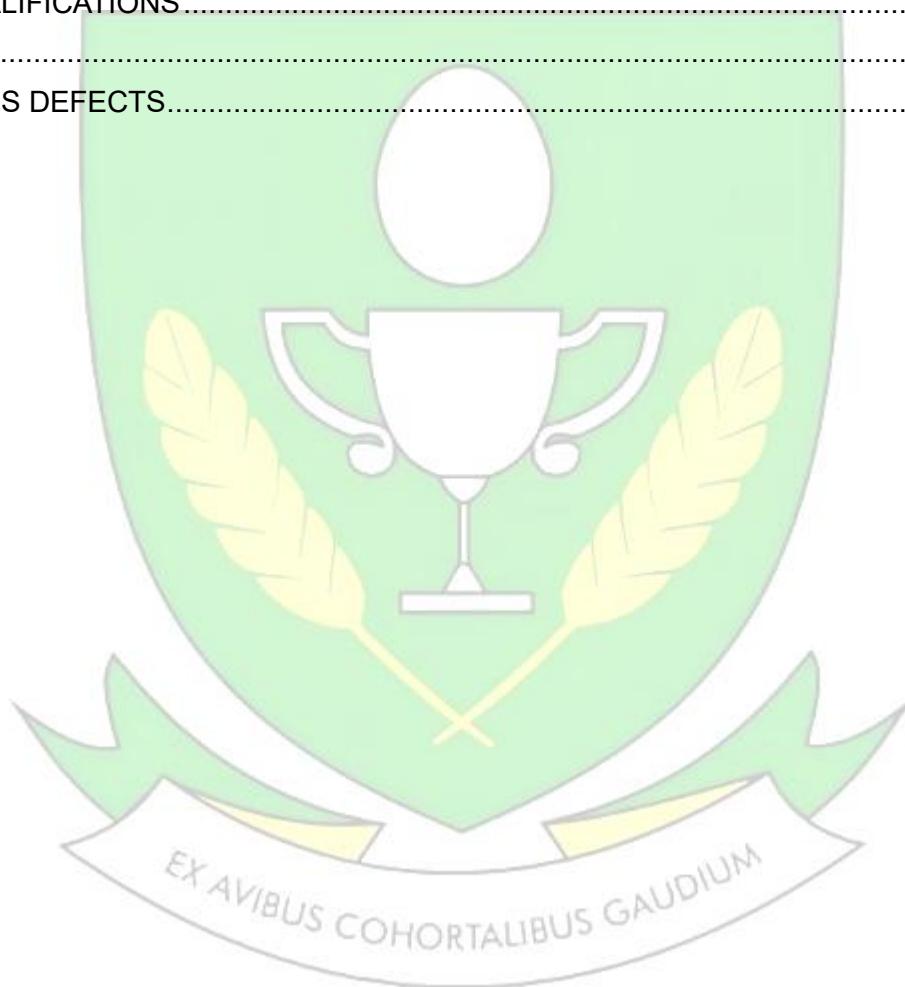

AMERAUCANA

Table of Contents

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS	3
THE MALE	3
THE FEMALE.....	3
COLOUR	4
SERIOUS DEFECTS.....	4
DISQUALIFICATIONS.....	4
BANTAMS.....	4
SERIOUS DEFECTS.....	4





ORIGIN:	Chile / United States of America
CLASSIFICATION:	Light Breed: Soft feather
EGG COLOUR:	Blue (Sitters)
MASSES:	
LARGE FOWL	
Male:	2.7 – 3.5 kg
Female:	2.3 – 2.9 kg
BANTAMS	
Male:	790 – 910 g
Female:	690 – 810 g

The Ameraucana was bred from Araucana chickens, which were imported to the USA from Chile in 1925. The breed was started by Don Cable of Orangevale, California and Mike Gilbert of Iowa and later Wisconsin, mainly to stop the confusion around breeds having tufts or crests or muffs and beards or tails or not. The Ameraucana Bantam Club, now called the Ameraucana Breeders Club, was formed in 1978. The bantam breed standard was accepted by the American Bantam Association in 1980. Both the large bird and the bantam standards were added to the Standards of Perfection of the American Poultry Association in 1984.

The Ameraucana is one of few chicken breeds to lay blue eggs; another is the Cream Legbar (Araucana influence) and the Araucana. The Ameraucana shows many similarities to the Araucana, including having both the pea comb and the blue egg genes. Both these

genes are carried on the same chromosome. The Ameraucana has a tail and is bearded and muffed, but not crested.

The gene for blue eggs is dominant, so the term “Easter Egger” is used to describe birds of mixed breeding that produce such eggs. Unfortunately, these mixed breeds are often incorrectly labelled as Araucanas or Ameraucanas, and marketed to backyard poultry hobbyists who are not aware of the difference.

In short, the differences are as follows:

- **Araucana** (USA and Canada) – tufts (lethal allele), no crest, beards or muffs, rumpless, blue eggs, willow legs and yellow skin (with exceptions).
- **Ameraucana** (USA) – no tufts, i.e. no lethal gene and no crest, but beards and muffs with tail feathers, blue eggs, slate legs and white skin.
- **Araucana** (Britain, Ireland, New Zealand, Asia, Japan, Russia, Holland, France, Spain, Belarus, Ukraine, Scandinavia, Argentina, Chile, **South Africa**, Pacific Islands, Brazil, Mexico, Peru, Arabic Nations, India, Pakistan, Nepal and Australia) – no tufts, i.e. no lethal gene, but crest, beards and muffs, with tail feathers, blue eggs, slate or olive/willow legs and grey/white skin.
- **Easter and Olive Eggers** – Easter Eggers lay blue eggs and Olive Eggers lay green eggs, both with variable traits and not recognised as a breed in any country.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

THE MALE

Carriage:	Alert and active.
Type/body:	Body: long and deep, free from heaviness. Firm in handling. Back: medium length, horizontal. Wings: large and strong carried tight against the body.
Tail:	Well developed and spread with full sickles. Medium length and carried at an angle of 45 degrees.
Head:	Moderately small. Beak: strong and curved. Eyes: bold. Comb: small pea. Face covered with thick muffling and beard. Ear muffs abundant. Ear-lobes: small, hardly perceptible, smooth and round. Wattles: small, preferably absent.
Neck:	Of medium length abundantly furnish with hackle feathers.
Legs and feet:	Legs of medium length strong and well apart. Shanks free from feathers. Toes: four, straight and well spread.

THE FEMALE

The general characteristics of the female are similar to those of the male allowing for the natural sexual differences. Comb: pea, but minimal. Tail carried at a 40 degree angle.

COLOUR

In both sexes and all colours: Comb, face and wattles bright/light red. Eyes dark orange in all colours. Legs and feet slate to slate-blue; dark slate in the black variety.

Male and female plumage: Black, silver, white, buff, blue, blue tailed wheaten, wheaten and brown red. Any Old English Game colour excluding off-colours.

SERIOUS DEFECTS

Cut-away breast. Roach back. Comb lopped or twisted. Large comb in female. Legs other than standard colour. Uneven or splashed breast colour.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Absence of beard and/or muff. Presence of ear tufts. Comb other than pea type. Pearl eye.

BANTAMS

Ameraucana bantams are to be exact miniatures of their large fowl counterparts and so standard, colour and scale of points apply.

SERIOUS DEFECTS

As large fowl, but including low wing carriage. Any tendency to rosecomb.

SCALE OF POINTS

Type and carriage	25
Beard and muff	25
Comb	15
Other head points	5
Feet and legs	5
Colour	10
Condition and handling	15

TOTAL	100
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