
























Breed (with links to other sites with images and more information)	Varieties / Rarity / What's a hen weigh?	Class and Type	Origins	Egg color & productivity; egg size	Comb Skin color Earlobes	Brooding Hardiness Maturing	Behavior
 <p>Ameraucana FS PB club</p> <p>The chipmunky blue-egger.</p>	<p>Black, Blue, Blue-wheaten, Brown-red, Buff, Silver, Wheaten, & White</p> <hr/> <p>Easter Eggers are common. Standard Ameraucanas are rare. 80% / 12% (EEs/pure) Unchanged since 2003</p> <hr/> <p>Standard: 5.5 lb/2.5 kg Bantam: 1.6 lb/0.75 kg</p>	<p>APA (1984): Large: All Other Bantam: All Other</p> <p>Clean Legged</p> <hr/> <p>PC: Not recognized</p> <hr/> <p>Layer Fancy: Muffed, Bearded</p>	<p>South American. May or may not be genetically related to the Araucana. One theory is that Ameraucanas were developed by crossing Aracaunas with other breeds. The more current, more accepted theory is that a different breed from Chile, the Quechua, was the parent stock from which the Ameraucanas were developed. Standardized & accepted into APA in 1984.</p> <p>Note: whatever name they use, most hatcheries do not sell standard Ameraucanas, but sell Easter Eggers -- chickens that may lay blue, green, or other colored eggs, but do not conform to standard. Not a problem for backyard flocks.</p>	 <p>Various shades of blue & blue-green</p> <hr/> <p>average to above average</p>	<p>pea</p> <hr/> <p>white with slate colored shanks</p> <hr/> <p>red</p>	<p>occasional brooder</p> <hr/> <p>very cold hardy</p> <hr/> <p>moderately early maturing</p>	<p>well adaptable to confinement or free range; mostly calm, non-aggressive</p> <p>Our Birds [mostly mongrel Easter Eggers]: a few have been among the most curious & most easily handled birds we have owned. Others have been calm, non-aggressive, but stand-offish. None of ours has gone broody. We wouldn't have a flock without them.</p>
<p>Ancona  FS AL PP</p> <p>Almost a Leghorn, with black mottling.</p>	<p>Black mottled, only</p> <hr/> <p>Uncommon. 40% Unchanged since 2003</p> <hr/> <p>Standard: 4.5 lb/2 kg Bantam: 1.5 lb/0.7 kg</p>	<p>APA (1898): Large: Mediterranean Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Soft Feather Light</p> <hr/> <p>Layer</p>	<p>Developed in Italy in mid-19th century probably from leghorns sporting mottled feathers. Once rivaled the Leghorn in Europe, but never caught on in North America.</p>	 <p>white to light cream</p> <hr/> <p>below average</p>	<p>single, also rose</p> <hr/> <p>yellow skin & shanks</p> <hr/> <p>white</p>	<p>non-setter</p> <hr/> <p>generally hardy; very cold hardy except for combs</p> <hr/> <p>early maturing hens</p>	<p>prefers free range; nervous & restless in confinement; flyer; active, flighty, marked wildness, avoids human contact</p>






Breed (with links to other sites with images and more information)	Varieties / Rarity / What's a hen weigh?	Class and Type	Origins	Egg color & productivity; egg size	Comb Skin color Earlobes	Brooding Hardiness Maturing	Behavior
 <p>Andalusian FS AL PP</p> <p>The original blue.</p>	<p>Blue (Black and Splash [White] used for breeding, but not recognized)</p> <hr/> <p>Uncommon. Bird. 32% Unchanged since 2003</p> <hr/> <p>Standard: 5.5 lb/2.4 kg Bantam: 1.75 lb/0.8 kg</p>	<p>APA (1874): Large: Mediterranean</p> <p>Bantam: Single Comb</p> <hr/> <p>Clean Legged PC: Light, Rare</p> <hr/> <p> Layer Fancy: Blue feathered</p>	<p>Developed in Spain & England in mid-19th century. Studied by Gregor Mendel in experiments in genetics & heredity. Blue color does not breed true. Black & Splash (White) are necessary for breeding.</p>	 <p>chalk to creamy white</p> <hr/> <p>above average</p>	<p>single</p> <hr/> <p>white skin, slate blue shanks</p> <hr/> <p>white</p>	<p>mostly a non-setter</p> <hr/> <p>Heat tolerant; combs subject to frostbite; ours were not robust, but that may not be representative of the breed.</p> <hr/> <p>early maturing</p>	<p>semi-adaptable to confinement, but prefers free range; active, flighty, noisy, avoids human contact</p> <p>Our Birds: ours, received as adults, never fit in well with the rest of the flock & were nervous all the time. Our one cock crowed louder than any other we've ever had. We've been hesitant to try them again, but we might, since they are such beautiful birds.</p>
<p>Appenzeller or Appenzell FS PP club</p> <p>The national breed of Switzerland.</p>	<p>Spitzhauben (Pointed Hood) & Barthuhner (Bearded)</p> <hr/> <p>Spitzhauben rare; Barthuhner practically unknown</p> <p>8% /0% (spitz/barth) Unchanged since 2003</p> <hr/> <p>4 lb/1.8 kg</p>	<p>APA: Not recognized PC: Soft Feather Light</p> <hr/> <p>Layer Fancy: Crested or Bearded</p>	<p>Developed in Switzerland centuries ago. The name is thought to derive from the lace bonnets of the Appenzeller region.</p>	 <p>white</p> <hr/> <p>average</p>	<p>horn, V-shaped, duplex</p> <hr/> <p>white skin, blue shanks</p> <hr/> <p>bluish white</p>	<p>can be broody</p> <hr/> <p>very cold hardy, except may have problems with freezing crest feathers</p> <hr/> <p>early maturing</p>	<p>not very tolerant of close confinement; flyer; active, flighty</p>



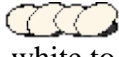
Breed (with links to other sites with images and more information)	Varieties / Rarity / What's a hen weigh?	Class and Type	Origins	Egg color & productivity; egg size	Comb Skin color Earlobes	Brooding Hardiness Maturing	Behavior
<p>Araucana or Rumpless Araucana FS PP PB club</p> <p>The rumpless, tufted blue-egger.</p>	<p>Black, White, Black Breasted Red, Blue, Buff, Silver</p> <hr/> <p>Purebreds are very rare. 0% Unchanged since 2003</p> <hr/> <p>Standard: 5 lb/2.2 kg Bantam: 1.4 lb/0.65 kg</p>	<p>APA (1976): Large: All Other Bantam: All Other Clean Legged PC: Light, Rare</p> <hr/> <p>Layer Fancy: Rumpless Ear Tufts</p>	<p>According to the latest theory, developed in Chile from a cross between the Collonca and the Queteros, two of several different blue egg-laying chicken breeds and introduced to North American in 1921. Likely that some "mongrelization" occurred before standardization. Standards differ from country to country, indicating that some different crosses and parent stock may have been involved in the development of the breed.</p> <p>Note: no large North American hatchery, that I am aware of, sells Araucanas. Instead, whatever name they use, they are selling Easter Eggers -- chickens that may lay blue, green, or other colored eggs. For true Aracaunas, try some of the smaller farms and breeders.</p>	<p> blue only</p> <hr/> <p>below average</p>	<p>pea</p> <hr/> <p>yellow skin, willow shanks</p> <hr/> <p>red</p>	<p>good, or frequent, brooder</p> <hr/> <p>Cold hardy. Araucanas carry a "lethal gene" which causes one quarter of chicks to die in the shell.</p> <hr/> <p>moderately early maturing</p>	<p>well adaptable to confinement or free range; calm, non-aggressive</p>
<p>Aseel or Asil  FS AL PP PB</p> <p>Ancient Indian athlete.</p>	<p>Black, White, Duckwing, Red Spangled, Pyle, others</p> <hr/> <p>Very rare. 4% Unchanged since 2003</p> <hr/> <p>Standard: 5 lb/2.2 kg Bantam: 2 lb/0.9 kg</p>	<p>APA: Large: All Other PC: Hard Feather Heavy</p> <hr/> <p>Game</p>	<p>Developed in India more than 2000 years ago, perhaps even 3500 years ago. Thought to be the breed from which the Cornish was primarily developed.</p>	<p> lightly tinted</p> <hr/> <p>productive over short season</p> <hr/> <p>below average</p>	<p>small pea</p> <hr/> <p>yellow skin & shanks</p> <hr/> <p>red</p>	<p>can be broody, protective mothers</p> <hr/> <p>hardy, but not feathered for cold winters; very hardy in high heat</p> <hr/> <p>slow to mature</p>	<p>bears confinement better than most other game breeds; extremely fierce & pugnacious, but docile & easily handled when away from other cocks; because of aggressiveness, not recommended for a mixed flock</p>




Breed (with links to other sites with images and more information)	Varieties / Rarity / What's a hen weigh?	Class and Type	Origins	Egg color & productivity; egg size	Comb Skin color Earlobes	Brooding Hardiness Maturing	Behavior
 <p>Australorp or Black Australorp FS AL PP club</p> <p>The purported egg-laying champ from Oz</p>	<p>Black, only (standard); also blue & white</p> <hr/> <p>Common 80% Down since 2003</p> <hr/> <p>Standard: 6.5 lb/2.9 kg Bantam: 2 lb/0.9 kg</p>	<p>APA (1929): Large: English Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Soft Feather Heavy</p> <hr/> <p>Dual Purpose</p>	<p>Developed in 20th century in Australia, primarily from the Orpington. Gained notoriety when one hen in the 1920s laid a record 364 eggs in 365 days. In earlier "contests," a team of six Australorps averaged 309.5 eggs in a year. That individual performance has never been matched by subsequent Australorps. <i>Not recommended</i> if high egg production is your sole goal for getting chickens.</p>	 <p>brown</p> <hr/> <p>average</p>	<p>single</p> <hr/> <p>white skin, dark shanks</p> <hr/> <p>red</p>	<p>can be broody; good mother</p> <hr/> <p>very hardy; very cold hardy</p> <hr/> <p>moderately early maturing</p>	<p>well adaptable to confinement or free range; calm, docile; more easily handled</p> <p>Our Birds: confession: we have both Black Orpingtons and Australorps, and I can't tell them apart. They are docile, but haven't been close to what some call "friendly."</p>
 <p>Barnevelder FS PP</p> <p>Famous for large dark brown eggs.</p>	<p>Double-laced, Blue-laced, White, Black, others</p> <hr/> <p>Rare, but surging with new interest in dark egg layers. 12% Up since 2003</p> <hr/> <p>Standard: 6-7 lb/2.7-3.2 kg Bantam: 2.25 lb/1.0 kg</p>	<p>APA (2001): Large: Continental PC: Soft Feather Heavy</p> <hr/> <p>Dual Purpose</p>	<p>Developed in late 19th century and early 20th century in Holland for dark egg laying. Developed from an older local variety that may date as early as the 12th century. In recent history, some strains have been bred for show and others for the darkness of their eggs.</p>	 <p>very dark reddish brown, with matte finish</p> <hr/> <p>average to above average</p>	<p>single</p> <hr/> <p>yellow skin & shanks</p> <hr/> <p>red</p>	<p>mixed reports on setting & brooding</p> <hr/> <p>less cold hardy; developed in region known for damp conditions</p> <hr/> <p>slow to mature, & some chicks can be easily bullied</p>	<p>well adaptable to confinement or free range; calm, docile</p> <p>Our Birds: ours fit in well with the flock, but shied away with human contact. Ours laid reddish brown eggs, but most were not especially dark. None currently in our flock, we will likely try them again.</p>




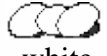
Breed (with links to other sites with images and more information)	Varieties / Rarity / What's a hen weigh?	Class and Type	Origins	Egg color & productivity; egg size	Comb Skin color Earlobes	Brooding Hardiness Maturing	Behavior
Belgian D'Anver, or Antwerp Belgian, Barbu d'Anvers  FS PP	Quail, Porcelain, Black, Blue, Buff, Cuckoo, Mille Fleur, White, Mottled, and more	APA (1949): Bantam: Rose Comb Clean Legged PC: True Bantam	Developed in Anver region of Belgium many decades ago. Rumpless versions are called De Grubbe. Breed is often referred to simply as the Quail bantam , after the most popular variety.	 creamy white	rose <hr/> white skin, dark shanks	good, or frequent, brooder <hr/> robust	active, flyer; hens calm, cocks can be aggressive
The bearded bantam.	Common 60% Up from 33% in 2003 <hr/> True bantam: 1.3 lb/0.6 kg	<hr/> Bantam Bearded		tiny	white	slow; some reports indicate chicks difficult to rear	
Belgian D'Uccle or Barbu d'Uccle  FS PP club	Mille Fleur, Porcelain, Black, Buff, White, Blue Mottled, Splash, Golden Neck, others	APA (1914): Bantam: Feather Legged PC: True Bantam / Rare	First bred in Uccle (Belgium) before 1900 by Michel Van Gelder. Breed is often referred to simply as Mille Fleur , the most popular variety.	 creamy white	small single with large spikes	great brooder (or annoyingly too frequent brooder)	tolerates confinement; fliers; calm, cocks less aggressive than other banties
The bearded, booted bantam	Common 80%/33.3% (mille fleur /porcelain) Mille Fleur down from 93% in 2003 <hr/> True bantam: 1.3 lb/0.55 kg	<hr/> Bantam Bearded Feather Footed		tiny	<hr/> white skin & shanks <hr/> white	hardy; because of fancy feathering, not suited for foul weather <hr/> very slow to mature for full coloring	









Breed (with links to other sites with images and more information)	Varieties / Rarity / What's a hen weigh?	Class and Type	Origins	Egg color & productivity; egg size	Comb Skin color Earlobes	Brooding Hardiness Maturing	Behavior
<p>Booted or Sabelpoot FS PP club</p> <hr/> <p>The booted, unbearded bantam</p>	<p>Black, Blue, Buff, Mille Fleur, Porcelain, White, Mottled, others</p> <hr/> <p>Very rare 0% Unchanged since 2003</p> <hr/> <p>True bantam: 1.4 lb/0.65 kg</p>	<p>APA: Bantam: Feather Legged PC: True Bantam, Rare</p> <hr/> <p>Bantam Feather Footed</p>	<p>One of the more ancient bantams; developed in the Netherlands.</p>	<p> creamy white</p> <hr/> <p>tiny</p>	<p>single white skin & shanks</p> <hr/> <p>bright red</p>	<p>great brooder (or annoyingly too frequent brooder)</p> <hr/> <p>hardy</p> <hr/> <p>slow; some reports indicate chicks difficult to rear</p>	<p>tolerates confinement; fliers; hens calm, cocks can be aggressive</p>
<p> Brahma FS PP PB</p> <hr/> <p>Large and regal. Once the largest breed of chicken.</p>	<p>Light, Dark, Buff</p> <hr/> <p>Once common, now uncommon. 40%/48% (light/all other) Lights down , others up since 2003</p> <hr/> <p>Standard: 9 lb/4.1 kg Bantam: 2.6 lb/1.2 kg</p>	<p>APA (1874): Large: Asiatic Bantam: Feather Legged PC: Soft feather Heavy</p> <hr/> <p> Dual Purpose [formerly Meat] Fancy: Feather Footed, outside only</p>	<p>Origin has been in dispute for more than a century and a half. Introduced in mid-19th century (whether first to New York City or London is also in question). Probably imported from the port city of Shanghai, but may have originated in China, India, or elsewhere in the East Indies. Another claim is that the breed was developed in the United States using Cochins, Malays, and Dorkings. For more information on the origins, see Lewis Wright's 1873 monograph on the Brahma fowl. Before the name Brahma was settled on, they were also called Chittagongs, Shanghais (as were the Cochins), and Brahmapootras. Since the Brahmaputra River flows through China, India, and Bangladesh, even the name doesn't help shed light.</p>	<p> brown</p> <hr/> <p>average</p>	<p>pea yellow skin & shanks</p> <hr/> <p>red</p>	<p>good, or frequent, brooder</p> <hr/> <p>robust; very hardy in heat & cold</p> <hr/> <p>slow to mature</p>	<p>Adaptable to confinement or free range; mostly gentle; more easily handled.</p> <p>Our Birds: some hens were among the gentlest birds we've owned; one rooster became too aggressive toward humans and other chickens in his older age. Some hens ate a lot, got fat, and never laid that many eggs, and we do not currently have any in our flock.</p>





Breed (with links to other sites with images and more information)	Varieties / Rarity / What's a hen weigh?	Class and Type	Origins	Egg color & productivity; egg size	Comb Skin color Earlobes	Brooding Hardiness Maturing	Behavior
 <p>Buckeye FS AL club</p> <p>Buckeye brown bird from the Buckeye state.</p>	<p>Nut brown, only</p> <hr/> <p>Uncommon. 44%</p> <p>Up from 12% in 2003</p> <hr/> <p>6.5 lb/2.9 kg</p>	<p>APA (1904): Large: American PC: Not recognized</p> <hr/> <p>Dual Purpose</p>	<p>Developed by Mrs. Nettie Metcalf of Warren, Ohio, in late 19th century to be a red-feathered, winter-hardy layer. Learning of the Rhode Island Red, she exchanged eggs and birds with RIR breeders to develop the Buckeye Red as a pea-combed variety of the Rhode Island Red. However, since the comb differed, the color was darker, and the genetics different, and because she was concerned that her birds would lose their distinctiveness as a variety of Rhode Island, she established the Buckeye as a separate breed -- Buckeyes and RIRs entered separately into the Standard of Perfection the same year, and pea-combed RIRs disappeared. Never widely popular.</p>	 <p>brown</p>  <hr/> <p>average</p>	<p>pea</p> <hr/> <p>yellow skin & shanks</p> <hr/> <p>red</p>	<p>can be broody</p> <hr/> <p>very cold hardy</p> <hr/> <p>moderately slow maturing</p>	<p>Adaptable to confinement, very adaptable to free range; calm, docile; can be curious; more easily handled.</p> <p>Our Birds: some have been among the "friendliest." Perhaps because of docileness, none have risen high in the pecking order. Our first Buckeye hens had low egg production, but more recent hens have been much better.</p>
 <p>Buttercup or Sicilian Buttercup FS PP club</p> <p>Known for its comb.</p>	<p>Golden</p> <hr/> <p>Uncommon. 32%</p> <p>Unchanged since 2003</p> <hr/> <p>5 lb/2.2 kg</p>	<p>APA (1918): Large: Mediterranean PC: Light, Rare</p> <hr/> <p>Layer Fancy: Large buttercup comb</p>	<p>Originally developed in Dedham, Massachusetts, by C. Carroll Loring from stock purchased in Sicily by his neighbor a Captain Dawes, before 1860, perhaps as early as 1835. It took several generations longer for a standard color pattern to be developed and the breed to be accepted into the standard.</p>	 <p>white</p> <hr/> <p>below average</p>	<p>buttercup</p> <hr/> <p>yellow skin & shanks</p> <hr/> <p>white</p>	<p>non-setter (mostly)</p> <hr/> <p>heat tolerant; combs subject to frostbite</p> <hr/> <p>early maturing, but full comb takes longer</p>	<p>does not do well in close confinement; very fidgety; active, flighty, wild even for a Mediterranean breed; avoids human contact</p> <p>Our Birds: ours have been typically flighty and shy, but one has been as stubbornly broody as any hen we've raised. Email collaboration of broodiness elsewhere has inspired me to alter Brooding from "non-setter" to non-setter (mostly)</p>





Breed (with links to other sites with images and more information)	Varieties / Rarity / What's a hen weigh?	Class and Type	Origins	Egg color & productivity; egg size	Comb Skin color Earlobes	Brooding Hardiness Maturing	Behavior
 <p>Campine FS AL PP RB</p> <p>Beautiful bird with unique penciling.</p>	<p>Golden, Silver</p> <hr/> <p>Uncommon. 32%/24% (golden/silver) Down since 2003</p> <hr/> <p>5 lb/2.2 kg</p>	<p>APA (1914): Large: Continental Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Soft feather Light</p> <hr/> <p>Layer Fancy: Some males are hen-feathered</p>	<p>May have ancient ancestry, but refined & further developed in Belgium in the 19th century and further developed by British and American breeders. The breed is closely related to the Braekel, a larger, bulkier Belgian breed that did not spread so widely. They share a similar penciling feather pattern, although the Campine cocks are more hen-feathered. Named for the Campine region of Belgium, known for its sandy plains, moors, heath, and wetlands. One theory is that it evolved there where a smaller, lighter more active bird was better adapted to forage over a flat desolate land. The Campine, however, may simply be a lighter bodied Braekel sport.</p>	 <p>white</p> <hr/> <p>average</p>	<p>large single</p> <hr/> <p>white skin, blue shanks</p> <hr/> <p>white</p>	<p>non-setter</p> <hr/> <p>hardy; comb subject to frostbite</p> <hr/> <p>quick feathering but late maturing</p>	<p>economical eater; semi-adaptable to confinement, but prefers free range; flyer; alert, lively; can be curious; some are rather wild, others can be quite tolerant of humans</p> <p>Our Birds: one hen free ranges even to lay eggs -- never in a standard nesting area. Our cock refused to be confined when we tried to initiate a breeding program. Some have been "friendly" enough to eat out of a hand or be a garden companion. Our favorites among the white egg layers.</p>
<p>Catalana FS</p> <p>The most popular breed of South America.</p>	<p>Buff</p> <hr/> <p>Rare. 12% Up since 2003</p> <hr/> <p>6 lb/2.7 kg</p>	<p>APA (1949): Large: Mediterranean Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Not recognized</p> <hr/> <p>Layer</p>	<p>Developed in Spain in late 19th century as a meat & egg bird.</p>	 <p>white to light tint</p> <hr/> <p>average</p>	<p>single</p> <hr/> <p>yellow skin & shanks</p> <hr/> <p>white</p>	<p>non-setter</p> <hr/> <p>very hardy in heat</p> <hr/> <p>early maturing</p>	<p>less tolerant of close confinement; active, vigorous, avoids human contact</p>




Breed (with links to other sites with images and more information)	Varieties / Rarity / What's a hen weigh?	Class and Type	Origins	Egg color & productivity; egg size	Comb Skin color Earlobes	Brooding Hardiness Maturing	Behavior
 <p>Chantecler FS AL club</p> <p>Canada's breed.</p>	<p>White, Buff, Partridge</p> <hr/> <p>Rare, even in Canada.</p> <p>16% Up since 2003</p> <hr/> <p>6.5 lb/2.9 kg</p>	<p>APA (1921): Large: American Bantam: All Other Clean Legged PC: Not recognized</p> <hr/> <p>Dual Purpose</p>	<p>Developed by Brother Wilfred Chatalain of the Oka Agricultural Institute in Quebec over the course of a decade beginning in 1908. The goal of his carefully documented breeding was an "ideal fowl" for Canada, good for both meat & eggs and, with small comb and wattles that would be able to stand the extreme cold. Brother Wilfred, who earned a doctorate in agronomy, was also responsible for developing the two flock method for breeding. Among the breeds used in the crosses were Cornish, Leghorn, Rhode Island, Wyandotte, and Plymouth Rock. Brother Wilfred's preferred plumage was white, and he was not responsible for developing the other varieties. In 1979, mistakenly, the Chantecler was declared extinct.</p> <p>Dr. J. E. Wilkinson, also a Canadian, developed the Partridge Chantecler in the 1930s, but it is totally unrelated to the original White Chantecler. The Buff was developed by an American, Walter Franklin, in the 1980s.</p>	 <p>brown</p>  <p>average to above average</p>	<p>cushion</p> <hr/> <p>yellow skin & shanks</p> <hr/> <p>red</p>	<p>frequent brooder; good mother</p> <hr/> <p>extremely cold hardy</p> <hr/> <p>early maturing</p>	<p>Bears confinement well; calm, docile, although there are reports of skittishness.</p> <p>Our Birds: our partridges have blended in so well they remained rather anonymous for a long time. One was a successful mother hen. Frequent broodiness has been their most common trait.</p>



Breed (with links to other sites with images and more information)	Varieties / Rarity / What's a hen weigh?	Class and Type	Origins	Egg color & productivity; egg size	Comb Skin color Earlobes	Brooding Hardiness Maturing	Behavior
<p>Cochin  FS AL PP PB club</p> <p>Big ball of fluff and feathers.</p>	<p>Buff, White, Black, & Partridge</p> <hr/> <p>Uncommon. 44% Down from 64% in 2003</p> <hr/> <p>Standard: 8.5 lb/3.8 kg Bantam (aka Pekin): 1.3 lb/.6 kg</p>	<p>APA (1874): Large: Asiatic Bantam: Feather Legged PC: Soft feather Heavy</p> <hr/> <p>Fancy: Feather Footed, fully</p>	<p>Introduced from China in early 19th century. Originally known as the Shanghai (a name also used for the Brahma). The breed that launched interest in poultry shows in the nineteenth century. Pekins are recognized as a separate bantam breed in some countries, rather than as bantam Cochins.</p>	<p> tinted or yellowy brown</p> <hr/> <p>below average</p>	<p>small single</p> <hr/> <p>yellow skin & shanks</p> <hr/> <p>red</p>	<p>excellent brooder (or exceedingly annoying as a too frequent brooder); good mother; often used as a foster mother</p> <hr/> <p>robust, cold hardy</p> <hr/> <p>slow to mature</p>	<p>well adaptable to confinement or free range; calm, docile; more easily handled</p>
<p>Cornish or Indian Game FS PP club</p> <p>Famed meat bird, especially when crossed.</p>	<p>White, Dark, White Laced, Red, Buff</p> <hr/> <p>Uncommon. 44% Up since 2003</p> <hr/> <p>Standard: 8 lb/3.6 kg Bantam: 2.6 lb/1.2 kg</p>	<p>APA (1893): Large: English Bantam: All Other Clean Legged PC: Hard Feather Heavy</p> <hr/> <p>Meat Game</p>	<p>Developed in Cornwall in 19th century. Now principally used commercially for cross breeding purposes for Cornish X Rock.</p>	<p> light brown</p> <hr/> <p>below average</p>	<p>pea</p> <hr/> <p>yellow skin & shanks</p> <hr/> <p>red</p>	<p>can be broody; protective mother</p> <hr/> <p>cold hardy</p> <hr/> <p>moderately early maturing</p>	<p>easily contained; less active; very docile for a game bird, noisy; because of slowness and inability to well defend themselves, not recommended for a mixed flock</p>
<p>Crevecoeur FS AL PP</p> <p>Is it beautiful and elegant, or just peculiar-looking?</p>	<p>Black</p> <hr/> <p>Rare. 24% Up since 2003</p> <hr/> <p>6.5 lb/3 kg</p>	<p>APA (1874): Large: Continental Bantam: All Other Clean Legged PC: Heavy, Rare</p> <hr/> <p>Fancy: Crested Bearded & muffed</p>	<p>Developed in Normandy, during or before the 17th century. Believed to be the oldest of several breeds hailing from Normandy, and therefore most likely a forebearer of the others, including Houdans, Faverolles, and possibly La Fleche.</p> <p>Named after the village of Crève-Coeur en Ange, which might be translated in English as Angel's Heartbreak</p>	<p> white</p> <hr/> <p>average</p>	<p>horn, V-shaped, duplex</p> <hr/> <p>white skin, dark shanks</p> <hr/> <p>red [hidden by feathers]</p>	<p>non-setter</p> <hr/> <p>because of fancy feathering, not suited for foul weather; may have problems with freezing crest feathers</p> <hr/> <p>moderately early maturing</p>	<p>suited for close (and dry) confinement; active; can be aggressive</p>






Breed (with links to other sites with images and more information)	Varieties / Rarity / What's a hen weigh?	Class and Type	Origins	Egg color & productivity; egg size	Comb Skin color Earlobes	Brooding Hardiness Maturing	Behavior
Cubalaya FS AL	Black-Breasted Red, White, Black	APA (1939): Large: All Other PC: Not recognized	Developed in Cuba in 19th century from Philippine or Indonesian stock.	 white	pea	great, or very frequent, brooder	needs to be active; less tolerant of close confinement; aggressive, noisy; because of aggressiveness, not recommended for a mixed flock
Cuba's fighting meat bird.	Rare, but once unknown outside the Caribbean. 20% Unchanged since 2003	Game		below average	white skin & shanks white		
 Delaware FS AL club	White [Columbian] Uncommon. 44% Up from 32% in 2003	APA (1952): Large: American Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Not recognized	Developed by George Ellis in 1940 in Delaware while experimenting with crossing breeds for broilers. An off- colored sport of a Barred Rock / New Hampshire cross that bred true. Unknown in most of the world.	 medium to rich brown 	single yellow skin & shanks	can be broody robust; hardy in heat & cold early maturing	Well adaptable to confinement or free range; calm, docile. Our Birds: Where ours have stood out has been for decent productivity of very large eggs.
A broiler cross that became a breed.	Standard: 6.5 lb/2.9 kg Bantam: 1.8 lb./0.8 kg	Dual Purpose		well above average	red		
Dominique or Dominiker  FS AL PP	Barred only Uncommon. 44% Down from 52% in 2003	APA (1874): Large: American Bantam: Rose Comb Clean Legged PC: Soft Feather Heavy, Rare	Developed in New England in early 19th century. Not distinguished from the Barred Rock until APA Standards were developed. Most modern Dominiques may be traced to stock developed by A. Q. Carter after 1900.	 brown 	rose yellow skin & shanks	good, or frequent, brooder; good mother robust; cold hardy early maturing	well adaptable to confinement or free range; calm mostly, but more flighty than other dual purpose breeds
Claimant to title "America's first breed."	Standard: 5 lb/2.2 kg Bantam: 1.5 lb/0.7 kg	 Dual Purpose		average	red		






Breed (with links to other sites with images and more information)	Varieties / Rarity / What's a hen weigh?	Class and Type	Origins	Egg color & productivity; egg size	Comb Skin color Earlobes	Brooding Hardiness Maturing	Behavior
 <p>Dorking FS PP RB club</p> <p>Short legged, very ancient, very English.</p>	<p>Silver Gray, White, Colored</p> <hr/> <p>Silver uncommon, all others rare. 24%/4% (silver/all other) Up since 2003</p> <hr/> <p>Standard: 6.5 lb/2.9 kg Bantam: 1.0 lb/0.8 kg</p>	<p>APA (1874): Large: English Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Soft feather Heavy</p> <hr/> <p>Dual Purpose Fancy: Five-Toed Short legs</p>	<p>Ancient; believed to have been introduced to England by Romans -- based primarily on a description by a Roman writer of a chicken with five toes. May have origins in Normandy, where other five-toed chicken landraces have been known.</p>	 <p>creamy white to light tint</p> <hr/> <p>below average to average</p>	<p>rose & single</p> <hr/> <p>white skin & shanks</p> <hr/> <p>red</p>	<p>great brooder (or annoyingly too frequent brooder); good mother</p> <hr/> <p>less hardy in general, but cold hardy</p> <hr/> <p>chicks delicate & slow to mature</p>	<p>adaptable to confinement or free range; calm; docile; stately or awkward; fattens easily; more easily handled</p> <p>Our Birds: ours have varied from quiet & calm to flighty. Some hens have been very broody. Once they've reached maturity, our birds have been quite hardy. They are supposed to be oddly short-legged, but ours have only be slightly short-legged.</p>
<p>Dutch  FS PP RF</p> <p>The littlest bantam.</p>	<p>11 recognized, including Light Brown, White, Black, Blue, Blue Light Brown, Silver</p> <hr/> <p>Uncommon. 33.3% Up from 0% in 2003</p> <hr/> <p>True bantam: 1.0 lb/0.45 kg</p>	<p>APA (1992): Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: True Bantam</p> <hr/> <p>Bantam</p>	<p>Developed in the Netherlands, perhaps from Dutch East Indies stock. Introduced to North America after WWII, declined, reintroduced in the 70s & 80s.</p>	 <p>light tint</p> <hr/> <p>tiny</p>	<p>single</p> <hr/> <p>white skin & white or blue shanks</p> <hr/> <p>white</p>	<p>good, or frequent, brooder; protective mother</p> <hr/> <p>hardy</p> <hr/> <p>slow to mature</p>	<p>tolerates confinement; fliers; active, lively, cocks have been compared to snapping turtles</p>






Breed (with links to other sites with images and more information)	Varieties / Rarity / What's a hen weigh?	Class and Type	Origins	Egg color & productivity; egg size	Comb Skin color Earlobes	Brooding Hardiness Maturing	Behavior
 Faverolles FS AL PP	Salmon, White <hr/> Once rare, still uncommon. 40% Down since 2003	APA (1914): Large: Continental Bantam: Feather Legged PC: Soft Feather Heavy	Developed in Normandy in early 19th century. Named after the village of Faverolles. In France it was considered a utility breed. The US standard more closely matches the British exhibition standard of Faverolles which was developed in the late 19th century. Because of the different times and countries were the breed was developed, it is not clear what breeds were used, but Houdon and/or Crevecoeur, and local five-toed landraces are thought to have been its primary forebears. Dorking, Brahma, and Cochin were possibly used as well, especially in later developments.	 creamy tint 	small single <hr/> white skin & shanks	can be broody <hr/> cold hardy; because of fancy feathering, not suited for foul weather	bears confinement well; alert; calm; very docile; genteel; prone to bullying by others, so may not do well in a mixed flock
The French Poodle of chicken breeds.	Standard: 7.5 lb/3.4 kg Bantam: 2.2 lb/1.0 kg	Dual Purpose Fancy: Bearded & muffed Feather footed, outside only Five-Toed		average	red [hidden by feathers]	early maturing	Our Birds: ours did not thrive well in the competition with mixed flock. Probably won't replace them.
Fayoumi or Egyptian Fayoumi FS PP	Gold & silver penciled <hr/> Uncommon. 32% Unchanged since 2003	APA: Not recognized PC: Soft feather Light	Ancient Egyptian origins; only recently spread to the rest of the world. Iowa State's Poultry Genetics Program imported them to the US after World War II for a study to disease resistance. The Fayoumi was known for its resistance to avian leukosis. It remained a "lab animal" for many years before it was promoted as an excellent layer. That claim, however, has since been disputed.	 off-white to light tint	single <hr/> white skin, dark shanks	non-setter <hr/> very hardy; excellent hot weather bird	very economical eater; does not like containment; lively; flighty, known for wildness
Precocious scavenger and escape artist.	3.5 lb/1.6 kg	Layer		below average	white	quick feathering & very early maturing	




Breed (with links to other sites with images and more information)	Varieties / Rarity / What's a hen weigh?	Class and Type	Origins	Egg color & productivity; egg size	Comb Skin color Earlobes	Brooding Hardiness Maturing	Behavior
 Hamburg or Hamburgh FS PP club The spritely, little "everyday layer."	Silver-Spangled, Golden-Spangled, Golden-Penciled, Silver-Penciled, White, Black Uncommon. 36%/24% (silver-spang/all other) Silver spangled down from 56%, others up slightly since 2003 Standard: 4 lb/1.8 kg Bantam: 1.5 lb/0.7 kg	APA (1874): Large: Continental Bantam: Rose Comb Clean Legged PC: Soft Feather Light Layer	Developed in Holland (not Germany) before 1700, possibly before 1400; may be even more ancient. An undocumented legend is that the first ever poultry exhibition that did not involve a cock fight occurred in an English pub during the reign of King George III and featured only Pheasant Fowl cocks -- what we know as Hamburgs. Other historical names include Yorkshire Pheasants, Moonies, Crescents, Corals & Everlayers. Decades before he wrote <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> , L. Frank Baum both raised and wrote about Hamburgs.	 low-gloss white below average	rose white skin, slate blue shanks white	non-setter (or very rarely broody) hardy; cold hardy very early maturing	very economical eater; likes wide range; less tolerant of close confinement; high flyer; very flighty; spritely, active; mostly avoids human contact Our Birds: ours have been very economical eaters, and in their prime laid well; even though smaller than most other hens, they have held their own in a mixed flock. We have one hen left that was ten years old as of spring 2011. In her old age she has mellowed and eats out of my hand every morning. Because small white eggs are not especially popular with most customers, we eat most of their eggs ourselves.
Holland or American Holland FS AL The calm white-egger.	White & Barred Rare. 0%/16% (white/barred) Up since 2003 6.5 lb/2.9 kg	APA (1949): Large: American Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Not recognized Dual Purpose	Established in 1949, after about 15 years of breeding experiments, as an improved Lamona, in other words, a yellow skinned meat bird that laid white eggs. The main improvement was it was heavier than the Lamona. One breed used had been imported from Holland, but other American breeds, including the Lamona, were mixed in as well. The White and Barred varieties were developed simultaneously, but different combinations of breeds were used. Unknown in Holland & most of the rest of world. There is speculation that White Hollands have faded out of existence.	 white average	single yellow skin & shanks red	can be broody cold hardy moderately slow maturing	well adaptable to confinement or free range; calm, good tempered






Breed (with links to other sites with images and more information)	Varieties / Rarity / What's a hen weigh?	Class and Type	Origins	Egg color & productivity; egg size	Comb Skin color Earlobes	Brooding Hardiness Maturing	Behavior
<p>Houdan FS PP</p> <p>The crested French bird with big eyes.</p>	<p>White, Mottled</p> <hr/> <p>Uncommon. 32% Unchanged since 2003</p> <hr/> <p>Standard: 6-7 lb/2.7-3.2 kg Bantam: 1.75 lb/0.8 kg</p>	<p>APA (1874): Large: Continental Bantam: All Other</p> <hr/> <p>Clean Legged PC: Heavy, Rare</p> <hr/> <p>Dual Purpose Fancy: Crested Bearded Five-Toed</p>	<p>Developed in Normandy before 1700, most likely from a cross of a local five-toed landrace and the Crevecoeur, but possibly Polish and Dorking were used in the breeding process.</p>	<p> white</p> <hr/> <p>below average to average</p>	<p>leaf (or V)</p> <hr/> <p>white skin, darker shanks</p> <hr/> <p>white [hidden by feathers]</p>	<p>can be broody</p> <hr/> <p>because of fancy feathering, not suited for foul weather; may have problems with freezing crest feathers</p> <hr/> <p>early maturing</p>	<p>bears confinement well; active; docile; more easily handled</p>
<p>Japanese or Chabo (and still called Japs in some parts of the world) FS PP</p> <p>The short-legged, low-built, squirrel-tailed bantam.</p>	<p>Black, White, Black Tailed, Birchen, Mottled, others</p> <hr/> <p>Common 46.7% Unchanged since 2003</p> <hr/> <p>True bantam: 1.3 lb/0.6 kg</p>	<p>APA (1874): Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: True Bantam</p> <hr/> <p>Bantam Short legs</p>	<p>Developed in Japan as early as the 7th century perhaps from Indo-Chinese stock. First introduced to Europe in 1860. Truest bred carry a "lethal gene" which is also connected to the shortened leg characteristic.</p>	<p> creamy white</p> <hr/> <p>tiny</p>	<p>large single</p> <hr/> <p>white skin & shanks</p> <hr/> <p>bright red</p>	<p>excellent brooder (or annoyingly too frequent brooder); protective mother</p> <hr/> <p>because of short legs & fancy feathering, not suited for foul weather</p> <hr/> <p>slow to mature</p>	<p>tolerates confinement; some are fliers; generally docile, cocks can be aggressive</p>







Breed (with links to other sites with images and more information)	Varieties / Rarity / What's a hen weigh?	Class and Type	Origins	Egg color & productivity; egg size	Comb Skin color Earlobes	Brooding Hardiness Maturing	Behavior
Jaerhon or Norwegian Jaerhon or Norske Jærhøne FS Pride of Norway.	Dark Brown, Light Yellow <hr/> Rare, once unknown. 4% Not found in 2003 <hr/> Standard: 3.5 lb/1.6 kg	APA: Not recognized PC: Not recognized <hr/> Layer	Developed around 1920 in Norway. First imported to North America in 1998.	 white <hr/> above average	small single <hr/> white with slate colored shanks <hr/> white	non-setter <hr/> cold hardy <hr/> early maturing	adaptable to confinement, but prefers free range; active, flighty
Java FS AL A good, old breed, like a fine cup of coffee.	Black, Mottled <hr/> Rare, but there had been reports that it was critically endangered. 20% Up since 2003 <hr/> 7.5 lb/3.4 kg	APA (1874): Large: American Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Not recognized <hr/> Dual Purpose	Developed in U.S. after being introduced from Java in 1835 or earlier. Peaked in popularity as early as the 1880s, but not before being used in the development of several other breeds.	 brown <hr/> average	single <hr/> yellow skin, dark shanks <hr/> red	good, or frequent, brooder <hr/> cold hardy <hr/> very slow maturing	well adaptable to confinement or free range; calm
 Jersey Giant FS PP club The chicken world's largest breed.	Black, White <hr/> Uncommon. 48%/24% (black/all other) Down since 2003 <hr/> 10 lb/4.6 kg	APA (1922): Large: American Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Heavy, Rare <hr/> Dual Purpose	Developed near Jobstown, New Jersey, in the 1870s by John and Thomas Black, who crossed several breeds, most likely Black Javas, Black Langshans, and Dark Brahmas. Never widely popular commercially, for a several decades they were the bird of choice for heavy roasting capons. Originally Black Giants referred to the name of the brothers who developed them, not for the color of the breed.	 brown  <hr/> average to above average	small single <hr/> yellow skin, dark shanks <hr/> red	occasional brooder; protective mother <hr/> robust; very cold hardy <hr/> very slow to mature	Because of size, not an economical eater; adaptable to confinement or free range; calm, gentle, more easily handled. Our Birds: never reached giant-sized proportions; one gentle hen was among the easiest to pick up. We don't currently have any but may try them again.







Breed (with links to other sites with images and more information)	Varieties / Rarity / What's a hen weigh?	Class and Type	Origins	Egg color & productivity; egg size	Comb Skin color Earlobes	Brooding Hardiness Maturing	Behavior
<p>La Fleche FS PP</p> <hr/> <p>The devil bird.</p>	<p>Black, Blue, White, & Cuckoo</p> <hr/> <p>Rare. 16% Up since 2003</p> <hr/> <p>5.5 lb/2.5 kg</p>	<p>APA (1874): Large: Continental Bantam: All Other Clean Legged PC: Heavy, Rare</p> <hr/> <p>Dual Purpose Fancy: Horns for a comb</p>	<p>Dates back to France during or before the 17th century. It is unclear if it is older and a parent of the Crevecoeur, or if it worked the other way around.</p>	<p> tinted white</p> <hr/> <p>above average</p>	<p>horn, V-shaped, duplex</p> <hr/> <p>white skin, dark shanks</p> <hr/> <p>white</p>	<p>non-setter</p> <hr/> <p>hardy</p> <hr/> <p>early maturing</p>	<p>well adaptable to confinement or free range; active, flighty, avoids human contact</p>
<p> Lakenvelder FS PP</p> <hr/> <p>Shadow on a sheet.</p>	<p>Black/white/black pattern.</p> <hr/> <p>Uncommon. 40%/28% (silver/gold) Down since 2003</p> <hr/> <p>4 lb/1.8 kg</p>	<p>APA (1939): Large: Continental Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Soft feather Light</p> <hr/> <p>Layer</p>	<p>Developed in Germany in early 19th century. Golden Lakenvelders are not standard. Vorwerk is a bantam with the black/gold/black pattern.</p>	<p> white to light tint</p> <hr/> <p>below average to average</p>	<p>single</p> <hr/> <p>white skin, dark shanks</p> <hr/> <p>white</p>	<p>non-setter</p> <hr/> <p>hardy</p> <hr/> <p>early maturing</p>	<p>Well adaptable to confinement or free range; flyer; flighty, avoids human contact. Our Birds: never sociable, but not easily startled, either. If we get more, it will be because they are handsome birds.</p>
<p>Lamona  FS</p> <hr/> <p>The rare, possibly extinct, yellow-skinned, red-ear-lobed, white-egg-laying table bird.</p>	<p>White</p> <hr/> <p>Extinct or verging on extinction. 0%</p> <hr/> <p>5.5 lb/2.5 kg</p>	<p>APA (1933): Large: American Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Not recognized</p> <hr/> <p>Dual Purpose</p>	<p>Developed by Harry Lamson from 1912 to 1923 specifically to be a breed that laid white eggs but could serve as a meat bird as well. For the American market, it had to be yellow skinned. It is not clear how important to him developing a white egg layer with red ear lobes was, but that fact was well noted when the breed was first released.</p>	<p> white</p> <hr/> <p>average</p>	<p>single</p> <hr/> <p>yellow skin & shanks</p> <hr/> <p>red</p>		









Breed (with links to other sites with images and more information)	Varieties / Rarity / What's a hen weigh?	Class and Type	Origins	Egg color & productivity; egg size	Comb Skin color Earlobes	Brooding Hardiness Maturing	Behavior
 Langshan FS AL PB	Black, White, & Blue. <hr/> Uncommon. 32%/20% (black/all other) Unchanged since 2003	APA (1883): Large: Asiatic Bantam: Feather Legged PC: Soft feather Heavy	Introduced from China in mid-19th century. Major Croad introduced them to England & gave his name to an early variety of Langshans. In Europe & elsewhere, distinctions are made between Croad & Modern Langshans.	 brown [Croad Langshans once lay very dark brown]	single <hr/> greyish white skin, dark shanks <hr/> red	can be broody <hr/> very hardy; cold hardy <hr/> slow to mature	well adaptable to confinement or free range; active for their size; graceful; not as calm or docile as other large breeds Our Birds: One rooster was very personable and had a lovely, deep crowing voice. We liked him better than the hens who have not stood out either in egg-laying nor personality.
The long-legged, high-tailed, and feather-footed regal bird.	7.5 lb/3.4 kg	Dual Purpose [formerly Meat] Fancy: Feather Footed, outside only (some varieties are clean footed)		average			
 Leghorn FS PP PB RF clubclub	White, Dark Brown, Light Brown, Buff, Black, Silver, Red, Black-Tailed Red, Columbian	APA (1874): Large: Mediterranean Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Soft Feather Light	Ancient, but greatly developed in 19th & 20th centuries. Honored by the Romans, and the white variety was reportedly developed for use in ceremony and foretelling the future. One of the most popular birds around the globe.	 Pearl white (non-white feathered varieties are less prolific.)	large single; also rose <hr/> yellow skin & shanks <hr/> white	non-setter (or very rarely broody) <hr/> hardy; heat tolerant (esc. white variety); combs subject to frostbite <hr/> very early maturing	Economical eater; better adaptable to confinement than some Mediterranean; enjoys free range; flyer; flighty; spritely, noisy, nervous, usually avoids human contact. Our Birds: Flighty does describe them pretty well, but they aren't without personality. One of our first white Leghorns would lead the pack in greeting us when we came home.
The ultimate egg machine.	Common. 84%/80% (white/all other) Whites down since 2003 <hr/> Standard: 4.5 lb/2 kg Bantam: 1.75 lb/0.8 kg	 Layer		above average [commercial whites' are especially large]			





Breed (with links to other sites with images and more information)	Varieties / Rarity / What's a hen weigh?	Class and Type	Origins	Egg color & productivity; egg size	Comb Skin color Earlobes	Brooding Hardiness Maturing	Behavior
<p>Malay FS AL PP</p>	<p>Black Breasted Red, White, Spangled, Black, and Red Pyle</p> <hr/> <p>Very rare 4%</p> <hr/> <p>Unchanged since 2003</p> <hr/> <p>7 lb/3.2 kg</p>	<p>APA (1883): Large: All Other Bantam: All Other</p> <hr/> <p>Clean Legged</p> <hr/> <p>PC: Hard Feather, Rare</p> <hr/> <p>Game</p>	<p>An ancient breed related to birds indigenous to southern Asia from the Indian sub-continent to Indonesia. One of the first breeds to be introduced from Asia to Europe, the breed spread quickly where cock fighting was enjoyed. It was standardized in the U. K. before being introduced to North America.</p>	<p> brown productive over short season</p> <hr/> <p>average</p>	<p>strawberry</p> <hr/> <p>yellow skin & shanks</p> <hr/> <p>rich red</p>	<p>can be very broody</p> <hr/> <p>hardy, but not feathered for cold winters; very hardy in heat</p> <hr/> <p>very slow to mature</p>	<p>needs to be active; intolerant of close confinement; among the most aggressive, but more placid than most game birds; because of aggressiveness, not recommended for a mixed flock</p>
<p> Marans FS PP RF club</p>	<p>Black Copper [APA], Cuckoo, and others</p> <hr/> <p>Uncommon. 36%/12%</p> <hr/> <p>Up from 4%/0% in 2003</p> <hr/> <p>Standard: 6.5 lb/2.9 kg Bantam: 2.2 lb/1.0 kg</p>	<p>APA: (2011): Large: Continental</p> <hr/> <p>PC: Soft Feather Heavy</p> <hr/> <p>Layer Feather Footed</p> <hr/> <p>[US and French standard, but Clean Footed for English standard]</p>	<p>Developed in France in early 20th century, but a Marans-type bird is said to have begun as early as the 13th century. Imported to North America from both France, England, and elsewhere, post-WWII. Although the Cuckoo has been the most prominent variety, the Black Copper, for which there was clearer consensus for a standard, is the only variety currently recognized by the APA.</p>	<p> dark chocolate russet brown ideally, varies widely & seasonally</p> <hr/> <p>average to above average</p>	<p>single</p> <hr/> <p>white skin & shanks</p> <hr/> <p>red</p>	<p>great brooder (or annoyingly too frequent brooder) in some strains</p> <hr/> <p>Developed in marsh lands, so apparently tolerant of wet conditions. Some rapid and carefully breeding have made some strains less hardy than others.</p>	<p>Varies widely by individual and strain.</p> <p>Our Birds: We've only had clean-legged Cuckoo Marans. Although "cuckoo" was meant to describe feather pattern, we thought it fit the personality as well. Not exactly wild, some have been very active and somewhat difficult to manage. Others have been quite calm. None of ours have laid especially dark brown eggs.</p>







Breed (with links to other sites with images and more information)	Varieties / Rarity / What's a hen weigh?	Class and Type	Origins	Egg color & productivity; egg size	Comb Skin color Earlobes	Brooding Hardiness Maturing	Behavior
Minorca  FS PP	Black, White, Buff	APA (1888): Large: Mediterranean	Developed in Spain. Whether it was named for Minorca in the Balearics Island or actually developed there is uncertain. Once known as the Red-faced Black Spanish. In Spain the name of breed is spelled Menorca, as is the island.	 white	single & rose	non-setter	adaptable to confinement, but prefers free range; restlessly active, flighty, avoids human contact
Largest Mediterranean, extra-large eggs.	Uncommon. 28%/24% (black/all other) Blacks down from 44% in 2003 <hr/> Standard: 7 lb/3.2 kg Bantam: 1.75 lb/0.8 kg	Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Soft Feather Light <hr/>  Layer		above average	white skin, dark shanks	excellent hot weather bird; combs subject to frostbite	
Modern Game or Modern English Game FS PP club	Black-Breasted Red, Silver Duckwing, Red Pyle, White, Black, many others <hr/> Rare. 12% Down since 2003 <hr/> Standard: 4.5 lb/2 kg Bantam: 1.2 lb/0.55 kg	APA (1874): Large: All Other Bantam: Game PC: Hard Feather <hr/>  Game		 white to light tint productive over short season	large single (often dubbed) <hr/> yellow skin & shanks	can be broody; protective mother <hr/> not feathered for coldest winters; hardy in heat; some subject to health problems	
The little game bird with style and carriage.			below average	red <hr/> slow to mature			



Breed (with links to other sites with images and more information)	Varieties / Rarity / What's a hen weigh?	Class and Type	Origins	Egg color & productivity; egg size	Comb Skin color Earlobes	Brooding Hardiness Maturing	Behavior
Naked Neck or Transylvanian Naked Neck or Turken  FS PP	Black, White, Red, and Red are recognized by the APA, but other varieties include Blue and Cuckoo or Barred.	APA (1965): Large: All Other Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Heavy, Rare <hr/> Fancy: Bare neck	Originated before 1700 in the Transylvanian region of Central Europe that is now part of Romania. Further developed in Austria and Germany. The naked neck trait possibly came from game birds found in Madagascar. First shown in Vienna in 1875 by breeders from counties that are now part of Romania.	 creamy light brown	single <hr/> yellow skin & shanks	can be broody; good mother	well adaptable to confinement or free range; active; calm, docile; more easily handled
No, it's not a turkey / chicken cross.	Uncommon. 44% Unchanged since 2003 <hr/> Standard: 6 lb/2.7 kg Bantam: 1.5 lb/0.7 kg			average to above average	red	hardy in both cold and extreme heat <hr/> slow to mature	
 New Hampshire or New Hampshire Red FS PP club	Light brownish red, only <hr/> Common 60% Down since 2003 <hr/> Standard: 6.5 lb/2.9 kg Bantam: 1.9 lb/0.85 kg	APA (1935): Large: American Bantam: Single Comb <hr/> Clean Legged PC: Heavy, Rare <hr/>  Dual Purpose	Developed in New Hampshire from the Rhode Island Red in early 20th century.	 light to medium dark brown 	large single <hr/> yellow skin & shanks <hr/> red	good, or occasional to frequent, brooder; good mother <hr/> robust; hardy in heat & cold; combs subject to frostbite	well adaptable to confinement or free range; calm; can be docile or aggressive; can be curious Our Birds: a few have been among our favorites. Addled Adelaide was our first hen to raise a brood of chicks. She earned her name for appearing to be scatter-brained at times as a pullet, but when older could almost seem affectionate -- maybe she was just very hungry. Several enjoyed keeping close to us while gardening. Some have been aggressive in maintaining their position in the pecking order.
New Hampshire's answer to Rhode Island.				average to above average		very early maturing	






Breed (with links to other sites with images and more information)	Varieties / Rarity / What's a hen weigh?	Class and Type	Origins	Egg color & productivity; egg size	Comb Skin color Earlobes	Brooding Hardiness Maturing	Behavior
Old English Game FS PP	Black-Breasted Red, Silver Duckwing, Red Pyle, White, Black, many others <hr/> Rare. 8% Up since 2003	APA (1928): Large: All Other Bantam: Game PC: Hard Feather	Developed in England in 19th & 20th century from ancient stock	 white to light tint productive over short season	large single (often dubbed) <hr/> white skin & shanks	excellent brooder (or annoyingly too frequent brooder); protective mother	needs to be active; less tolerant of close confinement; aggressive, self-sufficient; noisy
	Small fighting cocks and their mates. Standard: 4 lb/1.8 kg Bantam: 1.3 lb/0.6 kg	 Game		below average	red <hr/> slow to mature		
Orloff or Russian Orloff FS PP	Red, White <hr/> Rare. 24% Up since 2003	APA: Not recognized (dropped from Continental) PC: Heavy, Rare <hr/> Fancy: Bearded & muffed	Reportedly developed in Russia in 18th century from Persian stock. Once called Chlianskaia, current name probably derives from Count Orloff-Techesmensky, a Russian breeder	 light brown	walnut <hr/> yellow skin & legs	non-setter <hr/> hardy	adapts to confinement; calm, but not docile, avoids human contact
	Wild-looking thing	6.0 lb/2.7 kg		below average	red		
 Orpington FS PP	Buff, Black, Blue, White <hr/> Buffs common, others rare. 84%/12% (buff/all other) Unchanged since 2003	APA (1902): Large: English Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Soft Feather Heavy	Originally developed by William Cook in Orpington (County Kent) the 1880s. Some varieties developed by his daughter.	 brown 	single <hr/> white skin & white or dark shanks	good, or frequent, brooder; excellent mother	adaptable to free range; very adaptable to confinement; docile; more easily handled; can be bullied Our Birds: ours have been docile enough, and some have fit pretty low in the pecking order, but none of ours have shown the "friendliness" that others have claimed for the breed.
	Big gentle bird.	Standard: 8 lb/3.6 kg Bantam: 2.2 lb/1 kg		Dual Purpose [formerly Meat]	average to above average	red <hr/> moderately early maturing	










Breed (with links to other sites with images and more information)	Varieties / Rarity / What's a hen weigh?	Class and Type	Origins	Egg color & productivity; egg size	Comb Skin color Earlobes	Brooding Hardiness Maturing	Behavior
Penedesenca FS club	Creole, Partridge, Wheaten, Black	APA: Not recognized PC: Not recognized Layer	Rescued, or somewhat developed, from ancient stock in Catalan district of Spain in 20th century. Penedesenca Negra developed in 1980s.	 very dark red-brown	clavell (carnation) white skin, blue-grey shanks white	non-setter very hardy in heat slow to mature	well adaptable to free range; active; flighty; avoids human contact
	Rare. 8% Not found in 2003 4 lb/1.8 kg						
Phoenix  FS PP Honorable long-tail.	Partridge; Silver Duckwing; White; other colors Uncommon. 32% Down since 2003 Standard: 4 lb/1.8 kg Bantam: 1.75 lb/0.8 kg	APA (1965): Large: All Other Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Light Rare (not recognized separately from Yokohama)  Fancy: Long-tailed	Developed in Europe and the U.S. from the Japanese long-tailed breed called the Onagadori.	 white to tinted below average	single yellow skin; yellow or slate shanks red	can be broody, protective mothers reportedly short lived; because of fancy feathering, not suited for foul weather slow to mature	requires special housing or cages & high perches to accommodate long tails; generally docile
 Plymouth Rock FS PP	Barred, White, Buff, Silver Penciled, Partridge, Columbian, Blue Common 88%/64%/48%/24% (barred/white/partridge/all other) Down since 2003 Standard: 7.5 lb/3.4 kg Bantam: 2.2 lb/1 kg	APA (1874): Large: American Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Soft Feather Heavy  Dual Purpose	Developed in New England in 19th century. Once common on the homestead, still popular in the backyard.	 light (or pinkish) to medium brown 	small single yellow skin & shanks red	infrequent brooder; good mother robust; very cold hardy somewhat early maturing	well adaptable to confinement or free range; calm, docile; more easily handled Our Birds: ours have been good, solid, dependable birds that have blended in well with the flock, not standing out for good or bad reasons.
Once upon a time America's favorite breed.				above average			

Breed (with links to other sites with images and more information)	Varieties / Rarity / What's a hen weigh?	Class and Type	Origins	Egg color & productivity; egg size	Comb Skin color Earlobes	Brooding Hardiness Maturing	Behavior
Polish or Poland  FS PP club	Bearded & Beardless ; Black, White, Golden, Silver, Buff Laced <hr/> Uncommon. 48% Down from 56% in 2003 <hr/> 4-4.5 lb/1.8-2 kg	APA (1874): Large: Continental Bantam: All Other Clean Legged PC: Soft Feather Light <hr/> Fancy: Crested	Originated in Europe, but probably not Poland, before the 16th century. Once known for good egg production, now almost strictly ornamental.	varies widely  to  white	small V <hr/> white skin, blue shanks <hr/> white	non-setter <hr/> some subject to health problems; because of fancy feathering, not suited for foul weather; may have problems with freezing crest feathers; special care may be needed since plumage blocks vision	bears confinement well; mixed reports -- either calm or somewhat flighty; obstructed vision can hinder some activities; can be bullied; mixed reports on how well they do in a mixed flock
Perhaps the oldest of the crested breeds.				below average			
Redcap or Red Cap or Derbyshire Redcap FS PP	Red & black pattern, only <hr/> Rare. 8% Unchanged since 2003 <hr/> 6 lb/2.7 kg	APA (1888): Large: English Bantam: Rose Comb Clean Legged PC: Soft feather Light <hr/> Layer Fancy: Large rose comb	Developed in Derbyshire.	 white	very large spiked rose <hr/> white skin, blue shanks <hr/> red	non-setter <hr/> hardy <hr/> moderately early maturing	can adapt to confinement; active
Think huge rose comb.				below average			

Breed (with links to other sites with images and more information)	Varieties / Rarity / What's a hen weigh?	Class and Type	Origins	Egg color & productivity; egg size	Comb Skin color Earlobes	Brooding Hardiness Maturing	Behavior
 Rhode Island FS AL PP Best of breeds for producing brown eggs.	Rhode Island Red & Rhode Island White (two separate breeds) Common, but show quality reds are rare. 64%/28% (red/white) Down since 2003 Standard: 6.5 lb/2.9 kg Bantam: 2 lb/0.9 kg	APA (1904/1922) Large: American Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Soft Feather Heavy Dual Purpose	Developed in New England in 19th century.	 rich medium brown  above average	large single; also rose yellow skin & shanks red	infrequent brooder; can be dutiful mother robust; hardy in heat & cold; combs subject to frostbite moderately early maturing	well adaptable to confinement or free range; active, calm & fairly docile, can be aggressive (cocks are especially notorious) Our Birds: we've had very limited experience, but the few hens we have had have been more aggressive than most other breeds.
Rosecomb FS PP The original rosecombed, clean-legged bantam	Black, White, Silver Laced, others. Common. 46.7% Unchanged since 2003 True bantam: 1.3 lb/0.6 kg	APA (1874): Bantam: Rose Comb Clean Legged PC: True Bantam Bantam	Origins unclear & disputed. Claimed to be direct descendant of the original Bantam, but may be related to Hamburg.	 white to cream tiny	rose yellow skin & shanks white	non-setter hardy in heat & cold Slow to mature?	tolerates confinement; fliers; generally docile, cocks can be aggressive
Sebright  FS PP club The beautifully laced bantam	Silver, Golden Common. 80% Unchanged since 2003 True bantam: 1.3 lb/0.6 kg	APA (1874): Bantam: Rose Comb Clean Legged PC: True Bantam Bantam Both male & female hen-feathered	Developed before 1810 in England by Sir John Sebright, after thirty years of breeding.	 creamy white tiny	rose yellow skin & shanks purplish red	non-setter not robust; chicks difficult to rear slow to mature	tolerates confinement; fliers; jaunty, sprightly

Breed (with links to other sites with images and more information)	Varieties / Rarity / What's a hen weigh?	Class and Type	Origins	Egg color & productivity; egg size	Comb Skin color Earlobes	Brooding Hardiness Maturing	Behavior
<p>Silkie FS</p>	<p>Bearded & Beardless; Black, White, Blue, Buff, Partridge, Gray</p>	<p>APA (1874): Bantam: Feather Legged PC: Soft feathered Light & Bantam both</p>	<p>Already developed in China by the time of Marco Polo (13th century) Large & Bantam classes are recognized in some countries</p>	<p> tinted</p>	<p>walnut black skin & shanks</p>	<p>one of the most broody (or very annoyingly too frequent brooder)</p>	<p>adapts well to confinement; calm, docile; because of size and docility, may not do well in a mixed flock</p>
<p>An oddity of oddities of the poultry and pet world</p>	<p>Very common. 100% Unchanged since 2003</p> <p>True bantam: 2.2 lb/1 kg</p>	<p>Black skin, face, comb, & wattles Hair-like plumage Turquoise earlobes Five-Toed Crested Feather footed</p>		<p>below average</p>	<p>turquoise</p>	<p>hardy in heat & cold; because of fancy feathering, not suited for foul weather</p> <p>slow to mature</p>	
<p>Spanish, White-Faced Black Spanish, Spanish White Ear, or Clownface FS PP</p>	<p>White-Faced Black only</p> <p>Uncommon. 20% Up since 2003</p>	<p>APA (1874): Large: Mediterranean Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Light, Rare</p>	<p>Oldest of the Mediterranean breeds, developed in Spain.</p>	<p> white</p>	<p>large single grey skin, dark shanks</p>	<p>non-setter reportedly subject to health problems; heat tolerant; combs subject to frostbite</p>	<p>adaptable to confinement, but prefers free range; flighty, haughty, noisy, avoids human contact</p>
<p>Handsome, graceful, rare.</p>	<p>6 lb/2.7 kg</p>	<p>Layer Fancy: White face</p>		<p>above average</p>	<p>white</p>	<p>slow to develop; white face takes more than a year</p>	

Breed (with links to other sites with images and more information)	Varieties / Rarity / What's a hen weigh?	Class and Type	Origins	Egg color & productivity; egg size	Comb Skin color Earlobes	Brooding Hardiness Maturing	Behavior
<p>Sultan FS PP All for show.</p>	<p>White, only</p> <hr/> <p>Uncommon. 28%</p> <hr/> <p>4.0 lb/ 1.8 kg</p>	<p>APA (1874): Large: All Other Bantam: Feather Legged PC: Light, Rare</p> <hr/> <p>Fancy: Crested Bearded & muffed Feather-footed, fully Five toed</p>	<p>Introduced from Turkey in mid-19th century.</p>	 white below average	<p>horn, V-shaped, duplex</p> <hr/> <p>white skin & shanks</p> <hr/> <p>White? [hidden under feathers</p>	<p>non-setter</p> <hr/> <p>not suited for foul weather; may have problems with freezing crest feathers</p> <hr/> <p>moderately slow developing</p>	<p>suited for close confinement; calm, non-aggressive; more easily handled</p>
<p>Sumatra FS PP</p>	<p>Black (and Blue as of 2010 for standard, earlier for bantams)</p> <hr/> <p>Uncommon 28% Down since 2003</p> <hr/> <p>4.0 lb/ 1.8 kg</p>	<p>APA (1883): Large: All Other Bantam: All Other Clean Legged PC: Light, Rare</p> <hr/> <p>Game</p>	<p>An ancient breed, introduced from Sumatra, but found elsewhere in Indonesia. Uncertain origins that may include more than one variety of jungle fowl. Males can have multiple spurs, a unique trait among domestic poultry.</p>	 white or light tint more productive than most game hens	<p>small pea, tiny or no wattles</p> <hr/> <p>yellow skin & purply black shanks</p> <hr/> <p>dark purply red</p>	<p>can be broody; protective mother</p> <hr/> <p>not feathered for cold winters; hardy in heat</p>	<p>Needs to be active; intolerant of close confinement; strong fliers if given the opportunity; can be quite wild, but can be "tamed."</p>
<p>Lustrous black long tail</p>				<p>average</p>			
 <p>Sussex FS PP RF club</p>	<p>Speckled, Red, Light</p> <hr/> <p>Uncommon. 44%/4% (speckled/all other) Speckled unchanged; others not found in 2003</p>	<p>APA (1914): Large: English Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Soft Feather Heavy</p>	<p>Developed in county of Sussex in early 19th century.</p>	 creamy to light brown 	<p>single</p> <hr/> <p>white skin & shanks</p> <hr/> <p>red</p>	<p>good brooder & mother</p> <hr/> <p>robust; very cold hardy</p>	<p>well adaptable to confinement or free range; calm; gentle; active; can be curious; more easily handled Our Birds: a few have been among our favorites for personality.</p>
<p>An old English favorite</p>	<p>Standard: 7 lb/3.2 kg Bantam: 2.2 lb/1 kg</p>	<p>Dual Purpose</p>		<p>average</p>		<p>moderately early maturing</p>	

Breed (with links to other sites with images and more information)	Varieties / Rarity / What's a hen weigh?	Class and Type	Origins	Egg color & productivity; egg size	Comb Skin color Earlobes	Brooding Hardiness Maturing	Behavior
 <p>Welsumer or Welsummer FS PP club</p> <p>Backyard bird with big brown eggs.</p>	<p>Red Partridge</p> <hr/> <p>Uncommon. 36% Up from 12% in 2003</p> <hr/> <p>Standard: 6 lb/2.7 kg Bantam: 2 lb/0.9 kg</p>	<p>APA (2001): Large: Continental PC: Soft Feather Light</p> <hr/> <p>Dual Purpose</p>	<p>Developed in Holland in 20th century.</p>	 <p>rich dark terracotta brown</p> <hr/> <p>above average</p>	<p>small single</p> <hr/> <p>yellow skin & shanks</p> <hr/> <p>red</p>	<p>mixed reports on setting & brooding</p> <hr/> <p>hardy; cold hardy</p> <hr/> <p>moderately early maturing</p>	<p>Well adaptable to confinement or free range; lively, but more docile than flighty. Our Birds: some of our hens have laid solid dark brown eggs. Even more popular with many of our customers have been the very large speckled brown Welsumer eggs.</p>
 <p>Wyandotte FS PP PB club</p> <p>The "bird of curves."</p>	<p>Silver Laced, Golden Laced, White, Buff, Partridge, Silvered Penciled, Columbian</p> <hr/> <p>Common. 76%/56%/40% (silver/gold/all other) Silver and gold down, others up since 2003</p> <hr/> <p>Standard: 6.5 lb/2.9 kg Bantam: 2.2 lb/1 kg</p>	<p>APA (1883): Large: American Bantam: Rose Comb Clean Legged PC: Soft Feather Heavy</p> <hr/>  <p>Dual Purpose</p>	<p>Developed in New York State & Wisconsin in late 19th century.</p>	 <p>light to rich brown</p>  <hr/> <p>above</p>	<p>rose</p> <hr/> <p>yellow skin & shanks</p> <hr/> <p>red</p>	<p>infrequent brooder; excellent mother</p> <hr/> <p>robust; very cold hardy</p> <hr/> <p>moderately early maturing</p>	<p>Well adaptable to confinement or free range; calm. Our Birds: Most of ours have been docile, but some individuals have been aggressive. Most have been aloof in terms of human contact.</p>
<p>Yokohama  FS PP</p> <p>Elegant long-tail.</p>	<p>Red shouldered & white; White; other colors</p> <hr/> <p>Very rare. 8% Up since 2003</p> <hr/> <p>4 lb/ 1.8 kg</p>	<p>APA: Large: All Other Bantam: All Other Clean Legged PC: Light Rare</p> <hr/>  <p>Fancy: Long-tailed</p>	<p>Called Yokohama from the port of origin. Developed in Germany in the 19th century from the Japanese long-tailed breed called the Minohiki.</p>	 <p>tinted below average</p>	<p>walnut or pea</p> <hr/> <p>yellow skin & shanks</p> <hr/> <p>white</p>	<p>can be broody, protective mothers</p> <hr/> <p>because of fancy feathering, not suited for foul weather</p> <hr/> <p>slow to mature</p>	<p>requires special housing or cages & high perches to accommodate long tails; generally docile; cocks can be pugnacious around other cocks; because of special needs, not recommended for a mixed flock</p>