



BREEDING SILVER LACED COCHINS

by Russell Estlack (2013)

I have been asked to write about double mating Silver Laced Cochins. Like all other Cochin varieties, type comes first with red eyes & yellow legs, feet, and toes a must. Then we can select our breeders.

In double mating you can take advantage of some defects in a few of your female offspring instead of culling all the ones that aren't crisply laced & have clean webbing. In my Cockerel Bred pen I have a male that matches the standard as much as possible with white wing bows, white back, & silvery white lacing & tips on the saddle feathers. I also prefer white on top of the head carried down past the skull like you would see in a Columbian male. In all other sections of the body you want as near perfect lacing as possible. To this male you can breed your females that are a little less than perfect. They still need to have good lacing & type, but smut in the cushion is permissible. You especially want excellent slate under color in the cushion & breast. I like her to match the male in having silvery white feathers on the head & top of hackle. She can also have some smut in the secondary webbing where it's stated to be solid white in the standard.

The Pullet Bred male is marked to make the best pullets. He needs exceptional lacing in every part that you can get it on. The only thing to keep solid black is the main tail feathers. The wing bows, back, and saddle should be laced. His head, neck, and hackle should have lacing & the black striping as depicted in the standard. The breast should be exceptionally laced as far under his belly as possible with little to no frosting. That lacing also needs to be carried onto his thighs & foot feathering. The front edge of the secondaries should have lacing and the white portion be free of smut. (Watch for males that have some lacing on the primaries at the unisex chick stage. They will be good Pullet Bred breeders.)

To the male described above you want to breed your best females that have exceptional lacing, clean webbing, and great type. The ones that you think could win BV Silver Laced at a show. The wing bow, fronts, and coverts are laced. The secondaries are laced with a few of the primaries showing lacing. Lacing is seen on the foot feathers. Lacing should also be in the back & saddle. I try to select for the secondaries of both my males and females with the front edge laced, the lateral web (toward the outside) white, and the medial web (toward the body) black.