

# True Ameraucanas

Real blue eggs!



Ameraucanas can be a confusing breed. Hatcheries tend to call anything that lays a colored egg and Ameraucana (or some misspelling of that). In truth those should not be called Ameraucanas, but rather Easter Eggers. See the back of this page for a complete description of the differences.

We only raise the true, standard bred, show type Ameraucanas. They will lay blue to greenish blue eggs (differences are sometimes due to lighting, or just the eye of the viewer). We have several colors, If you are interested in showing these (like for 4-H), I recommend the Blacks as the best show color, Lavender is not an officially recognized color, and Silvers, while beautiful, have to have a consistent pattern and generally lose against a pure black bird.

**Lavender Ameraucanas** - Light blue chickens that lay blue eggs

**Black Ameraucanas** - Iridescent black that sparkle green or purple in the sun, also very blue eggs

**Silver Ameraucanas** - beautifully patterned hens, stunning roosters. This color is sexable at a few weeks of age.

**Straight run chicks (not sexed, expect some roosters)**

# Will the real Ameraucana please stand up?

Much confusion exists over the names Ameraucana, Araucana, and Easter Eggers. Hatcheries regularly mis-label these with the idea that it will help sales, but this is the real scoop:

**Easter Eggers** - Any chicken that produces colored eggs, the birds and their eggs vary widely in appearance. They are usually excellent layers as that is one of the main criteria the hatcheries breed for. These are frequently mislabeled by the hatcheries as Ameraucanas or even Araucanas. Though considered “mutts” by the fanciers that show chickens, they are fantastic backyard chickens, hardy and great layers of multi-colored eggs. Getting an Easter Egger is like opening a “grab bag”, you never know what she will look like or what color egg she will lay.

**Araucanas** - The closest of these to the original blue egg laying chickens from South America. Highly prized by fanciers for show and pets, they generally have no tails (called rumpless) and are not very good egg producers. The best ones carry a lethal gene for ear tufts that when present in 2 copies causes the chick to die before hatching, making it difficult to hatch many chicks. Hatcheries never carry true Araucanas, they are simply too much work and not popular enough.

**Ameraucanas** - Originally created for showing but now kept much more widely than Araucanas, but not nearly as much as the Easter Eggers. They have consistent coloring in the eggs and birds. If you plan to show (in 4-H, for ex), these are what you want. If you want a good producer of consistently blue eggs, look for these rather than the Easter Eggers, which can lay almost any color egg. Very few hatcheries sell the true Ameraucanas, and those that do charge premium prices.

Ameraucanas are great backyard chickens in every way except for one, they are extraordinarily hard to sex at a young age. Some colors can take upwards of 6 months before you can be sure your “pullet” really is female. For people that cannot have roosters, that often knocks them out of the running, but if you can have roosters, or have a plan to get rid of them before they are a problem, you will love having Ameraucanas in your flock.

If you love the look of an all black hen, and the blue eggs, but can't risk getting a rooster, then you want our Blue Egg Sexlinks. All the advantages of the Black Ameraucanas, except they will not breed true and are not showable. They are Easter Eggers, but with consistency in color - blue eggs from jet black hens.