



YOU BE THE JUDGE

Michele DeCicco/Anderson table-tops some of her Faverolles at 6 months old.



Article compliments of the West Coast Jersey Giants.

SELECTING YOUR BIRDS – By: Sher Jennings

Ever notice how you get your younger birds to a show and only THEN notice some of the subtle (or big) differences between them? Some are surprising and others not so much.

It's one of the reasons you show your birds. Gives you a chance to table-top them alongside each other as well as someone else's birds. Little things suddenly leap out at you.

Color(consistencies/inconsistencies/variations/differences), depth of keel, length of back, tail set, wing set, width at the chest, width of back and whether it carries through, etc etc. Try not to wait until a show, especially if you are about to pick your keepers.

I invested in a few cages a couple years ago for table topping my own birds. Some of the best money I've ever spent. Now, I find myself pulling the cages out when working with others on their own birds. You put the birds next to each other and BOOM.....so easy to see what are otherwise subtle or invisible differences when you try to look at them next to each other rather than on the ground in a pen.

Even if you only buy one two-hole or 4-hole cage or build your own.....penny for penny, it will be some of the best money you've ever spent.....like putting on a pair of glasses! If you can't afford to buy one, build something, have it built, or hit some yard sales and pick up some dog pens.

Do this with your mentor or a fellow breeder so that you have an objective pair of eyes working with you. If you're planning on breeding, remember the advice Bob Anderson gave a few years ago in one of his messages.....*don't lose sight of your two main breeding goals for the season.*

And don't forget the other critical tool to have available when you're sorting through your birds.....your APA Standard.