

MCF picture: Wheaten Marans

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THE FRENCH OFFICIAL SCAF STANDARD OF THE MARANS BREED

A- GENERALITIES

Origin

MARANS, town of the Atlantic coast, near La Rochelle (France).

Characteristics of hatching eggs

The eggs should be large, ranging in size from about 65 grams (2,3 oz) for a pullet to 70-80 grams (2,5-2,8 oz) for an adult hen. To have a deep dark red-brown coloured shell.

Leg ring diameter

Cock:	22 millimetres	(0,86 in)
Hen :	20 millimetres	(0,79 in)

Weights

Cock:	3,5 to 4 kilos	(7,7 to 8,8 lb)
Hen:	2,6 to 3,2 kilos	(5,7 to 7,0 lb)
Cockerel:	3,0 to 3,5 kilos	(6,6 to 7,7 lb)
Pullet:	2,2 to 2,6 kilos	(4,9 to 5,7 lb)

B – DESCRIPTION OF THE MARANS FOWLS

A well built bird, of average size. Plumage held close to the body. Giving an impression of strength without looking heavy and awkward. The best eggs must be very big and a dark-brown coloured.

C – STANDARD:

General appearance:

Cock:

- Body :** strong, fairly long and wide especially near the shoulders which are held high.
- Neck :** long, fairly strong, tending to curve in on top towards the skull; the hackles are made of many long and abundant feathers covering the shoulders well
- Back :** long, flat, slightly concave towards the rear
- Saddle :** large, slightly raised but not rounded, covered with many lancets
- Breast :** strong and large
- Abdomen :** well developed
- Wings :** short , kept close to the body
- Tail :** strong at its base, quite short, fairly up without going over 45 °
- Head :** average size, slightly flat and long
- Comb :** simple, of an average size, with a fairly rough texture. Sharp edges. The lobe do not touching the nape
- Wattles :** average size, red with a fine texture
- Ear-lobes :** average size, red and long
- Face :** red coloured with or without down
- Eyes :** bright, with a orangey-red iris
- Beak :** Quite strong, slightly hooked and horn-coloured
- Shanks :** big, without vulture hocks
- Tarsi :** average size, with some feathers white or lightly pink coloured for all the varieties except for the BLACK, BROWN-RED and BIRCHEN Marans were grey or dark grey is permitted, although not preferred, for both sexes. Four long and well separated toes with the outer one sparsely feathered. The claws are white or horn- coloured

Hen:

Smaller than the cock, with a large, strong and more rounded body, a straighter back line, a well developed abdomen , and a fine, straight comb or inclined in the rear only comb.

The VARIETIES:

The BROWN-RED VARIETY

(Also called Black Copper-neck, Black Copper, Copper Black & Red Birchen)

Cock : Black plumage, plainly red coloured lancets of the hackles and of the back (copper, neither yellow nor mahogany coloured). Either black breast or red spotted out parsimoniously breast and a black wing triangle. The shoulders are deep red or mahogany coloured.

Hen : black plumage with red hackle markings but without the typical Birchen breast lacing, without obligation to shine , either plain black or , rarely, red spotted breast

The SILVER-CUCKOO VARIETY

Cock : Overall cuckoo, the cock's plumage is much lighter than that of the hen.

Hen : Fairly dark cuckoo plumage, with a rough pattern and irregular lines; lighter hackles; dark or lightly grey under colour

The GOLDEN-CUCKOO VARIETY

Plumage colour, as for the Crele pattern, i.e. as for the Silver Cuckoo except all silver/white areas are red / gold, the Cuckoo pattern even more indistinct on the hen

The WHITE VARIETY

Cock and Hen : Pure white plumage, but the cock's hackles, lancets and shoulders' feathers may show some straw colour highlights.

The WHEATEN VARIETY

Cock : Golden-red to brown-red head, lancets and hackles, red wing covers; the large wings covers form a black wing bar . The black primaries are edged with brown; The secondaries have internal black edged and external brown edges, which forms a brown wing bay. The upper breast is black and its lowest parts blackish.

Hen : Head and hackles are golden-red to brown; some black spots are permissible. Back, rump and wing covers are wheaten coloured. The feathers fluff is light and the edges may be lighter. The tail feathers and the flights are black, edged with brown. The breast and the abdomen are cream. The under colour is whitish.

The COLUMBIAN VARIETY

(also called Light or Ermine)

Cock and Hen : White plumage, black laced hackles; flights and main tail feathers are black, blended with white. Down is white.

The BLACK VARIETY

Cock and Hen : The whole plumage is black, green gloss is not required, dusky shank permitted in both sexes

The BLACK-TAILED BUFF VARIETY

Cock : The whole plumage is a bright strong gold to reddish tone. The head and the hackles are light gold colour as well as the lancets, which are slightly darker. Some black spots are possible at the hackles' extremity. Shoulders and wings' covers are darker, and mahogany-red deeply coloured. Primary flights; black with external half edged with brown. Secondary flights; brown with internal half edged with black. Tail black, with some brown edges. Under colour a "salmon/buff". White-pink shanks.

Hen : The whole plumage is a plain a bright strong gold ,not a pale buff or fawn/buff colour. The slight difference between the hackles and the shoulders is less contrasted than in the cock. The head and hackles are golden-fawn coloured with black lacing on the bottom feathers, which are more marked than those of cock. Black tail with main tail feathers edged with brown. Flights, shank, and under colour as same as the cock.

The SILVER BLACK VARIETY (BIRCHEN)

In all respects identical to the Brown Red except they are Silver where the former is copper coloured, dusky shank permitted in both sexes. There is no tolerance for gold tints; adornment should be pure silver white.

Cock : Plumage, black dressed with silver, chest black or slightly marked with white, black wingbow and wing triangle.

Hen : Plumage black neck hackle with silver lacings, chest black or slightly marked with white, but not laced.

Other colours

Some varieties to be approved might be assessed as long as they make reference to already precise varieties as far as genetics and colours are concerned.

This group are currently under assessment by French Standards Committee

The Blue Brown-Red (Blue Copper) is currently pending recognition.

Blue, Blue Copper, Blue Silver, Blue Wheaten, Blue-tailed Buff in all respects identical to the Black, Brown Red, Birchen, Wheaten, and Black-tailed Buff except they are Blue where the former were Black. Dusky shanks permitted in both sexes of Blue, Blue Copper, and Blue Silver varieties.

Splash, Splash Copper, Splash Silver, Splash Wheaten, White-tailed Buff in all respects identical to the Black, Brown Red, Birchen, Wheaten, and Black-tailed Buff except they are Splash where the former were Black.

Golden Salmon, plumage colour as for the wild type Black-breasted Red/Partridge.

Silver Salmon, plumage colour as for the Silver Duck wing.
