

The contemporary use of ornamental poultry - racial diversity and variability

Modul no. 4: Precision Livestock Farming

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Lecture content

- Classification of poultry breeds
- Characterization of ornamental breeds
- Selected breeds description

Classification of poultry breeds

- Laying breeds
- Meat breeds
- Dual-purpose breeds
- Ornamental breeds
- Eggs production
- Meat production
- Eggs and meat production
- Material benefit is not important



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Ornamental poultry

- Ornamental breeds are the result of a combination of different breeds and their special appearance, which is hereditary.

- Low productivity



- Special appearance
 - plumage, feathers
 - beard, comb, wattles,
 - feathered feet...



These traits are determined by several genes (e.g. KRT75, HOXC8)

Frizzle Chicken

- Curled or frizzled plumage
 - not all individuals - the gene for the curling of the feathers is incompletely dominant over normal plumage,
 - most commonly found in the following breeds: Polish, Cochin, Plymouth Rock, Japanese and Silkies
- Color variants - black, blue, cuckoo and white.



Selected ornamental poultry breeds

Silkie Chicken

- One of the most popular and beloved.
- Atypically fluffy plumage - to feel like silk and satin.
- Unusual qualities: black skin and bones, blue earlobes and five toes on each foot.
- Calm and friendly temperament.



Wyandotte Chicken

- Breed kept for its brown eggs and its yellow-skinned meat.
- Many color variants
 - USA - black, blue, buff, Columbian, golden laced, partridge, silver laced, silver penciled and white,
 - Europe - black, blue, blue-laced, blue partridge, buff, buff-laced, Columbian, gold-laced, partridge, red, silver-laced, silver-pencilled and white.



Barbu d'Uccle Chicken

- Belgian breed of bearded bantam chicken.
- A full beard and a muff.
- The legs are heavily feathered.
- 28 colour varieties - blue, blue quail, cuckoo, millefleur, porcelain, lavender, lavender quail, black, black mottled, silver quail, quail, and white....



Faverolles Chicken

- There are 3 types of Faverolles hens: the French, the English, and the German which are distinguished by the color of their plumage, the Salmon Faverolles became the most popular until today.
- Faverolles are classified as a heavy breed and have a beard, muffs, feathered feet and five toes per foot.
- Because of their gentleness Faverolles have become a popular breed of chicken to keep as a pet, especially for children.



Sebright Chicken

- British miniature breed.
- Two colour variants are recognised - gold and silver, both with fancy laced feathers, which are tight, rounded, and edged with black.
- They are active and independent chickens, but are still friendly and kind.



Phoenix Chicken

- German, long-tailed chicken - created as a crossbreed from Japanese birds (Onagadori).
- Only roosters have the long tails.
- The breed is docile, but tends to be aloof.



Brahma Chicken

- Developed in the United States from birds imported from the Chinese port of Shanghai, was the principal American meat breed until about 1930.
- 3 color varieties are recognized - light, dark, and buff.



Hamburg Chicken

- Originated in Holland or Germany.
- Small to medium-sized breed.
- 11 different colour varieties: silver-spangled, gold-spangled, gold-pencilled, citron-pencilled, silver-pencilled, white, black and citron-spangled.
- The nature of the breed is one of great activity and alertness, and they are sometimes considered flighty –not a good choice as pets for children.



Polish Chicken

- European breed of crested chickens - remarkable crest of feathers.
- Medium-sized breed.
- Variety of colors, the most common varieties are white, cream, and black.
- Polish chickens are active and curious but can also be quite timid.



Cochin chicken

- Large breed derived from chickens brought from China to Europe and North America.
- The excessive plumage that covers leg and foot.
- The recognized colors are buff, black, cinnamon, grouse, lemon, partridge, silver buff, silver cinnamon, and white.



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Sources of pictures

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