

## Breeds to Choose for Egg and Meat Production on Range Conditions

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## What are you going to hear today

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- What you will not hear!
  - What is the ideal breed for eggs
  - What is the ideal meat breed
  - Commercial lines are the only way to go
  - Heritage breeds are where it is at
- What will you hear!
  - Decide what fits your operation
  - What product do you want to market
  - What your customers want and are willing to pay for

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## What type of chicken is for your operation?

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- The breed of chickens that a producer selects for his flock depends upon the purpose for which the chickens 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.

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## 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

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## 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

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## Which Pathway will you choose?

- Egg production concentration
  - Higher egg production
  - Meat production is minimal
    - Male birds
    - Old fowl
- Meat production concentration
  - Processed chicken
  - Virtually no egg production
- Dual Purpose production
  - Combination of both meat and egg production

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## 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



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## 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

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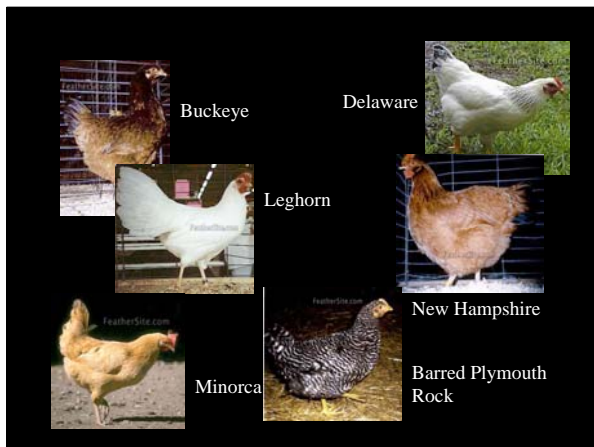
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## Selection for the traits wanted

- 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

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## Meat Production

### Importance of Access

- Hatchery customer service
- Hatchery location
- Delivery
  - Time
  - Personnel
  - Parcel post

### Other Factors

- All Females
  - No Male Aggression
  - Tranquil flock
- All Males
  - Larger birds in same time period
  - Uniformity
- Customer preference
  - Cornish Game Hen
  - Roaster

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## Meat Production

### Beyond Cornish Crosses

- **Silver Cross** (5 lb-9wk)
  - Noll's Poultry Farm
- **Cebe Red or Black** (5 lb-9-10 wk)
  - Cebe Farms
- **Other lines**
  - Shady Lane Poultry Farm, Inc.

### Other Stocks

- **Label Rouge** (Canadian Source)
  - Selected for free range environment and flavor
  - Low mortality
  - 5 lb in ~12 wks
- **FR Broilers**
  - S & G Poultry
- **Redbro**
  - Hubbard-ISA Shaver

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## Reference

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- <http://www.poultryhelp.com/link-breeds.html>

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