

= Buckeye chicken =

The Buckeye is a breed of chicken originating in the U.S. state of Ohio . Created in the late 19th century , Buckeyes are the only American Poultry Association (APA) standard breed of chicken known to have been created by a woman , and the only one in the American Class to have a pea comb . As of 2014 , Buckeyes are listed as " Threatened " by The Livestock Conservancy . The breed 's name is derived from Ohio 's nickname of " Buckeye state " , and their mahogany color is said ideally to resemble the seeds of the Ohio Buckeye plant (*Aesculus glabra*) . They are a dual @-@ purpose chicken that have a decent laying ability and strong meat production characteristics . Buckeyes are yellow skinned chickens that lay brown eggs .

= = History = =

The Buckeye was first bred and developed in 1896 , by a Warren , Ohio resident named Nettie Metcalf . They are the only American breed of chicken known to have been developed by a woman , despite the fact that women were customarily given charge of the household poultry flock throughout much of U.S. history . Metcalf crossbred Barred Plymouth Rocks , Buff Cochins , and some black breasted red games to produce the Buckeye . Her goal was a functional breed that could produce well in the bitter Midwest winters . Contrary to popular belief the Buckeye breed was created before the Rhode Island Red breed and Metcalf actually sent birds to the RIR breeders for them to improve their breed .

The Buckeye was admitted to the American Poultry Association 's Standard of Perfection in 1904 . Entrance into the Standard of Perfection signifies official certification as a breed by the Association , and thus allows Buckeyes to be entered into poultry shows and judged according to the breed standard (as outlined in the Standard of Perfection) .

The recognition of Buckeyes in the Standard has been a significant factor in its survival . In the past , largely due its lack of color variations , the Buckeye has not been an especially popular exhibition breed , but there is growing interest in the exhibition poultry fancy for this dual @-@ purpose variety of bird . Not adopted by commercial operations , the Buckeye has generally been a bird of smaller farm flocks . Today the breed status is listed as threatened by the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy , threatened being defined as Threatened : Fewer than 1 @,@ 000 breeding birds in the United States , with seven or fewer primary breeding flocks , and estimated global population less than 5 @,@ 000 . The breed is also included in the Slow Food USA Ark of Taste , a catalog of heritage foods in danger of extinction .

= = Characteristics = =

The Buckeye male weighs an average of 9 lb (4 @.@ 1 kg) , and the hen 6 @.@ 5 lb (2 @.@ 9 kg) . The breed has yellow skin and lays brown eggs . Its primary color is a mahogany red with black tails ; sometimes males have other dark feathering . According to the breed standard , a Buckeye 's plumage should ideally resemble the hue of an Ohio Buckeye 's seeds . Especially in the hen , the breed is very similar in appearance to the Rhode Island Red . The Buckeye can be differentiated by a bar of slate color on the back feathers close to the body ; the body is also much more compact , with a short yet broad back .

The Buckeye is the only purely American breed to sport a pea comb , and this , combined with its stocky build , makes it a supremely cold hardy chicken . Other breeds of fowl developed in the U.S. (such as the Ameraucana) may sport pea combs , but these chickens were primarily created from foreign birds . It also bears some traits of Game fowl in frame and disposition , being assertive in character and a very good forager . Generally calm , the cock birds in rare cases may become aggressive . Despite its game heritage , it tolerates confinement well , although it will be much happier and produce better if allowed to range on grass . The Buckeye is said by breeders to be disinclined towards feather picking . A good meat producer and layer of between 150 to 200 eggs per year , the Buckeye is a dual purpose chicken well ? suited to small farmyard and backyard flocks

