

## Information about Isbar Blue

There have been a lot of discussions in Sweden about Isbar blue when it comes to their color, coloring of eggs and leg feathering. The aim of this information is to address some of these questions.

Rumors abound about other breeds that have been introduced into this breed, and that we have brought in animals from crossbred lines. We have put a tremendous amount of time into tracing the origin of new lines. Yes, there is certainly influence of other breeds in some lines, but we have ensured the origin with the highest probability that we are able, as the breed existed among different breeders without any breed association for 25-30 years. No one can swear themselves free from a mixed breed in any line. Our mission is saving these unique genes and ensuring that future generations of chicken owners have access to the fowls of the kind created by Martin Silverudd.



There is a recessive gene for leg feathering that has appeared in Isbar Blue during the last few years. I've found that some call this feather stubs. It manifests itself so that the rooster or hen gets individual feathers on the feet and legs. Rarely the hatched chicken has lots of leg feathering. In some cases, these feathers fall off when the animal is fully grown. The origin of these animals has been traced to a common denominator, namely Johan Widing. As always when it comes to recessive genes, they can remain hidden for a long time, but the smaller the breeding group used, the greater the chance that these traits will reappear. The position of the

association is that Johan Widing's stock, and any stock that we know for certain were sourced from his stock, shall not be used in further breeding and have been taken out of the stud book. Other flocks from the same original source as Mr. Widing's flock are under surveillance.



*A young wild type pullet.*



You have probably heard of white, mottled and wild type Isbar Blue. The common denominator to these is that the colors are recessive, and to quote Lina Laurin, "Recessives are forever!" This is not any sign of influence from other breeds, since these genes can be hidden for many generations. The association's decision, after several discussions, is that the hens in these colors must not be used in breeding. If the rooster is known with cer-

tainty to carry any of these traits, you should try to replace him as 50% of his offspring will carry the gene. If the hen carries the same recessive gene, 25% of the offspring will show this trait.

Another problem is brown eggs. If you get a hen that lays brown eggs and know which rooster is the father, then we recommend that he should be replaced. This is because he in fact only has one blue egg gene (one is enough to make green shell color - the green color is created by both the blue and brown genes). A hen that does not lay green eggs shall not be used in breeding. If you have pens (and time) you can test breed the rooster with a white or brown egg laying hen. If any pullet after the rooster lays white or brown eggs, then the rooster simply has only one gene (heterozygous). To know with 100% certainty that the rooster is homozygous for green eggs, you need to breed many pullets after him in the previous mentioned mix, so that what we have to work with are probabilities. If you hatch five hens by him, and all lay green eggs, then the likelihood that he is heterozygous is 3.125%. If you get 10 out of 10 green layers, the probability drops to 0.0976%.

At the pen, Andreas Harrysson, Breed Coordinator Isbar Blue