

Standard Breed List for Williamson County Poultry Skillathon

American Breeds – (Also known as heritage breeds)

Plymouth Barred Rock



Class: American
Egg Color- Brown
Egg Production- Very Good
Broody- Sometimes

Barred Rocks are one of the oldest American heritage breeds. The hens are very docile, but the roosters can be aggressive. They are good foragers with good egg production and are great dual-purpose chickens. The roosters usually have a green tint in some of their tail feathers and can be a lighter tint all over than the hens.

Rhode Island Red



Class: American
Egg Color-Brown
Egg Production-Excellent
Broody- Sometimes

Rhode Island Reds are a very deep red colored chicken that is a great dual-purpose breed. They are calm birds and they lay very large brown eggs. The roosters have a shiny appearance to their feathers that make them very showy.

New Hampshire Red



Class: American
Egg Color- Brown
Egg Production- Very Good
Broody-Yes

New Hampshire Reds are a very fluffy, light buff-red color that have very good egg production. They normally begin laying at an earlier age than most birds. They also grow and feather quickly. They are a deep bodied, dual-purpose breed. This breed is an American Heritage classic with a great temperament and are kid friendly.

Rhode Island White



Class: American
Egg Color- Brown
Egg Production- Very Good
Broody- Sometimes

Rhode Island Whites are recognized mainly by their long backs and brick like bodies. They are the white plumed version of the standard Rhode Island Red. They are heat and cold tolerant. Rhode Island Whites are rare and are used in the production of Gold Sex Links and Amberlink crossbred chickens.

Delaware



Class: American
Egg Color-Brown
Egg Production-Very Good
Broody- Yes

Delawares are medium bodied and have a distinctive Columbian feather pattern. Delawares originated from white plumed New Hampshire Reds. This is a dual-purpose breed that has large, brown eggs and was once the primary breed used for meat. They are very heat and cold tolerant, and have a calm disposition.

Buckeye



Class: American
Egg Color- Brown
Egg Production- Good
Broody- Sometimes

Buckeyes are a hard to find breed that originated in Ohio (thus the name). They have pea combs are well known for their muscular appearance and dual-purpose qualities. The roosters and hens both have a shiny look to their plumage with the males having long slender saddle feathers. They are friendly, calm, and sociable and very cold tolerant.

Jersey Black Giant



Class: American
Egg Color- Brown
Egg Production- Good
Broody- Yes

Jersey Black Giants are named for their color, origination and because of their height and deep bodies. They have very shiny, glossy black feathers. Although they are big, they mature slower and will typically begin egg production two to five weeks later than other breeds. The hens lay a medium to large brown egg. Their dispositions make them good for kids in that they are calm and easy going. They originated around 1870, bred by John and Thomas Black in New Jersey.

Dominique



Class: American
Egg Color-Brown
Egg Production- Good
Broody- Yes

Dominiques are a rose combed variety of the Plymouth Barred Rock and are identical in plumage. The rose comb makes them very cold tolerant breed. They have a medium to large sized brown egg, and great disposition. They are calm, gentle and good for kids. A very popular breed on the American Farm landscape and traditional favorite. Males can become aggressive due to their highly protective nature. Handling males early and often will help to keep them docile, but the males can become aggressive towards kids if they perceive them to be a threat.

Silver Laced Wyandotte



Class: American
Egg Color- Brown
Egg Production- Very Good
Broody- Sometimes

Silver Laced Wyandottes have black lacing on the ends of each of their white feathers giving them a silver appearance. They have a deep and wide body. They are very docile and calm. They have a rose comb that makes them very cold hardy. The hens lay a large light brown egg and they are a good breed choice for families with kids.

Golden Laced Wyandotte



Class: American
Egg Color- Brown
Egg Production- Very Good
Broody-Sometimes
Golden Laced Wyandottes have the same breed characteristics as the Silver Laced, but they have a gold feather background laced in black. They are calm and good with kids.

Asiatic Breeds –

Buff Brahma



Class: Asiatic
Egg Color- Brown
Egg Production- Good
Broody- Yes-very
Buff Brahmas have a large rounded appearance due to their plumage. They take longer to mature than most standard breeds and have a Buff feather color with black around the neck and tips of the tail. These birds are great pets, and are very clam. They have a pea comb and are feather legged and footed.

Light Brahma



Class: Asiatic
Egg Color- Brown
Egg Production- Good
Broody- Yes-very
Light Brahmas have a large rounded appearance due to their plumage. They grow slowly and have a Columbian feather pattern of solid white with black around the neck and tips of the tail. These birds are great pets, and are very clam. They have a pea comb and are feather legged and footed.

Dark Brahma



Class: Asiatic
Egg Color- Brown
Egg Production- Good
Broody- Yes-very

Dark Brahmas have a large rounded appearance due to their plumage. They take longer to mature than most standard breeds and have a dark pencil laced feather color with black markings around the neck and tips of the tail. These birds are great pets, and are very clam. They have a pea comb and are feather legged and footed.

Cochin



Class: Asiatic
Egg Color-Brown
Egg Production- Fair
Broody-Yes

Cochins come in a variety of feather colors. There are Blue (pictured), Silver Laced, and Partridge Cochins. They are one of the largest and most docile breeds and make great pets. They have a strait single combs and feathers from their heads all the way down the length of their feet. Their loose feathers make them appear larger than they really are and they were bred for cold weather tolerance. They will go broody and while they are great pets, they are not known for great egg production making them more of an ornamental breed.

English Breeds –



Buff Orpington

Class: English
Egg Color-Brown
Egg production-Good
Broody- Yes

Buff Orpingtons are a favorite backyard chicken. They are large, quiet, and have a very clam disposition. They are loosely feathered, which makes them appear big, and puffy. They make good mothers, but are one of the most broody chicken breeds. Kids often love having these birds as pets because they are so calm and gentle.

Speckled Sussex



Class: English
Egg Color- Brown
Egg Production- Very Good
Broody-Yes

Speckled Sussex have a unique feather color pattern with a splattering of white flecks on mahogany colored feathers. No two birds are identical in their speckling patterns. These were a common breed on the American Farm landscape. They are a medium sized bird that has a quiet disposition. These hens lay a light brown, medium to large egg.

Black Australorp



Class: English
Egg Color- Brown
Egg Production- Excellent
Broody- Yes

Black Australorps are one of the hardiest breeds of chickens which makes them a great breed choice for first time poultry owners or for small flocks. They are well known for the persistent egg laying even when there is extreme weather. They have a green tinted black coat that has a glossy appearance. They are great dual-purpose birds. These birds are also very quiet and docile.

Dark Cornish



Class: English
Egg Color- Brown
Egg Production- Poor
Broody- Sometimes

Dark Cornish Chickens are good multi-purpose chickens in that they are good egg producers and good meat producers and great foragers. They are very heavily muscled, and the roosters and hens have a similar build and confirmation. These are hardy and durable birds, great foragers, but they will need a good supplemental ration for egg production. They tend to be very docile and quiet.

Mediterranean Breeds –



White Leghorn

Class: Mediterranean
Egg Color- White
Egg Production-Excellent
Broody- Seldom

White Leghorns are very active and flighty birds. They are the most efficient white egg laying breed. They are smaller bodied than most standard chickens, with mature weights of 4.5 to 5 pounds. White Leghorns are consistent producers of large to extra-large white eggs and are the most common producer of commercial eggs.



Brown Leghorn

Class: Mediterranean
Egg Color- White
Egg Production- Good
Broody- No

The Light Brown/Brown Leghorn are very active birds. They are a tinted version of the White Leghorn, but have the same egg production and egg color as the whites with a slightly calmer temperament. They are very timid birds but not as flighty as the White Leghorn which makes them a good breed choice for producers wanting a calmer prolific white egg producer.



Blue Andalusian

Class: Mediterranean
Egg Color-White
Egg Production- Good

The Blue Andalusian is an active, skittish, and talkative bird. They come in many varied colors that include black, blue, and splash.. They have large combs and wattles. They are heat tolerant and excellent for free ranging because they love being active.

Continental Breeds –



Cuckoo Maran

Class: Continental

Egg Color- Dark Brown

Egg Production- Good

Broody- Sometimes

Cuckoo Marans are similar in appearance to a Barred Rock with less distinct barring and hints of brown flecking. They have single combs and are best known for their very dark brown eggs. The Cuckoo Maran is one of the oldest varieties and are rare and hard to find. The roosters have an overall lighter tint to their feathers.



Welsummer

Class: Continental

Egg Color- Dark Reddish Brown with Speckles

Egg Production- Good

Broody-Sometimes

Welsummers are rare birds that have become very popular because of their dark and speckled egg color. Their feather pattern and color is very similar to the brown leghorn and serves to camouflage them when free ranging. They are a Dutch breed that is very docile and generally very friendly. They are layers of large, darker brown eggs with very dark brown speckles on the eggs.



Barnevelder

Class: Continental

Egg color- Dark Brown

Egg Production-Good

Broody- sometimes

Barnevelders are very rare and very uniquely marked. They have double laced golden and black plumage. They are friendly, calm, and docile so they are great for kids. These rare chickens are cold hardy, great foragers and layers of dark brown medium to large eggs. They are slow growers, and a great dual-purpose breed.

Salmon Faverolle



Class: Continental
Egg Color- Cream/light peach
Egg Production- Good
Broody- Sometimes
Faverolles originated in the village of Faverolle, located in northern France and were bred as a dual purpose breed. They are unique in that they have an extra toe (five total) on each foot. The male and female are distinctly different in their feather coloring with the males being predominately black and silver and the hens being cream colored and salmon brown. They are friendly, calm, and sociable.

All Other Breeds – (AOB)

Ameraucana



Class: AOB (All Other Breeds)
Egg Color- Green
Egg Production-Good
Broody-sometimes
The Ameraucana is a bearded breed that comes in many different feather colors. The original Ameraucana is heterozygous for feather color and is often called an “Easter Egger” Ameraucanas that breed true for feather color are called “True” Ameraucanas. They originated from a cross between American heritage breeds and a South American breed called an Araucana. They lay a tinted egg (green, blue, olive) that is unique to the breed. These birds are great for kids because they are affectionate, and gentle. They make great pets.

Cross Breeds – (Class not recognized by APA)

Gold Sex Link(AKA: Gold Star, Gold Comet)



Class: Not recognized
Egg Color- Brown
Egg Production- Superior
Broody-No
The Gold Sex Link, often referred to as a Golden Buff, Golden Star or Gold Comet, is a hybrid cross bred with hybrid vigor for high yields of consistent, large brown eggs. They are a cross between a Rhode Island Red rooster and a Rhode Island White hen. They have quiet, calm temperaments and are a popular bird for their feed efficiency and high egg yield. They are a soft buff color with varied amounts of white feathering.

Black Sex Link



Class: Not recognized
Egg Color-Brown
Egg Production-Excellent
Broody-No

Black Sex links are a cross between either a Rhode Island Red rooster or a New Hampshire Red rooster and a Barred Rock hen. They are specifically bred to obtain hybrid vigor in egg production, producing up to 100 more eggs per year than either of their parent breeds. They also have excellent livability. The Hens are predominately black and can have varied amounts of red in their cape. These are great when starting a first flock.

Production Red



Class: Not Recognized
Egg Color-Brown
Egg Production-Excellent
Broody-No

Production Reds are a hybrid cross between a Rhode Island Red and a New Hampshire Red. As their name indicates, they are very productive layers with an average egg production greater than either of their parent breeds. Eggs are brown, to reddish brown and large to extra-large in size. These are great breed to consider when strong consistent egg production is the primary goal of the flock.

Amberlink



Class: Not Recognized
Egg Color-Brown
Egg Production-Excellent
Broody-No

Amberlinks are a reverse Gold Sex Link cross between a Rhode Island White rooster and a Rhode Island Red hen. While they are not a sex link, they are specifically bred to maximize egg production. They also have excellent livability. The hens are predominately white with red highlights across their wings and saddle. With the same docile temperament as the Gold Sex Link, these are great when starting a first flock.