



AEA EMUupdate

The Official Newsletter of the American Emu Association

President's Message

Volume 30 Issue 5— Sep-Oct 2020

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Website, Feed Nominations	2
Inquiries	3
YouTube "Cooking with Emu" Videos	4
Limu Emu Question ConventionCancelled Bylaws Addition	5



AEA BOD, Regional Map &
Emu Processing Plants 6

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2020 AEA Convention
CANCELLED
Huntsville, AL

Greetings From Colorado

Greetings from Beautiful Colorado. It just came to my attention that this is **my last Presidents message** to you. I want to thank all of you for supporting me as I have represented you for most of the past 11 years. I started out on the Board as an appointee to fill-in for a departing Board Member & have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the Board ever since. I highly recommend you **consider the opportunity to be involved** by serving on the AEA Board of Directors. I have learned much and met more of you as a board member than I ever would have as a little emu farmer in the middle of the USA.

I wish we were getting together again this Sept but it is better we all stay safe at home and minimize our contact with groups. We are hopeful that the covid-19 news will improve so we can meet next year. Please **watch for an update from the Board of Directors regarding an annual meeting** and how to access the information.

I am hopeful you have not been terribly affected by the COVID-19 downturn in business and lifestyle and are able to stay in touch virtually with friends, family and customers. Some of my "farmer" friends have said their day is more or less the same as usual, as they live in rural areas and have always

been more alone than not. I know many of you work in an office environment and I wish for you "clean air" and a stable job to get through this mess.

The Board of Directors has continued to work on the website during COVID-19, as this is the face of the AEA and could be done from our homes. We will continue to improve features and add information. Please assist us with your ideas and creativity. **Make sure you are accessing the MEMBERS AREA of the website.** If you are having problems with access, please email or phone me to get you up and running.

I am not running off into the sunset. I will continue to be available as needed. I have great passion for the emu industry, its fantastic oil, healthy meat and its growth here in the USA.

Terry Turner

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BREEDERS LIST

The Breeders List will once again be offered to members at no cost for 2020. If you sell emu chicks yearlings or breeder pairs, add your farm to this FREE listing. This is the first place people look for emus on the AEA website.

Discount for Veterans - The AEA is offering a 10% annual membership discount to veterans and current military personnel with verification required. New & renewing members will be eligible for this discount. For more information contact info@aea-emu.org

For You Or Your Customers What To Know Before You Get An Emu

- 1.) Have you researched available **information on emu ranching**?
- 2.) Do you want to be involved **full-time** or will you **hire someone** to help?
- 3.) Have you prepared a **Business Plan** detailing costs and estimated return on investment over a 3-5 year period?
- 4.) Do you have the **personal stamina and time** to be involved in an agribusiness on a daily basis?
- 5.) Which parts of the **emu business** do you want to participate in? Breeders only? Fertile eggs only? Sell chicks only? Grow-out only? Raise birds for others? Incubate & hatch for others? Wholesaling or direct marketing of products? Farm tours?
- 6.) Do you have the **physical resources** - land, water, buildings, pens, personal health and energy? Where will you purchase feed?
- 7.) Do you have the **financial resources** - capitol for initial investment, expansion and the staying power to withstand possible market changes?
- 8.) What do you consider a satisfactory **return on investment**?
- 9.) Are you looking for a **short-term investment** with a quick return or are you looking at a **long term**, year after year program?
- 10.) Do you have **faith in the benefits of emu products**?
- 11.) Have you visited various farming operations to assist in **developing your own plan**?
- 12.) Have you learned how to **act around an emu and how to handle** an emu when moving them from pen to pen or loading into a trailer? Emus have a lot of strength in their legs and very sharp toenails. They can cause injuries, if kicked by them. Emus are also attracted to shiny things and will peck at buttons, earrings, watches, even eye glasses. They do not have teeth, but their serrated beak can pinch and leave a bruise.



FOR SALE - Stainless Steel Water Bottle with AEA Logo

These durable water bottles are now available. Price - \$18.00 plus shipping. For more information or to purchase, contact Brian Smith, snakeman52006@hotmail.com, or any board member.

Emu Sun Shades

Available from FarmingVibe.com

These fun sun shades make your car appear to be driven by an emu.

They are **available for \$34.99 plus shipping.**

(Shipping charge California to Wisconsin is \$4.95)

Fun advertising at Farmers Markets & Festivals.

<https://farmingvibe.com/products/driving-emu-auto-sun-shade?variant=34314469245064>



Word Search

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BRATS

CARVED

DECORATED

EMUS

FEEDERS

GROUND

HIDES

LEGGINGS

MEAT

PENS

STEAKS

WEB INQUIRY REPORT

The **Live Bird Requests** are sent out to the members by these two electronic venues - **Facebook** and the **YahooGroups Email List**.

If you are not signed up, you will NOT receive these contact opportunities along with many shared educational and business information ideas between members.



If you cannot find your invitation by email in your junk mail/spam folder for the **Yahoo Groups AEA Members List**, contact **Amy Hall**, gofarm2020@outlook.com.

For the **Facebook AEA Members Only Network** page, contact **Brian Smith**, snakeman52006@hotmail.com.

WANTED

Less than 5 **fertile eggs or newly hatched chicks**. Chris Hondale, Ramona, CA (760) 445-2673 chonadle@gmail.com

1 - 1 yr old female.

Peter DeMarie, Ocean View, DE (302) 858-2524 kristinlenora15@gmail.com

Bulk **clean blown emu eggs, hides & feathers**. Steve Onsted, Broken Arrow, OK, (918) 812-3382 sonsted@aol.com

Pair of adult emus. Stan Schaefer, Aurora, CO, (970) 846-7046 stan599012000@yahoo.com

Female emu. Chris Dixon, South Portland, ME, (503) 575-8268 cdixon77@hotmail.com

Right & left emu legs for display. Ryan Martinez reptileryan@hotmail.com

Clean blown emu eggs. John Bordman, Brooklyn, NY, (781) 476-3789 JWBCO@live.com

Emu feathers & edible emu eggs and would like to speak with emu farmers in his area. Blake Stockman, Bellevue, NE, (402) 616-1874 blake.stockman88@gmail.com

FOR SALE

URGENT - 3 pair of Emu Breeders, 2 pair proven breeders (\$1,000/pair), 1 pair coming twos (\$750/pair). Clover Quinn, (emus located) Hamilton, MT & Sandpoint, ID, (406) 363-1710. clover@wildroseemu.com

Emu Today & Tomorrow Archives

Emu Today & Tomorrow (ET&T) **subscribers can now access the Archives on the ET&T website**, www.emutoday.com.

Click on ARCHIVES, then click on ARCHIVE REGISTRATION. Fill out the form. Once you have been approved, you will receive an email with a web address to use to access the archives.

Did you know

Emu Today & Tomorrow is the emu industry's premier magazine? Published four times a year, ET&T provides insight to current emu market trends and how-to guides for emu farming. Partnering with the AEA, ET&T also offers on its website EmuToday.com a wealth of resources and tools for raising emus.

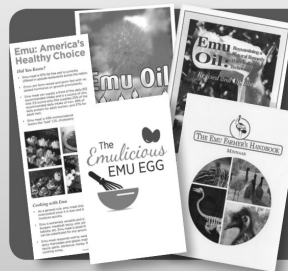
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We also have the Emulicious Emu Egg booklet, mini emu meat and emu oil guides, several emu oil handbooks, and the original *Emu Farmer's Handbook* available for sale. *Emu Today & Tomorrow* is an invaluable resource for everything emu!

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From the Vice President - Amy Hall

Hello all! Just thought I'd give you a little update on the farm proceedings. The shipping container has a new wall in it and I've been insulating the inside. I can barely stand to be inside it past 10 o'clock in the morning it just gets so hot. That metal heats up so very quickly. A roof for it will probably be put on this fall. It's just too hot to work outside right now.

My gal, Red, has been hanging with the boys. She is cooly leading them all on, however it's looking like

Curley commands her attention the most. I have been monitoring my other juveniles, and although I see the beginnings of young romance, the voice changes I've been awaiting have yet to present themselves.

Red is the only boomer I am hearing, for now. She certainly has a full neck beard (also known as a boom sack) with prominent neck tendons. People ask all the time how I tell them apart. Silly.

My birds are enjoying their automatic waters. It's always fresh water and it's also nice for me

because I don't have to go out there and dump large containers of dirty water. That would cause a waste of water and time and ends up with mosquito larvae and such, in the dirty water.

As some of you may know, I am a still a full-time airline pilot, so I'm always looking for ways to make my emus a little more self-sufficient. I purchased a calf feeder, it's called a creeper, and it came with a three sided gate to keep mama cow from eating the calf's food. I didn't need that, so it's in my shed with a plywood top on it, so it's a nice big work table.

However I came home from my last trip to hear the news that my emus had dumped quite a lot of food on the ground underneath the feeder. What I came up with is that the feeder trough is very shallow and I'm sure those birds are just in there have a good old time picking through the food and throwing things around.

The feeder came with an adjustable gate to limit the amount of food that goes into the trough, however it still doesn't solve the problem of the trough being rather shallow and I was worried that not enough food would be dropping down in to the trough. So I took the gate instead and I bolted it onto the front effectively doubling the depth of the food trough and while there's still a little bit of food in the front of it but certainly not as much food as they were wasting before.

The feeder holds up to 600 lbs. of grain. Obviously not a good idea in this heat to have food in there for weeks, but I've been monitoring and calibrating.

Please keep cool and enjoy what's left of the summer.



AEA Members ZOOM Meetings

Last Tuesday we had our first fun **emu ZOOM meeting**. I think it was a great success. There were 5 of us, plus a couple of family members who stopped by to say hello. We had myself, Joylene, Gary, John and Lois, Janean and her daughter, Emily. The meeting lasted about 35 minutes.



We had a great **in-depth discussion** about incubator rooms and the need for **good ventilation**. Also, about **nutrition** and how problems may not present themselves for several years. It was suggested that multiple changes should not be made at the same time, as this may not help you narrow down a culprit.

I'm planning these meetings to be on the **1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 8pm (eastern)**. No AEA business will be decided at these meetings although you are certainly welcome to ask questions that I can forward to the board.

I sure hope more of you can make it to these ZOOM meetings. It would be nice to see the faces of our newer members (hint, hint). I certainly understand that most of us live in rural areas and being Internet data challenged.

ZOOM, as we are using it now, is free for under 100 participants. If there is a bigger interest, we can look at paying for phone-in members. This would cost the AEA about \$128 a month.

I am still **looking for a co-host** when I am not available.

To use ZOOM go to <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-meeting> You will need to **download the Zoom app** on your phone, tablet or computer. In the OVERVIEW section you will find a link to the Download Center. In order to be seen on the screen when you talk, you will need to use a device with a camera (PC, phone or tablet). You will receive an invitation with a link that you will use to join the meeting.

For more information about the ZOOM meetings or to arrange for an invitation, if you didn't receive one, contact:

Amy Hall,
(479) 847-0352
GoFarm2020@outlook.com

**If you reserved a hotel room
for the AEA Convention in
Huntsville, Alabama, that is
NOT being held, be sure to call &
cancel that room.
Marriott Hotel - (970) 493-9262**

QUESTIONS *by Joylene Reavis* Emu Feed

The topic of how important is a **balanced feed** for emus, came up recently. First off, I'd like to say that some dry dog foods will keep emus alive, but not much more.

We started out with a **well balanced feed supplied by the breeder**, where we purchased our first chicks. After 3 years he **quit delivering** feed and we had to look elsewhere. We obtained a feed formula from a large southern breeder and had it **custom ground at a local mill**. Our birds did fantastic on it. We had lots of chicks that dressed out with large amounts of meat and fat. After four years of feeding this feed we **started to have** trouble with chicks not being able to **break through the shell**, which seemed to be overly thick, plus, a lot of **mal-positioned** chicks that quickly ran out of air once they had internally pipped.

The following year we had a lot of **splayed legs** and the yearlings that were able to hatch started **feather picking**. They picked ALL the feathers off each other's backs. This is NOT good in January during a Wisconsin winter.

I talked to a Nutrena Feed representative who worked with poultry. He said that feather picking is common in turkey when they are not receiving a balanced diet. He recommended that we **add whole** oats to the feed we had on hand. He said that besides the **nutritional value, the texture** of the whole oat kernel seemed to satisfy their urge to pick feathers and it did help. It was about this time that the **AEA Feed Formulator** was created. With some help we had a balanced formula created.

It took about 2 years of feeding this formula to get everything straightened around. It seems that the breeders can go quite a while on poor nutrition, if they were started out properly in their growing years. It is their **offspring that suffer most from a nutritional deficiency**.

I also found that **Wild Game Bird Feed** is really close to a balanced emu feed formula and can be used in a pinch. Besides being well balanced, it contains more of the **natural vitamins and colloidal minerals** rather than synthetic vitamins and crushed rocks that digest poorly.



Website Help Needed

Even though we now have a company to fix our website problems, we still need a volunteer to help keep the website current.



The upgraded AEA website, www.aea-emu.org, needs volunteers to help keep it up to date by posting new items (no repair work).

If you are experienced with WORD PRESS, the AEA could use your help. For more information, or to volunteer, contact, info@aea-emu.org. Check out the AEA website at - <http://www.aea-emu.org>

Annual Meeting

An electronic form of the AEA Annual Membership Meeting will be posted in mid-September.

In all likelihood it will be a video explaining the agenda that will be posted to the "MEMBERS SECTION" of AEA website. www.aea-emu.org

MEETING

A short **pre-meeting newsletter** will be sent out a **week before the video is posted** containing the explanation of the meeting agenda.

If you have questions you can direct them to **Terry Turner**, terry_turner@hughes.net, home: 970-493-9262

After the video has been **posted** and **comments** have been addressed, a **follow-up newsletter** will be sent with the **complete minutes including comments and answers**. This meeting newsletter will be sent at the **end of September**.

Joylene Reavis with her **emu sunshade**. Contact Joy for more info, - emujoy@sugarmapleemu.com or 608-897-8224. See article on Page 2.



AEA 2020 CONVENTION CANCELLED

Due to the highly contagious COVID-19 virus, the AEA board of directors has voted to cancel this year's September 11th-13th annual convention. Our number one concern is the health and welfare of our convention attendees.

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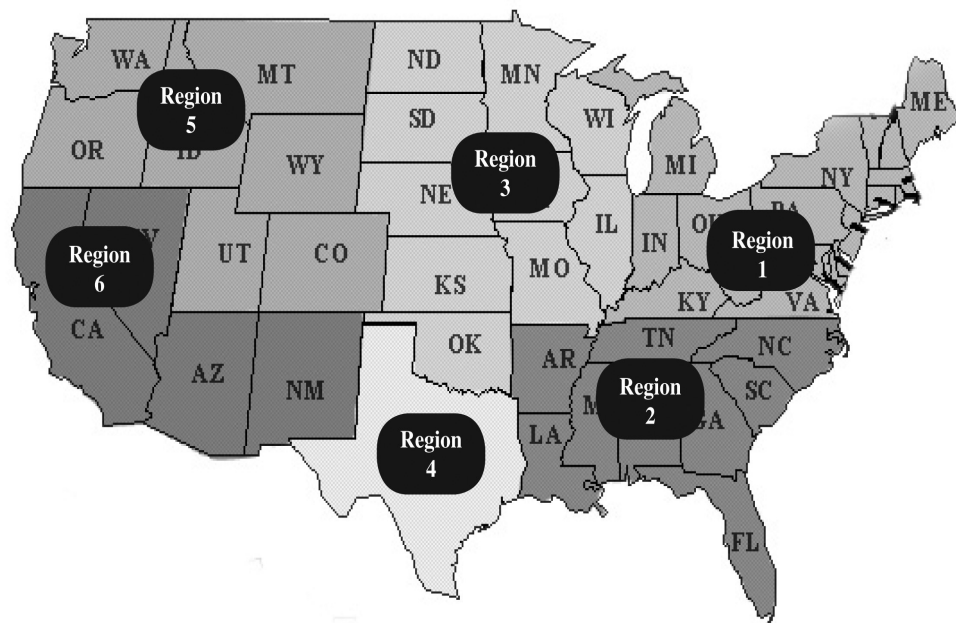
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J&S Meat Processing
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Fairfield, TX 75840
903-389-6169

Lemay & Sons USDA
116 Daniel Plummer Rd
Goffstown, NH 03045
603-622-0022

**Value Added
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Uvalde, TX 78801
830-278-6247

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