

Sources of Breeds for Egg and Meat Production on Range Conditions

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What type of bird is for your operation?

- The breed of birds that a producer selects for his flock depends upon the purpose for which they are intended.
 - Egg laying stock
 - Meat-type birds
 - Dual purpose breeds.
- Each type is genetically selected to satisfy the best attributes for which they are intended
- No single breed of bird will provide the best characteristics for all three purposes.

Choosing a Breed for Range Production

- Producers may choose to use commercial strains
 - Egg production
 - Advantages include being readily available, lightly muscled, high egg production, and feed efficient
 - Disadvantages are little post production value, needs greater feed supplementation, poor foraging, and nesting behavior
 - Meat production
 - Advantages include being readily available, heavily muscled, fast growing, and feed efficient
 - Disadvantages are weak legs, aortic ruptures, ascites, poor foraging, and poor heat tolerance

Choosing a Breed for Range Production

- Producers may choose to use heritage strains are typically dual purpose
 - Egg production
 - Advantages include being good foraging, inherent nesting behavior, tolerant of poor management, and more local availability
 - Disadvantages are lower egg production, poorer feed efficiency, variability in flock uniformity requires culling, and more heavily muscled
 - Meat production
 - Advantages include being readily available, fewer leg problems, fewer growth related health problems, good foragers, and good immunity
 - Disadvantages are lighter muscling, slower growing, poorer feed efficiency

Commercial Production Strains

Commercial Layer Strains

– White Egg Strains

- Bovans
- Hy-Line
- Dekalb
- Lohmann



– Brown Egg Strains

- Hy-Line
- Bovans
- Hisex
- Dekalb



Commercial Meat Strains

- Arbor Acres
- Ross
- Cobb-Vantress
- Peterson
- Hubbard
- Hybro
- Turkey
- Hy-Bred

Egg/Meat Production

- Heritage Strains
 - White Egg Breeds
 - Leghorn
 - Minorca
 - Brown Egg Breeds (Dual Purpose)
 - Plymouth Rock
 - Rhode Island Red
 - New Hampshire Red
 - Buckeye
 - Meat Breeds
 - Cornish
- American Livestock Breed Conservancy
 - Information on heirloom breeds
 - Sources



Selection for the traits wanted

- Egg production and muscle development are two of the most highly heritable traits in chickens
- However, selection for one trait will negatively influence the other

Meat Production

<p><u>Importance of Access</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hatchery customer service • Hatchery location • Delivery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Time - Personnel - Parcel post 	<p><u>Other Factors</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Females <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No Male Aggression - Tranquil flock • All Males <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Larger birds in same time period - Uniformity • Customer preference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cornish Game Hen - Roaster
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Meat Production

<p><u>Beyond Cornish Crosses</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silver Cross (5 lb-9wk) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Noll's Poultry Farm • Cebe Red or Black (5 lb-9-10 wk) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cebe Farms • Other lines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shady Lane Poultry Farm, Inc. 	<p><u>Other Stocks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Label Rouge (Canadian Source) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Selected for free range environment and flavor - Low mortality - 5 lb in ~12 wks • FR Broilers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - S & G Poultry • Redbro <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hubbard-ISA Shaver
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Meat Production (Turkey)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Whites • Beltsville Small White 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad Breasted Bronze
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Sources

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideal Hatchery • Strombergs • Morris • Murray-McMurray 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check for Local Growers which hatch own replacements • ALBC • USDA-APHIS publication of participants in the NPIP Program
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Reference

- Fanatico, A. and H. Born, 2005. Poultry Genetics for Pastured Production. National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service (ATTRA) www.attra.ncat.org
- http://msucares.com/poultry/management/poultry_best_breed.html
- <http://www.poultryhelp.com/link-breeds.html>