

Poultry Breeds Trial

A PFI Cooperators Study

Genuine Faux Farm – Rob & Tammy Faux

Daley Shamrock Acres – Tim Daley

Scattergood Friends School Farm – Dana Foster

PFI Project Coordination – Suzi Bernhard

Funding Source – Leopold Center

Purpose

- Are there viable poultry breeds other than Cornish Cross for meat production on pasture?



Method

Breeds – Cornish Cross
Freedom Ranger
Black Broiler

Chicks acquired for two
breeds on each farm.

Variables: Breed (Daley, GFF, Scattergood)

Day Range vs Tractor (Scattergood)

Measured: Feed Allocation & Bird Weights



Breeds



Cornish Cross

- Current standard for meat chickens
- Bred for quick growth, double breast meat

Ranger

- Bred for meat production on pasture
- Typically mix of bronze, grey & red rangers

Black Broiler

- Dual-purpose birds (eggs or meat)
- Likely Black Australorp



Day Range Results

Day Range at Genuine Faux Farm		
	Ranger	Black Broiler
Number Chicks	100	100
Death Loss	5	6
Days to Process	76	77
Hatchery	J&H Hatchery	Decorah Hatchery

Weights and Conversion Ratios		
	Ranger	Black Broiler
Live Weight *	5.85#	4.48#
Process Weight **	3.5#	2.73#
% Process/Live	60%	61%
Feed Conversion***	.34%	26%

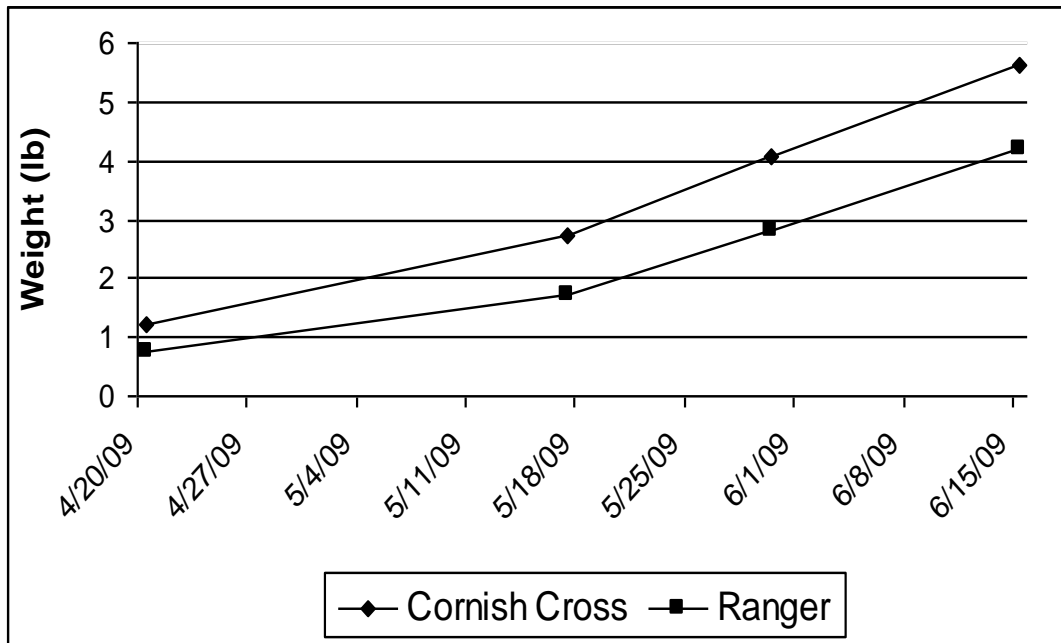
* Average weight of random sample at point of crating for trip to processor

** Average process weight of 75 birds for each breed

*** Based on average live weights and total feed distributed to each breed

Tractor System Cornish Cross vs Ranger

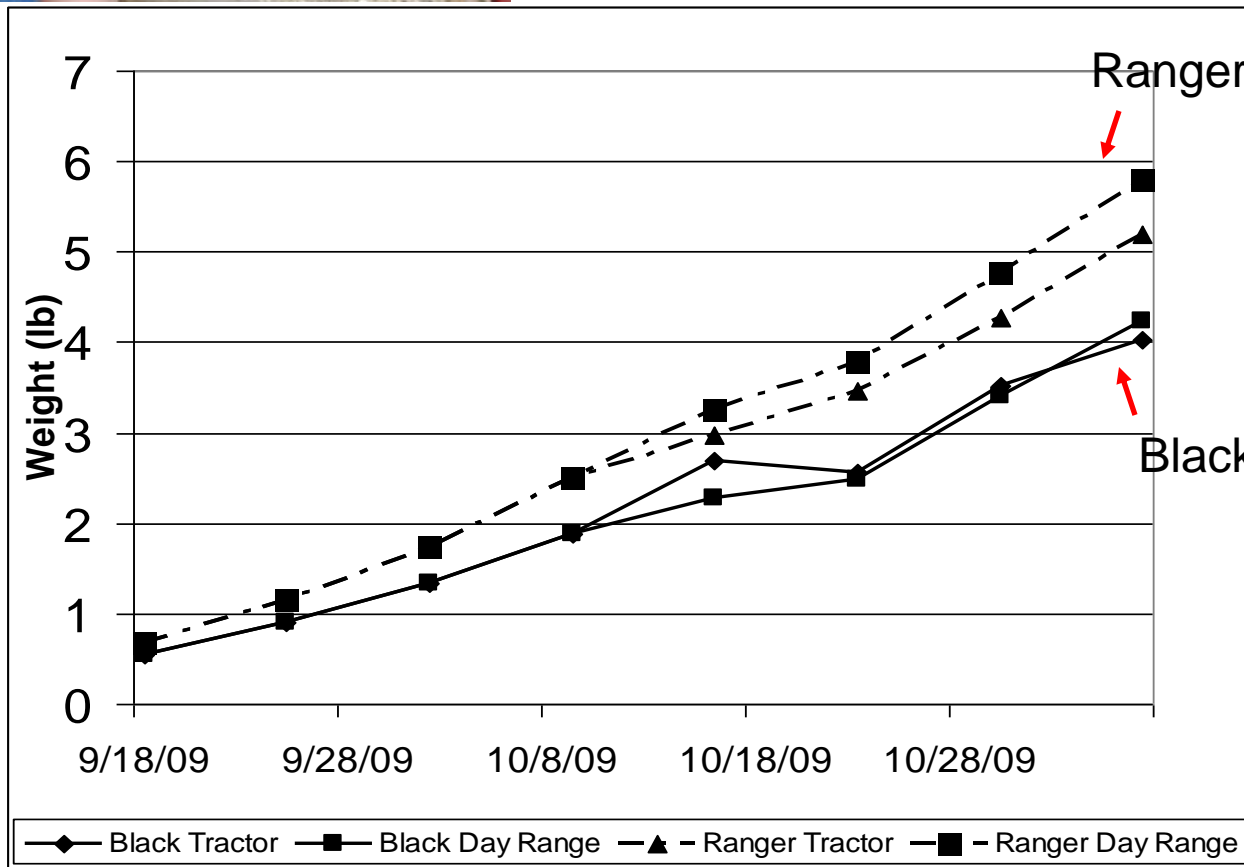
Daley's Shamrock Acres
Growth Rates



Salatin-style poultry tractor



Day Range vs Tractor



Difference not statistically significant

Scattergood Friends School Farm Data

Fall Day Range Results Rangers



Differences in Fall Flock

- Higher feed ration
- 3-4 days longer before processing
- Increased foraging opportunities
- Moderate weather pattern

Fall Day Range at Genuine Faux Farm	
	Ranger →
Number Chicks	200
Death Loss	6
Days to Process	80
Average Process Weight	4.35#
Processed weight range	3.5# - 6.25#
Feed Conversion Ratio	.33

Conclusions

- Cornish Cross best for confined (including Salatin tractors) systems with focus on meat production
- Ranger best for non-confined systems with focus on meat production
- Black Broilers fail to impress with focus on meat production. May serve a dual-purpose production system.
- Tractor vs Day Range systems similar in growth with possible increase for Rangers in Day Range system (further study needed).



	Cornish Cross	Ranger	Black Broiler
Pro	Quick growth to large size in confinement	Excellent foragers handle free range well	Dual Purpose Birds (eggs/meat)
Con	Not adapted to free range w/out tractors	11 weeks for 4.5# to 5.5# birds	14 or more weeks required for reasonable meat bird size