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## EC1421 Revised 1938 Judging Six Common Varieties of Chickens

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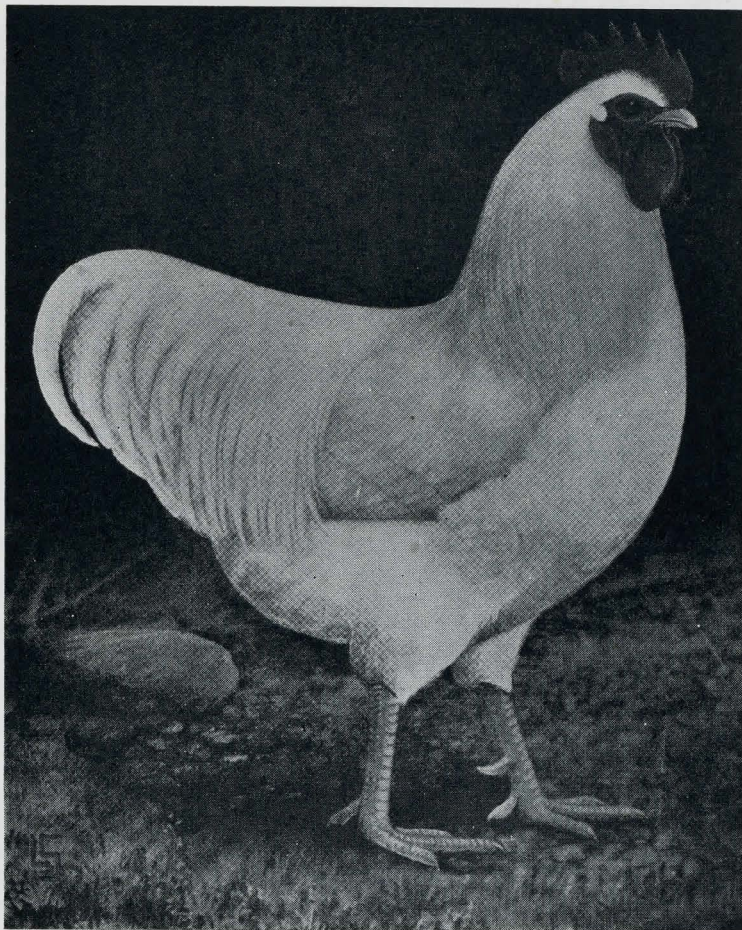
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# Judging Six Common Varieties of Chickens



The University of Nebraska Agricultural College Extension Service  
and United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating  
W. H. Brokaw, Director, Lincoln

E. C. 1421

A Handbook for Common Varieties  
of Chickens

CONTENTS

	Page
Disqualifications and Defects.....	3
Methods of Judging.....	5
Score Card for American Breeds.....	5
Leghorn.....	6
Rhode Island Red.....	8
Plymouth Rock.....	10
Wyandotte.....	12
Orpington.....	14

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Department of Poultry Husbandry  
Lexington, Kentucky

# Judging Six Common Varieties of Chickens

BY S. J. MARSDEN

REVISED BY H. E. ALDER<sup>1</sup>

**E**XHIBITION judging is based on the two factors of type and color, each counting about half in the placing of birds in the poultry show.

A breed is defined as a race of fowls having certain characteristics of shape and size. There are now seven standard varieties of Plymouth Rocks, according to the color or type of comb. Color and comb define the variety.

For example, we have the Plymouth Rock beed which has a certain shape and size. There are now seven Standard varieties of Plymouth Rocks, each one of which has identically the same shape and size, but a different color. Examples are White Plymouth Rocks, Barded Plymouth Rocks, etc.

Then there is the Rhode Island Red beed divided into two varieties, the Single Comb Red and the Rose Comb Red, both the same except for shape of comb. Some breeds have only one standard variety, for instance, Jersey Black Giant. Most breeds, however, have more than one, so the variety name, as well as the breed name, is generally used when mentioning any particular variety. For instance, Single Comb Rhode Island Red is the full name, usually abbreviated to Single Comb Red. In the case of Barded Plymouth Rocks the term Barded Rock is used.

All the information and diagrams contained in this circular that relate to type, defects, and disqualifications are taken directly from the American Standard of Perfection (the recognized authority for all judging rules), which is published by the American Poultry Association of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Copies can be obtained through any bookstore or poultry journal. Anyone exhibiting poultry or interested in the standard breeding of poultry will do well to obtain the latest edition of this book. It is well illustrated and contains detailed descriptions of all the standard breeds of chickens, turkeys, ducks, and geese.

## Disqualifications and Defects

Any deviation from the standard description in shape, size, or color of any part of a bird's body is either a defect or a disqualification. Certain of these are considered serious enough to rule a bird out of competition. These are the disqualifications. Others are not so serious, hence are called defects which are undesirable but do not keep the bird from competing.

All birds should be carefully inspected for disqualifications and defects before they are shown or used for breeding. Certain disqualifications that may be found in a number of different breeds are called general disqualifications. The Standard lists about 40 of these, but only the more common ones are listed here. They are as follows:

1. General inferiority—birds that are very poor representatives of their breed.

<sup>1</sup> Original publication from the 1926 Standard of Perfection—Revised edition from the 1930 Standard of Perfection.

2. Faking—any attempt to deceive the judge.
3. Deformities of any kind such as crooked beaks, crooked backs, etc.  
(Crooked toes do not disqualify, however.)
4. Clipped wing feathers.
5. Split wing—a wing in which there is a gap between the primaries and secondaries when the bird is allowed to take its normal posture.

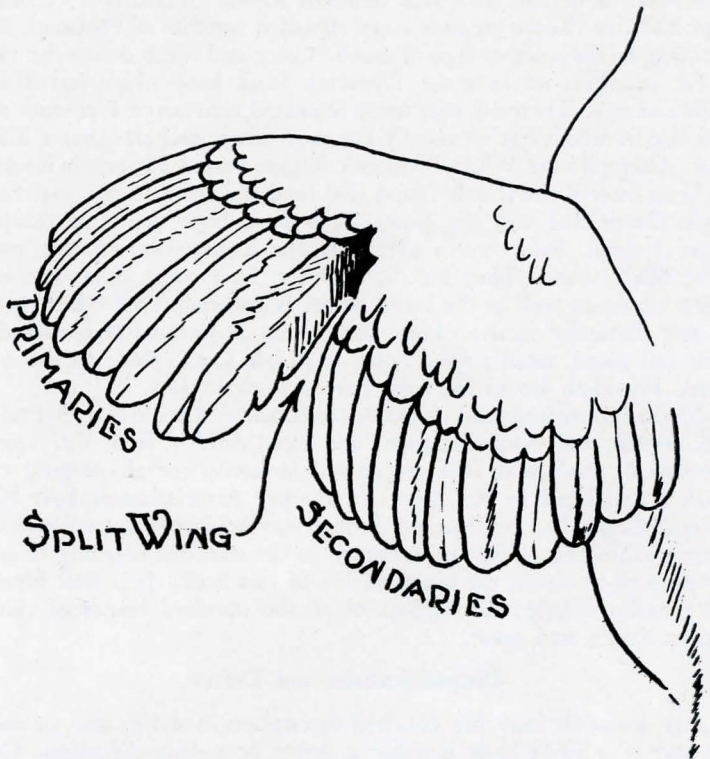


FIG. 1.—Illustration of split-wing.

6. Twisted feather in wing or tail.
7. Wry tail (tail held permanently to one side).
8. Weight—in all breeds having a weight clause (except turkeys, Leg-horns, Anconas, and Bantams) any bird more than two pounds below standard weight. Young stock, however, are not disqualified for weight until after December 1st of each year.
9. Lopped comb in any specimen for which the Standard prescribes an upright one.
10. Side sprig (a pointed outgrowth) anywhere on the side of a single comb.
11. Positive white in face of Mediterranean (light breeds such as Leg-horn) cockerels and pullets.

12. Any positive white in earlobe of any common heavy-breed bird.
13. Feather or stub of a feather on shank or foot of any clean-legged breed. (This includes nearly all the common breeds.)
14. Legs or toes of a color foreign to the breed.
15. Brown or buff in the quills of primaries or secondaries of all white varieties.

### Method of Judging

The Standard contains score cards for all classes of poultry, which give the values placed on all sections of the bird's body. This score card, while it is not often used for each bird judged, is still followed in a general way by all good judges. From the sample score card shown (which applies to American breeds such as Reds, Rocks, and Wyandottes, and is essentially the same for all common breeds of chickens), an idea can be gained of the relative value of the different parts. If all the shape points are added, and all the color points added, it will be seen that about 50 per cent of the exhibition quality of a bird rests on its shape and size, and the other 50 per cent on the various color features. The comparative system of judging is generally used, in which the competing birds are compared with each other as to shape and color of all their different sections, and as to general symmetry and resemblance to the Standard for variety.

In the actual judging, the bird is carefully handled in order to examine for condition (health and cleanliness), disqualifications, color, and other details of the bird's make-up. Then its symmetry and type are determined by careful observance of the way the bird stands naturally, and by posing it to see it at its best. Then the different points are balanced against each other and final judgment rendered.

### Score Card for American Breeds

Weight .....	4
Symmetry .....	4
Condition and vigor .....	6
Comb .....	6
Beak—shape 2, color 2 .....	4
Head—shape 2, color 2 .....	4
Eyes—shape 2, color 2 .....	4
Wattles—shape 2 .....	2
Earlobes—shape 2, color 2 .....	4
Neck—shape 3, color 5 .....	8
Wings—shape 4, color 6 .....	10
Back—shape 6, color 6 .....	12
Tail—shape 4, color 4 .....	8
Body and fluff—shape 5, color 3 .....	8
Breast—shape 5, color 5 .....	10
Legs and toes—shape 3, color 3 .....	6
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>100</b>

The different sections of the bird are indicated on the Leghorn diagram.

### The Leghorn

**Standard Weights:** Cock 6, Cockerel 5½, Hen 4½, Pullet 4 pounds.

**Special Disqualifications:** for S. C. White Leghorns:<sup>2</sup>

Males more than 1½ pounds underweight.

Females more than 1 pound underweight.

More than one-third of earlobe red, in cockerels and pullets.

More than one-half of earlobe red in hens and cocks.

Shanks other than yellow.

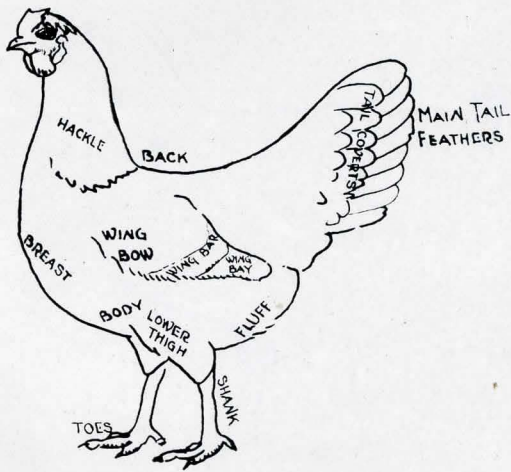
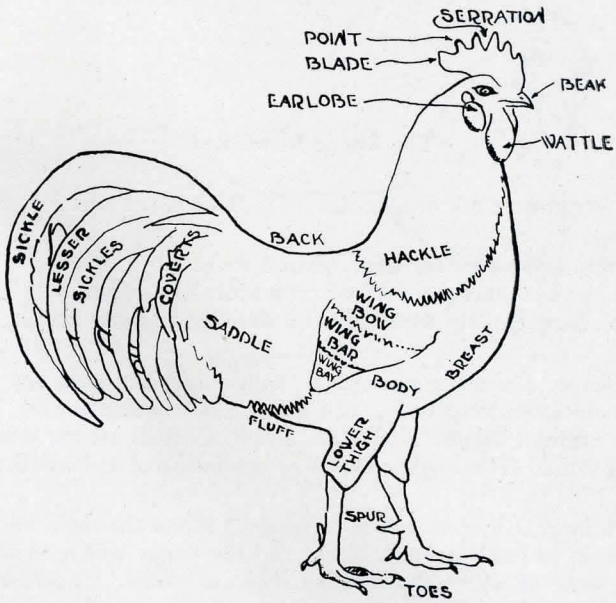
**General Shape:** Rather long, fairly deep, neat appearing body; tail carried as indicated in diagram on opposite page; full breast, medium length legs, and a beautiful sweep of profuse saddle feathers that unite back and tail in a graceful curve. The single comb is of medium size and has five points.

**Color:** The S. C. White Leghorn has pure white plumage; white earlobes; yellow skin, shanks, and beak; and reddish bay eyes.

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<sup>2</sup> The special disqualifications for all breeds must be considered in addition to the general disqualifications.

THE LEGHORN





### The Rhode Island Red

**Standard Weights:** Cock 8½, Cockerel 7½, Hen 6½, Pullet 5½ pounds.

**Special Disqualifications for Rhode Island Reds:**

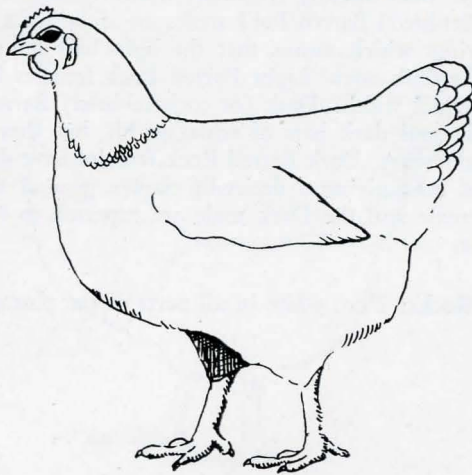
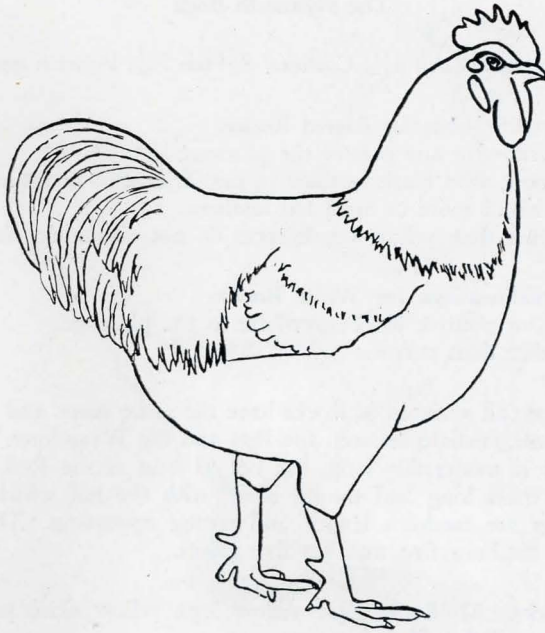
Shanks or feet other than yellow or reddish horn color.

One or more entirely white feathers showing in outer plumage.

**General Shape:** Decidedly rectangular, with a long flat back, low tail, and long moderately deep body, with a full well rounded breast. The legs are of medium length. S. C. Reds and R. C. Reds are the same except for the comb. The single comb is of medium size and has five points.

**Color:** Plumage, rich dark red in all sections except the main tail feathers which are lustrous greenish black, and the wings which contain some black, none of which shows when they are folded. Undercolor is the same dark red in all sections. Earlobes red. Eyes reddish bay. Shanks and feet yellow or reddish horn color.

THE RHODE ISLAND RED



## The Plymouth Rock

**Standard Weights:** Cock 9½, Cockerel 8, Hen 7½, Pullet 6 pounds.

**Special Disqualifications for Barred Rocks:**

Red or yellow in any part of the plumage.  
Two or more solid black feathers in primaries, two or more in secondaries, or two or more in main tail feathers.  
Shanks other than yellow (dark spots do not disqualify, however.)

**Special Disqualifications for White Rocks:**

Red, buff, or positive black anywhere in the plumage.  
Shanks other than yellow.

**General Shape** (all varieties of Rocks have the same shape and size): The shape is intermediate between the Red and the Wyandotte.

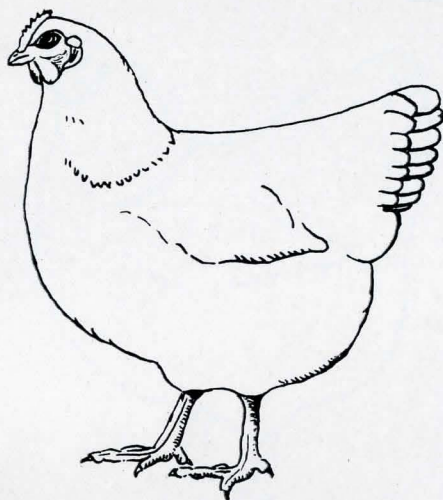
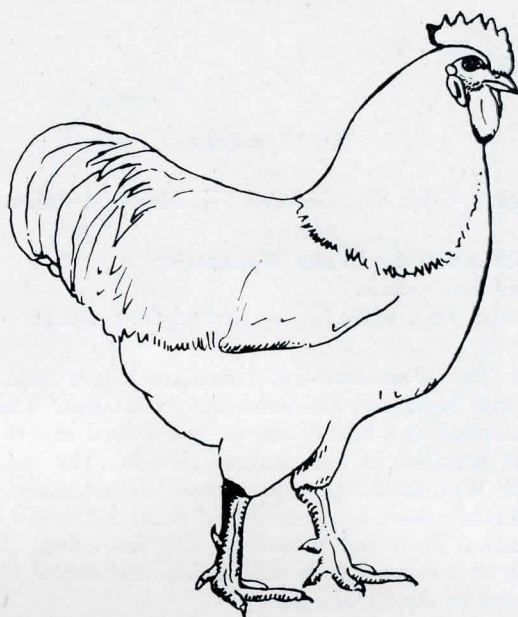
The body is moderately long, but not as long as the Red. The back is broad, quite long and should blend with the tail which is carried low. Legs are medium length and strong appearing. The comb is single, of medium size, and has five points.

**Color of Rocks:** All Rocks have yellow legs, yellow skin, yellow beak, red earlobes, and reddish bay eyes.

**Color of Barred Rocks:** All Barred Rocks have clean-cut barring and are barred to skin. Male barring is usually narrower than female barring. Light (or pullet-bred) Barred Rock males are quite light in the general shade of barring, which means that the light bars tend to be a little wider than the dark ones. Light Barred Rock females have light and dark bars of equal width. Dark (or cockerel-bred) Barred Rock males also have light and dark bars of equal width, but they are narrower than the females' bars. Dark Barred Rock females have dark bars wider than the light ones giving a decidedly darker general shade of color. The Light female and the Dark male are expected to be of the same shade of color.

**Color of White Rocks:** Pure white in all parts of the plumage.

THE PLYMOUTH ROCK



### The Wyandotte

**Standard Weights:** Cock 8½, Cockerel 7½, Hen 6½, Pullet 5½ pounds.

**Special Disqualifications for White Wyandottes:**

Shanks other than yellow.

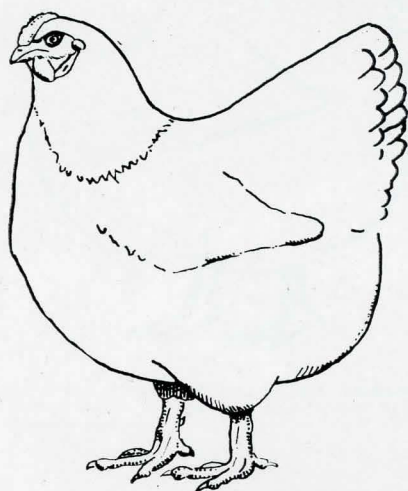
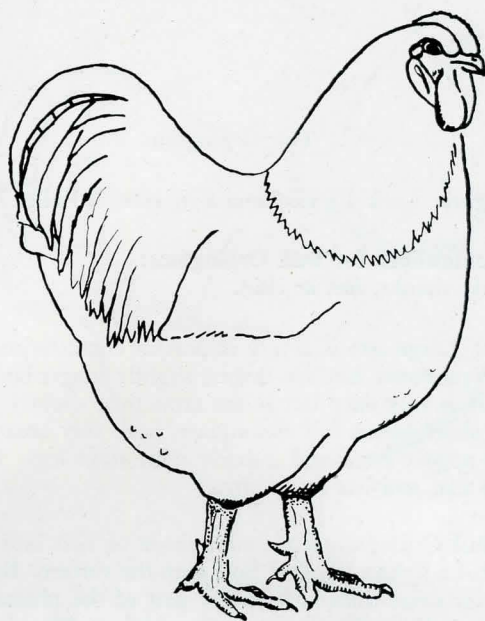
Any color other than white in any part of the plumage.

**General Shape:** The Wyandotte has a medium length back, deep body, fluff fairly well developed, and moderately short legs. The Wyandotte has been described as a bird of curves, and if bred true to type, is one of the most beautiful of our common breeds. The most important points about Wyandotte type are: almost but not quite square body shape, moderately short legs, very broad back, full breast, well spread tail, symmetrical head and moderately full feathering. The comb is rose, the top of it covered with small points and curved so as to blend with the shape of the head.

**Color:** White Wyandottes have pure white plumage in all sections.

All Wyandottes have yellow skin, beak and shanks, red earlobes and reddish bay eyes.

THE WYANDOTTE



### The Orpington

**Standard Weights:** Cock 10, Cockerel 8½, Hen 8, Pullet 7 pounds.

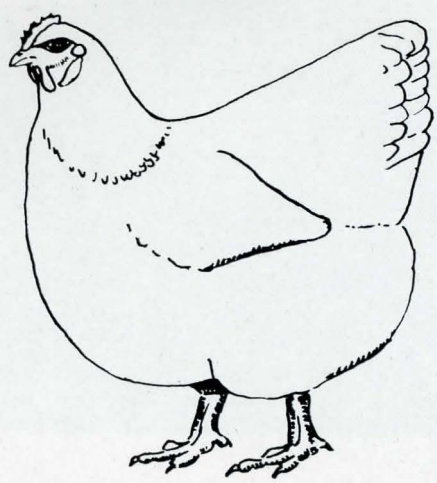
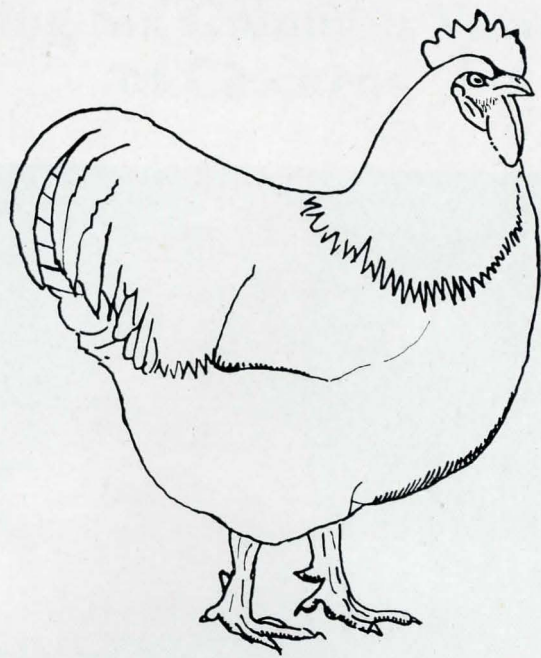
**Special Disqualifications for Buff Orpingtons:**

Yellow beak, shanks, feet or skin.

**General Shape:** Large size is a very important characteristic. In type they resemble Wyandottes but are larger, slightly longer-bodied and lower-tailed. Body is very deep but at the same time slightly long appearing, legs rather short, breast full and square, back very broad. The Orpington should appear large and massive with stout legs. Comb is single, of medium size, and has five points.

**Color:** The Buff Orpington is an even shade of rich buff in all sections. Undercolor is a lighter shade of buff than the surface. Buff birds should have no color other than buff in any part of the plumage, but foreign color does not disqualify; it is a serious defect. Skin is white and the beak and shanks are pinkish white. Earlobes are red, and the eyes are reddish bay.

THE ORPINGTON



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(4-33-6M)  
(7-38-5M)



