



## Marans Mills?

*By Brenda Little*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Marans Mills
- 2 Marans Tail Angles
- 3 Shipping Eggs During Winter Months PT. II
- 4 Cold Season-Not Just For People

**Chattahoochee Valley  
Poultry Association  
CVPA  
6<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Show  
February 20, 2010  
Coweta County  
Fairgrounds  
275 Pine Road  
Newnan, GA 30263  
Contact:  
[jerry.o.smith@att.net](mailto:jerry.o.smith@att.net)**

[Show Catalog  
Download Pdf.](#)

[Entry Form  
Download Pdf.](#)

I was a little disheartened when I received my new Meyer Hatchery Catalog and saw the Black Copper Marans being offered on the market now in mass production, not to mention Blue Splash, Golden Cuckoos, & White Marans. As everything else, I should have seen it coming. It seems that whenever anything gets into USA hands all we want to do is produce quantity. So why stop at chickens? This statement may offend some, yes, but I hate to see it happen because mass production is not the answer to what the Black Copper Marans need at this time. Matter of fact we need to slow way down with the ones we have and get them corrected in plumage as well as egg color. I foresee a train wreck of French Standards in USA Marans.

Some things are just not worth the cost of mass production. Marans breeders fell in love with marans for the qualities they have. They should be treated as the rare commodity that they are. kept as true as possibly can be. Now, not only will we have to strive to overcome the faults in our only personal flocks, but the mass flocks that will flood the market. So what can we do about it? Well as far as the selling of mass production marans, nothing. Because you know the hatcheries don't care what the standards are. Heck they can't even get the name right. But as breeders of French Standard Marans all I can say is hold on to what you have. Deal only with breeders that have the same goals as you do. Yes, get stingy with your eggs and birds and stop trying to make a killing with your birds and eggs. Having the correct standard plumage and egg color in your flock will supersede above everything else. Marans breeders over the past 10 or so years have invested huge amounts of money to get better birds, eggs color etc. Some have invested huge amounts in imports as well. I hate to see all of this being done in vain.

### Does anyone care anymore?

I would love to hear from others about the new mass productions of Black Copper Marans and other marans. Love to get your input. It can be posted here in next month's newsletter.

I have written more on the subject on my own personal [web site](#) if you would like to read more.



Click on the bird to join our e-mailing list.

[Now Accepting Ads for the Big Bird Classic Show Catalog!](#)

SOMETHING NEW!! An Innovative Poultry Show. Novice Exhibitors and Youth encouraged to enter.

April 17th, 2010 ~ Pine Bluff, Arkansas ([Hestand's Stadium](#))

Judges: Steve Jones, Texas & Jim Crain, Louisiana

Double Judged - APA  
Sanctioned - [JACKPOT CLAIMER](#)

Special Awards to [LARGE FOWL](#), Champion and Reserve Champion [NOVICE](#) and JUNIOR Exhibitors in both shows. [SPECIAL MEETS](#)

Limited to first 200 [Large Fowl](#) & 200 [Bantams](#).  
Online entries/space reservations available beginning in January 2010.

For show catalogs contact: Ann Charles, 11418 Shiloh Church Rd., Mena, AR 71953 or email: [contact@SkyBlueEgg.com](mailto:contact@SkyBlueEgg.com). Please be sure to include your complete name, address, and email address.

**MOAC is now offering Jr. Memberships at 8.00 a year for ages 16 and under.**

**MOAC is now offering Farms Memberships at 25.00 a year. See details on [club site](#).**

## Marans Tail Angle Again?

By Walt Leonard

To begin with, I believe that the more you show your Marans, the more you will learn and the more Marans that judges see at shows the more they will learn. I would take this opportunity to discuss the results of the judging with the judges and don't hesitate to give the judges helpful input....just be sure your input is correct and delivered in a constructive way. The more they see of them, the more the average judge will learn, as there are not a lot being shown yet.

Keep them in the very best condition that you can given the time of year and any other factors that may affect condition. It is better to keep a bird at home if it is missing a lot of feathers or is in some way out of condition. APA judges will be using the Marans Standard submitted for the Black Coppers at the Belvidere IL qualifying show last Oct. The tail angle on the male and female is currently 45 degrees. If you enter a bird with a tail of 90 degrees it will be disqualified. The breed appears to have a propensity for tail angles that are above 45 degrees. If you have birds like this, you should start breeding away from that severe tail angle. This can be done through selecting breeders with lower tail angles until your birds are all pretty close to 45 degrees. It may take one year or it could take longer. I always like to think I do this because it is not easy.

I believe the Marans will be a very popular bird once people see what they look like and see the color of the eggs that they produce. Good luck at the shows and good luck during this next breeding season!

Walt Leonard  
General Licensed Judge APA, ABA

Chairman of the APA Standard Revision Committee

### Questions & Answers

*What is the exact tail angle before a marans meets total disqualification in an APA show?*

The birds will be disqualified when the tail angle reaches 90 degrees or more. Submitted APA standards would like to see the tail angle description say: Tail angle 45 to 60 degrees. The Committee has not made a final decision, but generally we do not allow a range of angles, since the angles above 45 degrees are only a few points in cuts. As noted earlier in this message, the higher the tail angle the more the cut up to 2 or 3 points total. (Perfect bird would have 100 points). APA Standard Committee.

The birds will be disqualified at 60 degrees max but ideal is 45 degrees. Marans Club of France.

MOAC Breeders should strive for MCF standards

## Shipping Hatching Eggs Part II Continued from

January 2010 Newsletter

By Jeanette McGee

There are many different ways to wrap your eggs and package them. I don't think there is just one right way, several ways are very useful. Some of mine I wrap in tissue and put into egg cartons, and then wrap in bubble wrap, then place them into a box of recycled shredded paper. In some I wrap each egg individually with bubble wrap and place them into the shredded paper, making sure that when I shake the box, there is no movement. I've recently found by putting the eggs into a medium flat rate box with packaging and sealing it, and then putting that box into the 12x12x8 priority box with packing of course and the heat pack on the bottom so that it is against the bottom of the inner box, has been the best way yet. It ensures by double boxing it that less damage occurs and that it holds the heat in better, by having the extra insulation. Some people have even suggested putting the eggs in a collapsible cooler and putting the heat pack in the top outside flap, and then sealing that into a larger box with packing. Like I said, it is more than one way to pack, but as far as heat packs, I highly recommend the 72 hour [UniHeat](#) packs that are sold on eBay. They are a sure bet to keep your eggs from freezing, and keeping your embryos more viable through out the shipping process.

One other thing the 72 hour [UniHeat](#) packs are excellent for is the heating of shipped chicks. Most express mail is from 1-2 days, so your little babies are going to be on their own for warmth for a full 24-48 hours after the hatch. This can be very stressful and can cause death. By placing the 72 hour [UniHeat](#) pad under the straw mat of the box, will ensure your little babies have a comfortable warm box to be in for the next 24-48 hours. One of the other stressful parts for chicks is doing without food or water, should there be a delay in the shipping. All chicks are hatched with their own food supply that last for 2-3 days called their yolk sac. It is full of vitamins and minerals left from their development in the egg. As soon as a chick is hatched they start to instantly look for food and peck at small things. There is one product that I have recently tested that I think would be a real asset to add with shipping chicks. It is called [Gro-Gel Plus B](#). It can be found at [Jeffers Livestock](#)

The website tells you all about the product and let me tell you the 100ct. makes a whole lot! I've tested it on my own stock from hatchlings to 3 months old marans, and they love it. By adding this to your chicks during shipping or even using it when they first arrive, it is sure to give them an added boost. It looks tan when in powder form, but when you start to add the water, it becomes a beautiful green gel like crystals; the chicks automatically are drawn to it. So between the 72 hour Uniheat packs and the Gro-Gel Plus B your chicks should have a very comfortable journey to their new home. As far as shipping boxes the best place for priority boxes would be the free ones at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com). Shipping boxes for shipping chicks or full grown birds, I've found that the most affordable seems to be <http://poultry2.tripod.com/id3.html> I've personally ordered from them and was very happy with the quality and the price.

Please remember that shipping eggs and chicks are a risk and although nothing is a full guarantee, there are things you can do to help have a better outcome. Spring time is only a few months away, and soon it will be warm and everyone will be enjoying the outdoors once again and building new pens and hatching new babies. By taking a little time this winter to make sure your customers are pleased and are satisfied with their purchase, will pay off in the long run. We all started small and grew and helping our customers do the same, will only increase the amount of great breeding stock out there to last for generations to enjoy.



[Jeffers Livestock Gro-Gel Plus B.](#)

Use promo-code [moac10](#) in your checkout.

---

**MOAC Member Kathy Baca was featured in the Jan/Feb.2010 issue of [Fancy Fowl USA](#).**

**Be sure and check it out!**

**Online editions are [Subscribe today](#)**

**Only 10.50 for 3 issues.**

**John Tant of [Black Creek Poultry](#) has now accepted the position for Deputy Chairman/ Club Publicity Officer for MOAC.**

**More from John Next Month**

---

## Cold Season is not just for people

By Brenda Little

Roup\* or Common Cold:

**Symptoms:** This disease is localized in the mouth, eyes and head of the bird. The eyes water at first-mucus comes from the nose. There is a distant offensive odor to this mucus. The infection continues until the eye swells up with a cheesy core inside the lids, and mucus is deposited in thick layers throughout the mouth. The birds' appetite drops off to almost nothing and the birds' weight drops rapidly. The bird makes a "click" noise to allow them to breathe. They also "wheeze" on the roosts at night.

**Treatment.** Spray and disinfect your coops cages walls and roosts with a [Chlorine Dioxide Powder](#) mixture. Not to be used on the birds themselves. Follow manufactures instructions.

**Or a simpler method could be use as follows:** For Constant Use  
Weekly Sanitizing Rinse Solution

*1 oz Chlorine Bleach in 6-8 gallons water*

Rinse, soak, or expose equipment to this solution. Let stand at least one hour, rinse with fresh water. This solution contains equivalent to 45



**Marans of America Club**  
3811 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Fort Smith, AR. 72904

E-mail:  
moacnews@maransofamericaclub.com



ppm chlorine. The procedure is most effective if conducted on a weekly basis. Remember, chlorine disinfectants are inactivated by organic matter. Clean all equipment well before using chlorine rinse solutions.

**Feed wet helpings of mash:** keep scratch grain before the birds at all times- the point being that they cannot eat mashes while there is mucus in their throats. Allow the birds outdoors if weather permits. Keep birds in coops if weather is not permit able and close off all drafts. Place fresh clean litter. Use solution below in drinking water while roup or cold is prevalent.

*1 teaspoon chlorine bleach (sodium hypochlorite) in 5 gallons of drinking water*

This solution provides 11 ppm chlorine for sanitizing. The birds will drink the water and not be harmed by drinking it. They may need a short time to become accustomed to this solution. A more dilute solution with half the above level of bleach can be offered for a few days before using the 11 ppm solution. Clean the waterers thoroughly each day to get the best effect.

Make birds eat as much as possible by coaxing them any way you can to consume food." **Feed a cold-starve a Fever**" is the plan.

**Roup:** An infectious disease of poultry and pigeons characterized by inflammation of and mucous discharge from the mouth and eyes.