

The Breeders Academy Presents

# HOW TO SELECT THE PROPER BROOD FOWL



By Kenny Troiano



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This study guide is a short outline of some of the principles and practice I use to creating a new strain. The complete **Program** and **Specialty Courses** are available at the **Breeders Academy Membership Website**. It includes a more in-depth collection of information, relevant illustrations and photos, and video tutorials.

It is my hope that by providing an important part of the process, you will be inspired to begin your journey, and take the necessary steps to becoming a true breeder.

The programs and courses at **The Breeders Academy** are designed to teach you a process of selective breeding that will increase your knowledge and advance your skills as a breeder and improve the quality of your fowl.

I would like to invite you to join us.

So, let's get started!

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I'm asked by many breeders - "how do I select my brood fowl?" Well, here is my basis checklist of how I select my cocks and hens for the brood pen. This is a method that can be used anytime you are examining your fowl.

## My Selection Process

The first thing I look for is evidence of good genetics and purity of blood. It is important that the bird is a good representative of the breed. I call this "**stage one.**" I will do this by looking over all my available birds. It is at this time that I decide which birds I will examine and which ones I will not examine.

I then move to "**stage two.**" This is where I look for obvious defects, such as:

- Crooked toes, including duck toe, or squirrel or wry tail, or anything that might catch my attention as being a defect or fault.
- They must have cleanness and soundness of legs and feet, and proper control of his tail region. This shows great refinement.

I then look to the overall shape and feather plumage. This is **“stage three.”**

- He must have good conformation of body and good carriage. American Games have a particular shape, one that is important to his overall form and function. He must have the proper slope and length of back, and good angulation of the legs and tail. He must also hold his head up with pride.
- I then move on to his color and the condition of his plumage. His feather color must be sound and glossy. It must also be elastic and full of bloom, not soft, thick, or fluffy, as is often seen in inferior birds.

Once I am happy with what I see, I then move to **“stage four.”** At this point I will take the bird out and handle it. This is important. By handling the bird, I will find details of their form that cannot be found just by looking at them from a distance. To begin with, I look for cocks that are clever in the hand, but are not mean or flighty. This is true for the hens as well.

- The first thing I look for is a good eye, one that has a healthy pupil and is not sunken around the eye socket. Many breeders miss this part. At this point, I look for an eye with the proper color, and that both eyes are alike. They must have large fierce eyes that are uniform and consistent, whether it be red or dark.
- Moving on, I will examine their form and structure. Conformation of body is very important, for a badly shaped bird should never be bred. Once again, this cannot be seen without handling the bird. It is my opinion that a breeder has failed if he or she has not handled all the promising birds. It is through handling that I am able to examine their form and structure completely and properly.
- This brings us to the next point of the examination, his body. He must be light weight but firm in flesh. I like to use the term “corky” to describe this. In this case, they are hard and full but light weight like a cork.
- I then look for soundness of the keel bone. It should be neither deep nor crooked. Their bodies should roll easily in my hands.
- I will then turn them around in my hands and check-out their back. They must have a back that is flat and shaped like a heart. Their tails should be in line with their spine.
- Their plumage must be firm as well. I look for long, strong wings that contract well when spread out and released. There must not be any broken feathers; all primaries and secondaries should be sound and of proper color.
- They must also have full control of their tails. If I move them about, their tail should react as though balancing themselves.

- As I move them about, I look for a strong neck and a sound muscular system throughout the body and legs.

The last thing I look for is proper balance and proper footwork. This is **“stage five”** of my examination. When I drop the bird in the drop-pen I watch the way they land. I look for a bird that has good balance as they touch the ground. They should never be clumsy footed. Good balance and surefootedness promotes proper form and function.

It is at this point that each bird in consideration will be compared to the others. Once I have compared all the candidates, I will place them in the order of their excellence. I will grade them “A,” “B” or “C”. At this point I am looking for the one who is the best representative of my ideal bird. I will breed the A’s, and hold onto the B’s as backups, and cull the C’s.

If they have passed all five stages of my examination, which I have briefly described in this eBook, then and only then will they become a candidate for breeding.

It is at this point that I am confident that all the fowl I have selected for breeding are good representatives of my strain and should be perpetuated. These birds are protected, their blood preserved and perpetuated.

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## ONE LAST THOUGHT

### Let’s become breeders again!

It has been my experience that most backyard breeders are unaware of what it really takes to create and maintain a strain. Or they’re afraid of the potential consequences if they do it wrong. Some lack patience, while others want something for nothing. Many believe it’s better to let the so-called “Big Time Breeders” in the magazines, with large fancy ads, do it for them.

So, they buy a high-priced trio, carrying the name of a famous breeder that no longer exists. Many times, the birds they get in the mail are quite different than originally advertised. Or they get great fowl, but don’t know how to breed them.

Therefore, they learn from their friends and family, who rely on old wives’ tales and superstitions, and believe that inbreeding is risky and crossbreeding is safe. Within a few years the original fowl no longer exist, and every bird on their yard are the product of hybrid-crosses.

Because they rely on old wives’ tales and superstitions to guide their selections, or because they simply lack the ability to select properly, they produce substandard fowl. There’s no uniformity or consistency of traits between the offspring, and any fowl that do come good are the product of chance.

This is the result of ignorance, on the part of the buyer, and love of money with no respect for the breed, on the part of the seller. This is the commercial side of the hobby and is a peddler's playground.

Peddlers know that the "names of strain" still sell chickens, and they are always on the lookout for fowl that have a popular name, or fowl that resemble a famous strain. If he doesn't have it, he will get it. He then hatching all he can, raising every one of them, good, bad and indifferent. Never culling and will sell these fowl to anyone with cash.

This is how so many inferior fowl are being created and circulated and are finding their way in the yards of our struggling beginners. It's a scary thought, isn't it?

The proper way to obtain and keep good fowl is to find a reputable breeder, who raises healthy, genetically superior fowl, and then learn how to breed them yourself.

You can depend on "others" for certain things, but when it comes to your fowl, you must raise and breed your own, and they will be as good or bad as the amount of knowledge, care and management that you put into them.

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## WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW THE SECRETS OF BREEDING?

**Would you like to know secrets only master breeders know and practice?** Well, I can show you how.

**Join me, Kenny Troiano,** as I show you the process of Selective Breeding. You will learn what it takes to create high quality, superior fowl using proven breeding programs and practices.

**I've been teaching the art and science of Selective Breeding for 30 years.** I've written articles for various magazines and authored multiple books on the subject of breeding. I've given seminars and talks to breeders from around the world. Throughout the years, I have seen thousands of breeders who have followed my teachings and have improved their skills as a breeder, as well as, the quality of their fowl.

**Well, I have good news.** I have taken my teachings to the next level by creating a website that is devoted to breeders like you. Breeders who want better fowl. Who are sick and tired of spending their hard-earned money on substandard birds of poor quality. Birds that don't represent their breed or the breeder, YOU!

### **By becoming a member of the BREEDERS ACADEMY**

- I can **teach** you how to create a family of your own and continue to improve that family each and every year.
- I can **show** you how to improve their characters and traits and insure that they continue to be good representatives of their breed, the American Games.
- I can show you how to **improve** your strains conformation of body, color of plumage, and create a strain that is uniform and consistent throughout the family.

- I can show you how to create a family that has **superior performance** ability that may give you the competitive advantage.
- And, I can teach you how to create a strain of superior quality that are the **envy of the world**.

**Trust me folks, this is just the beginning!**

**It's no accident that my fowl, the "Maximus Line" are highly sought after.** It came from a process of breeding that I have learned and developed and continue to practice, and from many years of experience and knowledge, which I can teach you. I'm confident that I can select a handful of birds, and within a few years of selection and breeding, using proven breeding programs, I can create a strain of superior quality. Once you learn the process, you will never forget it.

**Check us out, and see for yourself what the Breeders Academy has to offer, just go to this link:**

<https://americangamefowlbreedersacademy.com>

We'll see ya there!

Kenny Troiano

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## ***JOIN THE ACADEMY!***

If you are an American Gamefowl Breeder, **I have good news for you!** We have **opened the doors** to new members now. It's time to sign up and join the Academy.

To learn more, go to this link: <https://americangamefowlbreedersacademy.com>

We have an **English Membership** and a **Spanish Membership**.

Join now and get our lowest rate ever. This is a one-time offer, which will never go up as long as you remain a member. As the number of members increase, so will the price of membership for new members. So, the earlier you join, the better.

Learn more by clicking this link: <https://americangamefowlbreedersacademy.com>

**I hope to see you there,**

**Kenny Troiano**

Founder of "The Breeders Academy"

Author of "The Breeders Manual"

