



The Official Ameraucana Breeders Club since 1978

# Ameraucana Breeders Club

156 Titanic Road, Aiken, Sc 29805

[Ameraucana.org](http://Ameraucana.org)

Proud Members of:



[info@ameraucana.org](mailto:info@ameraucana.org)

January 28, 2016

Walt Leonard, Chairman  
American Poultry Association, Standards Committee  
PO Box 306  
Burgettstown, PA 15021

RE: APA Variety Approval, Self-blue Ameraucana Large Fowl

Dear Walt;

This is the culmination of our conversations online concerning the process for getting the self-blue Ameraucana, large fowl, approved and added to the Standard of Perfection of the American Poultry Association. Either accompanying this letter, or delivered by hand at the show in Modesto, CA this weekend, are five breeder affidavits. I have also attached a report showing self-blue entries at ABC meets since 2009. Please keep in mind that these are not all shows that may have had self-blue Ameraucanas entered; just those that were sanctioned as Ameraucana Breeder club meets. A copy of the Self-blue proposed standard is also attached.

While much of the detail of the history of the breed was retained by a previous Secretary of the Club, we have been able, through conversations and research through printed bulletins, forum history, and multiple other resources, to put together a brief history of the development of this variety.

Interest in this variety began early in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, when a "lavender" color was brought over from England in another breed. The genetic code of that color was introduced into the Ameraucana bantam gene pool by several people – Harry Shaffer, John Blehm, Michael Muenks, and others, nearly concurrently. John introduced "lavender" D'anvers to his Ameraucana black bantam breeding flock to establish the color and, concurrently, Michael Muenks used "lavender" Old English bantams. Michael and John exchanged birds for several generations until the color was established. The bantam lavenders were then "bred up" to black large fowl Ameraucana to bring the size up to large fowl requirements. It is unknown what breeds were used by Harry Shaffer. From these various breeding programs, the Self-blue Ameraucana large fowl we know today emerged and were becoming popular by 2010, as seen by the self-blue entries starting to rise in shows across the country.

As of this writing, of our current 245 active members in good standing, 25 have reported they are raising self-blue large fowl. Many more may be raising them, as not all report what varieties they have.

Walt, I know you are aware of the friction and disagreement between the ABC and the recently formed club, Ameraucana Alliance, regarding this issue. Our Board released a statement at the time of the split, which I will be happy to provide if you're interested, and then decided to not engage in any name-calling, accusations, or political intrigue regarding the split. We still maintain that position.



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Having said that, however, I would like to address the accusations of the ABC “pulling the rug out” from under the Alliance’s plan to submit a petition for approval for the same coloration under the name “Lavender.” The Ameraucana Breeders Club had no intent, stated or otherwise, to change, challenge, or thwart any attempt on the part of the Alliance to pursue approval of any of the various “project” colors of Ameraucana, either bantam or large fowl. Minutes from our Annual membership meeting at our 2015 National Meet in Fayetteville, AR, 11/7/15, will show that the decision to move forward with a petition to get self-blue, and potentially splash, Ameraucanas approved was discussed, voted on, and approved – long before we knew anything of the Alliance’s plans. In fact, at that time, we had decided to approach the Alliance to share in the responsibility, and any future credit earned, for the petitions for both self-blue and splash. Paul Smith was going to send a letter to Mike Gilbert to propose that the two clubs work together. The letter was never sent after we learned that the Alliance had decided 1) that all credit for the “lavender” variety belongs to them, 2) that if it could not be approved with the name of “lavender”, then they would not move forward.

Given the increasing popularity of this variety and the growing numbers at the meets, and the overall increasing popularity of the Ameraucana, this Board decided it was in the best interest of the breed to move forward with APA approval.

The five breeders, who have all been breeding the self-blue large fowl Ameraucana for at least five years, and most for longer, are:

- Paul Smith
- Jean Ribbeck
- Debra Hogan
- Christina Korfus
- Barbara Dodington

Debra Hogan will meet you at the show in Modesto, CA this weekend and personally deliver her affidavit. If possible, we would like to get a copy of that for our archives, at some point and time. The other 4 affidavits have been scanned and are attached here.

The [show report attached](#), shows the winners from the Ameraucana sanctioned meets since 2009. As mentioned earlier, this is not intended to be a complete listing of all Ameraucanas entered as self-blue in the last 6 years, but only a listing of those entries in sanctioned ABC meets. The exhibitor names shown are those that won BV or RV at that show and the entries total are the total number of entries of self-blue, not the total number of entries of any other variety. I hope that is clear, but if there is any confusion, please let me know.

The attached Standard includes the general description of the Ameraucana, as currently stated by the American Poultry Association; there are no proposals for changes, it is just reprinted here for clarification and archival interest.



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I believe this is a complete package of the information needed to begin the process, but if there are any questions, or any other documentation needed, please let us know. As required by the APA By-laws regarding new breed/variety approval, your primary contact source will be the five breeders listed above. Of course, I am always available as support for both the Standards committee and the five-member breeder team.

Respectfully Submitted

Susan Mouw  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Ameraucana Breeders Club

Cc: ABC Board of Directors, Christina Korfus, Barbara Dodington, Debra Hogan