

Top 12 Best Chicken Breeds for Beginners

Chickens require continuous care and attention, and beginners can't fulfill this **due to a lack of experience**. That's why they fail at chicken keeping.

But don't worry, we will **help you find the best chicken breeds for beginners**. These chickens are easy to care for, lay enough eggs, and don't require much attention.

You can choose one of these and start your chicken-keeping journey today.

Let's get started.

Best Chicken Breeds for Beginners

Let's discuss **12 of the best** chicken breeds for beginners individually. These are easy to care for, lay enough eggs, have friendly personalities, and are hardy to cold and heat.

#1. Orpingtons

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Origin | United States |
| Primary Use | Eggs & Meat |
| Personality | Friendly & Sociale |
| Lifespan | 5 to 8 years |
| Egg Production | 180 to 220 per year |
| Broodiness | Go Broody |
| Hardiness | Especially Cold Hardy |
| Disease Resistant | Medium |
| Varieties | Jubilee, Black, Blue, Buff, White, Chocolate |

Beginner Friendly Qualities

- ◆ Easy to Care
- ◆ Low Maintenance
- ◆ Good Layer
- ◆ Docile & Friendly
- ◆ Heat & Cold Hardy
- ◆ Adapt Confinement
- ◆ Has Pets Qualities
- ◆ Beautiful Appearance



The top of the list is Orpingtons. These are some of the best chicken breeds for beginners to raise. They are available in many varieties, all with large, fluffy feathers.

Orpingtons are easy to care for and low-maintenance breeds. They do not always require your attention so they will thrive in any backyard, even in small areas.

They also have affectionate and gentle temperaments and good egg-laying abilities, which make them a perfect choice for new chicken keepers.

Moreover, Orpingtons tolerate high heat well, but they are incredibly cold-hardy. Their many feathers work as blankets and keep them warm in harsh winters.

Lastly, they also go broody; they will do this well whenever you want to hatch Orpington chicks as a beginner.

Considering all these beginner-friendly features, Orpingtons are the best chickens for kids and your family.

#2. Australorps

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Origin | Australia |
| Primary Use | Eggs & Meat |
| Personality | Friendly & Sweet |
| Lifespan | 6 to 10 years |
| Egg Production | About 300 per year |

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Broodiness | Occasionally Go Broody |
| Hardiness | Cold Hardy |
| Disease Resistant | Medium |
| Varieties | Black |

Beginner Friendly Qualities

- ◆ Easy to Care
- ◆ Very Low Maintenance
- ◆ Prolific Layer
- ◆ Sweet & Friendly
- ◆ Cold Hardy
- ◆ Adapt Confinement
- ◆ Has Pets Qualities
- ◆ Unique Appearance



Another best choice is Australorps, dual-purpose breeds with fitting feathers and a long and broad back.

These chickens are very low-maintenance and do not require continuous care all day. You can raise them in a small backyard or confinement with little outdoor access.

Australorps are also excellent layers and meat producers. Whenever they stop laying, you can slaughter them for their delicate meat.

Their sweet and friendly personality makes them great for children and families who want a cuddling breed.

Another good thing is their hardiness to cold weather. They will grow well in winter; in contrast, they do not tolerate high heat well, so be sure to address this whenever raising them.

#3. Rhode Island Reds

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Origin | United States |
| Primary Use | Eggs & Meat |
| Personality | Friendly & Gentle |

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lifespan | 5 to 8 years |
| Egg Production | 250 to 300 per year |
| Broodiness | Occasionally Go Broody |
| Hardiness | Cold & Heat Hardy |
| Disease Resistant | High |
| Varieties | Single comb and Rose comb |

Beginner Friendly Qualities

- ◆ Easy to Care
- ◆ Low Maintenance
- ◆ Prolific Layer
- ◆ Gentle & Friendly
- ◆ Cold & Heat Hardy
- ◆ Adapt Confinement
- ◆ Average Appearance



Rhode Island reds are a famous chicken breed in the USA. They are known for being easy to care for and low maintenance.

The best quality of these chickens is their disease resistance. They are resistant to many diseases and protect themselves from illness.

Another exciting fact is that these breeds are eligible for poultry shows, and you can participate with them.

In addition to all these qualities, they have unique feathers, prolific laying ability, excellent foraging skills, and are cold and heat-tolerant.

#4. Sussex

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Origin | England |
| Primary Use | Eggs & Meat |

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Personality | Friendly & Curious |
| Lifespan | 5 to 8 years |
| Egg Production | 250 to 300 per year |
| Broodiness | Go Broody |
| Hardiness | Cold & Heat Hardy |
| Disease Resistant | Medium |
| Varieties | Brown, Buff, Coronation, Light, Red, Silver, Speckled, and White |

Beginner Friendly Qualities

- ◆ Easy to Care
- ◆ Low Maintenance
- ◆ Prolific Layer
- ◆ Curious & Friendly
- ◆ Cold & Heat Hardy
- ◆ Adapt Confinement
- ◆ Has Pets Qualities
- ◆ Beautiful Look



Sussex is another beginner-friendly breed with an attractive appearance. It is easy to care for and raise well in any small backyard.

Because of their curious personality, they always look for new things. They are also docile and friendly with their friends, chickens, and owners.

Also, these chickens are prolific layers. They lay almost all year, and once they stop laying eggs, you can use them for table meat.

Moreover, they adapt to both cold and hot climates very well, preventing themselves from various diseases.

Lastly, Sussex is affordable, making it a good chicken breed for new chicken keepers and perfect for any backyard.

#5. ISA Browns

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Origin | France |
| Primary Use | Eggs & Meat |
| Personality | Friendly & Calm |
| Lifespan | 4 to 8 years |
| Egg Production | More than 300 per year |
| Broodiness | Not considered very Broody |
| Hardiness | Cold Hardy |
| Disease Resistant | Low |
| Varieties | Chestnut, Honey, and Red |

Beginner Friendly Qualities

- ◆ Easy to Care
- ◆ Low Maintenance
- ◆ Best Layer
- ◆ Calm & Friendly
- ◆ Cold Hardy
- ◆ Adapt Confinement
- ◆ Has Pets Qualities



Isa browns are famous chickens among egg lovers. They are mostly kept for eggs as they lay almost all year with no break.

I raised one of these chickens without any complex care. Even just freeing them and offering some food will go well.

These chickens are called Cinnamon Queens, Red Sex Link, Golden Comets, etc. They are a sex-linked breed, so you can quickly identify males and females in chicks.

Additionally, they are low-maintenance and great foragers. They find food for themselves and do not disturb you every time.

They are also very friendly and calm chickens; they will play with you and your kids and don't disturb their friends or you with continuous clucking.

#6. Plymouth Rocks (Barred Rocks)

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Origin | United States |
| Primary Use | Eggs & Meat |
| Personality | Docile & Active |
| Lifespan | Average 10 years |
| Egg Production | 180 to 220 per year |
| Broodiness | Less likely to Go Broody |
| Hardiness | Cold & Heat Hardy |
| Disease Resistant | Medium |
| Varieties | Buff, Barred, Blue, Silver Penciled, Partridge, White, Columbian. |

Beginner Friendly Qualities

- ◆ Easy to Care
- ◆ Low Maintenance
- ◆ Good Layer
- ◆ Docile & Active
- ◆ Cold & Heat Hardy
- ◆ Adapt Confinement
- ◆ Has Pets Qualities
- ◆ Distinctive Appearance



Plymouth or barred rocks are easy to care for and available. They are known for their unique black-blue with white spots.

They are a dual-purpose breed, considered a good egg layer, and produce delicate meat. While they are less likely to go broody, they are good and attentive mothers when they do.

These chickens also do well in hot summers and cold winters and can quickly adapt to your region's environment and climate.

Lastly, they are active birds that always want to do something new, and their docile plus friendly personality makes them perfect for any beginner.

#7. Leghorns

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Origin | Italy |
| Primary Use | Eggs |
| Personality | Friendly & Active |
| Lifespan | 4 to 6 years |
| Egg Production | More than 300 per year |
| Broodiness | Rarely Go Broody |
| Hardiness | Heat Hardy |
| Disease Resistant | Medium |
| Varieties | Silver, Red, White, Black-Tailed Red, Black, Light Brown, Dark Brown, Buff, Buff Columbian, Barred, and Columbian |

Beginner Friendly Qualities

- ◆ Easy to Care
- ◆ Almost Low Maintenance
- ◆ Prolific Layer
- ◆ Friendly & Active
- ◆ Heat Hardy
- ◆ Adapt Confinement
- ◆ Has Pets Qualities
- ◆ Aesthetic Look



Leghorns have 24 recognized varieties, almost all of which are great commercial egg layers. The first two years of laying are considered the golden time of laying.

These chickens are super foragers who find food and roost in trees. Leghorns are a low-maintenance and easy-to-handle breed that is best for beginners.

Also, these chickens tolerate heat better than cold and can resist various chicken diseases.

Another great thing about these breeds is their faster growth rate. They are small, light chickens that mature fast.

They are a little nervous but active when discussing their temperament, and their friendly and docile personality makes them a good option for any newbie keeper.

#8. Cochins

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Origin | China |
| Primary Use | Exhibition |
| Personality | Friendly & Quite |
| Lifespan | 8 to 10 years |
| Egg Production | 180 to 220 per year |
| Broodiness | Excellent Broody |
| Hardiness | Cold Hardy |
| Disease Resistant | Medium |
| Varieties | Barred, White, Black, Blue, Brown, Buff, Partridge, Silver Laced, and Golden Laced |

Beginner Friendly Qualities

- ◆ Easy to Care
- ◆ Almost Low Maintenance
- ◆ Good Layer
- ◆ Friendly & Quite
- ◆ Cold Hardy
- ◆ Adapt Confinement
- ◆ Has Pets Qualities
- ◆ Feathery Look



Cochins are exhibition birds and do well there, which makes them the best beginner option for those who want to participate in poultry shows.

These chickens will lay enough eggs for you and can hatch the eggs you want, as they are also excellent broodies.

In addition, these birds adapt to cold better than heat, especially the female cochin, which seems more stressed in high heat.

Furthermore, they are reticent and do not disturb people with their clucking. Their friendly and sweet personalities make them the best chickens for cuddling.

#9. Wyandottes

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Origin | United States |
| Primary Use | Eggs & Meat |
| Personality | Friendly & Docile |
| Lifespan | 6 to 12 years |
| Egg Production | 250 to 300 per year |
| Broodiness | Go Broody |
| Hardiness | Cold Hardy |
| Disease Resistant | Medium |
| Varieties | Blue, Buff, Black, Columbian, Golden Laced, Partridge, Silver Penciled, and Silver Laced. |

Beginner Friendly Qualities

- ◆ Easy to Care
- ◆ Low Maintenance
- ◆ Best Layer
- ◆ Friendly & Docile
- ◆ Cold Hardy
- ◆ Adapt Confinement
- ◆ Has Pets Qualities
- ◆ Unique Feathers



Wyandottes are dual-purpose breeds known for their heavy feathers, robust appearance, and fast growth and maturity.

They are usually cold-hardy, laying and living well in colder months. Wyandottes have strong immunity and resist many chicken diseases.

With their strong hardiness, they are great layers. As a plus, they also go broody and are considered good mothers.

All varieties of Wyandotte have friendly, docile, and playful personalities, which are perfect pet qualities for families with children.

#10. Easter Eggers

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Origin | Chile |
| Primary Use | Eggs & Meat |
| Personality | Assertive, Friendly, and Comical |
| Lifespan | 5 to 8 years |
| Egg Production | About 300 per year |
| Broodiness | Rarely Go Broody |
| Hardiness | Cold Hardy |
| Disease Resistant | High |

Beginner Friendly Qualities

- ◆ Easy to Care
- ◆ Low Maintenance
- ◆ Prolific Layer
- ◆ Friendly & Curious
- ◆ Cold Hardy
- ◆ Adapt Confinement
- ◆ Has Pets Qualities
- ◆ Aesthetic Look



Easter eggers are famous backyard chickens known for laying colorful eggs. They come in various colors, have fluffy beards, and have soft feathers, giving them an aseptic look.

Also, this breed is an excellent egg layer, laying almost yearly but sometimes stopping laying on harsh, colder days.

However, they resist colder climates and have high disease-resistant immunity, which prevents them from many health problems.

Likewise, they have friendly and confident personalities. They also have comical behavior, sometimes looking and acting funny.

#11. New Hampshire

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Origin | United States |
| Primary Use | Eggs & Meat |
| Personality | Family Friendly |
| Lifespan | 7 to 9 years |
| Egg Production | About 300 per year |
| Broodiness | Go Broody |
| Hardiness | Cold Hardy |
| Disease Resistant | Medium |

Beginner Friendly Qualities

- ◆ Easy to Care
- ◆ Low Maintenance
- ◆ Prolific Layer
- ◆ Family Friendly
- ◆ Cold Hardy
- ◆ Adapt Confinement
- ◆ Has Pets Qualities



New Hampshire chickens are popular in the US because they are prolific egg-laying birds and produce flavorful table meat.

These are very cold-hardy birds, but some also tolerate heat well. Their strong immune systems allow them to resist many poultry diseases.

In addition, they have assertive momma behavior and can go broody, allowing them to hatch eggs when needed.

New Hampshire is generally social, calm, and family-friendly, making it suitable for families with children and an excellent choice for beginners.

Lastly, these chickens grow fast and can reach their full adult weight faster than most breeds, making them good for meat.

#12. Delaware

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Origin | United States |
| Primary Use | Eggs & Meat |
| Personality | Friendly & Calm |
| Lifespan | 5 to 7 years |
| Egg Production | About 300 per year |
| Broodiness | Occasionally Go Broody |
| Hardiness | Cold & Heat Hardy |
| Disease Resistant | Medium |

Beginner Friendly Qualities

- ◆ Easy to Care
- ◆ Low Maintenance
- ◆ Best Layer
- ◆ Friendly & Calm
- ◆ Cold & Heat Hardy
- ◆ Adapt Confinement
- ◆ Has Pets Qualities
- ◆ Whity Look



Delaware chickens have a distinctive "Columbian" color pattern. They are almost entirely white with black feathers on the tail and neck.

These breeds are prolific layerers and lay all year, even in winter, which is good for us in cold climates.

Delaware chickens are known for their calm, friendly, and curious natures. They get along well with other chickens and thrive in free-range environments.

They also adapt well to hot and cold weather, but sometimes, their combs are susceptible to frostbite in extreme cold, so it's recommended that they heat and warm their coop in freezing weather.

Even with low maintenance, Delawares grow and mature quickly. These qualities make the Delaware breed best for beginners.

Choosing Good Chickens for Beginners

Consider some **essential factors** before finalizing the best chicken breed as a newbie.

- Those that are easy to maintain are considered good chickens for beginners.
- That lays enough eggs, not just empty birds.
- That should be family-friendly and not aggressive with kids or owners.
- That's quiet and calm, don't disturb others, especially you and your neighbors.
- That is hardy enough or suited to your region's climate and environment.
- That doesn't require ample space and thrives in small areas in your backyard.
- That fits your needs and environment.

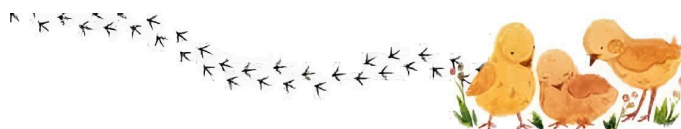
Consider these factors when choosing a good chicken for a beginner or yourself so that you can quickly start and **achieve success in chicken raising**.

Choosing the right breed is crucial for beginners. It's not enough to just produce eggs and meat; the breed should **also be friendly** so it will cuddle with you and be suitable for your kids.

The above 12 are the best chicken breeds for beginners. They will **play with your kids** and are considered extraordinary chickens to own.

Comparison Chart: Best Chicken Breeds for Beginners

Here is a simple **comparison chart** of the best chickens for beginners to identify a perfect fit.



| Breeds | Care Level | Temperament | Hardiness | Egg Lays |
|-------------------|------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Orpingtons | Low | Docile & Friendly | Cold/Heat Hardy | 3-4 Weekly |
| Australorps | Very Low | Friendly & Sweet | Cold Hardy | 5-6 Weekly |
| Rhode Island Reds | Low | Friendly & Gentle | Cold/Heat Hardy | 4-5 Weekly |
| Sussex | Low | Curious & Friendly | Cold/Heat Hardy | 4-5 Weekly |
| ISA Browns | Low | Friendly & Calm | Cold Hardy | 5-6 Weekly |
| Plymouth Rocks | Low | Docile & Active | Cold/Heat Hardy | 3-4 Weekly |
| Leghorns | Almost Low | Friendly & Active | Heat Hardy | 5-6 Weekly |
| Cochins | Almost Low | Quit & Friendly | Cold Hardy | 3-4 Weekly |
| Wyandotte's | Low | Docile & Friendly | Cold Hardy | 4-5 Weekly |
| Easter Eggers | Low | Friendly & Curious | Cold Hardy | 5-6 Weekly |
| New Hampshire | Low | Family-Friendly | Cold Hardy | 5-6 Weekly |
| Delaware's | Low | Friendly & Calm | Cold/Heat Hardy | 5-6 Weekly |

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Are Roosters Good for Beginners?

A **rooster protects the flock**, produces fertile eggs, and even leads the flock. However, roosters also have challenges to keep. The first is their aggressive behavior and noise, which require ample space.

You can keep a rooster **if you need fertile eggs** and want to protect your flock. But as a beginner, its drawbacks will make you stressed and worried.

If you ask me about this case, **I would not recommend** a rooster when you are a complete beginner. However, you can keep one if you have experience raising and keeping chickens.

Yet, if you still want to keep a rooster but want to avoid its challenges, you should keep a silkie, cochin, or Orpington breed. These are considered **more docile and friendly** than others.

Answers to Some Questions

What are the best chickens to own for beginners?

Chickens that are easy to care for and low maintenance are considered the best breeds for beginners, such as Orpingtons, Isa browns, Plymouth Rocks, Australorps, and Rhode Island Reds.

What kind of chicken is easiest to take care of?

Australorps, Sussex, and Rhode Island reds are among the most manageable chickens to care for. These are also low-maintenance and do not require your attention every time.

How many chickens should a beginner start with?

A beginner lacks experience; they should find their ability in how many chickens they can raise. If you are new to raising chickens, keep 3 to 5 chickens.

What are good chickens for beginners?

All the above are good chickens for newbies, but if you want the best from the list, the Orpingtons, isa browns, Plymouth Rocks, Australorps, and Rhode Island Reds are the options.

What is the friendliest chicken to raise?

The Orpingtons, cochin, Plymouth rocks, and Rhode Island reds are the friendliest chicken breeds for anyone, especially for families with kids.

Do chickens recognize their owners?

Chickens have excellent memories; they can remember 100 faces, which is impressive! They especially remember people who care for them and are always around them.

Summary

As a beginner, you need a breed that is easy to care for, low maintenance, and produces enough eggs. The above are some of the best chicken breeds for beginners that will fit you.

Lastly, choosing a breed from the **above list is the best decision**, but still, they will require basic needs like a coop, some feed, health care, and little outdoor space to succeed on your first try at raising chickens.

*This PDF helps you find a beginner-friendly breed. If you have questions, **feel free to ask at** support@backyardclucks.com.*