

The ICYouSee Handy-Dandy Chicken Chart

An Alphabetical List of More than 60 Chicken Breeds
With Comparative Information



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See also [Our Flock](#): recommended breeds for backyard and homestead flocks

and [Chicken Resources](#): [Information on Breeds](#), [Advice for Small Flock Owners](#), and more.

Why another [chicken](#) page?

NOTES: This page loads slowly with dial-up connections (Sorry). If the table does not fit on your screen, expand page to full screen and decrease font size.

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
 Ameraucana FS PB club	Black, Blue, Blue-wheaten, Brown-red, Buff, Silver, Wheaten, & White	APA (1984): Large: All Other Bantam: All Other Clean Legged PC: Not recognized	South American. May or may not be genetically related to the Araucana. In pre-Columbian Chile, there are several different blue egg-laying chicken "breeds," none called Araucana. Standardized & accepted into APA in 1984. Most hatcheries, however, sell Easter Egg chickens with mixed breeding that may lay blue, green (or other colored) eggs, but do not conform to standard.	 various shades of blue & blue-green	pea white with slate colored shanks red	good brooder very cold hardy moderately early maturing	well adaptable to confinement or free range; mostly calm, non-aggressive [personality of mongrel Easter Eggers is widely varied: some aloof, others very friendly & easily handled.]
	Easter Eggers are common. Standard Ameraucanas are rare. 88%/8% (EEs/pure) 5.5 lb/2.5 kg	Layer Fancy: Muffed, Bearded					
The chipmunk blue-egger.				medium			
 Ancona FS OK Om AR PP box PB	Black mottled, only	APA (1898): Large: Mediterranean Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Soft Feather Light	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.	 white to light cream	single, also rose yellow skin & shanks white	non-setter generally hardy, very cold hardy except for combs early maturing hens	economical eater, prefers free range; nervous & restless in confinement; flyer, active, flighty, marked wildness, avoids human contact
	Rather rare & in decline. 40% Standard: 4.5 lb/2 kg Bantam: 1.5 lb/0.7 kg	Layer					
Much like a leghorn, with black mottling				small			
 Andalusian FS OK PP box GO PB	Blue	APA (1874): Large: Mediterranean Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Light, Rare	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, but are not permitted to be shown.	 chalk to creamy white	single white skin, slate blue shanks white	mostly a non-setter hardy; heat tolerant, combs subject to frostbite early maturing	economical eater; adaptable to confinement, but prefers free range; active, flighty, noisy, avoids human contact
	Still popular as a show bird. 32% Standard: 5.5 lb/2.4 kg Bantam: 1.75 lb/0.8 kg	Layer Fancy: Blue feathered					
The original blue.				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
 Appenzeller or Appenzell FS OK b OK s Om PP box GO b GO s	Spitzhauben (Pointed Hood) & Barthuhner (Bearded)	APA: Not recognized PC: Soft Feather Light	Developed in Switzerland centuries ago. The name is thought to derive from the lace bonnets of the Appenzeller region.	 white	horn, V-shaped, duplex white skin, blue	can be broody very cold hardy, except may have problems with freezing crest	not very tolerant of close confinement; flyer, active, flighty
		Layer					

	Spitzhauben available but	Fancy: Crested or Bearded			shanks	feathers	
The national breed of Switzerland.	Barthuhner practically unknown 8%/0% (sptz/brthr)			medium	blueish white	early maturing	
	4 lb/1.8 kg						
Araucana or Rumpless Araucana FS OK PP box GO PE club	Black, White, Black Breasted Red, Blue, Buff, Silver Purebreds are very rare. 0%	APA (1976): Large: All Other Bantam: All Other Clean Legged PC: Light, Rare Layer Fancy: Rumpless Ear Tufts	Introduced from Chile in 1921, from one of several different blue egg-laying chicken "breeds," none called Araucana there. Likely that some "mongrelization" occurred before standardization. Truest bred carry a "lethal gene" which is also connected to the tufting characteristic. Standards differ from country to country.	 blue only	pea yellow skin, willow shanks red	good brooder cold hardy moderately early maturing	well adaptable to confinement or free range; calm, non-aggressive
The rumpless, tufted blue-egger.	Standard: 5 lb/2.2 kg Bantam: 1.4 lb/0.65 kg			small			
Aseel or Asil  FS AR Om PP box GO PE	Black, White, Duckwing, Red Spangled, Pyle, others Very rare. 4%	APA: Large: All Other PC: Hard Feather Heavy Game	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.	 lightly tinted	small pea yellow skin & shanks red	can be broody, protective mothers robust, cold hardy, very hardy in high heat slow to mature	bears confinement better than most other game breeds; extremely fierce & pugnacious, but docile & easily handled when away from other cocks
Ancient Indian athlete.	Standard: 5 lb/2.2 kg Bantam: 2 lb/0.9 kg			small			
Australorp or Black Australorp  FS OK Om PP AR box GO	Black, only (standard); also blue & white Common 88%	APA (1929): Large: English Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Soft Feather Heavy Dual Purpose	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. That performance has never been matched by subsequent Australorps.	 brown	medium single white skin, dark shanks red	good brooder, good mother very hardy, very cold hardy early maturing	well adaptable to confinement or free range; quiet, docile, easily handled
The egg-laying champion table bird from Oz	Standard: 6.5 lb/2.9 kg Bantam: 2 lb/0.9 kg			medium			
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
 Barnevelder  FS OK Om PP box GO	Double-laced, Blue-laced, White, Black, others Little known until recently. 4%	APA (2001): Large: Continental PC: Soft Feather Heavy Dual Purpose	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.	 very dark reddish brown, with matte finish	single yellow skin & shanks red	can be non-setter or good brooder less cold hardy; good in damp conditions slow to mature, & some chicks can be easily bullied	well adaptable to confinement or free range; calm, friendly
Famous for large dark brown eggs.	Standard: 6-7 lb/2.7-3.2 kg Bantam: 2.25 lb/1.0 kg			large			
Belgian D'Anver, or Antwerp Belgian,	14 recognized, including Quail, Porcelain, Black, Blue, Buff, Cuckoo, Mille	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	 cream	rose white skin, dark shanks	good brooder robust chicks difficult to rear	active, flyer, hens friendly, cocks can be aggressive

Barbu d'Anvers  FS AR PP box	erleur, white, Mottled Uncommon 33%	Bantam Bearded	bantam, after the most popular variety.	white	white		
The bearded bantam.	True bantam: 1.3 lb/0.6 kg			tiny			
Belgian D'Uccle or Barbu d'Uccle  FS AR PP box club	Mille Fleur, Porcelain, Black, Buff, White, Blue Mottled, Splash, Golden Neck, others One of the most popular bantams 93%	APA (1914): Bantam: Feather Legged PC: True Bantam / Rare Bantam Bearded Feather Footed	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 white skin & shanks white	great brooder hardy, because of fancy feathering, not suited for foul weather very slow to mature for full coloring	tolerates confinement; fliers; quiet, friendly, cocks less aggressive than other banties
The bearded, booted bantam	True bantam: 1.3 lb/0.55 kg			tiny			
Booted or Sabelpoot FS PP box club	Black, Blue, Buff, Mille Fleur, Porcelain, White, Mottled, others	APA: Bantam: Feather Legged PC: True Bantam, Rare	One of the more ancient bantams; developed in the Netherlands.	 creamy white	single white skin & shanks	great brooder hardy	tolerates confinement; fliers; friendly, cocks can be aggressive
The booted, unbearded bantam	Very rare 0% True bantam: 1.4 lb/0.65 kg	Bantam Feather Footed		tiny	bright red	some reports indicate chicks difficult to rear	
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
 Brahma  FS OK Om AR PP box GO PB club	Light, Dark, Buff Less common. 48%/20% (light/all other) Standard: 9 lb/4.1 kg Bantam: 2.6 lb/1.2 kg	APA (1874): Large: Asiatic Bantam: Feather Legged PC: Soft feather Heavy  Dual Purpose [formerly Meat] Fancy: Feather Footed, outside only	Introduced from China in mid-19th century. The largest breed at the time. Before the name Brahma was settled on, they were also called Chittagongs, Shanghais (as were the Cochins), and Brahma-pootras.	 brown	pea yellow skin & shanks red	good brooder robust, very hardy in heat & cold slow to mature	adaptable to confinement or free range; mostly gentle; can be eased handled, but also standoffish; has a tendency toward fatness
Large and regal.				medium			
 Buckeye FS OK AL	Nut brown, only Very rare. 12%	APA (1904): Large: American PC: Not recognized	Developed by Mrs. Nettie Metcalf of Warren, Ohio, in late 19th century. Never widely popular.	 brown	pea white skin & blue/gray shanks red	can be broody very cold hardy moderately slow maturing	adaptable to confinement, very adaptable to free range; calm, friendly
Buckeye brown bird from the Buckeye state.	6.5 lb/2.9 kg	Dual Purpose		medium			
Buttercup or Sicilian Buttercup  FS OK Om PP box PB	Golden, only Rare, even as a show bird 36%	APA (1918): Large: Mediterranean PC: Light, Rare Layer Fancy: Large buttercup comb	Developed in Sicily, in mid-19th century.	 white	buttercup yellow skin & shanks white	non-setter heat tolerant, combs subject to frostbite early maturing, but full comb takes longer	does not do well in close confinement; very fidgety, active, flighty, wild even for a Mediterranean breed; avoids human contact
Known for its comb.	5 lb/2.3 kg			small			
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

 Campine FS OK PP box RB	Golden, Silver Uncommon. 40%/32% (golden/silver) 5 lb/2.2 kg	APA (1914): Large: Continental Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Soft feather Light Layer Fancy: Some males are hen-feathered	May have ancient ancestry, but refined & further developed in Belgium in the 19th century. Braekel is a closely related European breed.	 white medium	large single white skin, blue shanks white	non-setter hardy, comb subject to frostbite quick feathering but late maturing	economical eater; adaptable to confinement, but prefers free range; flyer; alert, lively; inquisitive; some are rather wild, others can be friendly
Beautiful bird with unique pencilling.							
Catalana FS OK box PE	Buff Very rare. 8% 6 lb/2.7 kg	APA (1949): Large: Mediterranean Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Not recognized Layer	Developed in Spain in late 19th century as a meat & egg bird.	 white to light tint medium	single yellow skin & shanks white	non-setter very hardy in heat early maturing	less tolerant of close confinement; active, vigorous, avoids human contact
The most popular breed of South America.							
Chantecler FS OK box	White, Partridge Extremely rare. Rare even in Canada. 8% 6.5 lb/2.9 kg	APA (1921): Large: American Bantam: All Other Clean Legged PC: Not recognized Dual Purpose	Developed in Canada in early 20th century by Brother Wilfred as a good meat & egg bird that could stand the extreme cold.	 brown large	cushion yellow skin & shanks red	can be broody extremely cold hardy early maturing	bears confinement well; skittish, avoids human contact
Canada's breed.							
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
Cochin FS OK Om AR PP box GO PE club	Buff, White, Black, & Partridge Still popular as a show bird. 64% Standard: 8.5 lb/3.8 kg Bantam (aka Pekin): 1.3 lb/.6 kg	APA (1874): Large: Asiatic Bantam: Feather Legged PC: Soft feather Heavy Fancy: Feather Footed, fully	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. Pekins are recognized as a separate bantam breed in some countries, rather than as bantam Cochins.	 tinted or yellowy brown small	small single yellow skin & shanks red	excellent brooder; good mother; excellent foster mother robust, cold hardy slow to mature	well adaptable to confinement or free range; peaceful, friendly, easily handled
Big ball of fluff and feathers.							
Cornish or Indian Game FS OK Om AR PP box GO	White, Dark, White Laced, Red, Buff Uncommon, 40% Standard: 8 lb/3.6 kg Bantam: 2.6 lb/1.2 kg	APA (1893): Large: English Bantam: All Other Clean Legged PC: Hard Feather Heavy Meat Game or Other	Developed in Cornwall in 19th century. Now principally used commercially for cross breeding purposes for Cornish X Rock.	 light brown small	pea yellow skin & shanks red	can be broody; protective mother cold hardy moderately early maturing	poor forager; easily contained; less active; very docile for a game bird, noisy, can be friendly or aggressive
Famed meat bird, especially when crossed.							
Crevecoeur FS OK PP box	Black Very rare. 16% 6.5 lb/3 kg	APA (1874): Large: Continental Bantam: All Other Clean Legged PC: Heavy, Rare	Developed in Normandy, perhaps before the 18th century.	 white medium	horn, V-shaped, duplex white skin, dark shanks red	non-setter because of fancy feathering, not suited for foul weather; may have problems with freezing crest feathers	suited for close (and dry) confinement; active; not particularly friendly
Is it beautiful and elegant, or just peculiar-looking?							

		rancy: Crested Bearded & muffed			[hidden by feathers]		
Cubalaya FS AL OK GO	Black-Breasted Red, White, Black	APA (1939): Large: All Other PC: Not recognized	Developed in Cuba in 19th century from Phillipine or Indonesian stock.	 white	pea	great brooder	excellent forager; needs to be active; less tolerant of close confinement; aggressive, noisy
	Practically unknown outside the Caribbean until recently. 20%				white skin & shanks	very hardy in heat	
Cuba's fighting meat bird.		Game		small	white	slow to mature	
	4.5 lb/2 kg						
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
 Delaware FS OK AL	White [Columbian]	APA (1952): Large: American Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Not recognized	Developed by George Ellis in 1940 in Delaware. Unknown in most of the world.	 medium to rich brown  large	single	can be broody	well adaptable to confinement or free range; calm, friendly
	Rare. 32%				yellow skin & shanks	robust; hardy in heat & cold	
	A broiler cross that became a breed.				6.5 lb/2.9 kg	Dual Purpose	
 Dominique or Dominiker FS OK GO PP club	Barred only	APA (1874): Large: American Bantam: Rose Comb Clean Legged PC: Soft Feather Heavy, Rare  Dual Purpose	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  medium	rose	good brooder; good mother	well adaptable to confinement or free range; calm mostly, but more flighty than other dual purpose breeds
	Rare, but now has new interest. 52%				yellow skin & shanks	robust; cold hardy	
	Claimant to title "America's first breed."				5 lb/2.2 kg	red	
 Dorking FS OK Om AR PP box GO RE club	Silver Gray, White, Colored	APA (1874): Large: English Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Soft feather Heavy	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.	 creamy white to light tint medium	rose & single	great brooder; good mother	adaptable to confinement or free range; does not scratch excessively; calm; stately or awkward; fattens easily; gentle; friendly; easily tamed & handled
	Extremely rare. 16%/4% (silver/all other)				white skin & shanks	less hardy in general, but cold hardy	
	Standard:				6.5 lb/2.2 kg	Dual Purpose	
Short legged, very ancient, very English.	Bantam: 1.0 lb/0.8 kg	Fancy: Five-Toed Short legs					
 Dutch FS Om PP box RF	11 recognized, including Light Brown, White, Black, Blue, Blue Light Brown, Silver	APA (1992): Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: True Bantam	Developed in the Netherlands, perhaps from Dutch East Indies stock. Introduced to North America after WWII, declined, reintroduced in the 70s & 80s.	 light tint tiny	single	broody; protective mother	tolerates confinement; fliers; active, lively, cocks have been compared to snapping turtles
					white skin & white or blue shanks	hardy	
						white	
The littlest bantam.	Rare. 0%	Bantam					
	True bantam: 1.0 lb/0.45 kg						
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
	Salmon, White	APA (1914): Large: Continental	Developed in France in early 19th century.		small	can be broody	bears confinement well; alert; calm; very docile; genteel; prone to bullying
	Once rare, but				single	robust; cold hardy;	

Faverolles  FS OK Om PP AR PP box club	gaining popularity. 44% Standard: 7.5 lb/3.4 kg Bantam: 2.2 lb/1.0 kg	Bantam: Feather Legged PC: Soft Feather Heavy Dual Purpose Fancy: Bearded & muffed Feather footed, outside only Five-Toed		 creamy tint  medium	white skin & shanks red [hidden by feathers]	because of fancy feathering, not suited for foul weather early maturing	by others
Fayoumi or Egyptian Fayoumi FS PP Precocious scavenger and escape artist.	Gold & silver penciled Still rare. 36% 3.5 lb/1.6 kg	APA: Not recognized PC: Soft feather Light Layer	Ancient Egyptian origins; only recently spread to the rest of the world.	 off-white to light tint small	single white skin, dark shanks white	non-setter very hardy, excellent hot weather bird quick feathering & very early maturing	very economical eater; does not like containment; lively, flighty, known for wildness
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 OK AR PP box GO	Silver-Spangled, Golden-Spangled, Golden-Penciled, Silver-Penciled, White, Black Less common. 56%/24% (slvr-spng/all other) 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; may be ancient. Historical names include Pheasants, Moonies, Crescents, Corals & Everlayers	 low-gloss white small	rose white skin, slate blue shanks white	non-setter hardy, cold hardy very early maturing	very economical eater; likes wide range; less tolerant of close confinement; high flyer; very flighty, spritely, active, avoids human contact
The spritely, little "everyday layer."							
Holland or American Holland FS OK AL The calm white-egger.	White & Barred Rare. 12% 6.5 lb/2.9 kg	APA (1949): Large: American Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Not recognized Dual Purpose	Established in 1949 as an improved, yellow skinned, heavy breed with white eggs. Unknown in Holland & most of the rest of world.	 white medium	single yellow skin & shanks red	can be broody cold hardy moderately slow maturing	well adaptable to confinement or free range; calm, good tempered
Houdan  FS OK Om PP box	White, Mottled Uncommon. 32% Standard: 6-7 lb/2.7-3.2 kg Bantam: 1.75 lb/0.8 kg	APA (1874): Large: Continental Bantam: All Other Clean Legged PC: Heavy, Rare Dual Purpose Fancy: Crested Bearded Five-Toed	Developed in France before 1700, possibly as a cross between Polish and Dorking or related breeds.	 white small to medium	leaf (or V) white skin, darker shanks red [hidden by feathers]	can be broody because of fancy feathering, not suited for foul weather; may have problems with freezing crest feathers early maturing	economical eater; bears confinement well; active; docile; easily handled
The crested French bird with big eyes.							
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
Japanese or Chabo (and still called Japs in some parts of the	Black, White, Black Tailed, Birchen, Mottled, others	APA (1874): Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged	Developed in Japan as early as the 7th century perhaps from Indo-Chinese stock. First introduced to Europe in 1860	 creamy	large single white skin	excellent brooder; protective mother because of short legs	tolerates confinement; some are fliers; generally friendly, cocks can be aggressive

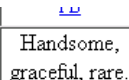
world) FS AR Om PP box club		PC: True Bantam	Truest bred carry a "lethal gene" which is also connected to the shortened leg characteristic.	white	& shanks	& fancy feathering, not suited for foul weather	
The short-legged, low-built, squirrel-tailed bantam.	Popular 86%	Bantam Short legs		tiny	bright red	slow to mature	
Java FS OK AL	Black, Mottled	APA (1874): Large: American Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Not recognized	Developed in U.S. after being introduced from Java in 1835.	 brown	single yellow skin, dark shanks	good brooder cold hardy very slow maturing	well adaptable to confinement or free range; calm
Old breed, but endangered.	Extremely, perhaps critically rare. 16%			medium	red		
	7.5 lb/3.4 kg	Dual Purpose					
 Jersey Giant  FS OK Om PP box GO	Black, White	APA (1922): Large: American Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Heavy, Rare	Developed in New Jersey in 1870s. Never commercially popular, but bird of choice for capons	 brown	small single yellow skin, dark shanks	good brooder; protective mother robust, very cold hardy very slow to mature	not an economical eater; adaptable to confinement or free range; calm, gentle, easily handled
The chicken world's largest breed.	Uncommon. Was in decline, but now seems to be holding its own.			medium to large	red		
	56%/28% (black/all other)	Dual Purpose [formerly Meat]					
	10 lb/4.6 kg						
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
La Fleche FS OK Om PP box GO	Black, Blue, White, & Cuckoo	APA (1874): Large: Continental Bantam: All Other Clean Legged PC: Heavy, Rare	Dates back to France before 1660.	 tinted white	horn, V-shaped, duplex white skin, dark shanks	non-setter hardy early maturing	well adaptable to confinement or free range; active, flighty, avoids human contact
The devil bird.	Very rare. 12%			large	white		
	5.5 lb/2.5 kg	Dual Purpose Fancy: Horns for a comb					
 Lakenvelder FS OK Om PP box GO	Black/white /black pattern.	APA (1939): Large: Continental Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Soft feather Light	Developed in Germany in early 19th century. Golden Lakenvelders are not standard. Vorwerk is a bantam with the black/gold/black pattern.	 white to light tint	single white skin, dark shanks white	non-setter hardy early maturing	well adaptable to confinement or free range; flyer, flighty, avoids human contact
Shadow on a sheet.	Rare. 52%/20% (silver/gold)			small			
	4 lb/1.8 kg	Layer					
Lamona  FS OK	White	APA (1933): Large: American Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Not recognized	Developed by Harry Lamon in 1912 specifically to be a yellow skinned heavy breed with white eggs.	 white	single yellow skin & shanks red		
The rare, possibly extinct, yellow-skinned, red-ear-lobed, white-egg-laying table bird.	Extinct or verging on extinction. 0%			medium			
	6.5 lb/2.9 kg	Dual Purpose					
 Langshan FS OK box GO PB	Black, White, & Blue.	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,	 brown [Croad Langshans once lay very dark	single greyish white skin, dark shanks	can be broody very hardy, cold hardy slow to mature	well adaptable to confinement or free range; active for their size; graceful; not as calm or docile as other large breeds
	Uncommon. 32%/16% (black/all other)						

	7.5 lb/3.4 kg		assumptions are made between Croad & Modern Langshans.	brown]	red		
The long-legged, high-tailed, and feather-footed regal bird.		Dual Purpose [formerly Meat] Fancy: Feather Footed, outside only (some varieties are clean footed)		medium			
 Leghorn FS OK Om AR PP box GO PE RF club	Dark Brown, Light Brown, White, 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 yellow skin & shanks white	non-setter hardy, heat tolerant (esp. white variety); combs subject to frostbite very early maturing	economical eater; well adaptable to confinement or free range; flyer; flighty; spritely, noisy, nervous, usually avoids human contact
The ultimate egg machine.	Common. 84%/80%/32% white/brown/all other	 Layer		medium to large [commercial whites' are especially large]			
	Standard: 4.5 lb/2 kg Bantam: 1.75 lb/0.8 kg						
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
Malay FS OK PP GO PE	Black Breasted Red, only Very rare 4%	APA (1883): Large: All Other Bantam: All Other Clean Legged PC: Hard Feather, Rare Game	An ancient breed, introduced from Malay	 light tint or brown medium	strawberry yellow skin & shanks rich r-ed	can be broody hardy, very hardy in heat very slow to mature	needs to be active; less tolerant of close confinement; more placid than most game birds
A cruel looking giant on long legs.	7 lb/3.2 kg						
 Marans FS Om PP box GO RF	Dark, Cuckoo, others Once little known, but now becoming trendy. 4%	APA: Not recognized PC: Soft Feather Heavy Layer Feather or Clean Footed, depending on country standard or strain	Developed in France in early 20th century. Since French and English standards are different, and both have been imported into North America, standardization in the United States may not occur any time soon.	 dark chocolate brown medium to large	single white skin & shanks red	some strains very broody after first year some strains less hardy	well adaptable to confinement or free range; varies widely by strain: very active; calm or wild, difficult or easy to manage
Known for one thing -- chocolate colored eggs.	Standard: 7 lb/3.2 kg Bantam: 2.2 lb/1.0 kg						
Minorca FS OK AR PP box GO PE	Black, White, Buff Rare to uncommon. 44%/28% (black/all other)	APA (1888): Large: Mediterranean Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Soft Feather Light Layer	Developed in Spain (and Minorca?) Once known as the Red-faced Black Spanish.	 white large	single & rose white skin, dark shanks white	non-setter excellent hot weather bird; combs subject to frostbite early maturing	adaptable to confinement, but prefers free range; restlessly active, flighty, avoids human contact
Largest Mediterranean, extra large eggs.	Standard: 7 lb/3.2 kg Bantam: 1.75 lb/0.8 kg						
Modern Game or Modern English Game FS OK AR PP box GO	Black-Breasted Red, Silver Duckwing, Red Pyle, White, Black, many others	APA (1874): Large: All Other Bantam: Game PC: Hard Feather Game	Developed in England in 19th century for exhibiton, not for cockfighting.	 white to light tint	large single (often dubbed) yellow skin &	can be broody; protective mother hardy in heat & cold; some subject to health problems	needs to be active; less tolerant of close confinement; aggressive, noisy

	Uncommon 16%				shanks	slow to mature	
The game bird with style and carriage.	Standard: 4.5 lb/2 kg Bantam: 1.2 lb/0.55 kg			small	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
Naked Neck or Transylvanian Naked Neck or Turken  FS OK Om PP box GO	Black, White, Red, other Uncommon 44% Standard: 6 lb/2.7 kg Bantam: 1.5 lb/0.7 kg	APA (1965): Large: All Other Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Heavy, Rare Fancy: Bare neck	Developed near Transylvania in early 18th century.	 creamy light brown medium	single yellow skin & shanks red	can be broody, good mother hardy in cold; does well in high heat because of fewer feathers, but can get sunburned slow to mature	well adaptable to confinement or free range; active; mild mannered; friendly; easily handled
No, it's not a turkey / chicken cross.							
 New Hampshire or New Hampshire Red  FS OK Om PPbox GO	Light brownish red, only Fairly common 72% Standard: 6.5 lb/2.9 kg Bantam: 1.9 lb/0.85 kg	APA (1935): Large: American Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Heavy, Rare  Dual Purpose	Developed in New Hampshire from the Rhode Island Red in early 20th century.	 light to medium dark brown  large	large single yellow skin & shanks red	good brooder & mother robust; hardy in heat & cold; combs subject to frostbite very early maturing	well adaptable to confinement or free range; calm, can be friendly or aggressive
Old English Game FS OK Om AR PP box GO	Black-Breasted Red, Silver Duckwing, Red Pyle, White, Black, many others Uncommon 4%	APA (1928): Large: All Other Bantam: Game PC: Hard Feather  Game	Developed in England in 19th & 20th century from ancient stock	 white to light tint small	large single (often dubbed) white skin & shanks red	excellent brooder; protective mother hardy, cold hardy slow to mature	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						
Orloff or Russian Orloff FS PP box GO	Red, White Very rare 12% 6.0 lb/2.7 kg	APA: Not recognized (dropped from Continental) PC: Heavy, Rare 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 small	walnut yellow skin & legs red	non-setter hardy slow to mature	adapts to confinement; calm, but not docile, avoids human contact
Wild-looking thing							
 Orpington  FS OK Om AR PP box GO	Buff, Black, Blue, White Only buffs are still popular. 88%/8% (buff/all other) Standard: 8 lb/3.6 kg Bantam: 2.2 lb/1 kg	APA (1902): Large: English Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Soft Feather Heavy Dual Purpose [formerly Meat]	Originally developed by William Cook in Orpington (County Kent) the 1880s. Some varieties developed by his daughter.	 brown  medium to large	single white skin & white or dark shanks red	good brooder; excellent mother hardy; very cold hardy moderately early maturing	adaptable to free range; very adaptable to confinement; docile; affectionate, easily handled; can be bullied
Big friendly bird.							

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 GO club	Creole, Partridge, Wheaten, Black	APA: Not recognized PC: Not recognized	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)	non-setter	well adaptable to free range; active; flighty; avoids human contact	
	Very, very rare. Only recently available in North America. 0%	Layer			white skin, blue-grey shanks	very hardy in heat		
					white	slow to mature		
The dark egg layer that wears a crown 4 lb/1.8 kg				small to medium				
 Phoenix FS PP box GO	Partridge; Silver Duckwing; White; other colors	APA (1965): Large: All Other Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Light Rare (not recognized separately from Yokohama)	Developed in Europe and the U.S. from the Japanese long-tailed breed called the Onagadori.	 white to tinted	single	can be broody, protective mothers	requires special housing or cages & high perches to accommodate long tails; generally docile; not friendly	
	Uncommon 36%				yellow skin; yellow or slate shanks	reportedly short lived; because of fancy feathering, not suited for foul weather		
	Honorable long-tail. 4 lb/1.8 kg Bantam: 1.75 lb/0.8 kg	 Fancy Long-tailed			small	red		slow to mature
 Plymouth Rock FS OK Om AR PP box GO club	Barred, White, Buff, Silver Penciled, Partridge, Columbian, Blue	APA (1874): Large: American Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Soft Feather Heavy	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	broods, but infrequently, good mother	well adaptable to confinement or free range; docile, friendly, easily handled	
	Popular 96%/84% /52%/32% (barred/white /prtg/all other)	 Dual Purpose				yellow skin & shanks		robust, very cold hardy
	Standard: 7.5 lb/3.4 kg Bantam: 2.2 lb/1 kg				large	red		somewhat early maturing
Once upon a time America's favorite breed.								
 Polish or Poland FS OK Om AR PP	Bearded & Beardless; Black, White, Golden, Silver, Buff Laced	APA (1874): Large: Continental Bantam: All Other Clean Legged PC: Soft Feather Light	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	non-setter	poor forager; bears confinement well; friendly, quiet, can be bullied	
	Popular as a show bird. 56%				white skin, blue shanks	some subject to health problems; because of fancy feathering, not suited for foul weather;		
	Perhaps the oldest of the crested breeds.	Fancy: Crested			small	white		may have problems with freezing crest feathers; special care may be needed since plumage blocks vision
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	
Redcap or Red Cap or Derbyshire Redcap FS OK PP box	Red & black pattern, only	APA (1888): Large: English Bantam: Rose Comb Clean Legged PC: Soft feather	Developed in Derbyshire.	 white	very large spiked rose	non-setter	can adapt to confinement; active	
	Very rare 8%				white skin, blue	hardy		

	6 lb/2.7 kg	Light			shanks		
Think huge rose comb.		Layer Fancy: Large rose comb		small	red		
 Rhode Island Red & Rhode Island White (two separate breeds) FS OK AL Om AR PP box club	APA (1904/1922): Large: American Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Soft Feather Heavy Popular, but purebreds are uncommon. 68%/44%/28% (production/red/white)	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	large single; also rose yellow skin & shanks red	broods infrequently, 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)
Best of breeds for producing brown eggs.	Standard: 6.5 lb/2.9 kg Bantam: 2 lb/0.9 kg			large			
Rosecomb FS AR Om PP	Black, White, Silver Laced, others.	APA (1874): Bantam: Rose Comb Clean Legged PC: True Bantam	Origins unclear & disputed. Claimed to be direct descendant of the original Bantam, but may be related to Hamburg.	 white to cream	rose yellow skin & shanks	not broody hardy in heat & cold slow to mature?	tolerates confinement; fliers; generally friendly, cocks can be aggressive
The original rosecombed, clean-legged bantam	Common. 67% True bantam: 1.3 lb/0.6 kg	Bantam		tiny	white		
Breed (with links to other sites with images & more information)	Varieties / Rarity / What's a hen weigh?	Class & Type	Origins	Egg color & productivity; egg size	Comb Skin color Earlobes	Brooding Hardiness Maturing	Behavior
Sebright FS AR Om PP box	Silver, Golden Very popular. 87% 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. Large & Bantam classes are recognized in some countries	 creamy white	rose yellow skin & shanks purplish red	not broody not robust; chicks difficult to rear slow to mature	tolerates confinement; fliers; jaunty, sprightly
The beautifully laced bantam				tiny			
Silkie FS OK AR Om box	Bearded & Beardless; Black, White, Blue, Buff, Partridge, Gray Probably the most popular bantam breeds. 100% True bantam: 2.2 lb/1 kg	APA (1874): Bantam: Rose Comb Clean Legged PC: Soft feathered Light & Bantam both Black skin, face, comb, & wattles Hair-like plumage Turquoise earlobes Five-Toed Crested Feather footed	Already developed in China by the time of Marco Polo (13th century) Large & Bantam classes are recognized in some countries	 light tint	walnut black skin & shanks turquoise	one of the most broody hardy in heat & cold; because of fancy feathering, not suited for foul weather slow to mature	adapts well to confinement, docile, friendly
An oddity of oddities of the poultry and pet world				small			
Spanish, White-Faced Black Spanish, Spanish White Ear, or Clownface FS OK PP box GO	White-Faced Black only Very rare, & becoming even rarer. 12%	APA (1874): Large: Mediterranean Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Light, Rare	Oldest of the Mediterranean breeds, developed in Spain.	 white	large single grey skin, dark shanks white	non-setter reportedly subject to health problems; heat tolerant; combs subject to frostbite slow to develop	adaptable to confinement, but prefers free range; flighty, haughty, noisy, avoids human contact

	6 lb/2.7 kg	Layer Fancy: White face		large		slow to develop, white face takes more than a year	
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
Sultan FS OK PP box	White, only	APA (1874): Large: All Other	Introduced from Turkey in mid-19th century.	 white	horn, V-shaped, duplex white skin & shanks	non-setter not suited for foul weather, may have problems with freezing crest feathers	poor forager; suited for close confinement; calm, non-aggressive, easily handled
	Uncommon. 24%	Bantam: Feather Legged PC: Light, Rare					
	4.0 lb/ 1.8 kg	Fancy: Crested Bearded & muffed Feather-footed, fully Five toed		small	white? [hidden under feathers	moderately slow developing	
All for show.							
Sumatra FS OK PP box GO PE	Black, only	APA (1883): Large: All Other	An ancient breed, introduced from Sumatra.	 white	large single yellow skin & shanks	can be broody hardy in heat & cold	needs to be active; intolerant of close confinement; pugnacious
	Uncommon 40%	Bantam: All Other Clean Legged PC: Light, Rare					
A giant on long legs	7 lb/ 3.2 kg	Game		medium	dark red		
 Sussex FS OK Om AR PP box GO RF	Speckled, Red, Light	APA (1914): Large: English Bantam: Single Comb Clean Legged PC: Soft Feather Heavy	Developed in county of Sussex in early 19th century.	 creamy to light brown 	single white skin & shanks red	good brooder & mother robust; very cold hardy moderately early maturing	well adaptable to confinement or free range; calm; gentle; active; can be curious; friendly, easily handled
	Uncommon. 44%/0% (speckled/all other)						
An old English favorite	Standard: 7 lb/3.2 kg Bantam: 2.2 lb/1 kg	Dual Purpose		medium to 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
 Welsummer or Welsummer FS AR Om PP box GO club	Red Partridge	APA (2001): Large: Continental PC: Soft Feather Light	Developed in Holland in 20th century.	 rich dark terracotta brown	small single yellow skin & shanks red	mixed reports on setting & brooding hardy, cold hardy moderately early maturing	economical eater; well adaptable to confinement or free range; lively, but not especially flighty; energetic; friendly
	Once little known, but gaining popularity. 12%	Dual Purpose					
Backyard bird with big brown eggs.	Standard: 6 lb/2.7 kg Bantam: 2 lb/0.9 kg			large			
 Wyandotte FS OK Om AR PP box GO PB	Silver Laced, Golden Laced, White, Buff, Partridge, Silvered Penciled, Columbian	APA (1883): Large: American Bantam: Rose Comb Clean Legged PC: Soft Feather Heavy	Developed in New York State & Wisconsin in late 19th century.	 light to rich brown 	rose yellow skin & shanks red	broods, but infrequently, excellent mother robust; very cold hardy moderately early maturing	well adaptable to confinement or free range; calm, industrious, usually docile, but can be aggressive; some are aloof, others friendly
	Popular. 92%/64%/24% (silver/gold/all other)	 Dual Purpose					

The "bird of curves."	Standard: 6.5 lb/2.9 kg Bantam: 2.2 lb/1 kg			large			
Yokohama  FS PP box GO	Red shouldered & white; White; other colors Rare 4%	APA: Large: All Other Bantam: All Other Clean Legged PC: Light Rare	Called Yokohama from the port of origin. Developed in Germany in the 19th century from the Japanese long-tailed breed called the Minohiki.	 tinted	walnut or pea yellow skin & shanks	can be broody, protective mothers because of fancy feathering, not suited for foul weather	requires special housing or cages & high perches to accommodate long tails; generally docile; cocks can be pugnacious around other cocks
Elegant long-tail.	4 lb/ 1.8 kg	 Fancy: Long-tailed		small	white	slow to mature	

Numerous books (new and [old](#), and including those by authors Harry Lewis, Lewis Wright, Alanna Moore, H. S. Babcock, Caleb N. Bement, Frank L. Platt, Louis M. Hurd, James E. Rice and Harold E. Botsford, Joseph Batty, Ian Kay, Eric Bailey, Page Smith and Charles Daniel, and Tamara Staples), articles from *Mother Earth News*, *Organic Gardening*, and *Science News*, the [Murray McMurray](#) and Glenn Drown's [Sand Hill Preservation Center](#) catalogs, the websites in the "KEY TO LINKS" section below, and multiple other [Web sites](#) were consulted in creating the **chicken chart**. Sources, of course, do not always agree, so personal judgments, common sense, and some personal knowledge were also used in determining the final make-up of the chart. If you have corrections or suggestions, please let [me](#) know.

Notes on symbols and keywords:

- KEY TO LINKS:** The links in the first column are to some of the most useful sites I found for information about specific breeds. PLEASE NOTE that the links lead you to sites created and developed by **other** individuals -- **not by me**. When you click on them, you are leaving this website.
 -  = portrait (illustration rather than photograph) available on the Web. Illustrations are either by [Diane Jacky](#), found either on her site or in an online poultry catalog. Photographs of most breeds can be found at the FeatherSite, the "Breeds Parade" section of Chickenbox, Joke Ozinga's Kippenrassen, and on many other chicken pages.
 - FS = Barry Koffler's [FeatherSite](#) (usually lots of photographs available)
 - OK = Oklahoma State University's Department of Animal Science's [Poultry Breeds](#)
 - AL = The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy [Conservation Priority List](#)
 - Om = [Omlet UK](#)
 - AR = [Poultry Photos](#), a collection of black and white photographs taken during the early 1900s by Arthur Rice, of Lincolnshire.
 - PP = [PoultryPage](#) from Britain
 - box = Johan Opsomer's [Chickenbox](#) from the Netherlands. Links are to the main page. You will have to explore the site to find individual breeds.
 - GO = [Hühnerrassen](#) from Geflügel Online. Text is in German, but photos at the bottom of the page
 - PB = [DOM BIRD Breed Encyclopedia](#) (Formerly associated with the Palm Beach County Poultry Fanciers Association)
 - RF = [Rupert the Fish](#), the website of a short poultrykeeper from Coventry, aka Robert Stevenson
 - RB = [Rare Breeds Trust of Australia](#)
 - club = pages specific to the clubs established for specific breeds
- VARIETIES AND RELATED BREEDS:** Among the poultry associations of different countries, different breeds are officially recognized and different varieties within the same breed are accepted. Not all breeds listed here are recognized by the American Poultry Association, but for the breeds that are APA Standard, I have tried to use the APA accepted varieties. For some breeds, I have listed colors that are available, not that are recognized varieties by either the APA or another official poultry association. Names and terms also differ around the world.
- RARITY:** Notes on rarity are related to availability in **North America**. The figures listed in orange are from a February 2003 survey of US and Canadian hatchery catalogs and breeder lists. For standard breeds, 25 hatcheries/breeders were used; for bantams 15 hatcheries/breeders were used. A list of sources used is available upon request. Availability of quality exhibition birds is not addressed in this data.
- CLASS AND TYPE:**

Class:
APA = American Poultry Association (Year in parenthesis is first year any variety of the breed was admitted to the Standard of Perfection)
PC = Poultry Club [of Britain]

Chicken breeds have been classified many different ways. Class as defined by the American Poultry Association indicates place of origin. The Poultry Club in the UK uses classes based on type of feathering, **Soft** (or loose) and **Hard** (or close) and body type, **Light** or **Heavy**.

Type: Breeds can also be separated by the purpose for which they were originally developed. **Dual Purpose** were developed for both meat and eggs. These days, most of these breeds are only found in backyards and small farms. [formerly Meat] indicates that in the days before Cornish X Rock dominance (post World War II), this breed was highly prized as a meat bird. **Layers** are those breeds that are principally used for egg production. As a general rule these birds are active and lively, lighter in weight than most other standard breeds, not broody, and not particularly friendly. **Game** breeds were once bred for cockfighting. It is believed they were the first chickens to be bred by humans. As a general rule, they are noisy and pugnacious, but some can be very friendly toward humans, and hens can be very protective mothers. As a rule they have low egg production. **Fancy** breeds are those with special features, such as crests, feathered feet, unusual colors, beards, muffs, or five toes. Some fancy breeds are strictly ornamental, but many others are will also be found among the layer and dual purpose breeds, as well. **Bantam** breeds are little birds of ornament and pleasure. The term bantam comes from a small chicken that originated in the Bantam region of Java, but after they were introduced to Europe centuries ago, any small variety of fowl was called a bantam. Bantams include both miniature versions of the large standard breeds and True Bantams, breeds for which there is no matching large standard. The descriptive term **True**, however, does not mean a naturally diminutive breed, since many True Bantams have been highly engineered by breeding programs.

 indicates that the hackle and saddle feathers of the cocks in some colors and varieties of these breeds are particularly prized for use in tying fishing flies, especially when natural, undyed feathers are desired. In addition, long-tailed breeds are also used and special crossbreeds have been developed. Bantams are preferred by some for their smaller and more delicate feathers.
- EGG RATE:**
 -  = poor
 -  = fair

 = good

 = very good

 = prolific

I have been inexact with the egg rates, because egg production is only partly influenced by the breed of hen, and because numbers I have seen have been all over the place. Egg production of an individual hen is dependent on such other factors as age, health, nutrition, space, housing, sanitation, light, humidity, temperature, and contentment. Although one Black Australorp laid a record 364 eggs in 365 days, your Australorp may not reach half that number in her best year. Different lines of the same variety have been bred for different reasons, emphasizing ornamental over egg-laying values, or vice versa. After hens reach 3 years old, they start to decline in egg production by 15 to 20 per cent each year. A friend tells me she had an eight year old pet Aracauna who in her last year dutifully laid one egg a month.

 = good winter layer

Chickens tend to be much better layers in the spring and summer; good winter layers are those hens whose weekly egg rate show significantly less drop in the colder/darker months.

- **EGG COLOR:** Egg colors used on this page are estimations and will also appear differently on different monitors. Egg colors will vary from bird to bird. This is especially true of the dark brown egg laying breeds, many of which, disappointingly, will lay much lighter shades than listed. In general for brown egg layers, the color of eggs will lighten as the hen ages.
- **EGG SIZE:** Sizes listed are not in conformity with USDA grades and combine large, extra large, and jumbo. In general, small eggs average 55 grams or less (under 2 ounces). Medium eggs average 55 to 60 grams (about 2 ounces). Large eggs are 60 grams or more (more than 2 ounces). Egg sizes for bantams, except True Bantams that have their own listings, are not provided, but they fit the label TINY. Size is based on those laid during a hen's prime laying years. Pullets will lay much smaller eggs, and, as hens get older, they will lay increasingly larger eggs. Size of eggs will vary by both variety and individual hen. Perhaps the best example of this is the leghorn, since the commercial white has been developed to lay a very large egg, but most other varieties lay medium sized eggs.
- **COMBS:** An [illustration of male comb types](#) from an old poultry textbook can be found several places around the Web. A hen's comb is generally smaller than a coxcomb, and in the case of the large single comb, the hen's comb flops over rather jauntily instead of standing erect like a large single coxcomb. The University of Illinois Extension site includes [descriptions of combs](#) with its illustrations. It also describes a Silkie comb [silkie's comb?], which is most elsewhere called a walnut comb.

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All chicken portraits are by [Diane Jacky](#) and are used by permission.

Photograph of egg assortment (before they became chipotle scrambled eggs) by Kelda Brown

URL: <http://www.ithaca.edu/staff/jhenderson/chooks/chooks.html>

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