

Latta Plantation:

A living look at
rare breeds



An early 19th century living history farm

Latta Plantation was a
successful cotton
plantation supporting
planters, yeoman
farmers, and slaves of
the North
Carolina backcountry.
Animals played a key role
in the farm operation.

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Animals worked the farm.



At Latta Plantation,
you can see
today the breeds
of animals used
200 years ago.

Mules were used for
plowing, hauling
and other farm
work.

Animals had jobs to do.



The animals were very important to the survival and prospering of small and large farms. Each one had a job to do.

This Ossabaw Hog can eat scraps, root up the garden after harvest (turning the soil), and provide meat (pork), lard, hide and hair.

The animals fit on the farm.



Guinea hogs came to America from Africa during the slave trade. Common homestead animals, they roamed free eating roots, nuts (mast), bugs, snakes and small rodents. Today, farmers want larger pigs.

Some had several jobs.

Cotswold sheep were introduced to the United States from England in 1832. Sheep trimmed lawns; provided wool for clothing and blankets; and were harvested for fat (used in cooking and soap), meat, rugs, and hide for fine, soft leather.



Cotswolds are one of the oldest breeds of sheep in the world.

Many were highly adaptive,
with good survival traits, such as intelligence.



The Pilgrims brought Devon cattle to New England in 1623. Very adaptable to a variety of conditions, they are a small, smart, hardy, multipurpose breed.

Animals were suited to the land, local climate and needs of the people.



Cattle were mostly dual or triple purpose in the 1800s. One type of breed, such as the Devon, would provide the meat, milk and draft work for the family. Multipurpose breeds produce less milk than the popular dairy cow today, and they grow slower and smaller than the popular shorthorn beef cattle today.

Farmers relied on survival traits.

Considered America's oldest breed of chicken, Dominique chickens have good mothering abilities and camouflage well.

The Dominique chicken developed in the United States from fowl introduced during the settlement of New England.

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Domestic poultry came to the United States with Christopher Columbus.

Rare breeds
come from
areas all
over the
world.

They came
to the
United States
at different
times for
different
purposes.



Farmers chose breeds, or developed them, based on specific traits.

Some sought breeds from similar climates; others developed new breeds. In general, farmers chose breeds based on their products and survival skills. Each breed had a value.

Each breed has a story.



Highland Cattle calf.

Visit a farm near you with heritage breeds.



Learn the local story of the land you share.