













The Livestock Conservancy Heritage Turkey Breed Comparison Chart

Photo	Breed	Origin	CPL Status	Purpose	Adult Weight M/F (lbs.)	Experience	Egg color	Egg Size	Rate of Lay	Temperament	Brooding and Mothering Ability	Climate	Uses and Notes
	Beltsville Small White	United States	Threatened	Meat	21/12	Novice	Pale cream to medium brown, with spotting.	Fairly large eggs, ideally ranging from 70-80 grams; larger hens will lay larger eggs.	The first two years of lay will be the highest production years for hens and can average 40-50 eggs per year if they are pulled for artificial incubation; if birds naturally incubate, the number will be much lower, towards 20-25 eggs.	Highly dependent on the selection of temperament by the breeder; some select for aggressive breeders, others prefer more docile.	Can be variable; the best hens are those that are well balanced and not too heavy; hens that are larger than breed standard tend to be clumsy mothers and can break eggs.	Turkeys can live in most climates, but skin on head and neck can be prone to frostbite in extreme cold. For large birds, heat stress can occur, so ensuring they have access to shade and ample water will be key to managing birds in hot climates.	Difficult to source; dresses clean
	Black	Europe	Watch	Meat	33/18	Novice							May have dark pin feathers or ink spots on skin when processed
	Bourbon Red	United States	Watch	Meat	33/18	Novice / Intermediate							Dresses clean; deep mahogany-red color can be difficult to perfect; avoid reddish-orange birds
	Standard Bronze	United States	Watch	Meat	36/20	Novice / Intermediate							May have dark pin feathers; a very challenging color pattern to perfect
	Chocolate (All other varieties)	United States	Watch	Meat	33/18	Novice							Dresses clean
	Jersey Buff (all other varieties)	United States	Watch	Meat	33/18	Novice							Dresses clean

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	Lavender / Lilac (all other varieties)	United States	Watch	Meat	33/18	Novice / Intermediate							Dresses clean; color can be difficult to perfect
	Midget White (all other varieties)	United States	Watch	Meat, Eggs	20/10	Novice							Dresses clean; exceptional layer among turkeys, up to 80 eggs; many are very people oriented birds
	Narragansett	United States	Watch	Meat	33/18	Novice / Intermediate							May have dark pin feathers; difficult color to perfect
	Royal Palm	United States	Watch	Meat, Exhibition	22/12	Novice / Intermediate							Seems to be somewhat more heat tolerant than other strains; difficult pattern to perfect on feathers
	Slate	United States	Watch	Meat	33/18	Novice / Intermediate							May have dark pin feathers; difficult color to perfect
	White Holland	United States	Threatened	Meat	36/20	Novice							Dresses clean