



# Art and Science in Breeding: Creating Better Chickens

*Margaret Derry*

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Chickens are now the most scientifically engineered of livestock. How have the methods used by geneticists differed from those employed by domestic breeders over time? *Art and Science in Breeding* details the relationship between farm practices and agricultural genetics in poultry breeding from 1850 to 1960.

Margaret E. Derry traces the history and organization of chicken breeding in North America, from craft approaches and breeding as an 'art,' to the conflicts that had emerged between traditional and scientific methods by the 1940s. Derry assesses links between the 'scientific' revolution of chicken farming and the development of corporate breeding as a modern, international industry. Using poultry as a case study for the wider narrative of agricultural genetics, *Art and Science in Breeding* adds considerable knowledge to a rapidly growing field of inquiry.

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