

Poultry Production with Heritage Breeds

By Jeannette Beranger
Research & Technical Programs Manager




The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy

Traditional Farming



The Emergence of Industrial Agriculture




Benefits of Intense Breeding Selection

<p><u>Animals</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid growth and high production rate • Early maturity to market weight 	<p><u>Farmers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of large quantities of food for growing global populations • Larger profits in a shorter period of time
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Disadvantages of Intense Selection

<p><u>For Animals</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease of genetic diversity • Decrease of natural resistance to health problems • Fertility decline & shorter productive lifespan • Loss of ability to thrive in challenging environments 	<p><u>For Farmers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veterinary costs are higher • Increased time, materials and labor needed for livestock care • Added expense for replacement stock
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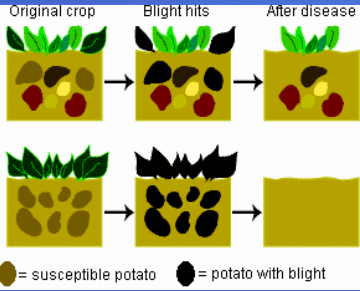
Lessons of the Past



Genetic Diversity and The Irish Potato Famine



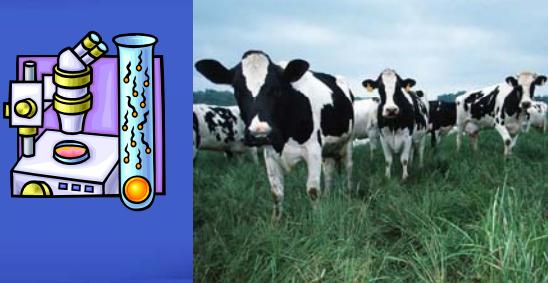
The Advantage of Genetic Diversity




Lessons learned for other species?



Troubles for Holstein Cattle



Parasite Resistance and the Australian Sheep Industry



Paying The Price for Industrial Chicken



Cornish/Rock Cross





The Industrial Turkey



Incorporating Historic Breeds on Today's Farms



What Worked in the Past?



Utilizing Poultry for Beyond the Obvious



Security Guard



Pest Control



Weeding



Meat or eggs



Grass cutting

Start Slowly and Make Sure the Breed is a Good Fit for Your Farm



What Are Your Production Needs?

- Eggs?
- Meat?
- Dual Purpose?
- Natural or Artificial Incubation?
- On or Off Pasture?



What Kind of System Will the Animals Be Raised With?



Cotton Patch

Does Keeping Heritage Breeds Make Economic Sense?



Heritage turkeys

vs.



Broad Breasted White turkeys

COMPARISON OF ECONOMIC ASPECTS BETWEEN STANDARD AND BBW TURKEY PRODUCTION ON RANGE		
	STANDARD	BBW
Production Cost/Lb. of Processed Final Product	\$2/lb and up	\$1/lb
Cost/Poult	\$7	\$1
Feed Costs	Higher unit feed costs Possibly lower total feed consumption due to foraging	Lower unit feed costs
Labor	Labor about 30 minutes/day—water, feed, moving shelters and moving birds to new pastures	Labor about 30 minutes/day—water, feed, moving shelters and moving birds to new pastures
Sales Price/Lb.	\$2-\$6/lb.	\$2-\$3/lb.
Gross Income/Bird	\$47.60 for a 14-lb. bird	\$36.80 for a 16-lb. bird
Gross Income/Pound	\$3.40	\$2.30
Net Income/Bird	At least \$4.80 more per-bird	

Does the Breed Have Eye Appeal to You?



Bronze



Bourbon Red

Take Advantage of Adaptation & Marketing Potential



Java- Excellent homestead chicken and forager, adapted to heat, slow growing but can be raised on lower protein diet



Bourbon Red- disease resistant, active forager, excellent meat qualities



Cotton Patch- Landrace linked with cotton farms, adapted to avoid predators, easy keepers

Purchase Stock from a Good Resource



People are thinking about what they are eating.

WHAT IS MEATrix

Southern Foodways Alliance

GRACE

eat organic

Slow Food USA

Ark of Taste and Presidia

BIODYNAMICS
Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association

Chatham Marketplace
Your local co-op grocery

Chefs Collaborative
Partners in Local, Artisanal, and Sustainable Cuisine

eat wild
The Clearinghouse for Information about Pasture-Based Farming

The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy

PO Box 477
Pittsboro, NC 27312
919-323-5406
www.albc-usa.org