

**The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy's
Guide to Rare Breeds of Chickens**

Breed	ALBC Conservation Priority Ranking	APA Class	Use	Egg Shell Color	Egg Size	Rate of Lay	Broodiness	Skin Color	Standard Market Weight	Rate of Growth	Early Maturity	Temperament	Special Characteristics	Special Markets
Ameraucana	Not Listed	All Other Standard Breed	Meat, Eggs	Green, Blue	Large	good, ~200	occasionally broody	White to Yellow	4.5 - 5.5 lbs	Medium: 16-20 Weeks		Calm to Gentle	Blue tinted egg Color, productive laying breed	colored eggs
Ancona	Watch	English	Eggs	White	Medium to Large	120-180	Non-Setters	Yellow	4 - 5 lbs		Yes	Very Active	Noted for Hardiness and Vigor	early maturing egg layer
Araucana	Study	All Other Standard Breed	Eggs	Blue	Medium to Large	good, ~200	setters	White to Yellow	3.5 - 4 lbs		relatively yes	Calm, non-aggressive	Blue egg color	colored eggs
Aseel	Watch	All Other Standard Breed	Meat	White or tinted light brown	Small	Poor, 6-40	Setters	Yellow	4 - 5.5 lbs			Highly aggressive		
Australorp	Recovering	English	Eggs, Meat	Brown	Large	Excellent, 250-250	setters	White	5.5 - 7.5 lbs	Medium: 16-20 Weeks	Yes	Active, yet gentle	Productive and Fast Growing	good for both meat and egg production
Barnvelder	Not Listed	Continental	Eggs, Meat	Deep Terra Cotta	Medium to Large	150 to 200	Rarely go broody	Yellow	5 - 6 lbs	Medium-Slow: 20-24 Weeks		Docile, yet Active	Egg Color	colored eggs
Blue Andalusian	Threatened	Mediterranean	Eggs	Chalk-White	Large	Very Good, ~160	Non-Setters	White	4.5 - 6 lbs	Good	yes	Active, yet gentle	very rugged and robust, excel in free-range conditions, typically not good in confinement	
Brahma	Watch	Asiatic	Meat, Eggs	Brown	Medium to Large	140+/-	Setters	Yellow	8-10 lbs	Slow		Calm, docile	one of the largest breeds, good layers of winter eggs, good in cold climates	Large roasting fowl, capon, or early broiler
Buckeye	Threatened	American	Meat, Eggs	Brown	Large	120-150	Variable	Yellow	5.5 - 8 lbs	Medium: 16-20 Weeks		Active, yet gentle	Winter Hardy, Extra Meaty	RAFT, Slow Food Ark of Taste

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Buttercup	Threatened	English	Eggs	White	Small to Medium	Good, 140-180	Non-Setters	Yellow	4 - 5.5 lbs	Good	yes	Active, flighty	Good forager and does well on free range in warm climates	Unique appearance with interesting comb
Campine	Critical	Continental	Eggs	White	Medium to Large	Good, 150+	Non-Setters	White	3.5 - 5 lbs		Yes	Very Active	Vigorous Forager	
Catalana	Watch	English	Eggs, Meat	White to Tinted	Medium	Good, 150+	Hens rarely go broody	White	5 - 6.5 lbs	Good	yes	Active	Good foraging ability, hardiness especially in extreme heat conditions	very popular in South America
Chantecler	Critical	American	Eggs, Meat	Brown	Large	120-180	variable	Yellow	5.5 - 7.5 lbs	Medium: 16-20 Weeks		Gentle	Winter Hardy, Can be Eaten at Any Age, Winter Layer	RAFT
Cochin	Watch	Asiatic	Meat, Ornamental	Brown	Large	up to 140/yr	Excellent setters	Yellow	7 - 9 lbs	Slow to mature		Friendly, docile	One of the best broody breeds, especially for turkey and ducks, good in cold climates	Excellent capon at 12 months of age
Cornish	Watch	English	Meat	Tinted	Medium to Large	poor, 50-80	Non-Setters	Yellow	6.5 - 8.5 lbs	Slow: 24+ Weeks		Calm	Cornish Hen, Superb Table Qualities	Famous for Flavor
Crevecour	Critical	Continental	Meat, Eggs	White	Medium to Large	Good, ~150	Non-Setters	White	5.5 - 7 lbs	Medium-Slow: 20-24 Weeks		active		A French Favorite with a unique horn like comb
Cubalaya	Threatened	All Other Standard Breed	Eggs, Meat	White	Small	125-175	Setters	White	3-4.5 lbs			Can be aggressive to other birds, noisy, mild-mannered compared to other game birds	tolerant of high heat and humidity	stunning birds for backyard flocks

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Delaware	Critical	American	Eggs, Meat	Brown	Large to Jumbo	Very Good 150-200	Setters	Yellow	5.5 - 7.5 lbs	Fast: 12-16 Weeks	Yes	Gentle	Fast Growth, Can be Eaten at Any Age	RAFT, Slow Food Ark of Taste
Dominique	Watch	American	Eggs, Meat	Brown	Medium to Large	230-275	Variable	Yellow	4 - 6 lbs	Medium: 16-20 Weeks		Likes to Range, calm and genial	Good Forager	RAFT, Slow Food Ark of Taste
Dorking	Threatened	English	Eggs, Meat	White	Medium to Large	Good, ~150	Setters	White	6 - 8 lbs	Medium-Slow: 20-24 Weeks		Likes to Range	Winter Layers, Good Forager	Famous for Flavor
Egyptian Fayoumis	Not Listed	African	Eggs	Tinted	small	Excellent, 200+	Setters when mature	White	2-3 lbs	Fast: 12-16 Weeks	yes	very active and vocal	Excellent Forager, disease resistant	Extremely hardy, excellent in hot climates
Faverolle	Threatened	Continental	Meat, Eggs	Tinted to Light Brown	Medium to Large	Excellent, 180-200	May go broody	White	5.5 - 7 lbs	Medium: 16-20 Weeks	yes	Active, yet gentle	Very Productive when in contact with the ground	Dish - Petite Poussin (Small Breast)
Hamburg	Watch	Continental	Eggs	White	Medium	Excellent, 200-225	Non-Setters	White	3.5 - 4 lbs			Very Active	Flighty, Roosts in Trees	Good at avoiding predators, cold hardy
Holland	Critical	American	Eggs, Meat	White	Large	Good	Setters	Yellow	5.5 - 7.5 lbs	Medium: 16-20 Weeks		Likes to Range, Calm,	Good Forager	Cold hardy, RAFT
Houdans	Watch	Continental	Meat, Eggs	White	Small to Medium	Fair	Setters, but tend to break eggs	White	5.5 - 7 lbs	Medium-Slow: 20-24 Weeks		Calm, exceptionally gentle disposition	beatiful addition for small flock owners	A French Favorite
Java	Threatened	American	Meat, Some Eggs	Brown	Large	Good, 150+	Setters	Yellow	6.5 - 8 lbs	Medium-Slow: 20-24 Weeks		Likes to Range, hardy, Calm	Excellent Forager	RAFT, in 1800s Considered Finest Table Fowl
Jersey Giant	Watch	American	Meat, Eggs	Brown	Extra Large	175-185		Yellow	8 - 11 lbs	Medium: 16-20 Weeks		Calm	Large Size	RAFT, Slow Food Ark of Taste
La Fleche	Watch	Continental	Meat, Eggs	White	Medium to Large		Rarely go broody	White	5.5 - 7 lbs	Slow: 24+ Weeks		Active	Good Forager, Large Breast for Size	A French Favorite

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Lakenvelder	Threatened	Continental	Eggs	White to Tinted	Medium	150-200	Non-Setters	White	3.5 - 4 lbs		yes	Active	Good foragers, can be flighty	
Lamona	Study	American	Eggs, Meat	White	Medium to Large	200+	Non-Setters	yellow	5.5 - 7 lbs	Fast - Medium				
Langshan	Threatened	Asiatic	Eggs, Meat	Very Dark Brown	Large	Good, historically up to 200	Setters	Yellow	6.5 - 8 lbs	Slow: 24+ Weeks		Very Calm	produces large amount of very white meat	does well on well drained land
Leghorn	Recovering	Mediterranean	Eggs	White	Medium to Large	250-300 +/-	Non-Setters	Yellow	4 - 5 lbs	Medium	Yes	Very Active	Noted for Hardiness and Vigor, Excellent Layer	
Malay	Threatened	All Other Standard Breed	Meat	Brown	Medium	Lay infrequently	Setters	Yellow	5 - 7 lbs	Slow to mature		Active	tallest of all chickens,	very heat tolerant
Manx Rumpy or Persian Rumpless	Study	Iran	Eggs, Meat	Tinted to Brown	Medium	Good	Hens will go broody, but fertility in breed tends to be low	White	4-4.5 lbs	Medium		Active	Exceptional free-range bird with little supplement needed.	
Maran	Not Listed	France	Eggs, Meat	Deep Terra Cotta	Large	150 to 200	Hens occasionally go broody	white	7-8.5 lbs	Medium: 16-20 Weeks		Active, yet adapt well to confinement	Egg Color, Good Meat Qualities in Some Lines	
Minorca	Watch	Mediterranean	Eggs	Chalk-White	Very Large	Excellent	Hens seldom go broody	White	6.5 - 7.5 lbs	Medium-Slow: 20-24 Weeks		Very Active, Likes to range	Great Foragers, Large Frame	
Modern Game	Critical	All Other Standard Breed	Show	White to tinted light brown	Small	100+/-	Setters	yellow	4 - 5 lbs	Slow to mature		Active, noisy, curious	don't tolerate close confinement, can be aggressive at times, not very winter hardy	
Nankin	Critical	English	eggs, broody hens	Creamy white	Small	90-100	Setters	white	22-24 oz.	medium		Calm	Exceptionally good setters	
New Hampshire	Watch	American	Eggs, Meat	Brown	Extra Large	Fair	Variable	Yellow	5.5 - 7.5 lbs	Fast: 12-16 Weeks	Yes	Calm	Rate of Growth, Early Feathering	RAFT, Slow Food Ark of Taste

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Old English Game	Watch	All Other Standard Breed	Show	White to tinted light brown	Small	120+/-	Setters	White	3.5 - 4 lbs	Medium		Extremely active, flighty		
Orpington	Recovering	English	Meat, Eggs	Brown	Large to Extra Large	Very good 175-200	Setters	White	7 - 8.5 lbs	Medium-Slow: 20-24 Weeks		Calm, friendly disposition	Excellent Rate of Growth in Some Lines	
Penedesencas	Not Listed	Spanish	Eggs, Meat	Deep Dark Brown	Medium	160+/-	Setters		4.5-5.5 lbs	Medium-Slow: 20-24 Weeks			Egg Color, Fair Meat Qualities	
Phoenix	Threatened	All Other Standard Breed	exhibition, feathers	White to tinted brown	Small	Poor	Setters	Yellow	3.5 - 4.5 lbs			docile	highly ornamental with extraordinarily long tail	ornamental feathers
Plymouth Rock	Recovering	American	Eggs, Meat	Brown	Large	Very good, ~200	Setters	Yellow	6 - 8 lbs	Fast: 12-16 Weeks		Calm	Meat Qualities, Early Feathering, Cold-Hardy	RAFT, Slow Food Ark of Taste
Polish	Watch	Continental	Eggs	White	Medium to Large	200+	Non-Setters	White	4 - 5 lbs		Yes	Calm, but Flighty when Disturbed		
Redcap	Critical	English	Eggs	white	Medium to Large	180-220	Non-Setters	white	6-7.5 lbs		yes	Active, alert	huge rose comb	great egg layers for warm climates
Rhode Island Red	Recovering	American	Eggs, Meat	Brown	Large	Very good, 250+	Rarely go broody, but those that do are great moms	Yellow	5.5 - 7.5 lbs	Medium: 16-20 Weeks		Calm, but Likes to Range	Flavor - Once Considered Finest Flavored	RAFT, Slow Food Ark of Taste
Rhode Island White	Watch	American	Eggs, Meat	Brown	Large to Extra Large	Good	Rarely go broody	Yellow	5.5 - 7.5 lbs	Medium: 16-20 Weeks		Calm, but Likes to Range	Used in Producing Hybrids	RAFT
Russian Orloff	Critical	All Other Standard Breed	meat	light brown	small	variable	Non-Setters	Yellow	6.5-8.5 lbs			calm but not docile	very hardy breed	cold tolerant
Sebright	Watch	English	eggs, show	White or creamy	Tiny	Poor	Non-Setters	White	18 - 20 oz			calm and docile		excellent backyard or exhibition breed

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Shamo	Watch	All Other Standard Breed	Meat, Ornamental	Pale brown	medium	Poor, 60-100	Setters	Yellow	6 - 9 lbs			Can be aggressive		aggressive to birds but can make great pets
Spanish	Critical	Mediterranean	Eggs	Chalk-White	Large	Good	Non-Setters	White	5.5 - 6.5 lbs	Good		Active, noisy, curious	Good Layer	
Sultan	Critical	Istanbul	Ornamental	White	Small	Good 150-200	Variable	White	3.5 - 5 lbs	Slow		Active		Great urban chicken that does little damage to grass or plantings
Sumatra	Critical	All Other Standard Breed	Ornamental	White to tinted	Tiny	Fair	Setters	Yellow	3.5 - 4 lbs			Flighty and jumpy	lustrous plumage	
Sussex	Recovering	English	Meat, Eggs	Tan to Brown	Large	Very good, ~200	Setters	White	6 - 7.5 lbs	Medium: 16-20 Weeks		Calm and curious	Good All Around Table Bird	Famous for Flavor
Welsumer	Not Listed	Continental	Eggs, Meat	Deep Terra Cotta	Medium to Large	up to 200	Non-Setters	Yellow	5 - 6 lbs	Medium-Slow: 20-24 Weeks		Calm, Likes to Range	Egg Color, Good Foragers	
Wyandotte	Recovering	American	Eggs, Meat	Brown	Large	Very Good 180-200	Variable	Yellow	5.5 - 7.5 lbs	Medium: 16-20 Weeks		Calm	Good Cross with Plymouth Rock, extremely cold-hardy	RAFT, Slow Food Ark of Taste
Yokohama	Critical	All Other Standard Breed	Ornamental	Tinted light brown	Small	80, known to go broody after laying only 12-14 eggs	Variable	Yellow	3.5-4.5 lbs	Slow to mature		active and alert	long tail feathers	Tail of roosters can grow 3 feet/year