

# Do You Ship Hatching Eggs From Your Purebred Flock?

Some well known breeders answered my questionnaire.

*By Ann Charles*

## **Dick Horstman, Burgettstown, Pennsylvania Hatching Egg Sales? YES - Year-round**

I ship hatching eggs year round. We use the foam egg shippers and insulate with newspaper and have not had any weather related issues. Hatching egg breeds: Large Fowl Plymouth Rocks, Rhode Island Reds, and Cochins. Bantams, Plymouth Rocks, Polish, Orpingtons, Booted. We keep only small mating's and sell from the same pens we hatch our own from. Eggs are only sold when they are not needed for chick orders. We do exhibit these breeds at ABA & APA shows. I have had Barred Rock bantams for 60 years. Large fowl Rocks and Reds over 30 years. I am a member of the the ABA & APA (former APA Director).

Average egg order: 2 dozen, and we send 15 eggs per dozen. There are no guarantees of any kind on shipped eggs. We guarantee 85% fertility if picked up here on the farm, or at a show. Eggs are \$25 to \$50 per dozen (depending on breed), and shipping is a flat \$15. This includes the foam ship-



pers and packaging. We sell eggs anytime of the year when they are not needed for chick orders. Our replacements come from the leftover hatches each week. I do not ship started chicks. Our experience has not been good with them. I do not sell birds ready to show, but I do sell good breeding birds that you can show, and I will ship or deliver to shows.

Schedule: We hatch year round on large fowl, bantams are hatched September to June. We do keep extra breeders to sell eggs and chicks. All eggs and chicks come from birds we are keeping our chicks from. Priority mail has worked best for us, but is the only method we have tried.

Dick Horstman,  
DickHorstman@comcast.net

## **Ann Charles, Winnfield, Louisiana Hatching Egg Sales? YES - Year-round**

I now ship hatching eggs year round. Araucana only. I have had bred and exhibited bantam and large fowl Araucana for 17 years. I keep only a small number of matings and sell from those same pens I hatch my own show birds and breeders from. I exhibit my birds at ABA & APA shows and am a member of the ABA & APA.

Average egg order: 9 hatching eggs no more than 24 hours old, plus usually one extra. Sometimes I will ship double orders, on request. One shipment of eggs is \$78, and includes Priority Mail shipping. I do also ship well-started chicks year round but no day-old chicks. I also ship older birds but rarely deliver to shows.

Schedule: I hatch year round on large fowl, along with a few bantams. I have hatching windows for Fall and Spring show prospects. All birds are shipped Express mail at cost and all eggs are shipped Priority mail, unless Express Mail is requested.

Ann Charles,  
VP Araucana Breeders & Exhibitors Club  
contact@skyblueegg.com

**Norma Padgett, Lake Butler, Florida**  
**Hatching Egg Sales? YES - Seasonal**

According to Norma, the Padgetts sell and ship hatching eggs from Muscovy ducks, large fowl Modern Game, and large fowl White Plymouth Rocks. These are the only breeds they sell hatching eggs from and they have been working with these for 5-50 years (depending on the breed). They also exhibit these breeds at APA approved shows and are members of both the APA and the ABA. Their hatching eggs are only available in the Spring. A usual egg shipment is 12-24 eggs and the price depends on which breed is being shipped. Shipping is \$25+ depending on the weight of the box. For shipped hatching eggs there are no guarantees given.

Also available are started chicks (pick up only), and adult show birds which they either ship or deliver to shows. Their hatch window for Fall show prospects is January-May. The Padgetts do not have a second hatching window for Spring show birds and once their Spring breeding season ends all remaining eggs laid are eaten.

Norma Padgett,  
APA Associate Member Coordinator  
apapoints@gmail.com



**Mark Podgwaite, Northfield, Vermont**  
**Hatching Egg Sales? YES - Seasonal**

Mark says he sells hatching eggs in Spring only (December-April) from his large and bantam Cochins. He has been exhibiting his Cochins at APA/ABA approved shows for 20 years. He usually ships a dozen eggs, plus some extras. Egg charge is \$75 which includes the shipping cost. On shipped hatching eggs there are no guarantees and this is explained prior to the sale. He does not sell started chicks, but does sell adult show birds which he delivers to shows and sometimes ships. Once breeding season is over the excess eggs are eaten.

Mark Podgwaite,  
APA President  
mppoultry13@gmail.com

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"I stopped shipping eggs this spring.. I did nothing wrong with my packing and shipping, but newbie inexperienced buyers decided to blame me for their failures.. 3 times I re-shipped eggs.. I'm done... I'm tired of the badgering.. Found out 1 customer had borrowed an incubator and had no clue how to use it... I'm bitter after she raked me through the coals." *Anonymous.*

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# Shipping Hatching Eggs

By Ann Charles



When I ship hatching eggs I have a set of goals. I want the shipped eggs to arrive intact, as quickly as possible, and with no breakage. Some of this is not under my control. Like all of you, I depend on the USPS for delivery. And this has been a BAD year for delivery.

I also want those shipped eggs to hatch big strong chicks, and as many as possible. There are several ways to help this happen. First is the eggs themselves. They should always be out of healthy, fertile breeders. That means for a start, fresh water, electrolytes, 24 hour access to 18 % protein breeder feed, maybe spiking with

cockerels in the Summer, and good barn ventilation.

Also, I do not ship eggs more than 48 hours old and try to have them all laid within 24 hours of shipping. As soon as they are picked up I put them in a wine cooler to lower the temp to about 65 degrees and that is where they stay until I wrap them for shipping. A fresher egg will ship better and have a much smaller air cell with a smaller risk of that air cell breaking during transit. Plus, by the time it arrives the embryo will not be as old as an egg that is shipped a week or so after lay. When I wrap my eggs I make sure they are shipped with the air

cells up which also protects air cells.

The packaging should protect the eggs from crushing (a small cube is a strong crush resistant shape), delays in shipping, immobilize each egg within the box, and hopefully not bring any undo notice to the shipping box, beyond a 'Fragile' sticker. I also want my shipping boxes air tight—as much as possible. This is to reduce transference of heat. One of the worse things for an egg/embryo is constantly heating up and cooling down during transit. It will weaken it greatly resulting in a 'quitter' during incubation.



1

Photo 1: I use a USPS Priority Mail box CUBE. These are the 7 x 7 x 6 inch ones that you have to order from their website. I have not been able to find these in the local post office in 10 years or so. You can order them free online in lots of 25 boxes. Put your box together taping all the bottom seams securely with packing tape. Next, line your box with a disposable plastic grocery bag. Then place two 3 foot sheets of bubble wrap crosswise to each other inside the shopping bag to make a well for the eggs.



2

Photo 2: Use a 1 foot square section of bubble wrap for each egg if shipping 9 eggs. The bubble wrap is folded in half with the bubbles toward the inside of the fold. Place the egg in the middle of the bubble wrap then roll it up and seal it on the side and at both ends. To ship 12 eggs I use a 6 inch piece of bubble wrap for half of the eggs and roll the egg up diagonally. This lets you stack them 2 high (6 eggs) in the middle row. Place eggs gently in the 'nest', air cells facing up, in rows of three.



3

Photo 3: Once the eggs are in the box, fold the remaining bubble wrap around sides and top to make a soft cushion. Next pull up the handles on the plastic bag and tie them shut. Tape over any open places to seal the bag and reduce air flow/heat transference. Seal the box, and any seams where air could get in. Your eggs are now ready for a label and stickers. Using this method I have shipped close to a hundred orders this year with only 2 broken eggs in total and rarely a broken air cell on arrival.



Customers photo of 5 vigorous chicks hatched from an August 2020 shipment of 9 large fowl Araucana eggs.



Label applied and eggs ready to ship.



Don Nelson

Foam shippers - easy and safe. Made to fit Priority Mail box. This is only one of twelve shipments that had any damage. No idea how they managed to crack 5 eggs!

Mark Dooks

I do shipping and receiving at work. You are way better sending eggs either Fedex ground or UPS ground. That simply means their not flown. Might take a day or 2 longer to get eggs. You don't have to worry about air cells breaking at high altitudes. Keep this a secret... it's always. Regardless what carrier you use they are all pretty rough with packaging. Good luck