

Marans of America Club

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NEWSLETTER

July 2010



A 4th of July Prayer

We lift up our hearts, O God, on this day of celebration in gratitude for the gift of being Americans.

We rejoice with all those who share in the great dream of freedom and dignity for all. With flags and feasting, with family and friends, we salute those who have sacrificed that we might have the opportunity to bring to fulfillment our many God-given gifts.

As we deny all prejudice a place in our hearts, may we also clearly declare our intention to work for the time when all people, regardless of race, religion or sex, will be granted equal dignity and worth.

Bless our country and join our simple celebration that we may praise you, our Source of freedom, the One in whom we place our trust.

MOAC's Premium Club Pages

by Brenda Little

Marans of America Club has started a Premium Membership. MOAC has exclusive rights to reprint many of the Marans Club of France's bulletins articles and updates on the MOAC web site.

Marans of America Club is going through extensive research to have these articles translated and presented on the MOAC Premium Pages. Just think for just 1.00 a month you can gain access to these pages as they are updated 2-3 times monthly for content and education right at your fingertips.

These pages are exclusive for MOAC members only and we give our promise that all new subscribers will get a full bucks worth a month.

Why are we charging? It takes an

extremely large amount of time to have these articles translated into the English spoken language.

Then not every one has rights to reproduce them.

Marans of America Club has those rights for it is the only USA Marans Club that has been *officially* endorsed by the Marans Club of France.

We will encourage all of our members to adhere to the French Standards and respectfully hold true to the breed.

We want to offer these articles to Marans breeders of MOAC for further education on how they may breed to those standards. Articles we feel that will help breeders from incubation all the way up to showing the Best of Breed.

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Choosing good breeding stock

by Brenda Little

Let's try and save a breeder a lot of time and trouble on how to choose for your best breeding stock. For the inexperienced breeder I would suggest finding a reliable experience breeder of your breed of poultry that has experienced in breeding and showing. Always remember there are no stupid questions when it comes to asking questions.

Do get as much experience as you possibly can at looking at live birds.

Don't buy from unknown sources, no matter how great of a deal it may sound. Your experienced breeders with reputations for having great stock are your best bet and you can expect to pay a little more because of time and experience already invested in improving their stock.

Your best breeding stock comes

[continued on page four](#)



Welcome MOAC's

June members.

Jessica Pena-
Snohomish, WA.
98296

Jeanette McGee-
Ashland, MS. 38603

Susan Lee- Hillsboro,
BD. 58045

Adele Nguyen-
Thousand Oaks, CA.
91362

David Martin-
Vinton, VA. 24179

Allen Fischer-
Chalmers, IN. 47929

MOAC's Breeders list has been updated. Be sure and check to see if your name is still on it. If not then you need to renew your subscription soon.

Premium Pages (continued from page 1)

Marans of America Club is devoted to education about Marans. We will be coming up with ideas every day.

We have a great team to work with and feel that MOAC is a close family that keeps their focus on the breed.

If you would like to subscribe to the premium pages here is the link to do so.

[MOAC Premium Pages](#)

If you are an MOAC member we encourage all our members to chip in and make this more of a club that suits all of their needs when it comes to breeding Marans.

We don't claim to know all the answers and what we don't know we will ask the resources we have at hand.

Email us at
info@maransofamericaclub.com

Spring and Summer Predators

by Jeanette McGee

Well finally, the weather is warming up and all of us are ready to get out in the yard and play. The chickens are starting to lay, the new in chicks incubators are just chirping away, and the sun is just drenching us all and feeling sooo good. It seems to have been a long winter and now that spring is upon us, we will have new threats. Not only does spring time bring us out, but predators as well

Chickens will not be the only ones with new babies to feed. Over the next couple of weeks are the breeding periods for a lot of creatures. Soon there will a lots of hungry mouths to feed. Let's make sure your flock is not for dinner!



Premium Pages Articles arriving for July

How to Breed Bantam Marans

Moisture Egg Lose During Incubation Part II

Genetics 101 Lessons 4-6

**Marans of America Club welcomes the
New Marans Club of Great Britain**



<http://www.themaransclub.co.uk/#>

This is a good time of year to get out and check fences, cages, netting, etc. I personally have already seen hawks flying over seeing what is on the menu. We even caught a mink on video camera last summer. Coyotes have been howling, and soon snakes will be coming out as well. So let's take just a minute and allow me some advice that others have tried to protect their flocks.

Hawks: 1. You can try putting up a few great horned owl statues, this should stop them as this is one of the only few predators that hawks have.

Predators' cont. from page 2

2. If you have a way of stringing fishing line across the top of an open pen, criss crossing it like a spider's web, then this has been know as a defense, as the hawks see it they will just fly away. Just be careful to remove it as soon as the hawks seem to be deterred for a while. The line will eventually break down and fall into the pen.

3. Fail proof, build a top to the pen and cover it with netting or wire. A little more costly, but last longer, and more effective.

4. Hang bright shiny metallic objects, mirrors, pie plates, hubcaps, wind chimes. These seem to blind and confuse the hawks.

5. Plant/Build cover. Bushes, tall grasses, short cover shelters. You can build a frame around some plywood and put some short 4x4 legs on it about two feet tall.

Minks, Weasels, Mice or Snakes

1. One thing my grandmother would swear by was to soak rags in diesel fuel (NOT GASOLINE!) and hang them around the boundary line. She would even take a spray gallon and spray it in a line around the chicken pens.

2. Smooth barriers like sheet metal or roofing tin can be buried in the ground and set up like a fence along the base, is useful because it is hard for them to grab on and climb up. Ugly but effective.

3. Try to clean up any trash or junk lying around that would make good hiding places for small creatures that like to lurk.

4. Don't dump a lot of scraps out that the chickens couldn't finish eating in a short period of time. ☞

The fresh smell of rotting food or scraps will attract anything with an appetite.

5. Traps. There are several traps out there for just about anything you have issues with. Check with your local feed store, or Cutler's pheasant & poultry supply.

www.cutlersupply.com

Coyotes, Foxes, Wild Dogs:

1. A gun. Check to make sure it's legal in your state.

2. Electric fencing on the outside of your pens. You can run a single strand of electric fence wire on the bottom of your fence (on the outside), and plug it in. This will send a shock to anything that will be sniffing around the bottom.

3. Large traps. Check out the local feed store, they can sometimes even order them. They are like box cages. Put in some bait (can dog food, cooked hamburger meat, etc.) and the large prey will enter, and as soon as they push down on the food, it will lock a door behind them.

These are just a few ideas to get you started. There is no guarantee that these ideas will work for you, but they have worked for others. It is very important to keep check on fences and cages daily. I always try to look around the bottom of my fences to see if anything has been scratching to get in. Well let's be vigilant this spring and keep our loved ones protected. If you've seen a predator, then be a friend and let your neighbors know to if they have poultry, they might get the bad guy and save your flock as well. So let's have a fun and safe spring! God bless,

MOAC Leg Bands

MOAC started offering leg bands for all its members to have for their marans poultry. However we didn't know just how much demand there was for them. They have been selling like hot cakes and we have had to re-order already in the middle of the first month of sale. These legs bands are metal and won't harm your birds' shanks. They are engraved with the Marans of America Club and year 2010 for cocks or hens born in this year. We will be offering them every year so that you can keep records for your birds.

We hope that some day birds with these bands will be recognized by APA judges at shows as birds that are being bred to the French Standards.

These can be placed on birds as young as 2-3 months.

Order your bands here.

[Band order page.](#)

They are just 1.25 each.



Breeding Stock (continued from page 1)

from older adult birds. At best in the second season. If not obtainable, go with a year old cock bred to hens that are at least a year old.

Much can be done to increase the vigor and fertility in a two-year-old cock.

This can be done by giving animals-food, cayenne and a little less starchy foods. [Liverine](#) has been proven to have a direct influence upon sexual vigour. Every notice that your more gallant cock hardly ever eats around his flock of hens but always calls them to eat and he doesn't. Well this is just one of the *unknown-we-don't-notice-reasons* why our cocks seem to lose his vigour and then slowly his fertility. Most of your seasoned breeders already know this, and they feed their cocks alone. This is especially important in the cold winter. He will lose his fat and weight. A another great way to maintain your cock in the cold weather and keep his fertility rate normal is **not** to expose him to any more than 3-4 hens.

Why are we talking about the keeping our cocks heathy in the winter months? .Most 2-year old cocks **are not** extremely fertile in the very early months of a breeding season. If you started your hens right so that they molt in the latter part of the season and rest over the winter, when the new season starts, you have readily afresh hens 🙌

with a low fertility cock, if he has not been maintained through the winter. Early breeding falls short of producing the best show stock for this reason. It is very **rare** for your best stock to come out of such early breedings. Late March and April have been proven to produce your best show stock. So to wrap this part one series on choosing your best breeding stock you want to hatch early enough to get your hens to laying and if they are sitters (brooders) then you want the laying cycle and the brooding cycle finished with in the first year so they are ready and fresh for spring breeding. You want to focus on maintaining your cock through the winter so as he will be ready for the spring as well.

Next month we will go into how to use which birds to produce what you are after out of your line, such as color and breed type.

Sometimes it is best to just go back to the basics of breeding. Now is the time to start making friends and looking at all those birds at shows and see whom is just doing what within their flock. Take a tablet to shows and start asking questions and taking notes.

Show yourself friendly and you will be surprised at the many people that will help you in every way they can.

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