

# The Different Types of Chickens

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## Background:

- Over 400 Breeds
- County Fairs use the APA's American Standard of Perfection
- Goal is to have a chicken that is most closely related to the APA definition for that breeds
- Here are some ways they are classified...



# Classes

## 1. Large, regular or standard-sized chickens

- American, Asiatic, English, Mediterranean, Continental, and All Other Breeds
- Based off of breed origin

## 2. Bantam: Smaller Chickens

- Modern Game, Old English Game, Single Comb Clean Legged (SCCL), Rose Comb Clean Legged (RCCL), All other Combs Clean Legged (AOCCL), and Feather Legged
- Based on their physical characteristics
- After they are classified by variety



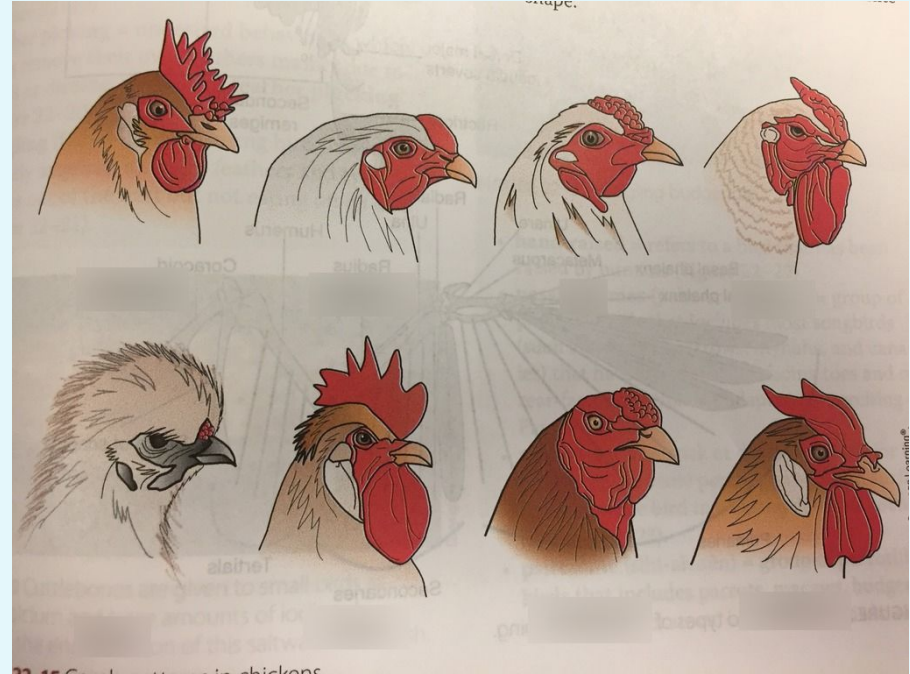
# Color

- Chickens can come in many different colors
  - White-all white feathers
  - Black-all black feathers
  - Buff-all yellow/golden feathers
  - Silver, red, Columbian (white body with black neck and tail feathers), Barred (black with white striped feathers)
- Look at the Standard to know if it has good coloring and can be shown
- Male and female chickens have different coloring



# Comb type

- Comb: Fleshy red part on a chicken's head
- Helps regulate temperature and indicate health and age
- Comb has to match what the standard calls for (place last/disqualified if not)
- Comb can help tell apart breeds
  - Cushion: rounded, small
  - Pea: 3 rows of small bumps
  - Single: Most common, straight row of spikes
  - Strawberry, Rose, Walnut, V-comb, Buttercup

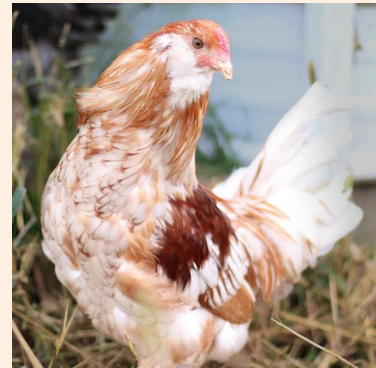


# Egg Production vs Market vs Ornamental

Temperament: Each breed has a different look and personality

Egg production: breed or conformation doesn't matter

- Each Breed has a specific purpose
- Egg Production
  - High amounts of egg, light weight or leaner
- Market
  - Quick Growth, heavier, thicker legs, less active
- Ornamental
  - Bred for appearance, fluffy feathers, distinct combs, less eggs, extra care
- Some Examples...



# Silkie

- Class: Feather Legged Bantam
- Purpose: Exhibition/Ornamental
- Temperament: Docile and Broody
- Varieties: White, black, blue, buff, gray, etc.
- Comb: Walnut
- Egg Color: Cream
- Fluffy, struggle in cold wet weather, raise other forms of poultry



# Orpington

- Class: English
- Purpose: Eggs, Meat
- Temperament: Docile, often broody
- Varieties: Buff, Black, White, Blue
- Comb: Single
- Egg Color: Brown
- Fluffy, sweet and heavier birds
- Plumage should be smooth and full
- Make good mothers and are productive



# Ameraucana

- Class: AOSB
- Purpose: Eggs, Meat
- Temperament: Docile
- Varieties: Black, Blue, Blue Wheaten, Brown Red, Buff, Silver, Wheaten, White
- Comb: Pea
- Egg Color: Blue
- One of the most popular breeds
- Hardi



# When Choosing your Chicken?

1. Why do I want a chicken?
  - Egg production? Meat? Just for fun?
2. What do I want to do with these chickens
  - Do I want to sell, keep and/or show them?
3. Where do I live?
  - Do I have space for chickens and what is the weather like?



# My Chickens and Why?

- Rhode Island red
- Buff Orpington
- Ameraucana
- Egg Production and Just for fun
- I am going to keep them and keep the eggs after showing them
- I keep them at my friends house because my HOA won't allow them



# Questions?



## Resources:

4H- “Poultry Resource Handbook”