















**The Livestock Conservancy**  
**Quick Reference Guide to Heritage Chickens**

Photos	Breed	Origin	CPL Status	Purpose	Adult Weight	Egg Color	Egg Size	Rate of Lay/Yr	Temperament	Brooding/Mothering	Experience	Climate	Uses and Notes
	<b>Ancona</b>	Italy	Watch	Eggs	6/4.5	White	Medium to Large	Good; 120-180	Highly active	Non-Setters	Novice	Does well in both cold and heat	Noted for hardiness and vigor; prefers to free range over wide areas;; good winter layers; pheasant-like; single comb vulnerable to frostbite
	<b>Araucana</b>	South American multiple-country composite	Study	Eggs	5/4	Blue	Medium to Large	Very Good; ~200	Docile	Setters	Novice/Intermediate	Does well in both cold and heat	Genetic fertility issues can be a challenge for breeding; hardy breed
	<b>Aseel</b>	India and Pakistan	Watch	Meat	5.5/4	White or tinted light brown	Small	Poor; 6-40	M/F both can be very aggressive, even at a young age	Setters	Intermediate/Advanced	Best in warm climates; can tolerate some cold, but need to be kept dry	Breed makes excellent crosses for the production of broilers; very hardy and predator savvy; exceedingly protective mothers
	<b>Australorp</b>	Australia	Recovering	Eggs, Meat	8.5/6.5	Brown	Large	Excellent; 250-250	Active, yet gentle	Setters	Novice	Does well in both cold and heat	Productive and fast growing; favorite for pastured egg production
	<b>Blue Andalusian</b>	Spain	Threatened	Eggs	7/5.5	Chalk-white	Large	Very Good; ~160	Active, yet gentle	Non-Setters	Novice/Intermediate	Best in hot to moderate climates	Very rugged and robust; blue feather coloration can be a challenge to perfect; excels in free-range conditions; typically not good in confinement
	<b>Brahma</b>	United States	Watch	Meat, Eggs	12/9.5	Brown	Medium to Large	Good; 140+/-	Docile	Setters	Novice/Intermediate	Does better in cold climates	Good winter layers; best kept on well-drained soils; perches should be kept 12 or less off the ground due to accommodate their large body size





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	<b>Buckeye</b>	United States	Threatened	Meat, Eggs	9/6.5	Brown	Large	Good; 120-150	Active, yet gentle	Variable	Novice	Does well in the cold, but can adapt to heat over time	Excellent broilers; breast meat is almost dark like thighs; best ranger of the American class; exceedingly protective mothers
	<b>Buttercup</b>	Sicily	Threatened	Eggs	6.5/5	White	Small to Medium	Good; 140-180	Highly active	Non-Setters	Intermediate	Best in hot to moderate climates	Good forager; does well on free range; striking flower-shaped comb that can be a challenge to perfect
	<b>Campine</b>	Belgium	Critical	Eggs	6/4	White	Medium to Large	Good; 150+	Very active	Non-Setters	Novice	Best in hot to moderate climates	Vigorous forager; if silver variety is crossed with the golden variety, chicks can be sexed as day-olds
	<b>Catalana</b>	Mediterranean	Watch	Eggs, Meat	8/6	White to Tinted	Medium	Good; 150+	Active	Non-Setters	Novice	Best in hot to moderate climates	Meat is succulent; cockerels often used for capon in Spain; can be flighty but not overly so
	<b>Chantecler</b>	Canada	Critical	Eggs, Meat	8.5/6.5	Brown	Large	Good; 120-180	Docile, but some lines can be variable	Variable	Novice	Best in cold climates; not recommended for hot regions	Good winter layer; has almost no wattles and a tiny button comb; has well-fleshed breasts
	<b>Cochin</b>	China	Watch	Meat, Ornamental	11/8.5	Brown	Large	Fair; up to 140	Docile	Setters	Novice	Best in cold climates	Excellent broody breed, especially for turkey and duck eggs; needs to be kept on well-drained soils





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	<b>Cornish</b>	England	Watch	Meat	10.5/8	Tinted	Medium to Large	Fair; 50-80	Docile	Non-Setters	Intermediate	Best in warm climates	Superb table bird; very short, compact body with enormous breasts; does not do well in the cold or extreme heat
	<b>Crevecour</b>	France	Critical	Meat, Eggs	8/6.5	White	Medium to Large	Good; ~150	Active	Non-Setters	Intermediate	Best in temperate climate	Known for fine flesh; has fine bones and excellent percentage of meat to offal when processed; can be delicate to manage; vulnerable to predators due to crest of feathers on head obstructing
	<b>Cubalaya</b>	Cuba	Threatened	Eggs, Meat	6/4	White	Small	Good; 125-175	Active, but calm	Setters	Novice/Intermediate	Best in hot to moderate climates, highly tolerant of humidity	Known for fine meat qualities; can be aggressive to other birds, but mild-mannered compared to other game birds; can be noisy; highly tolerant of humidity
	<b>Delaware</b>	United States	Critical	Eggs, Meat	8.5/6.5	Brown	Large to Jumbo	Very Good; 150-200	Docile	Setters	Novice	Does well in both hot and cold climates	Developed to grow quickly for broiler production; color pattern can be challenge to perfect
	<b>Dominique</b>	United States	Watch	Eggs, Meat	7/5	Brown	Medium to Large	Excellent; 230-275	Active	Variable	Novice	Does well in any climate	Excellent forager and homestead fowl; primarily a laying fowl, but has nice breast proportions for meat
	<b>Dorking</b>	England	Threatened	Eggs, Meat	9/7	White	Medium to Large	Good; ~150	Docile, but active	Setters	Novice	Does well in any climate	Famous for meat flavor; good winter layers and foragers; comb can be prone to frostbite







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	<b>Faverolle</b>	France	Threatened	Meat, Eggs	8/6.5	Tinted to Light Brown	Medium to Large	Very Good; 180-200	Docile but Active	Variable	Novice	Can do well in any climate	Used for meat and winter egg production; productive when in contact with the ground - does not like confinement; comb can be prone to frostbite
	<b>Hamburg</b>	Holland	Watch	Eggs	5/4	White	Medium	Excellent; 200-225	Active, can be very flighty	Non-Setters	Novice/Intermediate	Does well in any climate	Likes to roosts in trees; lay large numbers of eggs over a longer period of their lifetime than most breeds
	<b>Holland</b>	United States	Critical	Eggs, Meat	8.5/6.5	White	Large	Good	Docile	Setters	Novice	Does well in both hot and cold	Top-notch foragers; good homestead fowl; comb can be prone to frostbite
	<b>Houdan</b>	France	Watch	Meat, Eggs	8/6.5	White	Small to Medium	Fair	Docile, exceptionally gentle	Setters, can be awkward setters that break eggs	Novice/Intermediate	Does well in any climate, but prefers dry and warm	Five toed fowl; "Label Rouge" certified in France for flavor; can be vulnerable to predators due to crest of feathers on head obstructing vision; can be awkward setters that break eggs
	<b>Java</b>	United States	Threatened	Meat, Some Eggs	9.5/7.5	Brown	Large	Good; 150+	Docile, but active	Setters	Novice	Does well in both hot and cold	Premier homestead fowl; excellent forager; slower growth equating to excellent meat flavor; combs may be prone to frostbite
	<b>Jersey Giant</b>	United States	Watch	Meat, Eggs	13/10	Brown	Extra Large	Very Good: 175-185	Docile	Setters	Novice/Intermediate	Will do better in cooler climates	Originally envisioned to take the place of the turkey on the table; can be awkward setters that break eggs







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	<b>La Fleche</b>	France	Watch	Meat, Eggs	8/6.5	White	Medium to Large	Very Good; 200	Active	Non-Setters	Intermediate	Can handle hot and cold but not extremes of either	Highly regarded for flavor of the meat; large breasts for their size
	<b>Lakenvelder</b>	Holland & Germany	Threatened	Eggs	5/4	White	Medium	Very Good; 150-200	Active; can be flighty	Non-Setters	Novice	Can handle hot and cold but combs can be prone to frostbite	Excellent foragers; very predator-savvy; combs can be prone to frostbite
	<b>Langshan</b>	China	Threatened	Eggs, Meat	9.5/7.5	Plum	Large	Good; up to 200	Docile	Setters	Novice	Good in both hot and cold	Produces large amount of meat that is very white; Asiatic breed suited for warm climates
	<b>Leghorn</b>	Italy	Recovering	Eggs	6/4.5	White	Medium to Large	Excellent; 250-300 +/-	Very Active	Non-Setters	Novice/Intermediate	Best in hot to moderate climates	Noted for hardiness and vigor; produces more eggs with less food than any other breed
	<b>Malay</b>	India	Threatened	Meat	9/7	Brown	Medium	Poor	Active	Setters	Intermediate	Best in hot to moderate climates	Tallest of all chickens; meat is very lean with little fat; adults are hardy but chicks can be delicate; can be quarrelsome in confinement - will feather pick each other in close quarters; cannot cover many eggs due to
	<b>Manx Rumpy or Persian Rumpless</b>	Iraq	Study	Eggs, Meat	6/5.5	Tinted to Brown	Medium	Good	Active	Setters	Intermediate	Good in both hot and cold	Exceptional free-range bird with little supplement needed; fertility in breed tends to be low; roosters can be slightly aggressive to new arrivals in their flock; combs may be prone to frostbite






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	<b>Minorca</b>	Spain	Watch	Eggs	9/7.5	Chalk-White	Extra Large	Excellent	Very Active	Non-Setters	Novice	Best in hot to moderate climates	Great foragers; produces large carcass but meat can be dry; historically breasts were stuffed with lard before being roasted
	<b>Modern Game</b>	England	Critical	Show, Meat	6/4.5	White to tinted light brown	Small	Fair: 100+/-	Active and curious	Setters	Intermediate	Best in hot to moderate climates	Do not tolerate close confinement; can be aggressive at times; noisy; need lots of exercise to maintain muscle tone
	<b>Nankin</b>	England	Critical	Eggs, Broody hens	24 oz./ 22 oz. (bantam breed)	Creamy white	Small	Fair; 90-100	Docile	Setters	Novice/Intermediate	Best in hot to moderate climates, rose comb variety better for cold	Eggs tend to be round in shape so they can be a challenge to hatch; eggs typically hatch better under a broody hen than in an incubator; hens are excellent brooders; rose comb variety better for cold
	<b>New Hampshire</b>	United States	Watch	Eggs, Meat	8.5/6.5	Brown	Extra Large	Fair	Docile	Variable	Novice	Does well in hot and cold	Has a rapid rate of growth, produces fine table fowl; combs can be prone to frostbite
	<b>Old English Game</b>	England	Watch	Show	5/4	White to tinted light brown	Small	Fair; 120+/-	Active	Setters	Intermediate/Advanced	Best in hot to moderate climates	Can be capable of long flight; can revert to feral state; can be aggressive; can be distracted mothers
	<b>Orpington</b>	England	Recovering	Meat, Eggs	10/8	Brown	Large to Extra Large	Very Good; 175-200	Docile, with friendly disposition	Setters	Novice	Best in cooler climates due to large body size, but can acclimate to warmer regions	Excellent rate of growth in some lines; produce fine table birds

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	<b>Phoenix</b>	Germany	Threatened	Exhibition, Feathers	5.5/4	White to tinted brown	Small	Poor	Docile	Setters	Novice/Intermediate	Best in hot to moderate climates	Highly ornamental with extraordinarily long tail; chicks need extra protein in diet when growing their tails; need lots of room to roam and clean facilities to keep tail in good condition
	<b>Plymouth Rock</b>	United States	Recovering	Eggs, Meat	9.5/7.5	Brown	Large	Very good; ~200	Docile	Setters	Novice	Does well in both hot and cold	Early feathering and rapid growth rate; good forager; combs can be prone to frostbite in extreme cold
	<b>Polish</b>	Holland	Watch	Eggs	6/4.5	White	Medium to Large	Very Good; 200+	Docile	Non-Setters	Intermediate	Can handle hot and cold, but not extremes	Has dense feather crest on head that obscures vision; flighty when disturbed; raising chicks in elevated brooders so they can see human activity better can make them more calm; vulnerable to predators
	<b>Redcap</b>	England	Critical	Eggs	7.5/6	White	Medium to Large	Very Good; 180-220	Active	Non-Setters	Novice	Best in hot to moderate climates	Huge rose comb; adult color not fully developed until the second or third year
	<b>Rhode Island Red</b>	United States	Recovering	Eggs, Meat	8.5/6.5	Brown	Large	Very good; 250+	Docile	Variable	Novice	Does well in both hot and cold climates	Once considered the finest flavored American chicken; rose comb variety a better choice for cold than single comb
	<b>Rhode Island White</b>	United States	Watch	Eggs, Meat	8.5/6.5	Brown	Large to Extra Large	Good	Docile	Non-Setters	Novice	Does well in both hot and cold climates	Good forager and loves to range, but not far from the coop; roosters can be housed together in winter, but will need more room at the start of breeding season

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	<b>Russian Orloff</b>	Russia	Critical	Meat	8.5/6.5	light brown	Small	Variable	Can be aggressive	Non-Setters	Intermediate/Advanced	Excellent cold tolerance; not recommended for hot climates	Very hardy breed
	<b>Sebright</b>	England	Watch	Eggs, Show	22 oz./20 oz. (bantam breed)	White or creamy	Very Small	Poor	Docile	Non-Setters	Novice/Intermediate	Can handle hot and cold but not extremes	Primarily an exhibition fowl; great choice if you don't have a lot of room for chickens; can be delicate
	<b>Shamo</b>	Japan	Watch	Meat, Ornamental	11/7	Pale brown	Medium	Poor; 60-100	Can be aggressive to other birds, but friendly to people	Setters	Intermediate/Advanced	Best in hot to moderate climates	Meat is known to be firm and almost tough; meat often used in Sumo wrestlers' diet
	<b>Spanish</b>	Spain	Critical	Eggs	8/6.5	Chalk-White	Large	Good	Active	Non-Setters	Novice	Best in hot to moderate climates	Known as the clown-faced chicken due to the big white face patches of the roosters; noisy; chicks can be flighty, but adults tend to be more calm and curious
	<b>Sultan</b>	Turkey	Critical	Ornamental	6/4	White	Small	Good; 150-200	Active	Variable	Novice/Intermediate	Best in hot to moderate climates	Can be less damaging to vegetation than other breeds; chicks can be delicate; has large breast and fine meat
	<b>Sumatra</b>	Sumatra, Java, Borneo	Critical	Ornamental	5/4	White to tinted	small	Fair	Active	Setters	Novice/Intermediate	Best in hot to moderate climates	Lustrous plumage; flighty and jumpy; good at evading predators



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	<b>Sussex</b>	England	Recovering	Meat, Eggs	9/7	Tan to Brown	Large	Very good; ~200, if hens are not overly fat	Docile, curious	Setters	Novice	Good in hot and cold	Good all around table bird; birds fatten easily; good ranger; combs can be prone to frostbite
	<b>Wyandotte</b>	United States	Recovering	Eggs, Meat	8.5/6.5	Brown	Large	Very Good; 180-200	Docile	Variable	Novice	Excellent for cold, but can do well in hot	Great dual purpose bird for homesteads
	<b>Yokohama</b>	Germany	Critical	Show, Ornamental	4.5/3.5	Tinted light brown	Small	Poor; 80	Active	Variable	Novice/Intermediate	Best in hot to moderate climates	Exhibition fowl; chicks need extra protein when growing their long tail feathers; needs lots of room to roam; known to go broody after laying only 12-14 eggs