

Hawthorn Hill Poultry

Breed Overview - Chantecler

Thank you for considering Hawthorn Hill Poultry for your purchase of quality breeding stock. The following is intended to provide some additional information to help make your experience a positive one!

My website includes information and photos of each of the breeds I now raise. I truly enjoy them all, and appreciate each breed for their usefulness, beauty and uniqueness. <http://www.hawthornhillpoultry.com>. Knowledgeable breeders strive to produce offspring that meet APA breed standards, but characteristics will vary somewhat within the breed. This is a result of the particular breeder's focus and objectives, which creates a strain. A strain is the result of line-breeding and selection over a number of years to produce a bloodline that is distinctive and consistent. In other words, the strain is the manifestation of a long-term breeder's focus. The following is a brief summary of what can be expected from the **Hawthorn Hill White Chantecler** strain.

Hawthorn Hill White Chanteclers:

Since beginning with this breed in 2010 I've been highly focused on developing a Chantecler strain of efficient, fast-growing chickens that offer the best balance between rate of lay and meat properties. These are considered prolific egg layers when compared with other dual purpose breeds. [*see below]. They mature earlier than many other breeds of standard bred (heritage) chickens, so begin laying sooner. They generally take a shorter break between laying cycles and are less likely to become broody. Broodiness interrupts laying and is therefore counter-productive to egg production. They are also an excellent choice for a sustainable flock of meat birds. My Chanteclers are built broad, deep and heavy, which is essential for a meaty carcass. They gain weight fast, allowing them to be ready for butchering earlier, starting at around 20 weeks for fryers. If you want a larger chicken for roasting, let them continue to grow another 4 - 8 weeks. Unlike Cornish cross or other meat hybrids, heritage breeds will not become over fat or suffer from leg issues if you choose to keep them longer.

While still growing, they should have free access to a good poultry grower crumble. Once the pullets begin laying they can transition to a layer ration. If you are feeding hens and roosters together, choose a layer ration that does not have extra calcium incorporated into the feed. The high calcium content can be detrimental to the health of the males. Supply calcium separately in the form of oyster shell and let the hens take what they require.

Chanteclers are not particularly fond of being handled or fussed with. Regular handling is important to check for common issues such as lice, and they will be tolerant of these management practices. But, all in all they are more suited for a role as practical farm livestock rather than pets. I find my Chanteclers to be clever, independent and hardy. They are highly fertile and the chicks hatch strong and robust. I've never had an overly aggressive cock bird, however they do take their role of flock protection seriously. They are almost always respectful towards people, but they can misinterpret our intentions when catching or handling hens and feel a need to protect them. They also tend to be territorial with their flock and are not usually willing to share hens with other roosters, so good rooster management is necessary.

** Please note, standard-bred, dual purpose breeds should not be compared to hatchery, hybrid layers or meat birds, which are produced to be highly efficient in one function only.*

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