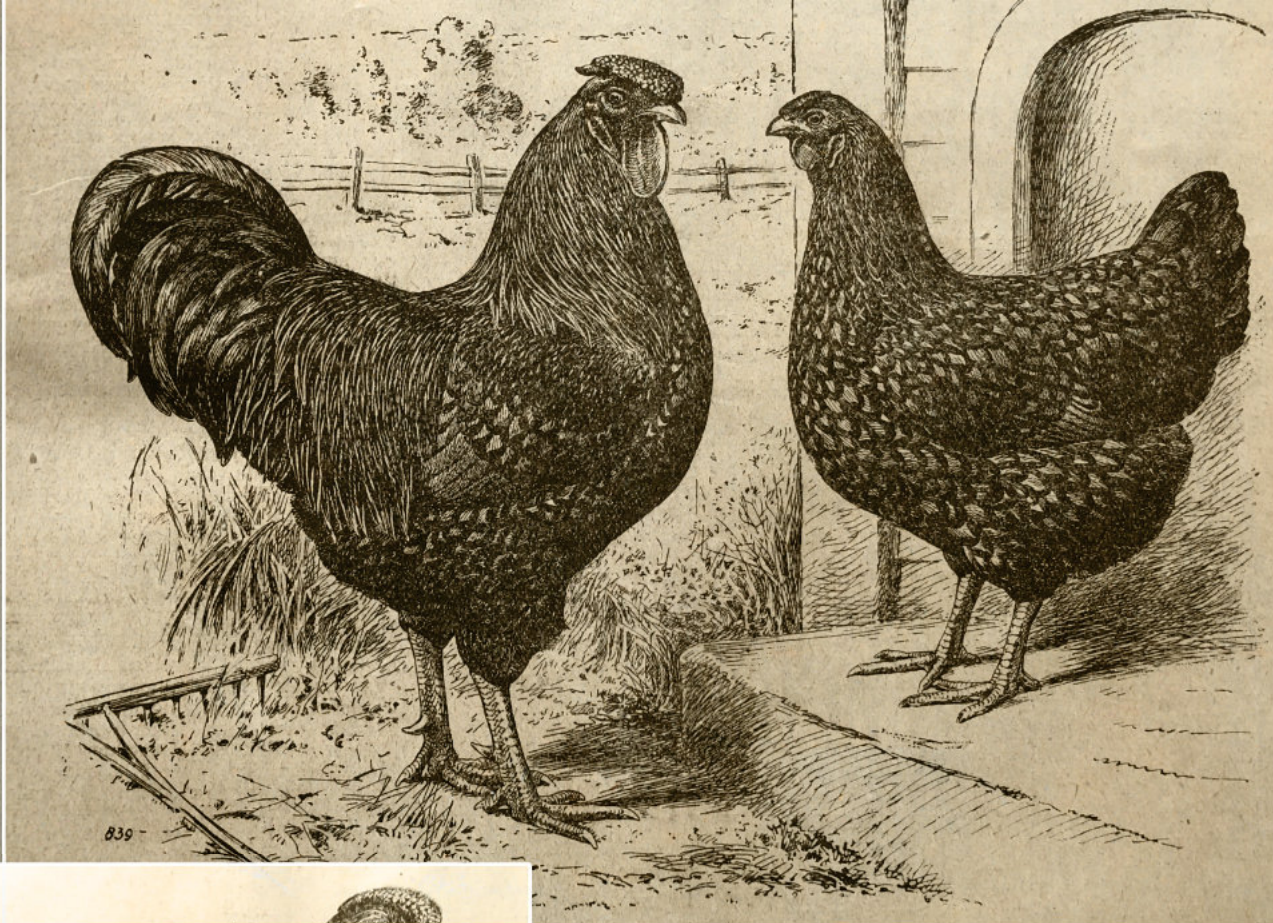
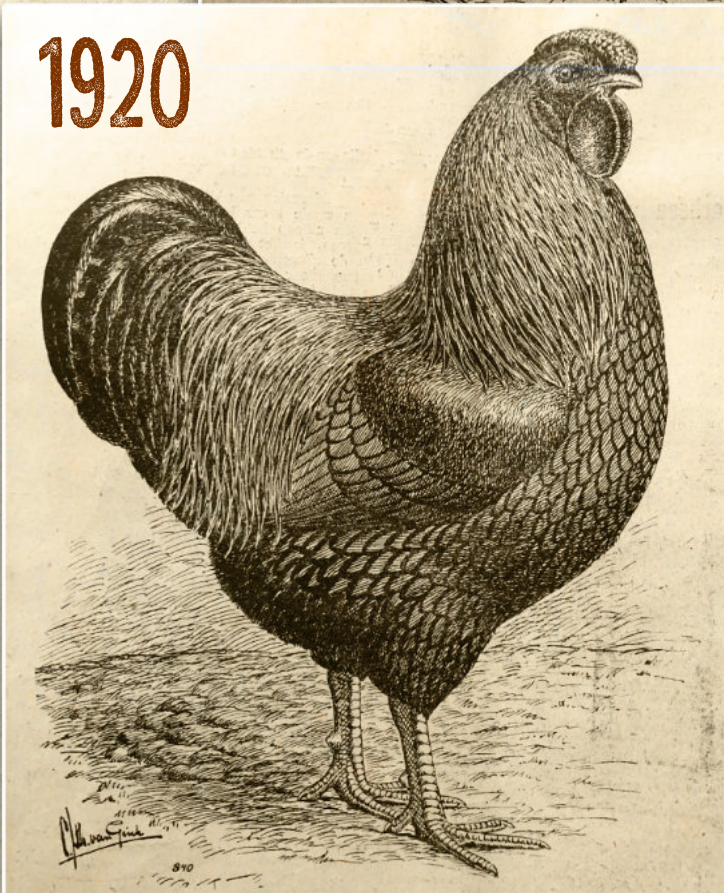


1890



1920



*The modern gold Wyandotte. This specimen embodies the standard requirements for gold Wyandottes today (1920). As one can see, the pencilling is very open and the lacing therefore narrow. Now the difficult point is to mate a good pencilled hackle and saddle to this narrow lacing, as found in this cock.*

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*Gold Wyandottes from 30 years ago (in 1920) This pair of birds was drawn very faithfully to nature and shows specimens of this variety after only six years of existence. It clearly shows how quickly the ideal was approached in the first years and how much slower the process of improvement went after that.*

## GOLD (BLACK-) LACED WYANDOTTES, THEN & THEN

**The fate of the gold Wyandottes has always been more or less tied to that of the silver Wyandottes and both varieties have made equal progress, thanks to the possibility of breeding the gold variety with the silver one. Although the contrast is higher in the silver Wyandottes, a satisfactory result is obtained sooner in the gold Wyandottes, while rust in the wings, a yellow hue and some discoloured feathers are less annoying.**

There was a long time when the productivity of the gold Wyandottes was not very satisfactory. However, it is simply a matter of cultivation choice to put an end to this objection. What is striking is the large body length, which has made the gold Wyandottes stand out in recent times, or in fact has always done so, with the exception of a few English lines. We herewith give a



*Gold Wyandotte cock 1916 1st prize in Utrecht, December 1915. In this cock the long, slender type, which distinguishes very many gold Wyandottes, comes out strongly. Although this cock was generally admired, the development of the sickles is a little too strong, while the tail is carried too far backwards.*

picture of a pair of gold Wyandottes from the year 1891, and point out the particularly long type, and to prove that it still exists today we refer to the pictures of the prize winners of recent years, of which we show a few here.

In this respect, the gold Wyandottes are very reminiscent of the Barnevelders. The origin of the Barnevelders is also partly due to the Wyandottes, although it is not certain whether these were gold Wyandottes, as it is equally possible that silver Wyandottes were used. The old picture perfectly represents the type of laced Wyandottes of some 30 years ago. They were lively, barely medium-weight chickens, which for the most part showed a good laying type. The American gold Wyandottes of later years were

*Gold Wyandotte cock, 1st prize 1916. This cock also shows the elongated type with strongly developed tail feathers. The pencilling is narrow and open, as one likes to see in modern golden Wyandottes.*



little heavier in build and it was in England that the current heavy, laced Wyandottes originated.

With the exception of the front part of the head and the short beak, the hen excellently represents the laying type of the medium-heavy breeds, while the cock also meets the requirements of a useful medium-heavy breed in all respects. The conformation of the legs is also excellent. The experienced utility breeder will have little to say about the external characteristics of these animals. English utility breeders would unquestionably

immediately admire the cock's broad saddle, as well as its excellent head shape. The history of the origins of the gold Wyandottes will undoubtedly be of interest to the serious student of pedigree poultry, as it immediately explains several sudden deviations, which still occur many years later.

After the silver Wyandottes existed, the plan soon matured in the minds of some fanciers, to create a golden

variety of the same colouring as well. The one who was most successful at this was a certain Mr. Joseph Mc. Keen from the State of Wisconsin. This breeder kept pea combed partridge Cochins and single combed partridge Leghorns, as well as rose comb partridge Leghorns. These were bred together.

Mr. Mc. Keen selected from their progeny a cock with a good rose comb, yellow legs without feathering, red ears and no plumage reminiscent of the partridge Cochins. It should also be noted that Mr Mc Keen had been selecting animals with rose comb, unfeathered legs and red ears for breeding for several years.

This cock, was paired with some yellow, crossbred Cochin hens, which had originated from people who had buff Cochins and gold Sebright Bantams mixed in, along with some ordinary farm chickens. Mr Mc Keen was not sure that the crosses had gold Sebright blood in them, but this is of course quite possible, given the frequent occurrence of well-developed bantams mating with large, even very large, hens, although the reverse has also sometimes occurred.

From the mating described above, the "Winnebagoes" a deep buff coloured breed with black tail emerged, which bore much resemblance to today's rose combed red Rhode Islands. While

common barnyard chickens had also walked among the buff Cochins and gold Sebright bantams at the time, it is not certain where the pencilling was derived from. These fowls showed the beginnings of lacing around the feathers and were used to

cross with silver Wyandottes in such a way that finally only a quarter of the so-called "Winnebagoes" flowed into the newly formed gold Wyandottes. The gold Wyandottes should be the spitting image of the silver Wyandottes in everything, but the white should only be replaced by a deep buff. These days, the

lacing is required to be as narrow as possible. As can also be clearly seen in the large picture of the modern gold Wyandotte cock. The comb is nowadays preferred to lie flat on the head, with lots of fine "work" on it and a downward curved comb thorn. The wattles should not be too long, as this disturbs the symmetry of the head ornaments. The ornamental feathers should have a clear shaft strip, which runs as high as possible upwards.

Gold Wyandottes should not be too heavy in build, if they are to belong to the medium-heavy breeds. The heavy lacing, which distinguishes the animals on the large drawing of a pair, is no longer in vogue today, although it is still very common. The pictured combs are even nowadays very common in the laced Wyandottes, and the finer shaped comb, which is considered the ideal comb, has only been achieved in the white variety.

vG

*Wright's book of poultry, edition 1910*

*Gold Wyandottes, Kurt Zander 1917.*



*Gold-Wyandotte-Henne*



*Gold-Wyandotte-Hahn*

