






Pastured Chicken Breeds: Comparison Chart

	Cornish Cross	Freedom Ranger	Heritage Breed
Appearance			
Genetics	The Cornish Cross is an industrial breed bred to grow to market weight in a short amount of time. It's a hybrid derived from Rock and Cornish chickens. Has an excellent feed conversion, does well in industrial setting and thrives on pasture.	The genetic stock is derived from the American and European old heritage breed of chicken and was developed in the early 1960's to meet the highest standards of the French Label Rouge Free Range program. The breed was created for small-scale pasture based systems.	Heritage breeds are the breeds that would've been on American farms in the 19th and early 20 th centuries. Not genetically modified in any way, they are naturally reproducing. These birds have natural foraging, roosting, and protection instincts lacking in other breeds.
What to Expect In the Kitchen	Very large legs Thick drumsticks Large double breasts	Large legs Thick drumsticks Large to medium breasts	Long lean body Long drumsticks Smaller breasts Birds harvested earlier have less fat than those harvested later
Taste Profile	The large legs and breasts mean a lot of white meat on this bird. All the meat is more moist and flavorful than chickens raised in an industrial setting.	The increased foraging desire of these birds means more protein gleaned from pasture to impart a dark meat taste to the bird. The white meat has more of a dark meat flavor than Cornish Cross.	The meat on heritage breed chickens is moist, flavorful and firmer than any other chicken. Dark meat has a great depth of flavor and the white meat is moist and more similar to dark meat than in the other birds.
Average Weight And Grow Out	4-5.5 pounds in 8 weeks	4-5.5 pounds in 11 weeks	3-4 pounds in 15-22 weeks