

Many small farm owners like to keep poultry on a relatively small scale. Basically, poultry is classified as either Purebred or Commercial.

Both have their places on the farm, at shows, and fairs. Unfortunately, many producers don't understand the classifications of poultry breeds. At most fairs and shows, poultry are shown by breeds and varieties as listed in the American Poultry Association and/or the American Bantam Association's Standard of Perfection. This book lists all of the breeds and varieties of "Purebred" poultry.

The following information will help new and experienced poultry growers identify their birds and properly register them for fairs. The actual descriptions of these breeds can be found in the Standard of Perfection. A copy of each Standard is available at Delaware State University's Cooperative Extension Small Farms Office.

Definitions:

Breed

An established group of fowl classified together because of similar shape, type, conformation, and weight (e.g. Leghorns, Rosecombs, etc.).

Variety

A subdivision of a breed by color and or comb type (e.g. Silver, Black, Single comb, Rose comb, Bearded, Non-bearded, etc.)

Sex

Cock is a male over one year in age.

Hen is a female over one year of age.

Cockerel is a male under one year in age.

Pullet is a female under one year of age.

At some fairs, January 1st is the date that indicates a bird's age. Birds hatched before January 1st are a cock or hen. Birds hatched after January 1st are cockerels and pullets. Other fairs consider birds over 1 year of age to be cocks and hens and those less than 1 year of age cockerels and pullets. The premium list will usually state which method is to be used. At most shows and fairs, all classes are broken down into cocks, hens, cockerels and pullets. Sometimes they are listed as male and female, except for production classes like broilers, roasters and capons.



White Wyandote

PRODUCTION CLASSES

Layers and meat types

Broilers are usually shown in groups or pens of 2, 4, or 6. All birds should be identical in size, weight, body type and condition. Classes are broken down by weight. Generally speaking, broilers are less than 5.5 pounds. Roasters are usually more than 6 pounds and they are shown one to a pen or in pairs. Capons (castrated males) are occasionally seen at some fairs. They should be more than 8 pounds in weight and are shown one to a pen or in pairs.

Production Turkeys are shown individually and are judged on meat qualities. Only males are shown in production classes.

Layers are classified as white or brown egg layers. They are shown as hens or pullets and sometimes as heavy weight (hens) or light weight (pullets). At some fairs the males of these production types are

also shown. Layers are shown individually or in pens of six. All layers should be in production when they are shown because they are judged on their production qualities and not by any particular breed type.

Exhibition large fowl can be placed in one of six different classes or categories that include American, Asiatic, Continental, English, Mediterranean, and Any Other Standard Breed class. There are 13 American breeds originated in the United States and Canada. The Asiatic class is from Asia, and was used to develop several other breeds both here and abroad. All three breeds in the Asiatic class are large, heavy birds with feathers on their legs. The Continental class of chickens come mainly from Holland, France and Germany. Most of these breeds lay white eggs. There are six breeds in the English class, which originated in England. The English breeds were also used to make several other breeds. The Mediterranean classes are from the area around the Mediterranean Sea and are mostly used for egg production. The last class is the Any Other Standard Breed class. It consists of game birds and the oddities of the poultry world.

In this publication, we have compiled a list of breeds, and in parentheses, the number of associated varieties. There are several other breeds and varieties that are not recognized by the American Poultry Association. If you have any questions about a particular breed, contact DSU Cooperative Extension Small Farms Program at 302-857-6438 or 302-857-6425.



Black Orpington

Large Fowl Classes Breeds, & Varieties

1. American

- Plymouth Rock (8)
- Wyandotte (9)
- Dominique (1)
- Java (2)
- Rhode Island Red (2)
- Rhode Island White (2)
- Buckeye (1)
- Chantecler (2)
- Jersey Giant (2)
- Lamona (1)
- New Hampshire (1)
- Holland (2)
- Delaware (1)

2. Asiatic

- Brahma (3)
- Cochin (10)
- Langshan (3)

3. Continentals

- Barnvelder (1)
- Hamburg (6)
- Campine (2)
- Lakenvelder (2)
- Polish (12)
- Houdans (2)
- Crevecoeur (1)
- La Fleche (1)
- Faverolle (2)
- Welsummer (1)

4. English

- Dorking (4)
- Redcap (1)
- Cornish (4)
- Orpington (4)
- Sussex (3)
- Australorp (1)

5. Mediterranean

- Leghorn (20)
- Minorca (5)
- Spanish (1)
- Blue Andalusian (1)
- Ancona (1)
- Buttercup (1)
- Catalina (1)
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6. Any Other Standard Breed

- Modern Game (9)
- Old English Game (15)
- Sumatra (2)
- Ameraucana (8)
- Malays (6)
- Araucana (5)
- Cubalaya (3)
- Frizzle (2)
- Phoenix (2)
- Naked Neck (4)
- Yokohama (2)
- Asells (5)
- Shamo (4)
- Sultan (1)
- American pit game (15)

Bantam Classes, Breeds & Varieties

Almost all of the Bantams are miniatures of their Large Fowl cousins. Sebrights, Silkies, D'Uccles and Booted bantams are the only bantams that don't have a large fowl cousin. Bantams are about 1/5 to 1/4 of the size of large fowl. They are very popular since they require less room and feed than large fowl. Some are good for production purposes but they are mainly used as pets and for show.

There are six classes of bantams, seven if you count Bantam Ducks.

1. Single Comb Clean Legged

- Ancona (1)
- Andalusian (1)
- Australorp (1)
- Campine (2)
- Catalana (1)
- Delaware (1)
- Dorking (6)

- Frizzle (2)
- Holland (2)
- Japanese (17)
- Java (2)
- Jersey Giant (2)
- Lakenvelder (2)
- Lamona (1)
- Leghorn (12)
- Minorca (4)
- Naked Neck (6)
- New Hampshire (1)
- Orpington (4)
- Phoenix (6)
- Plymouth Rock (8)
- Rhode Island Red (1)
- Spanish (2)
- Sussex (3)
- Dutch (8)

2. Rose Comb Clean legged

- Ancona (1)
- Antwerp Belgian (14)
- Dominique (1)
- Dorking (4)
- Hamburg (6)
- Leghorn (12)
- Minorca (3)
- Redcap (2)
- Rhode Island Red (1)
- Rhode Island White (1)
- Rosecomb (26)
- Sebright (3)
- Wyandotte (18)



Black Rock Bantam

3. Any Other Comb Clean Legged

- Ameraucana (8)
- Araucana (6)
- Chantecler (2)
- Cornish (12)
- Crevecoeur (1)
- Cubalaya (3)
- Houdan (2)
- La Fleche (1)
- Malay (6)
- Polish (14)
- Shamo (8)
- Buttercup (1)
- Sumatra (4)
- Yokohama (5)

4. Feather Legged

- Booted (10)
- Brahma (5)
- Cochin (17)
- Faverolle (5)
- Frizzle (1)
- Langshan (3)
- Silkie (14)
- Sultan (3)

5. Old English (57)

6. Modern Game (18)

Duck Classes

1. Bantam

- Call (15)
- East India (1)
- Mallard (3)
- Mandarin (3)
- Wood (3)

2. Light Weight

- Runner (8)
- Campbell (1)
- Magpie (2)

3. Medium Weight

- Cayuga (1)
- Crested (2)
- Swedish (2)
- Buff (1)
- Savory (1)
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Mallard

4. Heavy Weight

- Pekin (1)
- Aylesbury (1)
- Rouen (1)
- Muscovy (6)
- Appleyard (1)

Goose Classes

1. Light Weight

- China (2)
- Tufted Roman (2)
- Canada (1)
- Egyptian (2)

2. Medium Weight

- Sebastopol (1)
- Pilgrim (1)
- American Buff (1)
- Saddleback Pomeranian (2)

3. Heavy Weight

- Toulouse (2)
- Emden (1)
- African (2)

Turkey Classes

- Bronze
- Marrangansett
- White Holland
- Black
- Slate
- Bourbon Red
- Beltsville Small White
- Royal Palm

Guinea Classes

- White
- Pearl
- Lavender

Notes

Large Fowl

In some fairs and shows, the Continental breeds are included in the Any Other Breed Category.

Bantams

The classes for bantams refer to the type of comb and/or leg type. Frizzles can be shown in any breed as separate variety.

Goose

Goose classes may consist of the popular breeds and other breeds put under an Any Other Breed Category. The male goose is called a younger or old Gander and the female is called a young or old Goose.

Duck

Duck classes may consist of the popular breeds and other breeds put under an Any Other Breed Category. The male duck is called a young or old Drake and the female is called a young or old Duck.

Turkey

Turkey classes are usually Bronze, White Holland and Any Other Variety in fairs.

Meat turkeys are in a separate class.

The male turkey is called a young or old Tom or Gobbler, and the female is called a young or old Hen.

For more information, contact:

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Delaware Blue Hen

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