

# Marans Chicken Club USA (MCC USA)

## Egg Show Rules and Judging Guidance



### **PURPOSE:**

MCC USA egg shows are held to educate the general public about Marans for the purpose of preserving the breed, and to encourage the continued improvement of Marans through breeding for quality birds that produce the darkest eggs possible.

### **ELIGIBILITY:**

Any person who owns Marans chickens may exhibit Marans eggs in any sanctioned show. Entrants do not have to be members of the MCC USA club or a local resident to submit an egg show entry or entries.

### **DIVISIONS:**

Egg entries are divided by Marans variety, i.e. Cuckoo, Wheaten, etc. Participants may enter as many entries as they wish. Varieties do not have to be an APA recognized variety in order for their eggs to be eligible to enter.

### **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:**

Each entry shall consist of three eggs. Entries must be placed together and exhibited on a single tray prior to judging. Exhibitors may enter multiple entries in each variety. Exhibitors are encouraged to send in their freshest eggs.

### **ENTRY FORMS:**

Please submit one show entry form per individual exhibitor. Exhibitors can submit several show entries on a single entry form. If additional space is needed, and entrant may use the back of the entry form. Completed MCC USA Official Entry Forms can be hand delivered along with the egg entries at any time up to the day of the show or mailed to the show coordinator or designee in advance of the show.

Mail-In entries must include completed entry form, eggs, and fees. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope along with your entry or entries. The show coordinator or designee will return egg show score cards and awards using the envelope provided by the exhibitor.

The egg show coordinator will provide an address to where egg entries must be mailed. The coordinator will also announce a No-Later-Than (NLT) date. Mailed-in show entries must be delivered to the provided address by the NLT date. Please contact the MCC USA Egg Show Vice President or egg show coordinator for further details. Inquires can also be submitted via email to the Marans Chicken Club USA forum. <http://maranschickenclubusa.com/SMF/index.php>

### **FEE:**

There is a \$5.00 entry fee for the first entry and \$2.50 for each additional entry that is entered by the same person, family, or business.

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### DISPLAY:

Eggs will be displayed for the public. All egg entries will be clearly marked with the exhibitor's assigned entry number and grouped together by variety for display.

### JUDGING:

Judging takes place on-site by an APA or ABA licensed judge, or any appropriately qualified person, at an agreed upon time during the day. The date and time of the egg show and judging will be determined prior to the show and announced on the Forum.

Eggs are judged and scored according to Color, Shape, Shell Texture and Uniformity as follows:

#### 1. Shell color - Possible 1-6 points.

- Marans are most noted for their extra-russet-red egg shell color and accompanied by a spherical form. Color is heavily weighted in score because above all else it is considered the most important quality. Using an MCC USA shade card the judge will score the egg shell color as follow:
  - # 1 to 3 = 0 points (DQ, Does Not Qualify)
  - # 4 = 1 point – All eggs must be at least a #4 when compared to the MCC shade card.
  - # 5 = 2 points
  - # 6 = 3 points
  - # 7 = 4 points
  - # 8 = 5 points
  - # 9 = 6 points

*NOTE: Egg shell color pigmentation is not always uniform and varies from hen to hen. Pigmentation may be deposited on the egg shell uniformly, stippled or spotted; all are treated equally and considered unique to each hen.*

#### 2. Shape – Possible 0-3 points.

- Each egg is awarded one point for shape. An ideally shaped Marans egg is broad, ensuring a large and well-rounded dome, with greater length than width.
- The sides are equal and symmetrical, rounding off to a smaller end, which should not be too pointed but appear spherical in shape; see Figure 1.

Figure 1



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3. Shell Texture – Possible 0-2 points.
  - Matt - 0 points
  - Satin - 1 point (The shell should feel smooth to the touch all over.)
  - Bright - 2 points (Bloom and appearance will only be present with freshness.)
  
4. Uniformity – Possible 0-3 points.
  - Each egg is awarded one point for uniformity. Eggs must appear uniform in color, size, shape and texture to one another. If none of the eggs match there will be no points awarded. If there are two eggs that match, they will automatically receive two points, and if all three eggs match, they will receive 3 points.

*TIP: Eggs laid by the same bird are more likely to be uniform in appearance.*

5. Total Possible Points - 14

### **AWARDS:**

Awards vary from show to show and are dependent upon donations by club(s), or locally raised funds. Awards are left to the discretion of the show coordinator and determined through the collaborative efforts with the Egg Show Vice President. At a minimum, awards are reserved for the best overall egg show entry, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place within each variety of egg entries. These placing's shall be used to determine year-end awards, if any.

### **MEETS:**

A nationally sponsored MCC USA egg show will be held at the MCC USA National Meet each year. Regional (District) and State Meets are held randomly as well. The egg shows will be announced on the Forum.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- Receiving Awards: All entrants are eligible to receive awards from MCC USA sponsored egg shows; MCC USA membership is not required. Entrants may pick up their awards and score cards following judging, or may have them mailed to them directly by providing a self-address stamped envelope.
  
- Entry Forms: Entry forms are available on the Marans Chicken Club Forum and the MCC USA web site. Both can be accessed at [www.maranschickenclubusa.com](http://www.maranschickenclubusa.com) ... It is the responsibility of show entrants to fill out the forms completely and accurately. Please contact the show coordinator if you have any questions.
  
- Hand Delivered Entries: Entrants can hand deliver entries the day of the show no later than 9am unless previous arrangements have been made with the show coordinator.
  
- Fees: Entry fees must be paid in full prior to the exhibition or they will not be judged.

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- Damaged Eggs: The show coordinator and/or the MCC USA shall not be held responsible for any entries that are received damaged as a result of shipping or natural disaster. The coordinator will attempt to return all funds for any entries not judged due to damage or unplanned event.
  
- Show Coordinator: The show coordinator is responsible for:
  - Providing a NLT date: All mailed-in entries must arrive prior to the date prescribed by the Egg Show Coordinator.
  
  - Egg Disposal: Ensuring all egg entries are destroyed following the show unless the exhibitor has requested they be saved and has made arrangements previous to the show.
  - Providing a shade card, score cards and rules to the judge well in advance of the show.
  - Preparing and submitting the Egg Show Report Form (ESRF) to the MCC Vice President of Egg Shows, see Appendix B.
  
- Judging:
  - Before judging begins the show coordinator will segregate entries by variety.
  - Entries are judged and scored individually; see Appendix C for score cards
  - When judging for uniformity, the judge compares eggs comprising of a single entry.
  - Each variety entered into the show are ranked from 1st through 3rd according to score.
  - The judge determines an overall show winner by taking the highest scoring entries from among all the varieties. Overall winners are also placed from 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Judges can break a tie score between entries by applying the principles prescribed in this document.
  - All scoring and placements are final.