibitors that were at this meet. We counted six club members at the show. Some club members were not exhibiting Cream Legbars but were still interested in the results of the Legbars and able to talk to others about the breed. As we start the New Year, now is the time to nominate shows for the 2018 Regional Meet. If you know of a show in your area that you feel would make a good venue for the 2018 regional meet please send information to Hale.Curtis@gmail.com. Also, if you are interested in service as a state representative for the Cream Legbar Club to work with the regional director on local state meets, youth Legbar projects, or local actives let us know through the same email.



CREAM LEGBAR CLUB



1st Place-Cockerel
Reserve of Breed
Rinda Myers, Owner



1st Place-Pullet
Curtis Hale, Owner



1st Place-Cock
Rinda Myers, Owner



1st Place-Hen (close-up)
Best of Breed
Rinda Myers, Owner



1st Place-Hen
Best of Breed
Rinda Myers, Owner

Canadian Valley Mega Poultry Show and Expo: Southern Region 2017 Meet



Cream Legbar Sale Birds



1st Place-Pullet
Reserve of Breed-Junior
Ethan Reeves, Owner



Ethan Reeves
Junior Showmanship

Western Region News

By Jane Johnson

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for 2018!

Have you entered a poultry show lately? If you find that overwhelming, consider entering your fresh eggs instead! In conjunction with sanctioned poultry shows, the APA has launched a new series of egg shows for all standard and non-standard breeds, including bantam, large fowl and waterfowl, for exhibitors of all ages. They also offer a fun "decorated" egg contest which may be as creative as you can imagine!

As the Cream Legbar has yet to be adopted by the APA, your local show may categorize all those lovely blue Legbar eggs as non-standard. In my recent experience, the sponsoring club was familiar with the Cream Legbar, as well as Gold and White Legbars, and recognized the blue eggs as a standard breed: "Legbar".

As a side note, it is important to enter fresh, whole eggs. Sadly, exhibitors that submitted blown eggs were disqualified, even though they were lovely examples of quail and emu eggs - btw - quite the contrast!

Please check out the Cream Legbar Club website for more information. The APA also encourages the Cream Legbar Club to sponsor Legbar specific awards within the APA egg shows. Contact the Cream Legbar Club at our website <http://creamlegbarclub.com> if you would like to do so at your local poultry shows.



In addition to the egg show, I also entered the poultry show. The Seaside Feather Fanciers club hosts "Bash at the Beach" in Ventura, California during October. This is a little early for my birds that are molting or played rough in their flocks, but I endeavored to enter examples of each color variety: Cream, Gold and White. The Ventura event is well attended by knowledgeable breeders and judges, and they accepted the Legbars as a breed entry in the English Class.

My objective was to show consistent body type across all of the colors, with correct color, and other elements as correct as possible for the proposed SOP (feel free to ignore the floppy oversized combs, they are beyond "large"). I was fortunate that Walt Leonard, of the APA Standards Committee, was in attendance, as well as John Monaco, APA President and member of the Standards Committee. Conor Keegan was the APA judge for the English class.

Conor took the time to review the proposed standard on our club website, which seemed manageable via his smart phone. After the competition concluded, the three judges reviewed my entries at length, and Walt confirmed that the Legbars were consistent for type and color with the Cream Legbars that he had observed at British Poultry shows in recent years.

Subsequently additional judges, including those attending but not working, came by to review the breed and draft SOP with me. I've included pictures from each color variety, with apologies as they were just snap shots for my reference and are best used as color references. As a side note - the Gold Legbar pullet was only included because I had room for one more pet carrier; she was chosen as Best in Breed.

My goal for 2018 is to hear how you are doing with your breeding programs, learn about shows in your area, and your interest in attending. I can be reached through the website contact form, or through my club email address: western@creamlegbarclub.com

Bash at the Beach Seaside Feather Fanciers Club Poultry Show



Cream Legbar-Cockerel
Jane Johnson, Owner



Cream Legbar-Pullet
Jane Johnson, Owner



Gold Legbar-Pullet
Best of Breed
Jane Johnson, Owner



Gold Legbar-Cockerel
Jane Johnson, Owner



White Legbar-Cock
Jane Johnson, Owner



Egg Contest



Creative Egg Contest
First-Place Winner



By Candace Waldon

Ever heard of an auto-sexing barred lavender-brown crested blue egg layer? Now you have. Opal Legbars are a new beautiful addition to the line-up of auto-sexing breeds. Opal Legbars are just like Cream Legbars, only with the addition of the lavender gene. This breed has everything you love and want all in one package. They are barred lavender birds with cute crests, blue eggs, and best of all, they are auto-sexing! Know which chicks are males and which are pullets as soon as they hatch!



Opal Legbars

Opal Legbar males are beautifully barred lavender with golden highlights. The barring lightens the lavender feathers giving them a silver appearance. When the sun hits them just right, these birds glimmer! The golden highlights contrasting against the silvery barred lavender is absolutely stunning. Opal Legbar hens are pearl gray with silver barring around

their necks. Many hens also have light creamy salmon breasts.



Opal Legbar rooster



Opal Legbar pullet

Opal Legbars are still considered a project breed. They cannot be considered a true breed quite yet. It's generally accepted that it takes seven to eight generations after creating that first hybrid to consider the new variety a stable breed.

When working with breeding projects, it is helpful to understand what a hybrid is, and the

terminology used in projects. By definition, a hybrid is the offspring that results from the mating of two individuals with dissimilar genetic makeup. The offspring of the first cross between two dissimilar parents are the “first generation”, often shortened to “F1”. These F1 birds may all look very different from one another. However, when two pure breeds are used as the parent stock, the F1 birds may all look very similar. The parent breeds will contribute known genetics to their offspring and the breeder knows with some certainty what the F1 birds will look like and how they will produce. However, because the F1 are now heterozygous, meaning they have a different genetic makeup than their parents, they will not breed true. There is much less certainty in what their offspring will look like or how their offspring will produce. Hatcheries will often sell these F1 chicks as “breeds”, but they aren’t breeds at all. They’re hybrids and will not breed true. If you want the same look and same productivity, you need to buy these F1 chicks from the hatchery again and again, year after year, or you need to have the parent breeding stock to cross to make your own F1 chicks.

For example, let’s say you like Red Stars. Red Stars are also known as Red Sex Links or Golden Comets. This “breed” is created by crossing Rhode Island Red hens with Rhode Island White roosters. Red Stars will not breed true. You cannot cross a Red Star to another Red Star to get more Red Stars. Doing so will give you a wide variety genetic traits in the offspring. If you want more Red Stars, you must again breed Rhode Island Red hens to Rhode Island White roosters. Or let someone else keep the parent stock and keep purchasing F1 chicks.

In any breeding project, the goal is to achieve birds that meet the goals of the breeder, that all the offspring look like their parents, and that

these traits are consistently presented generation after generation, not just in the F1 hybrid birds.

The specific goals of the Opal Legbar Project are to attain barred lavender-brown birds that are sexable at hatch, lay blue eggs, and are crested. Ideally, Opal Legbars will also meet all aspects of the Cream Legbar SOP, except for feather color being barred lavender-brown.

The lavender gene is a color dilutor. Underlying colors are diluted. Black is replaced by lavender, and red and golden plumage is diluted to a soft orange, creamy peach, or a light straw color.

Lavender is also a recessive trait. A bird needs to inherit two copies of the lavender gene in order to express the color. Being recessive, a bird can carry one copy of the lavender gene without expressing it visually. Breeders must keep accurate breeding records to know which birds carry one copy of the lavender gene.

The first step to creating the Opal Legbar Project was to introduce the lavender gene by crossing Cream Legbars to a breed that carried the lavender gene. Breeding two different breeds together creates a hybrid, which must then be bred back to type over many generations until the population is breeding true again. The closer in type the outcross breed is, the easier the task of breeding back to type will be. Therefore, ideally a breed with similar characteristics was needed, like the newly introduced Isabel Leghorn, also called the Lavender-Brown Leghorn.

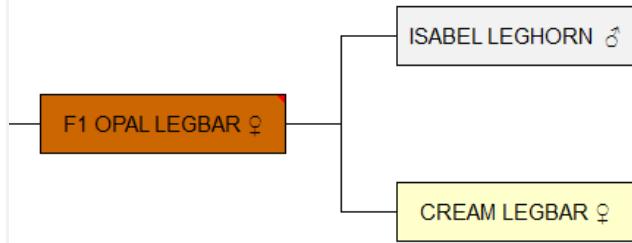


Isabel Leghorn

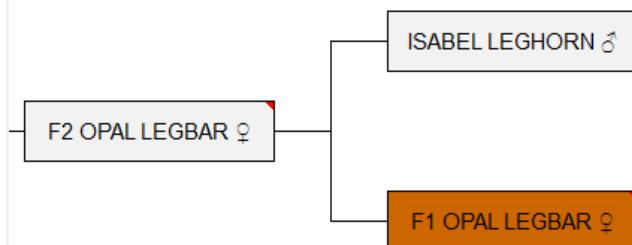
Isabel Leghorns are bred back to Brown Leghorns to improve type and feather quality. Cream Legbars can also be bred back to Brown Leghorns, although doing so would introduce the white egg gene and lose the auto-sexing trait that makes Cream Legbars so desirable.

Crossing a Cream Legbar with any other breed would cause those issues, that is-losing auto-sexing and introducing non-blue egg color. Having to work around those issues anyway, using Isabel Leghorns to introduce the lavender gene was a logical choice.

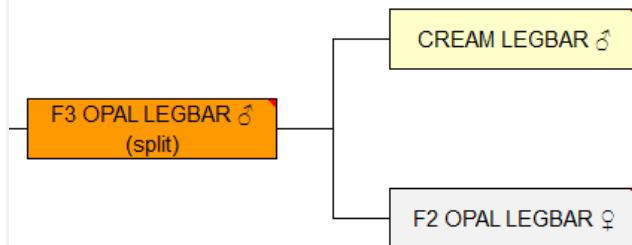
The foundation, or parent breeds for the projects were the Cream Legbar and the Isabel Leghorn. The first generation of this cross, or F1, a hybrid, carried one copy of the lavender gene inherited from the Isabel Leghorn, and one copy of the blue egg gene inherited from the Cream Legbar. These F1 birds looked like Brown Leghorns. Some sported a small crest, some only a hint of a crest, and some no crest at all. Only F1 pullets were kept.



At this point it was decided to work on expressing the lavender color first, then reestablishing auto-sexing, and finally working on egg color. The blue egg laying F1 pullets were crossed back again to Isabel Leghorns. This crossing produced 50% lavender colored birds and 50% brown birds. Only the lavender colored pullets that laid blue eggs were used to continue the project. It is interesting to note that these project lavender pullets could be easily mistaken for Isabel Leghorns.



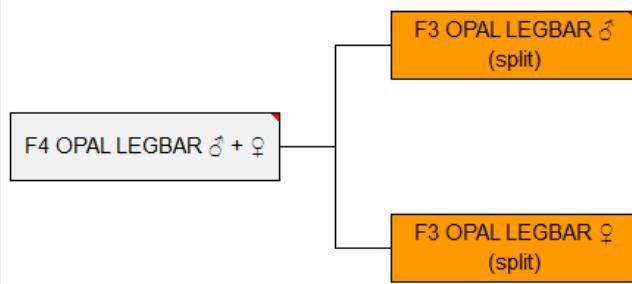
From the F2 offspring, only the lavender pullets that laid blue eggs were used to continue the project. These birds were crossed back to Cream Legbars, creating F3 birds that were again not lavender but were known to carry one copy of the lavender gene, aka "splits".





F3 project Opal Legbars

The F3 project birds mostly looked like very colorful Cream Legbars. These birds were bred together, again using only the pullets that laid blue eggs.



The first auto-sexing barred lavender-brown chicks were finally achieved in the F4 chicks.



F4 project Opal Legbar chicks

It is important to note that only 25% of the F4 chicks were barred lavender-brown, following the expected genetics of lavender birds.

Cream Legbar x Cream Legbar = 100% Cream Legbar

Cream Legbar x Opal Legbar = 100% splits (one copy lavender gene)

Opal Legbar x Split = 50% Opal Legbar, 50% splits

Split x Split = 25% Cream Legbar (no lavender gene), 50% split (one lavender gene), 25% Opal Legbar

Opal Legbar x Opal Legbar= 100% Opal Legbar



F4 project Opal Legbar cockerel

F4 Opal roosters were crossed back to F3 split hens. The resulting F5 chicks again demonstrating auto-sexing and followed expected lavender breeding genetics.



Opal Legbar chicks

To create separated breeding lines to continue the project, four F4 Opal Legbar roosters were bred back to unrelated Cream Legbar hens; two F4 Opal Legbar roosters were bred to F4 Opal

Legbar hens; a separate F4 Opal rooster was bred with F4 and F5 Opal hens; and an unrelated Cream Legbar rooster was bred to F4 and F5 Opal pullets.

In the summer and fall of 2017, some F5 chicks were released to those willing to continue working on this project.



[Opal Legbar rooster](#)

But we have not reached the finish line yet. The next phase of the project is to eliminate the white egg gene. This may be the most challenging aspect of this project.

Opal Legbars need to be tested to identify which birds carry two copies of the blue egg gene, and which birds carry fewer than two copies. It's easy to see if an Opal Legbar hen carries at least one blue egg gene. Since the blue egg gene is dominant, a hen need only have one copy to lay blue eggs. Therefore, if she lays blue eggs, she's guaranteed to have at least one blue egg gene. Opal Legbar males are a total mystery as they don't give us any clues by laying eggs.



[Opal Legbar pullet egg](#)

Currently, testing is done by breeding Opal Legbars, individually, with a white egg layer. If all the offspring lay white eggs, then that Opal Legbar carries two white egg genes. If some of the offspring lay blue eggs, and some lay white eggs, then the test subject carries one white egg gene and one blue egg gene. If all the offspring lay blue eggs, that bird carries two blue egg genes.

An adequate sample size is needed for each test subject. Two offspring hens which coincidentally both lay blue eggs will not confirm that a test subject carries two blue egg genes. A larger sample size will yield more accurate results. Two roosters and ten hens being tested, with a sample size of 12 female offspring per test subject, yields 144 mixed breed birds consuming resources for five to six months until they produce eggs.



Opal Legbar pullet

I encourage anyone to work on this project. For information and photos, and to talk with others also working on the project, please join the "Opal Legbar Fan Club" page on Facebook, or join the thread "Lavender patterned Isabel duckwing barred-lavender brown cuckoo Barred-Project and Genetics dis" on BackyardChickens.com.



©cjwaldon

This article and all images therein are copyright ©Candace Waldon and may not be reproduced without express written consent, images may not be "Photoshopped", cropped, or in any way altered, and credit must be provided.

UPCOMING CLUB MEETING

Upcoming Board Meetings (Tentative Dates):

Saturday Jan 6, 2018
Saturday July 7, 2018
Saturday October 6, 2018

Quarterly Membership Meeting: (Tentative Dates):

Saturday January 21, 2018
Saturday July 21, 2018
Saturday October 20, 2018

"The key to everything is patience. You get the chicken by hatching the egg, not by smashing it."

Arnold H. Glasow

The purpose of the Cream Legbar Club is to preserve, promote and provide education about Legbars that carry the blue-egg gene.



Cream Legbar Club
Kimberly Cook, Newsletter Editor

Please visit us at our website
<http://creamlegbarclub.com>
and
on Facebook at
<https://www.facebook.com/CreamLegbarClub>



Like us on
Facebook
