

Ameraucana Alliance  
By Russ Blair

Greetings from Southeast Michigan! The New Year is well under way, which means spring is fast approaching. As I wait with anticipation this means two things at my homestead: first, hatching season is in full swing; and second, my wife is probably already at her wit's end. Unfortunately she does not share my enthusiasm of hatching season.

I am hoping the countless hours I have spent since last year will yield some fuzzy faced chicks with the potential to be worthy of exhibition this fall. If you're anything like me you already have your fall show dates in mind. More importantly you have planned some hatch dates to insure your chickens will be at their peak condition. The big show for me is our Ameraucana National Meet. It will be held the first weekend of October at the Fowl Fest show in Birch Run, Michigan.

This brings me to a very important announcement. Not only am I honored with being on our club's board of directors, but I have also been blessed with the opportunity to head up another silent auction. This will be a livestock only auction to take place at this year's National meet again. We will be offering breeding quality Ameraucana, generously donated from some of the top breeders in the Nation. Last year's auction was a huge success, with a large offering of both large fowl and bantam Ameraucana that included some of the finest stock I have personally seen. Like last year we will also include a one-year membership in the Ameraucana Alliance to all winning bidders that will commence January 1, 2018 and run through the entire year.

I am sure with the time frame in which I have been given this Livestock auction will be of epic proportion. This will be another added bonus making our 2017 National Meet the premier Ameraucana show of the year. So make plans now so you don't miss out. To learn more about the Ameraucana Alliance, feel free to visit [AmeraucanaAlliance.org](http://AmeraucanaAlliance.org), check out our forum and like us on Facebook. Better yet join us for just \$10. This will give you full access to the forum, quarterly newsletters and make you eligible for all awards at our meets...not to mention granting you access to the knowledge of the people who created most of the recognized varieties we have today.

Happy Hatching!