A 2009 Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) project

Alternative Broiler Breeds in Three Pastured Poultry Systems.

Project Goals:

Compare 6 breeds of meat chickens in 3 pasture production systems

Project Leader: Kim Cassano, The Rustic Table

The Chickens:

**Silver Cross**

Noll’s Hatchery

Schaefferstown, PA

717 949 3560

**Cornish X Rock**

Sunnyside Hatchery

Beaver Dam, WI

sunnysidehatchery.com



**Freedom Ranger**

J.M. Hatchery

New Holland, PA

717 354 5950

jmhatchery.com

**Red Ranger**

S&G Poultry

Clanton, AL

205 280 3771

sandgpoultry.com

**K-22**

Moyer’s Chicks

Quakertown, PA

215 536 3155

moyerschicks.com

**Super Dixie**

S&G Poultry

Clanton, AL

205 280 3771

sandgpoultry.com

Chart A

Pounds Feed per Chick: The average amount of grain a single chick in each group ate to reach an average calculated dressed weight of 4.1 lbs.

Chart B

Mortality Rate: The percent of each breed that died during the course of the study. This chart does not include chickens lost in a flood on the Day Range farm.

Chart C

Other Health Issues: The percent of each breed suffering from non fatal health problems such as deformed legs or impacted crops.

Chart D

Input Costs Per Pound Dressed Weight: The total expenses for each group of chickens divided by the total pounds of saleable chicken produced in that group. Includes the price of all the chicks and the cost of all the feed consumed by that group. Also factors in mortalities (excluding losses from flooding). Does not include labor or overhead costs.

Chart E

Days of Production: Number of days to raise each breed to an average calculated dressed weight of 4.1 lbs. Can be used to estimate labor costs for each breed in your system.

# Chart F

Behavior: Percent of birds in each group recorded at each activity during behavior observations.