

BUCK-WHEAT BYTES

Guinea Fowl International
www.guineafowlinternational.org



GFIA 3rd Annual Conference

You are invited to attend the second annual Guinea Fowl International Conference on March 10-12, 2008. This conference is designed to help you learn more about your guineas and to find answers to some of the questions and issues we all encounter in keeping guineas, as well as some questions that we're simply curious about.

The fee to attend will be \$230 per person (which includes 3 nights lodging, 9 meals, lectures and workshops, and all conference materials). For those who want to take care of their own lodging, \$140 per person includes everything except lodging.

What makes this conference different from others you may have attended or heard about? Mainly this: the focus of this conference will be on small flocks in the backyard-flock setting, rather than on commercial poultry. While there has obviously been far more research and writing about commercial poultry, and while there are some common needs, diseases, and concerns -

The Story of the Psycho Chicken

By Jan Williams

[It was a peaceful day in the neighborhood...](#)

until suddenly all hell broke loose.

Spring comes to the Central Valley in February when the almond orchards bloom. It isn't a lasting spring. It's more like T.S. Eliot's "April is the cruelest month..." Some days can be balmy seventies and then a storm moves in, the sun goes away, and it rains from all directions. The last few days have been the sunny variety.

We were in the backyard when suddenly from the alley behind the fence came a sound that seemed to be not of this earth. It was a series of ear piercing "squawk-blucks," very loud and growing louder.

I should explain that in our city all of the houses built in the past 50 years have six-foot redwood board fences

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there are also many differences. We aim to try to learn from the commercial poultry industry where it makes sense, but we want to especially include presenters who focus on small and backyard flocks.

This year, we are working with the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program's poultry experts. Speakers will include an avian veterinarian, a gamebird expert, and researchers whose interest is in natural and organic feed and parasite management for natural and organic poultry.

Registration information on back page!

surrounding the backyards. It's an ordinance or something. A house can't close escrow until the fence is in place.

Of course the dogs went ballistic, running from crack to knothole, barking and yelping, trying to see what was back there. I climbed up and looked over to see strutting down the alley, flapping its wings was ... a chicken, a very pissed off chicken.

He looked like an angry drum major in some poultry comic opera. After about fifteen minutes of strutting back and forth, he suddenly flew to the top of our fence, showing no fear, squawk-blucking at the dogs as they barked back at him.

Finally I had enough. I grabbed a broom to shoo him

Please see *Psycho Chicken* on page 2

Psycho Chicken cont. from page 1

off the fence and restore the decibel level to the neighborhood. But as I got closer to him, he flapped his wings and flew up into a tree.

Oh, yeah, that worked well. Now Psycho Chicken was high up in the tree squawking at the dogs, and the dogs were furiously trying to climb the tree.

As God is my witness, I didn't think chickens could fly.

Posted by Jan on February 19, 2007

Return of Psycho Chicken

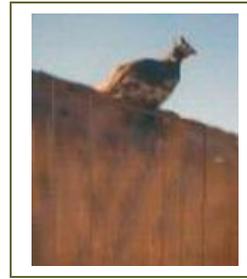
Friggin chicken is still here.

When I let the dogs out this morning, he was strutting around the yard as if he were trying to figure out where to have the pool installed.

Then it was "chase on." All we needed was music from "Benny Hill" or the Keystone Cops to complete the scene. Psycho Chicken squawking, running, flapping, with the barking dogs in hot pursuit, running through the rose garden, the herb garden, the woodpile. Tools, pots and tomato cages flying. The dogs bumping into bushes, tree trunks, each other... Psycho Chicken safely outdistancing them... me yelling.

Do my dogs have selective hearing? Or are they practicing "intelligent disobedience" since I obviously don't understand the danger from fleeing poultry? I called Animal Control. "Do you do chickens?"

They wouldn't send anyone out because by the time anyone could get there, it would be gone, but if I



Charlie

trapped it, they would pick it up. She explained that it is difficult to catch chickens, especially one..."Did you say it FLEW into your tree?" Did I detect a snicker?

Finally Psycho Chicken flew over the fence and disappeared. All was serene in the neighborhood once more until we went back out near sunset. This time he flew to the fence, squawked a few times and quickly flew into the tree.

OK. He came suddenly, he won't stay long. Denial. I love denial.

Sometimes when you ignore a problem it will just go away...

Posted by Jan on February 20, 2007

Jan Williams is the author of The Poodle (and dog) blog. You can read her blog at

<http://thepoodleanddogblog.typepad.com/>

She has kindly given us permission to reprint some of her stories in our newsletter. More adventures will appear in the next few issues.

Don't forget to renew your GFIA membership!

Memberships expire on Dec. 31 of each calendar year. You can renew online at

<http://www.guineafowlinternational.org/membership/>

Or send your information and payment to:

Guinea Fowl International
PO Box 367
Paradise, TX 76073
USA

2008 membership rates:

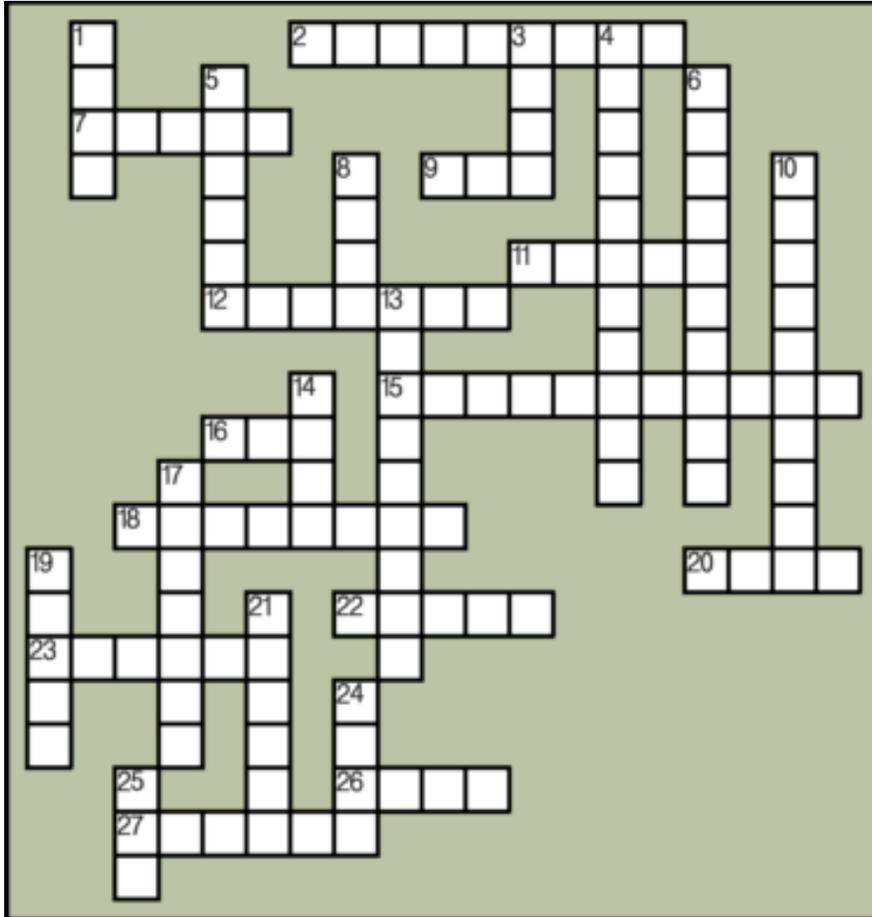
- Single....\$20
- Family...\$28
- Junior.....\$5 (Age 15 & under)
- Breeders List Only (No membership)....\$5
(prices are in US Dollars)

Please indicate whether and how you want to be listed in our membership directory:

- complete contact info & types of guineas
- complete mailing info & types of guineas
- first initial and last name only

The Object of Our Affection

Created by Cindy Gibson



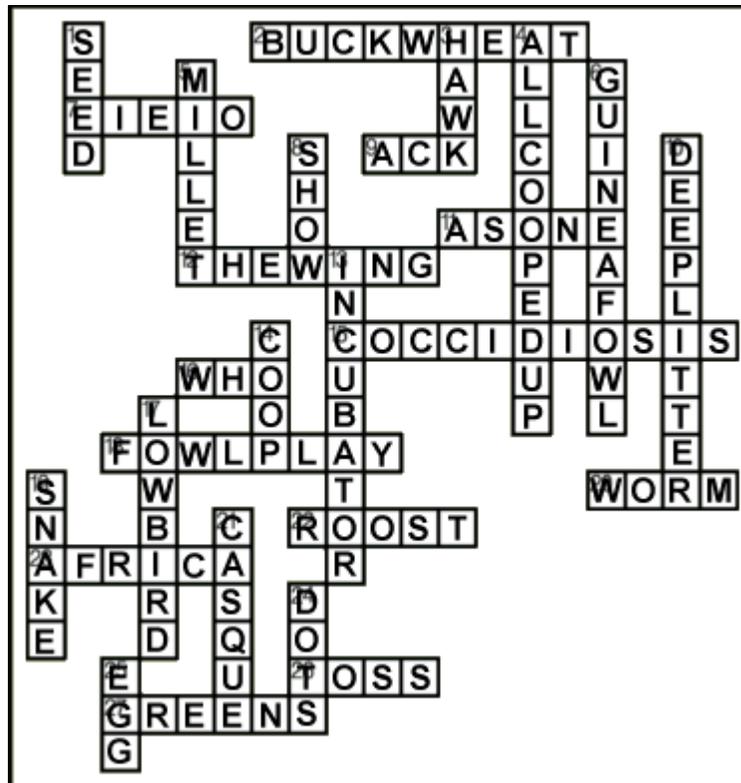
Across

Down

- 2. she calls
- 7. McDonald's refrain
- 9. alarm call
- 11. with flock mentality, the group moves ___
- 12. on the bird? or the bird on it?
- 15. keet-killer
- 16. night-predator's call
- 18. racing and chasing?
- 20. meal or earth
- 22. resting place
- 23. home place
- 26. egg ___ (child's party game)
- 27. a nice treat, chopped

- 1. part of their natural diet
- 3. aerial predator
- 4. penned
- 5. the treat that can't be beat
- 6. the object of our affection
- 8. they were recently allowed into this poultry venue
- 10. bedding management system
- 13. hatchaholic's tool
- 14. safe haven for guineas
- 17. last in the pecking order
- 19. egg predator
- 21. distinguishing feature
- 24. distinguishing characteristics
- 25. delicious return on investment

Crossword Puzzle Solution



*Check out our website for more games and puzzles for all ages,
including word search, jigsaw puzzles, sudoku:*

<http://www.guineafowlinternational.org/articles/activities/index.php>

Guinea Fowl International 2008 Conference Agenda

Day 1: Small-Scale Poultry (Monday March 10)

- 7:00 – 8:00 **Breakfast**
- 8:00 – 8:15 Introduction (Paul Casey, Dr. Frank Jones, Dr. Anne Fanatico, Michael Ashanti)
- 8:15 - 8:30 Requirements for Getting Started (Jerry Wooley)
- 8:30 – 9:15 Alternative production systems and equipment (Dr. Anne Fanatico)
- 9:15 – 10:30 Breeds and sources of birds (Dr. Keith Bramwell)
- 10:30 – 10:45 Break
- 10:45 – 11:45 Field trip – Visit production systems at Heifer
- 11:45 – 12:45 **Lunch**
- 12:45 – 1:45 Poultry Nutrition – organic feeding (Dr. Anne Fanatico)
- 1:45 – 2:45 Managing Breeders and Layers and Hatching (Dr. Keith Bramwell)
- 2:45 – 3:00 Break
- 3:00 – 4:00 Health (Dr. Dustan Clark, avian veterinarian)
- 4:00 – 5:00 Hands-on exercise – How to post a bird (Dr. Dustan Clark)
- 5:00 – 5:30 Heifer International Ranch Tour
- 6:00 – 7:00 **Dinner**
- 7:30 – 9:00 Guinea Fowl International - General Meeting

Day 3: Small-Scale Poultry Species (Wednesday March 12)

- 7:00 – 8:00 **Breakfast**
- 8:00 – 10:00 Guineas, Turkeys, Geese, Ducks (Frank Reese)
- 10:00 – 10:15 Break
- 10:15 – 11:30 Guineas, Turkeys, Geese, Ducks (cont)
- 11:30 – 12:30 **Lunch**

Dr. Fanatico will also address the topic "Parasite Management for Natural and Organic Poultry: Coccidiosis" during the conference.

On Sunday night, GFIA will have a Welcome Dinner. This is still in the planning stages, so more details will be coming later.

Day 2: Small-Scale Poultry Processing (Tuesday March 11)

- 7:00 – 8:00 **Breakfast**
- 8:00 – 9:00 Small-Scale Poultry Processing (Dr. Anne Fanatico)
- 9:00 – 11:30 Processing Demo
- 11:30 – 12:30 **Lunch**
- 12:30 – 1:30 Global Village Tour
- 1:30 – 2:30 Table eggs: Processing, quality (Dr. Frank Jones)
- 2:30 – 2:45 Food Safety (Dr. Frank Jones)
- 2:45 – 3:45 Break
- 3:45 – 4:45 Marketing/Case study (Little Portions, Rosa Shareef)
- 4:45 – 5:45 Marketing and Business Planning/Economics (Dr. Anne Fanatico)
- 6:00 – 7:00 **Dinner**

GFIA's Mission:

- *To support the responsible keeping and breeding of guinea fowl*
- *To educate on the care and habits of guinea fowl*
- *To offer assistance to those interested in the incubation, hatching, and keeping of guinea fowl*

**Register today for
the GFIA 2008
Conference!**

Heifer International Ranch
Learning Center
55 Heifer Road
Perryville, Arkansas 72126

Or, if you prefer not to lodge
at Heifer Ranch:

Super 8
1818 N Hwy 9
I-40 Exit 108
Morrilton, AR 72110
Phone: 501-354-8188

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.guineafowlinternational.org

**Guinea Fowl International Conference
March 10-12**

Registration Fee is \$230 for training, materials,
meals and lodging (double occupancy) or \$140 for
training, materials, meals (NO LODGING
INCLUDED).

Register online:

www.regonline.com/smallscalepoultry2008

Register by phone:

Kathy Findley at 501-907-2692

For any questions:

**Cindy Gibson at 979-773-9100 or
cd@guineafowlinternational.org**

Payment is not due until mid-February, but it would
help us with our planning if you would please
register soon!

**Guinea Fowl International
PO Box 367
Paradise, TX 76073
USA**

