

“2005 - Year of the Rooster”

By Diane Alba-Means

On February 9, 2005, we officially welcome in the Chinese New year; the **Year of the Rooster**, because this is a new moon day. It is determined by the Chinese Lunar calendar, commonly known as the Farmer’s calendar. A new moon marks the beginning of each month. Chinese New Year’s Day is the first day of the first month of the Chinese lunar calendar. On our Western calendar, it usually occurs somewhere between mid-January and the mid-February.

The Chinese calendar uses a “Stem-Branch” sequence as a way to determine the days, months and years. There are 10 heavenly stems and 12 earthly branches in this system. The 12 animals each represent one of the 12 years in this “branch sequence” calendar system, instead of using twelve special symbols for this purpose. Counting from Year 1,2,3,... up to twelve and then starting over from year one. The Rooster is the 10th animal in the Chinese Zodiac. The order of the celestial animals according to the branch sequence are Rat, Cow, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep (Goat or Ram), Monkey, Rooster (Chicken), Dog and Pig.

The 10 Stems are named by the Yin and Yang, as well as the Five elements, which are Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal and Water. The twelve animals of Chinese astrology are associated with either yin or yang. Yin is the feminine, cool and watery, and also the force of the Moon. Yang on the other hand is masculine, solid and hot. It is the force of the Sun. It is an old Chinese belief, that the concentrated essence of yin and yang became the four seasons and the scattered essences of yin and yang became the creatures that are found on earth.

2005 is known as the year of the male, wooden Rooster, which is the 22nd of the Stem-Branch calendar system. It is often referred to as the **Year of the Green Rooster**, because green represents the color associated with the wood (tree) element.

According to the lunar calendar, the Rooster, symbolizing a bird is the only celestial animal, other than the Dragon, which has the ability to take flight and soar into the skies. The Chinese horoscope also indicates the celestial animal signs that are secret friends and allies. Surrounding yourself with images of your horoscope secret friends and allies, is said to help you attract the luck of helpful people. The Rooster and the Dragon are Secret Friends.

The Years of the Rooster are 1909, 1921, 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993 and 2005. Since Chinese New Year does not fall on a specific date each year, it is important to check the calendar to determine the first day of Chinese New Year.

People born in the year of the Rooster are generally very loyal and hardworking. They seem to be quite outgoing, often with a flamboyant and very spirited personality.

Roosters are generally successful people, who reach their career goals. They are usually more motivated than most other Animal sign, thus making their careers a real priority in life.

Those born in year of the Rooster also have an eye for details and are suited to work as bookkeepers, insurance agents, actors, CPA's, dentists, musicians and secretaries.

Happy Chinese New Year
Gung Hay Fat Choy!
"Wishing you good fortune and happiness."

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