

# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

## 7 DIFFERENT BUFFS

Seven ways to make buff chicken feathers (with or without some black in the tail only), the base is gold (s+)...

- 1) eWh Db
- 2) eWh Db Co I/i+
- 3) eWh Db Co I
- 4) eWh Db Co
- 5) eb Db Co Pg
- 6) eb/eWh Db Co pg+
- 7) eb/eWh Db Co Pg

*If homozygous only the gene is mentioned.*

**First (1)**, wheaten and Db, the black tailed gene. You can determine yourself how much black is left in the main tail and/or secondary sickles. Known from the New Hampshire and Japanese bantams (Chabo).

**Second (2)**, wheaten with both columbians plus mahogany as a little bit columbian action making gold a light tan colour and then heterozygous dominant white added to eliminate black pigment, which turns white and makes mahogany gold pale again. When breeding long enough, the columbians push all black pigment from the bird, leaving only a bit smut in the main tail feathers and a bit on the wings. Buff Minorca. Some buff Orpingtons.

**The third (3)** is the same concept of above, however here all genes are homozygous, this breeds true and the result is a rather pale buff due to dominant white. Looks like the buff leghorns and also the buff Orpingtons from the above colour mix when you breed them together you get these too. Some become custard coloured or get an uneven buff colour with too much white.



*Top: Buff Plymouth Rock by Schilling, below black tailed buff Chabo (Jap. Bantams) by van Dort.*



*Buff Minorca McMurry hatchery with dominant white, note the tail.*

*Buff Orpington with homozygous I/I dominant white. From: Wiki commons.*



**The fourth (4)** is the original buff Orpington and also Cochin bantam colour, it is a bit of a warmer and less pale buff, both columbians help black to be kicked off the chicken and the buff colour is rather pale as well, because Co makes gold paler and Db makes gold tan colour, a sort of double little dilution of gold by two columbians.

*Below: Orpington from Cackle Hatchery without dominant white.*



*Right: detail of the tail with a mini bit of black, so a black tailed buff.*



Photo: Udo Ahrens (DE)

*Buff Cochin bantam and buff Orpington large.*

*Buff Silkies, on the right eb/eb based so GOLD as in the UK with Pg. On the left and the middle eb/eWh. The one on the left is still growing main tail feathers, these are pullets.*

**The fifth (5)** is called gold, it is the buff Silkie colour of the British Silkies. The name of the colour 'gold' is because the colour is much more saturated than wheaten based buff, it is more cinnamon colour. Some of the main tail feathers are allowed to be black in this colour variety and the under colour is grey as opposed to the above four mentioned wheaten based buffs which have buff or almost white under colour to the skin.

**The sixth and seventh (6,7)** buff colours are heterozygous on the e-allele giving a more saturated buff colour and less pale under colour and also top colour compared to a wheaten-only base. It is used in Silkies, to keep skin melanisation which will be destroyed by the wheaten allele (eWh) without too much black in the tails, and less contrast between the male's shoulders and breast colour as seen in the golds and also in the more original black tailed buffs where the black tail is part of the beauty while they are based on eWh wheaten.

The difference between the two buffs in Silkies is pg+ no pencilling and Pg with pencilling, which can give a rough pencilling on the wings of the hens. As if a sort of remains of pencilling. The overall pencilling is pushed from the bird by Db and Co, to the outer ends of the chicken.

If you know more ways to create buff, with or without a bit black in the tail, next to the seven mentioned here, please show and explain.



*In this pullet the face is already becoming more red, she is probably eWh/eWh wheaten.*

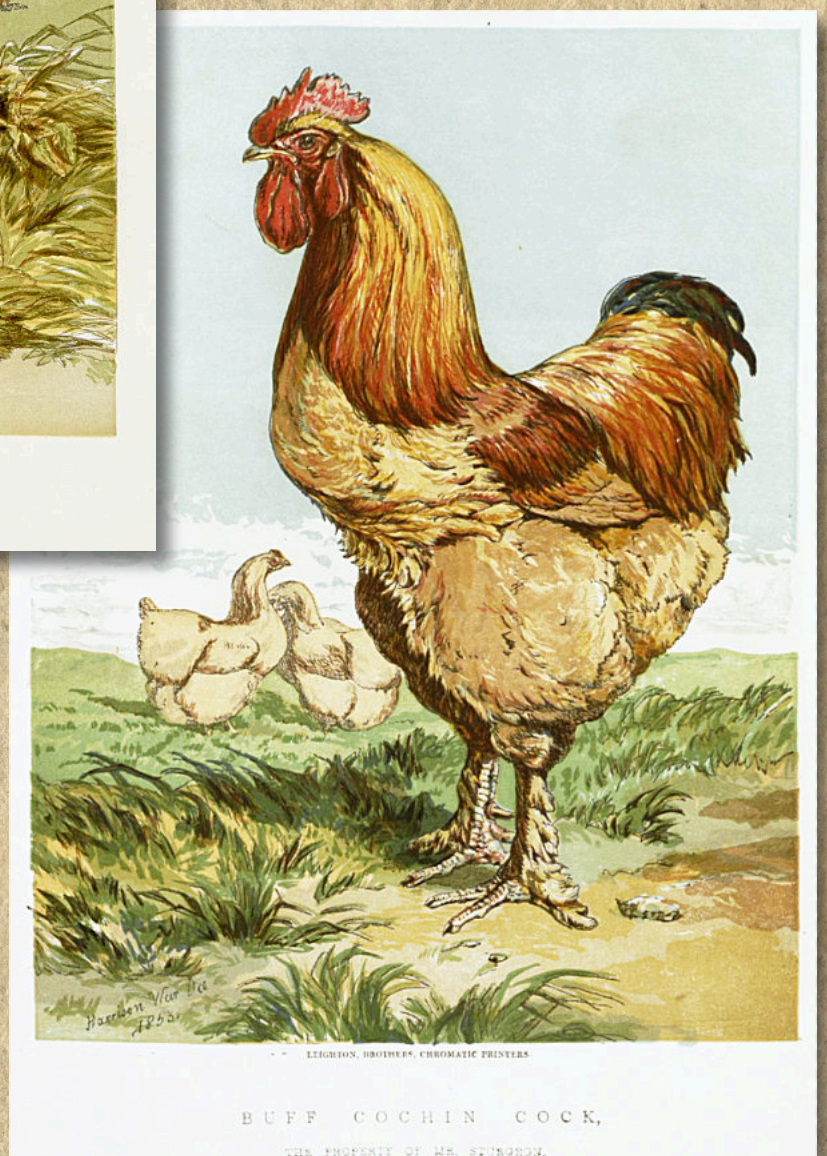




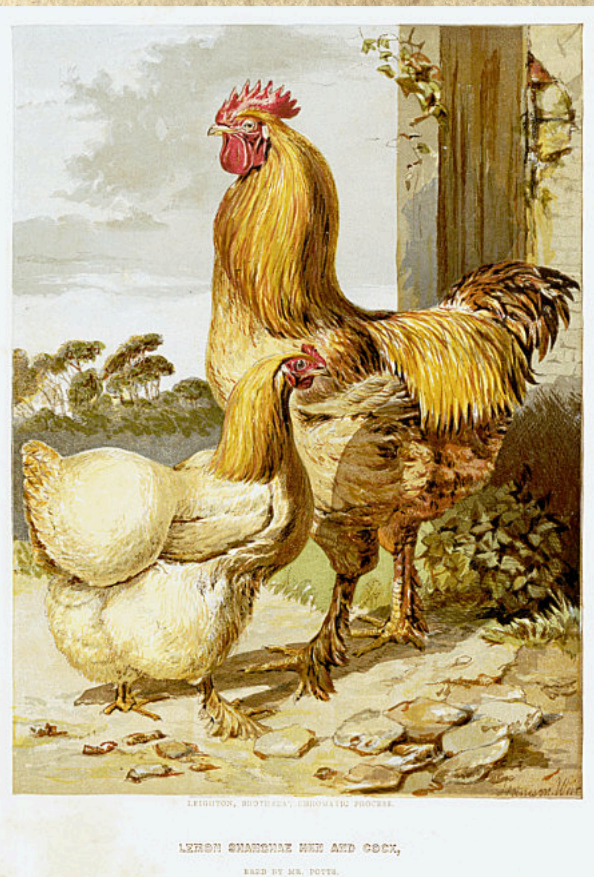


Left: light cinnamon Shanghae hen.

Buff Cochin or Shanghae varieties of 1853-1856 by Harrison Weir (UK). They were black tailed. Wheaten. The 'lemon' one has this typical darker gold tail with a little or no black which can be seen today too in some buffs.



Above: buff Cochin cock, 1853.



Left: lemon Shanghae hen and cock.