Heritage Chickens

COLORING BOOK!

Illustrations by Carolyn Guske | Text by The Livestock Conservancy | LivestockConservancy.org
Dorking [dor-king] - The Dorking has a long history stretching as far as ancient Rome. These birds are calm and docile. They can be playful and are easily handled.

This coloring book belongs to:

__________________________________________________________________________

My favorite Heritage chicken is a:

__________________________________________________________________________

The Livestock Conservancy Heritage Chicken Coloring Book
Sponsored by the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation

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Visit the Livestock Conservancy website to see photos of each chicken breed.
Araucana [ar-uh-kah-nuh] - Originally raised by the Araucana Indians deep in the Chilean rainforest, this breed of chicken is known for laying bright blue eggs.
**Buckeye [buhk-ahy]** - A true “All-American” breed, the Buckeye is well known for both its friendliness & plentiful eggs. The roosters emit a full range of sounds beyond those typical of many other chicken breeds, including a dinosaur-like roar! Egg color: brown
Buttercup [buht-er-kuhp] - Buttercups get their name from their unique flower-like comb and the golden color of their plumage. These active birds love to free range on pasture. Egg color: white
**Cornish** [kawr-nish] – Cornish chickens are considered the “Atlas” of the chicken world with their enormously muscled bodies. They are one of the best meat birds but lay only a few brown eggs each year.
**Leghorn** [leg-hawrn] - Leghorns are the ultimate egg laying chicken. They can lay nearly 300 white eggs a year and are excellent foragers.
Malay [may-lay] - Malay’s are the basketball players of the chicken world. They can easily reach 30” in height and can eat off of a dining room table! Egg color: brown
**Phoenix** [fee-niks] - The peacocks of the chick world, Phoenix roosters have tail feathers up to 5 ft in length! These long tailed fowl produce white and tinted eggs and are extremely docile.
Polish [pol-ish] - Polish chickens are named for their spectacular crested head which resemble the historic helmets Polish soldiers used to wear. They are capable of laying a good number of eggs and are usually quite calm. Egg color: white
Rhode Island Red [rohd-ahy-luhnd-red] - Perhaps the world’s best known chicken breed, this versatile bird is known for both laying large amounts of brown eggs and for the production of flavorful meat.
**Sussex** [suhs-iks] - This ancient breed from Sussex, England is the perfect bird for the small farmer. They are fearless foragers and love to roam the barnyard. Egg color: light brown
**Wyandotte** [wahy-uh-n-dot] - This bright and colorful bird is known as one of the friendliest chickens around the coop. They come in a number of colors and are good producers of eggs and meat. Egg color: brown
Brahma [brah-muh] - The “King of All Poultry”, the Brahma chicken is known for its great size and even bigger personality. Roosters can reach an astounding 18 pounds!

About The Livestock Conservancy:

The Livestock Conservancy is America’s leading nonprofit organization working to protect nearly 200 heritage breeds of livestock and poultry from extinction. Included are cattle, chickens, donkeys, ducks, geese, goats, horses, pigs, sheep, rabbits, and turkeys. Founded in 1977, The Conservancy is the pioneer organization in the U.S. working to conserve historic breeds and genetic diversity in livestock. The Livestock Conservancy’s mission is “to protect endangered livestock and poultry breeds from extinction.”

Why are domestic breeds of livestock and poultry in danger of extinction? Modern agriculture and food production favors the use of a few highly specialized breeds selected for maximum output in intensively controlled environments. Many traditional breeds do not excel under these conditions, causing their popularity to decrease and leaving them faced with extinction.

Why is genetic diversity important? Like all ecological systems, agriculture depends on genetic diversity to adapt to an ever-changing environment. Genetic diversity in domestic animals is revealed in distinct breeds, each with different characteristics and uses.

Traditional, historic breeds retain essential attributes for survival and self-sufficiency – fertility, foraging ability, longevity, maternal instincts, ability to mate naturally, and resistance to disease and parasites. As agriculture changes, we need to be able to draw on this genetic diversity for a broad range of uses and future opportunities. Once lost, genetic diversity is gone forever.

For more information or to make a donation please visit:
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