

Lemon Blue Cochins

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Since I started breeding and showing Cochins in 1976 I had seen Lemon Blues in the Bantam Standard but had never seen one at a show. Working on a Buff Cochin breeding in the early 1990's I hatched a male that was what I thought very nice start to Lemon Blues and again the next year a pullet. The pullet was of very good color and pattern markings were as good as I had ever seen even on a Brown Red. Her Blue color was very good, medium blue with some darker lacing around her feathers and the chest was laced almost perfect with lemon as was the neck. The lemon was not quit right as it was between the orange of a Brown Red and that of a light Buff. The male also was of the same color only difference was he had more of a solid lemon buff in the chest instead of lacing and some of this color in both the primary and secondary wing feathers. I bred these birds and their offspring for several years, getting the color became a hit and miss. More of a miss that a hit, the buff side seem to be the dominate color. After about five years and getting nowhere I decided to make a complete change in my breeding and basically started over. This time I used a Splash male from my blues and a Brown Red female. I did use some that were from the first mating of the buffs with these crosses to help fill in the fullness of color quicker. It wasn't until about three years of breeding when I realized I need to get completely away from any of the first matings. The lemons to lemon was breeding the correct combination of lemon blue and sports of lemon splash and brown red, however color and color pattern was off more times than not. Also the birds that were supposed to be lemon played between deep orange and red in color. I took a good look at Lemon Blues in Old English and Modern Games, I also bought some Old English and breed a couple of years to figure out the breeding and then applied it to my Lemon Blue Cochins. From here I took some of the sport lemon splash and started breeding to brown red, Brown Red male with lighter hackle over lemon splash females (Pen One) and lemon splash male over brown red females (Pen Two). After the first hatch I discarded all other earlier breedings and from here started a new breeding program. The new breedings consisted of Lemon Blues from pen one to Lemon Blues from pen two; then taking the lemon splash from these breedings back to brown red. From here the pattern was set, still had some muddiness in the chest of males and some color in the wings but the females were almost correct every time. The only problem with the female was lacing on the shoulders, this was caused but too much color extending from the neck. At this point of breeding the only other obstacle to overcome was color, how to get that correct lemon, I was never able to get past the light orange of the brown red. Once again I looked at the Old English and Modern Games, this time discussing the breeding with a couple of guys who were Master Breeders in Lemon Blue Modern Games. This gave me the answer to my question. The next breeding was my best Lemon Blue male to Lemon Splash females (Pen One) and Lemon Splash male to Lemon Blue females (Pen Two). I did the mating two years and it did in fact give me the correct Lemon Blue coloring I was looking for. The drawback was the blue color, as it lighted the blue and almost took away the darker blue lacing. However the other thing I was told was when the lemon was correct to go back and breed to the darker blue and orange top color and the lemon and the blue would correct its self.

Breeding the Lemon Blue Cochins is like any other color or color pattern; you are always adjusting either for color, pattern, or both. The basic Color I like is; Male: Mediun Blue, chest, Tail, Under Body, Feet Feathers and wings; Lemon (Yellowy light orange), head, hackle, Saddle with a medium blue strip in the center of lower hackle and saddle feathers; Wing Bows and Back: Bright Lemon (Lemon Orange); The Chest: Medium Blue with upper section with same color lacing as the Wing Bow and Back, the lower section with the Darker Blue lacing. The Female: The female is less complicated; Head and Hackle: Bright

Lemon (Lemon Orange) with medium Blue stripping in center of lower hackle feathers: The Chest: Medium Blue with the same color lacing as Head and Hackle in the upper section; Wings, Cushion, Lower Chest, Under Body and Feet Feathering Medium Blue with darker lacing.



Pictures from Ann Ray (Mountain Creek Farm)

Blood Line Marty McGuire

